

THE SUNDIAL

Volume XVII No. 3

September 2006

From the President..

This has been a very busy, hot, short, wonderful summer. I am prayerful each of you were able to enjoy it in spite of the heat. Fall is upon us and it is now time for CWU to reconvene. However, before we look ahead, I would like to recapture a few activities. The June picnic/auction was great! We had plenty of delicious food, and if you missed the auction, you missed loads of fun. Each of us tried to outbid the other and we raised \$281.50. Sunday, July 23rd, several of us met at the Red Wings Stadium in celebration of *Women's Day at the Ballpark*. They mentioned CWU on the loud speaker and our name was on the billboard. Also, many of us were pictured on the billboard as well. It was an enjoyable afternoon, and the Red Wings won the game. Thanks to each of you who participated. It was a great way to get Church Women United's name out there.

As Betty and I discussed the upcoming celebrations and EIA initiatives, we were reminded of Psalms 89:15 which says: "Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, O Lord." Therefore, our theme for 2006-2007 is "Walking in the Light of Christ."

This theme is similar to the one used last year. As we seek the presence of God, let us enhance our relationship with Him through constant prayer vigils and Bible studies. "Walking in the Light of Christ" will allow His light to glow and we will radiate His love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Then we will be able to spread that "Light" through our CWU celebrations and EIA Initiatives.

We are excited about the upcoming 85th birthday celebration for CWU. We know that the committee has been working diligently in preparation for this celebration. You will receive more information from Sue Forsyth and committee members.

The speaker for our September Board meeting will be Carol Deys, the CWU President for New York State. Colleen and I met with her in June and were treated to a delicious lunch prepared by Carol. Expect a wonderful surprise from Carol and Colleen at the meeting!

—Audrey Davidson, President

From the Executive Director..

I am happy to be back in the office after the summer. I did have some time away and some time to enjoy summer picnics with family and friends. I do hope you all can say the same. This upcoming year we have many activities planned that build on the work of this past year, so do please spread the word. I wish to highlight the October day of reflection that works well with the spiritual theme that Audrey outlines in her article: "Walking in the Light of Christ." It will be based on the spirituality of Taizé and in particular the theme, "Jesus Christ, Our Light." We will sing, pray and reflect on scripture to help lead into this 85th celebration year in the light of Christ.

Also I wanted to let you all know my schedule for the fall - I am planning to work all day Monday and Friday and either Wednesday afternoon or Thursday morning. I hope this more regular schedule will help people to reach me. Joan has my contact information at my other position if you need to reach me on an urgent matter. You may also email me at cwur@frontiernet.net.

I look forward to our prayer, fellowship and service.

—Colleen Vogt, Executive Director

From the Vice President...

“The great thing in the world is not so much where we stand,
as in what direction we are moving.”

Oliver Wendell Holmes (Physician and author)

We had an exciting spring working our way through E - I - A. “E” and “I” broaden our knowledge of the community’s needs and that laid the ground work for “A”. The “A” in June turned into an ‘alert’ for action on pending migrant legislation and how it affects the many workers in the U.S.

Legislative issues headed the list with 22 votes. Education concerns and youth mentoring both ranked next with 21-17 votes in that order. Parenting skills drew 19 votes. Interest in revival of a pre-school reading program and support for babies both were 14. Also much interest in mentoring was indicated. Mentoring programs cover many of the above areas.

The Executive Board and staff reviewed the above and have come up with some ideas for action in all areas. These will be presented to the CWU board at the September meeting. We will share their action at Day of Reflection (October 2006) in a written form.

The Executive Board sees the first step that can begin now as a plea for new active members for our working committees and for everyone to look for interested people ready to commit to mentoring. There are so many organizations needing mentors that the Executive Board will contact anyone indicating an interest to clarify the mentor role, depending on the area of the volunteer’s interest. Spread the word for the need within your groups.

We will be looking for someone to chair a reading program and act as the coordinator with the agency with whom we will work.

We have met with Catholic Family Center (CFC) volunteer coordinator for working with their homeless and housing services that has contact with mothers and babies. We will be ready to offer a plan very soon.

Alert on migrant legislation.....

August 25 there was a Congressional hearing on the bill to be proposed. Call your legislator. Ask for outcome and let him/her know your position.

CFC Homeless & Housing Services

needs sheets and towels (new or used, all sizes)
Can be dropped off at CWU office

PLEASE ANNOUNCE AT YOUR CHURCH!

Rochester Education Foundation Book Drive begins October 6. Pat Braus will be at the September Board meeting with lists of suggested books and further information. New books will be given to school children. Bring books to the Day of Reflection. Ask for friends and church members to share and bring them to the September Board meeting* or to the CWU office.

*Remember board meetings are open to all. Join us at this meeting. Hear the latest news for new program planning.
–Betty Allinger, VP Programs

Senior Alert

Do you need extra help in order to stay living in your own home - or do you know someone who does? The Expanded In-home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP) has funds available to help pay for personal care and housekeeping aid service. Work with experienced case managers to come up with a plan to keep you independent. To be eligible, you must live in Monroe County, be over age 60, have a need for help and not receive Medicaid assistance. Please contact Catholic Family Center at 262-7060 for more information.

Our local CWU unit was invited to nominate one of our women for recognition. MARIE BARKER was nominated from the Rochester Church Women Unit to receive the 2006 Humanitarian Award because she has exemplified the highest ideals and qualities of citizenship and humanitarian service.

Marie and her husband begin their careers as missionaries, and soon thereafter, they were chosen to serve in Africa. While in Africa, Marie's gifts flourished while she worked as a nurse until the birth of her first two children. After the birth of her second child, Marie was stricken with Malaria. In the best interest of her health and the health of the entire family, they chose to return to the United States, and settled in Pittsford.

Marie and her husband were blessed with the birth of three more children, and she chose to nurture their growth and development by being a stay-at-home mom until all five children were school age. At this time, Marie chose to return to the field of nursing, where she worked in a school setting in the Pittsford Elementary District.

In her local church, the United Church of Pittsford, Marie has served over the years as an Adult Education Teacher, a member of the Board of Education, and a member of the Board of Deacons, where she was in charge of the worship service. Currently, Marie is in charge of Missions and Social Concerns at her church. In addition to her church involvement, she is responsible for the inventory of foods donated to the Community Food Cupboard.

Through Church Women United, Marie has been involved in a variety of programs and projects. She served as chairperson of Spiritual Resources for four years, which included the devotions at Board meetings, chairperson of Day of Reflection, and the Daily Hello program. She is Church Women United's representative to the Women's Interfaith Coalition, where she served as president for two years, and is currently a member of the Executive Committee. She has served as representative to the Greater Rochester Community of Churches for CWU and the local ecumenical agency. Marie is currently a member of the Board of Directors for the Community Food Cupboard.

In the community, Marie has been a humble servant. She has served lunches at Cameron Community for many years. She volunteered to tutor in Cameron's after-school program, and she has volunteered to read to children weekly in one of the Rochester elementary schools.

Marie quietly communicates her feelings to others, but she raises her voice when she sees injustices. She is a deeply spiritual person who has committed her life to her Lord and Savior while serving others, mirroring the image of Christ.

As a woman of God, we know that when the call came years ago for Marie to serve, she answered with a positive, "Here I am Lord, send me."

Respectfully Submitted Audrey T. Davidson, President

CWU SHORT SUBJECTS

Daily Hello Appreciated

We received the following letter: "Dear Ladies, Time again to say a heartfelt THANK YOU for the comfort your "daily Hello" gives me. I've been fortunate in maintaining my health so far, but since I began my 90th year on July 5, this will require extra diligence on my part. So here's a little bit toward expenses you must incur. My best to all of you...."

Thank You

Marie Barker
for assembling
the
April/May/June
Sundial.

We received the following from Pat Braus at the Rochester Education Foundation. We assisted in their 2005 collection of musical instruments for schools.

“Give Back. Give Books” planned for October 2006

_____ This October, Rochester Education Foundation will encourage the community to give books to city school students in the *Give Back, Give Books* drive. Our goal is the donation of 10,000 or more new books to city school students and city school libraries.

We hope the members of Church Women United will consider becoming involved personally and through their churches as we work to create a bright future for city school children. We hope to have many churches hosting drives for books and funds. Churches will be able to adopt a class or a grade or a city school library. Also, we will be seeking volunteers to help us pick up books and to help us sort books once they are donated. We welcome individual and youth volunteers to help with the drive.

What Books to Choose?

We have surveyed city school students and city school librarians. We will distribute lists of the favorites through CWU and post them in local cooperating book stores and on our website rochestereducation.org and givebackgivebooks.org.

What Will Partners Receive to Help Them Participate?

We will provide partners with a complete partnership packet including a color poster, forms for donations, and lists of favorite books. We will pick up books if needed from churches, and also will offer community locations to drop off books.

We hope to engage all local bookstores to serve as purchasing points and drop-off points for books purchased there. We will also offer opportunities to purchase books on-line or to donate funds for REF to purchase books. Finally, all book and cash donations will be tax deductible to the full extent allowable by law.

Why Give Books?

Good readers are more likely to be successful students, and to graduate from high school and attend college. Yet many city school students do not have books at home, according to city school teachers and librarians. Help change that situation! Your book donations will be enjoyed and are likely to be shared. A survey we conducted of a group of Rochester city school students at East and Franklin showed that 70 percent read to younger children, including brothers, sisters and cousins.

The average fiction book in city school libraries is about 20 years old – and these libraries receive approximately one-third the new book funding of Monroe County's suburban school libraries. Help us give young readers a chance to read new books as well as classics.

REF

_____ Rochester Education Foundation is a non-partisan, independent not-for-profit focused on raising resources to help city school students succeed and supporting community partnerships with students.

For more information, please contact Pat Braus, REF's Executive Director, at (585) 271-5790 or pbraus@rochestereducation.org. Also, please see our website at rochestereducation.org.

National Alert

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Community Food Cupboard

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|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>Our Special Needs</u> | Tea bags |
| Peanut butter | Macaroni & cheese |
| Unsweetened cereal | Soup-low sodium & regular |
| Jam or jelly | Toilet paper |
| Canned peas or carrots | Bar soap |

FALL PROGRAMS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS

World Community Day-Friday, November 3- "Signs of Healing" time _____ Place _____
 Advent Celebration-Friday, December 1, at the Church of Assumption of Our Lady, Fairport. The Bible Study will be led by Rosalie Muschal-Reinhardt, M.D., "JOY, Jesus, Others and Yourself.."

CWU SHORT SUBJECTS

Do You Enjoy Singing? Do You Have Monday Afternoons free?

I e-mailed Linda S. Moore about it.

Thank You

Marie Barker for assembling the April/May/June *Sundial*.

Daily Hello Appreciated

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Results of Auction or FA update from Ellen/Dee?

From the President - Audrey promised it

Index of dates of events in this Sundial issue

Next board meeting dates

Next TFOC dates

TASK FORCE ON COURTS NEWS

Sue Soper received the following letter:

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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| <i>Kol Nidre</i> Wednesday, September 20 Rabbi Matthew Field, Temple Bethel | <i>The Hail Mary</i> Wednesday, October 18 Professor Joe Kelly, Nazareth College | <i>Shema</i> Wednesday, November 8 Rabbi Alan Katz, Temple Sinai |
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Magnificat Breakfast

Offering women a chance to share and enjoy one another in the atmosphere of God's presence and love. Please join us September 30 at 9:30 am at the RIT Inn & Conference Center. Our speaker will be Pat Smith, a local woman who, despite her personal struggles, has heeded God's call and changed lives through her many ministries. Pat has spread God's love through her work with inner city churches, reaching out to drug-addicted men and women, and more recently, coming back to her roots and helping abused women.

Please join us to hear about Pat's extraordinary journey of following God's plan for her life. Cost is \$15.00. For more information or to register, please call Kathy Murty at 436-1284.

National CWU Action Alert

Check out the interfaith prayers for peace resources at <http://www.seasonofprayer.org/>.