



The Vine

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF LANE COUNTY
cwulanecounty.org

Editor: Phyllis Hockley

Address: P.O. Box 5824 Eugene, OR 97405

May 2012

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|--|---|
| June 1
Friday
9am | St. Mary's Episcopal
13th and Pearl
Environmental Justice: Protecting Children |
| June 5
Tuesday
7-8:30am | Breakfast at Brails
1689 Willamette
Environmental Justice: Protecting Children |
| Sept 4
Tuesday
7-8:30am | Breakfast At Brails
1689 Willamette
Contract with Justice: The Labor Issue |
| Sept 7
Friday
9am | Northwood Christian Church
2425 Harvest Lane
Contract with Justice: The Labor Issue |

JUNE PROGRAM

A look at our Environment

Alison Guzman, from Beyond Toxics will be our June presenter. Her goal of the presentation at Brails and at Friday's Forum at St. Mary's Episcopal will be to address environmental health concerns inside and outside the home to solve environmental justice issues. Sometimes, she said, addressing air pollution and challenging industrial emitters can be overwhelming and seem like a long battle. But she has found that when focusing on what we can do in the home, there is a sense of empowerment that happens since the changes appear more immediate.

This will be a very informative forum for us. Invite your friends.

LOOKING AHEAD TO SEPTEMBER

Labor Issues

.In September we will look at issues of labor, working conditions, and employment. God calls us to honest labor, compassion, and making a difference. How does that impact our jobs, how we treat employees and employers, and who makes decisions? Where do policies and politics fit in? What is our faith-based thinking on unions, management, and government? How is the picture of employment and unemployment today tied in with increasing inequalities of income and other resources? Come and share!!

Inside: Ins

Word from our President
Page 2

A Look Back at May
Page 2

A Look at June
Page 2

Robin Fillmore, Advocacy
Page 3

Action on many Fronts
Page 3

Inside Out Sunday
Page 4

Valiant Woman Award
Page 5

School of Christian Mission
Page 5

NEED RIDE TO THE FORUM?

Call Diane Beuerman at 541-485-8803

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Phyllis Hockley

Couple weeks ago I got an e-mail that contained a quote, "If you want to experience full life, give hope to someone tomorrow". Nice, I thought and continued reading my e-mails. Saw one from Jerry Gilmore. Almost skipped it as I don't know any Jerry Gilmore. It was about the golden tract timber sale up the McKenzie that was happening the next day. And his hope was that lots of people would come to the auction by 10am to peacefully protest. Well, I said, I can't do that, I have TaiChi. Then the quote I'd just read popped into my head, "If you want to experience full life, give hope to someone tomorrow." But I have TaiChi and Len needs the car. Then another e-mail popped in from Jerry. If you need a ride, come to the Grower's Market. Choose Phyllis. TaiChi or Give Hope?

Len dropped me at the Grower's Market at 9:30. On the sidewalk stood 5 youth. Dreadlocks, pierced eyebrows, tattoos covering the arms.....

I jumped into the car with them, and we took off for Springfield for the Forest Service office. And dreadlocks shared his experience with me of the 5 times he'd been arrested for protesting. I could see I was in good company!!

What a morning! People living around the forest being sold were there. "Why," they asked a man from the forest service, "didn't you tell us you were planning to sell?" "It was in your local paper," he said. When they shook their heads he said, "Well, we told them to put it in."

"What about the water that will be polluted," they asked. We will check it and when it is over the danger level, we'll do something about it, he said. "Isn't that a little late," they asked? So went the morning--listening to people so concerned about protecting God's creation.

Then these wondrously concerned youth took me back to the Grower's market, and were off to that forest plot up the McKenzie. Their good friend was up there sitting in a tree.

Just a few minutes ago, I got another e-mail from Jerry saying, "Out of the blue this morning came the news we've been waiting for! A lawsuit has been filed on behalf of Oregon Wild and Cascadia Wildlands by the Western Environmental Law Center, seeking to turn back the monstrous Goose Project pending a more thorough planning process." Thank you, thank you for being with us at the protest. That protest made all the difference"

My first thought, "And I almost went to TaiChi!"

A LOOK AT OUR MAY FORUM May Friendship Day

Over 90 women attended our May Celebration. All were made aware of the theme "Listening to our Sisters," which was carried out in planning by our chair, Sandy Harland. It included scripture and also songs related to that theme which the group sang accompanied by our pianist, Mary Roth. Charlotte Sutton, President of United Methodist Women, shared her story of having lived in a variety of locales all over the world and relating to women in each of those places. Food by Alpine Catering was enjoyed. A highlight was the conferring of the Valiant Woman Award to our Dorothy Webber- truly a valiant woman. The hospitality displayed by the women of First United Methodist was much appreciated. What a joy to be served by their Pastor Debbie Pitney. Truly the "leader as servant" in action.

OUR JUNE FORUMS

Alison Guzman, our June Presenter

When we asked a group of *madres Latinas/Latina mothers* living in Eugene what they thought about air quality and the environment they lived in, many raised concerns related to air quality inside the home. *Respiramos aire toxicos cuando limpiamos la casa* (We breathe toxic air when we clean the home), they say. Many of these women support their families by cleaning homes and office buildings. In fact, the issue of cleaning products and effects on their breathing and skin rashes was more common than I had originally thought. As a result, as part of the EPA funded grant *Families, Health and Air Pollution project*, Beyond Toxics, in partnership with Centro LatinoAmericano, has been hosting asthma care and green cleaning workshops throughout areas in West Eugene and Oregon. Alison, will share more at our June forums.



BIBLE STUDY IN JUNE Leslie Hall

Please bring your Bibles to our Friday, June 1 forum. Following the meeting we will study some Biblical passages about creation care and environmental issues. There are many of them, beginning in the first chapter of Genesis, continuing through the Psalms, into the New Testament. What does God call us to do with our home, the earth? How do dominion and stewardship differ?



**ROBIN FILLMORE,
CWU ADVOCACY COORDINATOR
IN WASHINGTON D.C.**

THE WORST OF TIMES?

A new book has just made a splash in Washington DC circles, written by Thomas Mann, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and Norm Ornstein, a scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. In their new book, *It's Even Worse Than It Looks: How the American Constitutional System Collided With the New Politics of Extremism*, they set aside politics as usual (these days) to tackle the deep-seated problems facing our legislators and our country.

Ornstein in an interview with Judy Woodruff on *PBS NewsHour* last week stated, "We don't share a common set of facts. And we live in worlds that amplify those differences and, in fact, help to create the hype that we're in a tribal world and you've got to oppose the other side because they're evil."

The factors that have brought us, as a nation, into this "worst of times" scenario are numerous, according to Mann. Some are structural in how elections are run. By taking steps as other industrialized nations have done, we could increase the percentage of the population that is actually voting, thereby insuring that the extremist strains of both parties lose their potency. Likewise, some of the fixes are procedural, such as revamping the current practices of the filibuster rule. Under the current system in the Senate, 60 votes are required for passage of legislation rather than 51 when the filibuster is invoked, which it is for almost every piece of legislation.

I agree with their diagnosis on all the levels, but I would add one additional, necessary fix.

In addition to seeking ways to temper the extremes within our system, I believe that we need to seek ways, as women of faith, that we can show that a different political reality is possible. This means for me personally that I will refrain from thoughts and comments that are hyper-partisan and personal against those with whom I disagree. Someone who disagrees with my views is not the enemy but merely an individual with a different perspective.

It also means that I will place myself in a position as a bridge between those who hold different beliefs, recognizing that all God's children come to their beliefs from different experiences and expectations. Indeed, this is not an easy place for me to stand but I feel strongly that the path by which we, as a nation, need to take in order to emerge from our current quagmire requires the persistence of thoughtful citizens, committed to redefining the political conversation among its citizens taking such a stand. 3

I invite you to join me!

ACTION ON MANY FRONTS

Cindy Kokis

NEW MEMBERS

We have added 12 names to our yearbook since the breakfast program began in January 2011. Fourteen meetings have been held. We are doing an evaluation at this half-way point in our three year trial of the idea. Please let us know your thoughts and ideas. Call Cindy at 541-342-6450, e-mail gkokis@uoregon.edu.

STANDING WITH UFCW

CWU members Sheila Lowe, Phyllis Hockley, Cindy Kokis and Diane Beurman held CWU signs beside those of members of the United Food and Commercial Workers union.

We moved from outside the Fred Meyer store on Division Street to speak with the manager, asking that action be taken and a contract signed. Employees have worked with no contract for over 15 months. Fred Meyer is now owned by Kroger, the largest retail store in the United States.

AFGHAN WOMEN SPEAKS

A photo display of women of Afghanistan with statements of their ideas was the May program of Women's Action of New Directions (WAND). Maral, a member of the Revolutionary Association of Afghan Women had these thoughts beside her photo:

To President Obama: "If you really want to support the Afghan people you must pull out all of the troops from Afghanistan. We don't want more war. We just need security and freedom for the Afghan people."

On issue of civil war: "There is already a civil war between these American troops who are bombing innocent people, from the Taliban who are increasing, and from the Northern Alliance and other warlords. So on three sides we have people fighting and if one of them leaves we will only have two enemies. Leave—then the Afghans will think about how to rebuild their county. It should come from Afghans." What would you tell the President? Do you agree with Maral?

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2013

This summer a group of us will meet to plan forums for next year. How did we do this year? What would you like to see in the future? Join us Monday, June 11, 9:00 - 10:30 am at the First United Methodist Church, Olive and 14th. This is an open meeting, for all of us. Please come. The more ideas, the better the 2013 program. During the summer some of us will continue meeting to get exact plans ready for the October deadline.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST INSIDE OUT SUNDAY

Come IN for Worship - Go OUT in Service

These are some of the things they did. It may give us some ideas for our churches.

HIV Alliance Needle Spotting

A group will be "spotting" dirty needles for Alliance staff to pick up. No handling of needles will take place except by staff.

Working in the Wetlands

Work and witness Spring in the West Eugene Wetlands! Dress in layers, prepare for rain. Snacks, tools and gloves provided by Eugene Parks and Open Spaces.

Singing to Cheer Hearts

Small choral groups will sing at places like Southtowne Living Center and Alpine Springs Assisted Living.

Free Medical Clinic Springfield

This team will meet at the church at 7:30 am to join other volunteers at the Cascade Medical Team's Free Clinic in Springfield. You do not have to be a medical professional to join the team. We need people to welcome, guide and direct clients as well as help fill out simple forms. This team is limited to 8 people. If you speak Spanish, it is a bonus!

Huerto de la Familia Garden

We will help Latino families prepare their garden plots for the season at the site near Churchill High. The families will be present with their children so this is a great opportunity for our families with children. Planting, seeding, mulching pathways & weeding, will be the way we meet some of our low-income Spanish-speaking neighbors and share our lives. You don't have to be a Spanish-speaker, but if you are bilingual, it will be a special gift.

For Youth Only

Get ready to paint! We will be covering up graffiti around our community! Dress in clothing that is paint appropriate!

The Laundromat

We will need lots of quarters as we visit a Laundromat and engage in conversation with our neighbors, hearing their stories and sharing ours. This group is limited to 4 people.

Assembling Food Bags for Hungry People

Each weekday FUMC staff give out 10 food bags to hungry and homeless people who come through our doors. Help stuff these bags for the days ahead.

Assembling Personal Hygiene Bags for FFLC

We will fill the bags using soap, shampoo, toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant and feminine hygiene products contributed by members of the congregation. Please bring these items to the church office during the week or on Sunday morning.

Conversation with Unhoused People

Join us in the parlor for a small-group conversation with people who currently find themselves homeless. Listening and sharing can lead to increased understanding of an important issue and of individuals who have endured.

Feeding People in the Streets

We will bring the items needed to make simple lunches in the church kitchen and take them out into the street to feed hungry people. Hearing the stories of these neighbors can lead to increased



SUMMER FUN FUND Phyllis Hockley

It's time to think about summer. And Church Women United is thinking about our Summer Fun Fund Project. Each year we give money to 8 different organizations working with at-risk kids to be used to provide summer activities for the kids in their programs. Each year the thank you letters express how helpful it is that they are able to provide healthy nourishing activities and how enabling for the well-being of these kids. Whether it is camps, trips, and swimming for the older kids, or a special cake for preschool graduation, these structured activities can make all the difference in some kid's life. So hope you'll be able to participate in our project this year. If so, write your check to Church Women United, memo it to SFF and send to Phyllis Hockley, Chair, at 220 N Adams #2. Eugene, OR.

Many many thanks!!



DOROTHY WEBBER RECEIPT OF 2012 VALIANT WOMAN AWARD

Dorothy was born in Albany, New York, had one brother and one sister, and when she was 9, their family went on an adventure. Her dad built this large box type trailer house, for they were going on a journey. A journey across the US to Idaho. The trailer would be pulled behind their 1932 Ford Sedan, and used to carry all their belongings and to provide a place to sleep on the way.

It was a new life for Dorothy Weber in Idaho. Making new friends in a new school isn't always easy for a 4th grader, but Dorothy did it and has fond memories of her school days in Idaho. She also remembers them as getting pretty busy. Come high school, she had the lead role in the class play both her junior and senior years, never mind that she had chosen to take 2 years of Latin in place of the Public Speaking class. After all, why would she ever have a need for public speaking! Oh, Yes, and she was also the student body treasurer. This turned out to be good training, for after high school she became secretary and bookkeeper for a wholesale and fruit packing company.

When came this double date that Dorothy went on. A guy named Bill was on this double date, his date was actually Dorothy's friend. But two days later it became obvious he had eyes not for Dorothy's friend, but for Dorothy, for he called to ask her out. Well, the courtship soon began, but there was this one small detail. He was going to school in Denver. But absence only caused the heart to grow fonder. And for her April birthday present—guess what!! a sparkling diamond ring, and come August- the knot was tied. They moved to San Bernardino where Bill was now attending college and Dorothy got a job in an attorney's office. They moved around some more, but Dorothy was now busy raising her family. Bill had different jobs, but most interesting for us was his job with the food service at the new community college in Ontario. Why? Because that job got transferred to Northwest Christian College and brought them to Eugene. Lucky us. And after working there for several years, Bob decided to form his own company. Alpine Food Service, now run by their son Paul.

But Dorothy wasn't just raising her family of 4 boys, although family was very important to her. She always made sure she prepared nutritious meals for those 5 hungry guys with homemade cookies always available of course. But beyond her family care, wherever they moved, she always got involved in the Methodist Church and they soon saw her gifts. At one church they made her president of their woman's group, WSCS, at the first meeting she went to. And after moving to Eugene, they soon found First United Methodist. And she has definitely played a lot of different roles here. President, more than once I hear, Circle leader, local treasurer, conference level treasurer, nominations committee, chair on the conference level, dean of School of Christian Missions. And then there's all the banners she made, the shawls and hats she knitted, and all the bazaar lunches she has prepared. That's a lot of doing.

And for many many years, Dorothy has also been a member of Church Women United. Many roles here as well. Historian. Celebration Chair, Nominations Chair, Treasurer, and now Finance Chair. And don't forget all the napkins she made for our Dish Lending Kit!

Dorothy has been so key in so many ways to so many people. And it's not only the many things that she does that keep us efficient. But her warm presence brings spirit to all of us in our times together. I asked her son Paul what her philosophy of life was. He said, "You get out of life what you put into it. Do all the good you can." Don't know of anyone who has lived that model more than Dorothy.

Dorothy is so deserving of the Valiant Woman's Award. And Phyllis Hockley, president of Church Women United was so honored to be presenting it to her.

Dorothy Webber-Church Women United Valiant Woman of the year!!!

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED
Jane Heidegger
2810 Warren St.
Eugene, OR 97405

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
EUGENE, OR
PERMIT NO 356

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**THE 2012 SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION
SPONSORED BY
THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

This school offers an educational opportunity to anyone who is interested, and will be held June 11 - June 15, on the campus of George Fox University.

The theme for this year is 'THAT ALL MAY HAVE LIFE' and it offers three specific studies. They are:

IMMIGRATION IN THE BIBLE, this Spiritual Growth Study shares the story of the Bible as a narrative of immigrants and migration.

The *Geographic Study* is **HAITI CHALLENGES AND HOPE** which highlights the numerous cultures and the legacy of colonialism that have shaped Haiti's cultural heritage and history.

The *General Issue Study* is **POVERTY**. This human rights issue gravely impacts women and children.

If you are interested in this opportunity for study and inspiration you may contact Dorothy Webber at 541-484-7121 for more information.