

THE SUNDIAL

Volume XIX No. 9

Summer 2009

May Friendship Day Highlights

Registration preceded a salad buffet put on by the women of the host church (The United Church of Pittsford). The May Friendship Day program immediately followed and was in the sanctuary.

“Reflections on Our Heritage” began with Sally Dodgson summarizing our local CWU accomplishments since its beginning. Our second speaker, Pat Everett, presented an overview of the program “Odyssey of the Mind.”

We completed the program and adjourned.

–Diana DeBruycker, Chair MFD

From the President

This spring, the Education Insight and Action Celebrations afforded us the opportunity to reflect on “The Possibilities of Change,” and the challenges which have taken place over the past 87 years of CWU in Rochester. They also brought us into the 21st century, acquainting us with the “Go Green” environmental practices, and how these practices can be integrated into our everyday living.

Appreciation and thanks to all of the EIA Committee members for allowing us to gain new insight and understanding of the deep faith, dedication and commitment, which has been exhibited throughout the existence of Church Women United in Rochester and Vicinity.

Please join us as we continue **“The Next Chapter!”**

Peace and Blessings,

Audrey T. Davidson, President

From the Vice President

We have had an exciting year with inspiration, information and topics that show the involvement of older and younger people helping to build a better world. We have had a wonderful presentation by Sally Dodgson about Church Women United in Rochester that showed how far we have gone and how we are continuing the great traditions of our past. How can we get our message out? Each of us must help “talk it up” so to speak.

Ellie Newell and Betty Allinger have a great EIA Action program, picnic and White Elephant Auction!!! Wow ! A triple header. Read about it and talk it up to your friends and fellow church members. Let's make it the largest meeting of the year.

Thanks again for all who are making our CWU celebrations so great.

– Lura Masters, Vice President.

SECRETARY NEEDED

Church Women United in Rochester and Vicinity, Inc.

M - Th, 9 - 12:30, September through June
Computer and Inter-personal Skills Necessary

Send Resume to: **Attn:** Dorothy Borden, c/o Church Women United in Rochester,
644 Titus Avenue, Rochester, NY 14617

CWU Short Subjects

Youth on a Mission: Serving God by Helping Others

by: Rev. Patrina D. Freeman, Executive Director

In April, CWU was pleased to host a team of youth, who took part in the 2009 Youth Mission Madness. Youth Mission Madness is an event organized annually by the Presbytery of Genesee Valley.

This year's team donated their time and energy to work on several CWU social action projects. Members of the team assembled Women's Health Kits for distribution at the Monroe County Correctional Facility. The group sorted shopping bags and beverage items for use by the Community Food Cupboard of Rochester, a CWU sponsored program. They even labeled hand-made Afghans for our Warm-up Rochester Project. Items from this CWU Project go to local nursing homes, shelters, hospitals and dialysis centers to provide warmth and tender loving care.

On behalf of CWU in Rochester as well as those who benefit from its projects, I would like to thank this year's Youth Mission Madness Team: Mark Graham (Presbyterian Church of Albion), Rebekah Feller (Lyndonville Presbyterian) and Phil Uderitz (Albion Presbyterian) for all their hard work, time and dedication. Keep up the good work everyone!

A very special thank you goes to Kathy LaLonde (Albion Presbyterian). Kathy served as the Adult Leader for this year's team. It takes a unique person to help young people develop a passion for serving God through a life of service to others. CWU commends Kathy's efforts in this regard.

Finally, CWU would like to thank the Presbytery of Genesee Valley for inviting us to participate in this year's event. We support your efforts to foster a spirit of Christ-like servant-hood in the youth of your church. We look forward to hosting a Youth Mission Madness Team in 2010.

Thank You

Ellen Kimbrough, Mary Ann Henry and Lifetime Assistance volunteers for assembling the May 2008 Sundial.

Thank You

Mark Graham, Rebekah Feller & Phil Uderitz, and Kathy LaLonde, Youth Advisor, Presbytery of GVA, Youth Mission Madness Team, for assembling the women's health kits & stuffing bags on April 25.

Task Force on Courts

The next Task Force meeting is June 11, 2009, at Third Presbyterian Church, 4 Meigs Street, corner of East Avenue. **Speaking at 12:00 noon** will be Jason Hoge, Esq., of the Monroe County Legal Assistance Center/Parter with the Judicial Process Commission. He will be speaking about employment discrimination against those who have been incarcerated.

At this meeting, we will decide whether to meet in July or August. We will meet only once during the summer.

The location of the summer meeting will be decided at the June meeting.

—Linda Norak

Church Women United Email Action Alert

“We recognize that some Church Women United units are already involved in prison and jail ministries, and certain individuals have been exercising a prophetic ministry in the penal system. As this ministry grows, it is important to reflect on the reality of the present penal system and clarify the principles that will guide our response.” CWU Social Policy Book, page 150 POLICY STATEMENT ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE:

SUPPORT IMPORTANT REFORMS OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM—support the formation of a commission to begin a full review and make proposals

On March 26, Senator Jim Webb (D-VA) introduced Senate Bill 714, the National Criminal Justice Act of 2009, to create a blue-ribbon commission charged with undertaking a full review of the entire criminal justice system. The intention is for the commission to propose concrete and wide-ranging reforms to responsibly reduce the overall incarceration rate, improve governmental responses to U.S. and international gang violence, restructure our drug policies, improve treatment for the mentally ill, improve the ways prisons are administrated, and establish a coherent system to reintegrate formerly incarcerated people.

Go to the Following Link and Scroll down to: <http://www.ucc.org/justice/jpanet.html>

Contact Congress about Criminal Justice” Click on those words and it will take you to the page for sending letters to your members of Congress by email.

Senator Webb and his cosponsors have stated publicly and repeatedly that this commission is urgently needed, for a number of reasons:

- *The United States has 5% of the world’s population, but houses 25% of all the prisoners in the world. Approximately 2.4 million Americans are currently in prison, and another 5 million are on probation or parole. This represents 1 out of every 31 adults in the U.S.
- *Over the past twenty years, our prison population has skyrocketed, driven largely by incarcerations for non-violent drug crimes and crimes instigated by drug dependence. In 1984, people imprisoned for drug offenses represented 10% of the inmate population. By 2002, they were 33% of all prisoners.
- *Prisons have become warehouses for the mentally ill. The U.S. Department of Justice estimates that about 350,000 (16% of the adult inmate population) suffer from mental illness, and the rate is higher for juveniles. Of the mentally ill, 4 times as many are housed in prisons as are housed in mental health facilities.
- *Another large group of inmates is what is now termed the “criminally ill”: people who suffer from HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and hepatitis.
- *The costs of incarceration continue to skyrocket for individual prisoners, and those costs have grown exponentially with vastly increasing numbers of prisoners. Prisons are seriously overcrowded, making administration difficult at best.
- *Despite this, we are housing large numbers of non-violent offenders who need mental health or substance abuse care. This distracts from the proper incarceration of more serious and violent offenders.
- *The mass incarceration of illegal drug users has not curtailed drug use.
- *Rates of drug use and drug crimes have been shown to be virtually identical across racial and ethnic lines. Despite this fact, African Americans, who make up 12% of the U.S. population, account for 37% of those arrested on drug charges, 59% of those convicted, and 74% of all drug offenders sentenced to prison.

A sample letter is available at the Rochester CWU office, 342-2790.

Patricia Burkhardt-Church Women United-Legislative Office
100 Maryland Ave NE RM 100-Washington DC 20002-202 544 8747, fax 202 544 9133

CWU Family Fun Night at the Red Wings

Friday, August 7, 2009 at
7:00 pm

Tickets: \$6.50

With the Louisville Bats
Fireworks following the game

Only 75 seats have been reserved.

To get tickets:

- Please send a self addressed stamped envelope with a check made out to Church Women United.
- Mail to: Ellen Kimbrough, 264 Thornton Rd, Rochester, NY 14617-3134
- Include a note indicating how many tickets you are purchasing.
- Your tickets will then be mailed to you.

Summer Office Hours

The CWU office will be closed for the summer from 12:30 pm on Thursday, June 25 until we reopen on Monday, August 17 at 9 am.

Have a safe and fun summer !!! – Patrina Freeman and Joan Clark

Kids’ Korner News

HUGS Summer Day Camp - Our 21st Year!

Summer fun for children entering grades 2 through 5. July 6 through July 30–9:30am –2:30 pm. Reading, math, science, field trips, arts & crafts, music, weekly library day and swim day Lunch will also be provided .

Cost: \$33 1st child; \$28 2nd child; \$23 3rd child

Please Note: Discount is only available for children in same family.

Must sign up and pay for the full 4 weeks.

Location.....Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church - 1000 N. Winton Rd.

Contact Person.....Mrs. B at 482-2018 for info/registration Please Call Early.....First 40 accepted!!

To keep updated on CWU in Rochester events over the summer, please go to our website at cwurochester.org.

CWU Board of Directors

There will be no regularly-scheduled meeting of CWU's Board of Directors during the summer.

We will resume meetings on Friday, September 18, 2009

Save the Dates for Upcoming CWU Fall Celebrations

[Details will be printed in the fall 2009 issues of "The Sundial"]

October 2, 2009 - 9:30 am

Day of Reflection

"A Time for Self Care"

First Baptist Church

175 Allens Creek Road

November 6, 2009 - 9:30 am

World Community Day

"Piecing the Earth Together"

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran
Church

1000 Winton Road North

December 4, 2009 - 9:30 am

Advent Celebration & Annual Meeting

Baptist Temple

1101 Clover Street

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester (TIAR): Annual Celebration

When: Sunday, June 14, 2009

Where: The Shults Center at Nazareth College

Time: 3:00 pm

Speaker: The Rt. Rev. Prince G. Singh, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester

Theme: "A New Economy for a New Era"

Cost: Free and Open to the Public.

A panel of community leaders will briefly respond to his address in various areas of concern for building "The Beloved Community" in the midst of a society preoccupied by individualism, materialism, and competitiveness:

Born and educated in India, the Rt. Rev. Bishop Prince G. Singh was consecrated the 8th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester in May 2008. A member of the Interfaith Alliance, Bishop Singh already has provided leadership in the Rochester Diocese and interfaith community here as an outspoken advocate for justice and peace.

For more information, please call Robert Herman at 385-1155.