

THE SUNDIAL

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December 2006/January 2007

From the President

With the blessings of our Lord, God of all creation, we are called to **“Walk In the Light of Christ”** as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of the Christ child in this Blessed Advent Season.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, what glorious blessings God has allowed The Rochester Church Women United Unit to encounter. As we reflect on the blessings of the past year, we have wonderful highlights to share:

We welcomed our new energetic Executive Director Colleen Vogt to Church Women United.

We thank our Office Manager Joan Clark for all of her support and patience through our transition.

In March, Alberta Hunt led our annual World Day of Prayer worship service which was written by the women of South Africa. It was a spirit filled service, and the Church Women United Choir sang melodiously.

Vice President Betty Allinger challenged us with our first Education, Insight and Action initiatives (EIA) in April, May and June.

Our June Action meeting culminated with a luncheon and a fun-filled auction!

In July, several of us met at Red Wing Stadium in celebration of Women’s Day at the Ballpark. They announced Church Women United on the loud speaker and our name (CWU), and pictures of our group were on the billboard. And...the Red Wings won the game!

In September, our State President, Carol Deys attended our Board of Directors meeting and spoke to us from her heart. President Deys also acknowledged Marie Barker as our nominee for the 2006 Humanitarian Award.

In October, our Executive Director Colleen Vogt led us in a beautiful Taize service of prayer and music for our Day of Reflection. Lura Masters provided musical accompaniment.

In November, our World Community Day service was led by a new board member Eloise Mulligan. Sally Dodgson led us in Bible Study, followed by worship. Our guest speakers represented the Muslim, Jewish and Baha’i traditions. In light of our chaotic world situation, each spoke a message of peace and good will. After worship, we were pleasantly treated to a delicious “Salad Buffet” luncheon.

We’ve had quite a year collecting books for the Rochester Education Foundation, attending the volunteer Fair at Marketplace Mall and learning about other organizations and programs by participating in the Rochester Area Administrators of Volunteer Services (RAAVS), and learn about new programs through the Girl Scouts and the Children’s Zone program. And there is still more to come! We will kick off our 85th Anniversary year with our Annual Tea on December 16th!

**Church Women United....celebrating 85 years of ecumenical prayer and service!
Come help us write the next chapter!**

From the Vice President

The December 1 Advent Celebration was our final event for 2006. World Day of Prayer on March 2 will officially open 2007 for Church Women United. But the community concerns we have for mothers and babies, women in prison, and the hungry in our area don’t go away.

As we tuck ourselves into our warm houses for the winter, Church Women United does not intend to stop working to strengthen programs and keep aware of new needs of people around us.

Review of E.I.A. Education/Insight/Action

Regular readers are well aware that CWU is excited about the new direction begun in 2006 and is now moving forward into our 85th anniversary year. Last spring's E.I.A. celebrations searched for areas of concern in our community and looked for specific needs where we could begin to help.

As education and parenting skills and housing rank high as areas of concern, we set in action our new directives. They include a reading group at a Rochester city school and providing formula and diapers to mothers at a shelter for homeless mothers and children (the median age of children at the shelter is 4 years). We have also begun a new partnership with the Monroe County Facility providing health kits for inmates on their release.

Encourage your friends and groups in your church to collect items for health kits for women coming out of jail. The list of items to go into these kits is in this issue of the Sundial on page 5. The completed kits packed in a quart-size Zip-Lock bag could be a project for a church group at a meeting. Contact Betty Allinger at 663-0862, or deliver completed kits to the CWU office. We will deliver them to the jail. Food for the Community Food Cupboard will be received at the office also.

If you want to join a group reading to a child at a Rochester City School District site, call the CWU office 342-2790, and leave your name.

And if you have time on your hands this winter, join our program committee whose work is ongoing. Call Betty Allinger or leave a message at the office.

See you in March or sooner, I hope.

–Betty Allinger, Vice President

From the Executive Director

The holidays are upon us. We have come from a national recognition of Thanksgiving and Advent now begins. I look forward to the season of waiting for and welcoming the Son, as it fits so well with our theme for this year, "Walking in the Light of Christ." Soon it will be my one year anniversary of working for CWU, and I give thanks for the Light that CWU has been to me in the past year.

Just a little update on our outreach efforts. Betty Allinger and I along with the denominational reps have been working to bring more women into our movement. I have received positive responses from the churches that I have contacted. Many of those churches are receiving a complementary copy of this issue of the Sundial to introduce them to CWU. I look forward to meeting friends, new and old, at the many upcoming events of this holiday season and the new year.

I have done some updating of our website. I am trying to keep it simple yet informative. I do hope you will check it out at www.cwurochester.org. Let me know if you have any ideas on how to improve it or would like to assist in any way with it: writing text, taking pictures, or even formatting it.

Thanks to those who brought in sheets for Catholic Family Center's Housing and Homeless Services. They were most appreciative of your generosity.

At the November board meeting the question was raised whether we would like to take a stand on the death penalty issue. It was agreed that we would consider this at the February meeting after we have had time to review the national statements which are as follows:

From CWU Social Policies: 1941-2004 p 147

M. Opposition to the Death Penalty (1979)

It was voted that the Board of Managers of CWU register its opposition to the death penalty as a violation of the laws of God and humankind.

N. Abolition of Capital Punishment (1981)

Whereas Church Women United cannot accept retribution or social vengeance as a reason for taking human life because it violates our deepest belief in God as the Creator and the Redeemer of humankind;

Whereas, although Church Women United is deeply concerned about the present high rate of crime in the
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United States and about the value of a life taken in murder or homicide, we also believe the life of the victim is further devalued by the taking of another life as punishment;
Whereas Church Women United is convinced that the nation's leaders should give attention to the improvement of the total criminal justice system and to the elimination of social conditions which breed and cause disorder rather than fostering a false confidence in the effectiveness of the death penalty;
Therefore, Church Women United declares its opposition to the retention and use of capital punishment in any form or carried out by any means; we urge the abolition of capital punishment.
Further, the members of the Executive Council are urged to write or wire their Senators urging them to oppose the reinstatement of the death penalty in any form.

0. Against the Death Penalty (1985)

It was voted that Church Women United affirm the public witness in Atlanta, affirming the decision of the United States Supreme Court, upholding the value of life.



We soon begin our celebrations to mark the 85th year of CWU in Rochester. See the website for more details, but Sue Forsyth and her 85th Committee has put forth a challenge for us to celebrate “in deed”. Bring 85 cans of soup, give 85 hugs, donate 85 dollars, quarters or pennies. Read 85 Christian books, offer 85 prayers, talk about CWU projects to 85 people. We will keep a running tally, but as this is meant to be a fun thing, don’t worry too much about the accounting. If you ask me, “does it count if I...?”, the answer is “yes, it all counts”.

Happy Birthday CWU! Let us celebrate, let us celebrate in deed.

–Colleen Vogt, Executive Director

A Note From Shirley London (Out-going Secretary)

It hardly seems possible that almost 7 years have passed since I first accepted a position in CWU, participating first as a Denominational Representative and then as your secretary. During these years, I have been blessed by getting to know all of the Christian women that are as well as the women that attend the celebrations. I’ve watched, listened, and learned that all of you are dedicated Christians, and your goal is to help change the world, one step at a time.

As I look over the 7 years, it becomes obvious (at least to me), that this organization recognizes that change is necessary if we are to continue to make a difference. We can’t just sit back and watch the world go on around us. I was excited when the idea of E.I.A. first came out of a small discussion group, and I’ve watched its formation into a plan and the beginning of its growth. I think that this is truly one of the most exciting opportunities that we can get our hands around, and it has been wonderful to watch the excitement bubble over into our celebrations. Women really do want to get involved and make a difference, and our CWU team is helping to make that happen.

God challenges us to learn, to grow, and to teach His word. As we continue to make our presence known, spreading His words as we go, we are demonstrating what Christ is all about. I once heard someone say that our actions may be the only bible that some people will ever read.

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your actions, and thus allowing me to share the spreading of his word.

Congratulations Due

Meet Betty Allinger

Several Christians received honors at the recent Presbytery mission fair. Our own Betty Allinger was among them, nominated by her church as a Peacemaker. Here is what they said about her:

“Betty Allinger lives out her faith in her actions every day. She [joined] Church Women United in 1960. Her first project with CWU was the establishment of the first Rochester Group Home on Phelps Avenue.

After that, Betty's activities included court watching, fighting the state lottery, Calvary-St. Andrew's Soul School, action for justice after the riots in the 60's and working with family housing for over ten years. says that CWU launched her career and provided her with a safe haven to find rest, renewal and spiritual support. Through her friends there, she learned coping skills, inclusiveness, tolerance and universal love.

Betty has worked through the Presbytery locally and nationally on the Self-Development of People Committee. She was the first woman moderator of the Synod of the Northeast. Betty has been constantly involved with the Community and Global Mission Committee at Bethany. Most recently her outreach involvement has centered on Step By Step's work with incarcerated women, fighting the death penalty laws in New York State and tutoring a Sudanese woman in speaking, reading and writing in English. She is a regular contributor to Bethany's Monthly Paper with articles on current social issues and is always a most welcome member of the Mission Committee, providing direction and leadership to those interested in reaching out to others.”



[From “Good News” American Baptist Newsletter, October 2006]

Sister Beth LeValley was awarded a key to the city by Mayor Robert Duffy on November 17. Sister Beth received this honor for her community work such as establishing the Progressive Neighborhood Federal Credit Union, Partners Through Food and her ministry dedicated to protection of young children.

Local Author-Gloria Ulterino

You may have seen the D&C article on Sunday, November 5, about Gloria Ulterino’s new book. Gloria is a storyteller, preacher and a writer. Previously she had written a book called “Women of the Well.”

Her new book is “Walking With Wisdom’s Daughters: Twelve Celebrations and Stories of Women of Passion and Faith.”

For more information, go to www.womenofthewell.com

CWU Short Subjects

Thank You

Mary Discher & Jean Murphy
for assembling the
October/November Sundial.



Holiday Office Hours

The CWU office will close on
December 22 & reopen on January 2,
2007.

There is no Board of Directors' meeting in December 2006 or January 2007.
This year's Annual meeting was included in the Advent Celebration on December 1.
The first 2007 Board of Director's meeting will be on February 15.

The first CWU Celebration for 2007 will be World Day of Prayer on March 2.
(1:00 pm at Aeon Baptist Church)

From the CWU Finance Committee

As Chair of our Finance Committee, I want to express our sincere appreciation for Betty Allinger's special home-made breads she so willingly and often shares with us at our celebrations and at our Board meetings and for Mary Discher's beautifully knitted scarves.

The sale of both of these home-made items has been a welcomed boost to our income over the past years.

A very special "Thank You" to both Betty and Mary from all of us!

World Community Day 2006 Wrap-Up

Church Women United met to celebrate World Community Day on Friday November 3, 2006 at the beautiful United Church of Pittsford. The devotions were meaningful as they showed that we are all connected to all people on the earth. Jewish, Muslim and Baha'i representatives told of their beliefs.

At the conclusion of the program, a circle of a Community Rainbow was made. Each person was given a colorful paper and this showed we are all connected.

A delicious salad bar was served by the Hospitality committee of the church. Delicious pumpkin pie completed our day "of fellowship and connectedness."

—Eloise H. Mulligan, Chairperson of Planning Committee

Projects & Updates

Women's Health Kits

Please consider joining in our latest project to provide health kits to women. Perhaps a group at your church would like to collect items and assemble kits. Don't forget about the youth... You can bring completed kits to any CWU meeting or celebration or drop them off at the office.

The completed kits should be packed in a 1-gallon plastic bag and include:

Shampoo	Deodorant	Tooth Brush	Tooth Paste
Comb	Tissues	Wash Cloth	Socks

Items can be any size.-----The kits are for women leaving the Monroe County facility

Warm Up Rochester - Afghan Project

Once again, there were many participants in the Warm Up Rochester Project, including those knitters who made the blocks, those who pieced the blocks into afghans, and the women who delivered them from their organizations to the CWU office. Margaret Adams and Claire Crump delivered the finished afghans and lap robes to the various organizations who distributed them to needy people.

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This fall, the following were delivered: •8 lap robes were delivered to Day at the Park-Adult Medical Day Care •7 child size afghans - St. Monica's Preschool •6 adult size -Kidney Dialysis Unit •10 adult - AIDS Rochester •7 adult - St. Monica's Sojourner House •10 adult - Step by Step

Many thanks to all who helped to make this happen!

Claire Crump received the following letter of thanks:

Women's Interfaith Coalition

January 2007-There will be no meeting.

Upcoming dates to save

Wednesday, February 21, 2007

Welcoming: 10 am; Program: 10:30 -11:30 am

At the Jewish Community Federation, 441 East Avenue

Topic: Favorite Heroines

Wednesday, March 28, 2007-B'rith Kodesh Temple Tea, 2131 Elmwood Ave. - 11:00 am

Bring a non-meat sandwich. Beverages and dessert will be provided.

Looking for a Unique but Useful Collection?

Here's an idea: **UNDIE SUNDAY!** Cameron Community Center, Catholic Family Center (Housing and Homeless, Refugee Services), and many other organizations can use these new items. Call our offices for contacts if you would like to donate items to one of these centers.

Community News



Free Spaghetti Dinner on New Year's Day - Monday, January 1, 2007 2-5 pm
Covenant United Methodist Church - 1124 Culver Road [corner Parsells Avenue]
All are welcome. No reservation is required.

GRCC (Greater Rochester Community of Churches) Annual Meeting

Monday, January 29, 2007, at The Baptist Temple, Clover Street at Highland Avenue.

With Rev. Dr. Robert Edgar, author of "Middle Church," and executive of the NCCC.

RSVP necessary. Call (585) 254-2570 or e-mail to grcc1@frontiernet.net

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Helps Buffalo, NY

Humanitarian and disaster relief agency, Church World Service (CWS), has provided clean-up buckets to the City of Buffalo and school kits and health kits to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo to help with recovery needs following the mid-October snow storm.

Five hundred CWS clean-up buckets (flood buckets) were delivered to the City of Buffalo Commissioner of Community Services. 300 CWS school kits and 300 CWS health kits were delivered to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo. The Boys & Girls Clubs were grateful for the health and educational materials to help with increased numbers of children and youth visiting the clubs as a result of school closings and area power outages, according to Joann Hale, CWS Disaster Response staff person.

Church World Service is also a co-founder of the Disaster Recovery Interfaith Network of WNY, a group formed to work together to coordinate the interfaith response for long-term recovery from the disaster and to provide spiritual, emotional, and physical resources to those affected by the storm.

Communities and churches in Upstate New York are now working on assembling CWS Kits to be picked up in Spring 2007. These statewide collections of kits are delivered to the CWS distribution center to replenish stocks and help keep the organization prepared to respond to future disasters.

For more information on how your church or group can become involved in the CWS Kit program and a list of local drop-off locations, visit the Church World Service web site at www.churchworldservice.org or click on this link to go directly to the CWS-Upstate NY Kit web page <http://www.cwscrop.org/newyork/kits/>

Downtown United Presbyterian Church is again the local drop off site.

315-458-8535 – Toll-free 1-888-297-2767

May Arnett, CWS -Upstate NY Regional Office

Words We Live By

All programs are from 12:00 noon to 1:15 pm at the Jewish Community Federation, 441 East Avenue.

Free and open to the public. (A total of 6 programs are scheduled.) JCF: 461-0490

The Lord's Prayer

Wed, February 14, 2007

Reverend Paul Hammer, Retired

Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School

Kaddish

Wed, March 14, 2007

Rabbi Alison Kobey

Temple B'Rith Kodesh

Save the Date

Darfur Program, includes presentation, at Asbury First United Methodist Church, 1050 East Avenue and free admission to photo exhibit at the Eastman House. Sunday, January 21, 2007 at 4:30 pm.

MERRY CHRISTMAS new year

**Church Women United....celebrating 85 years of ecumenical prayer and service!
Come help us write the next chapter!**

If this is your first copy of The Sundial,
and would like more information about our
organization, please contact us.

Enclosed in this issue of The Sundial is our latest brochure.

