



The Vine

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF LANE COUNTY
cwulanecounty.org

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December 2011

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UPCOMING EVENTS

December 7 **Breakfast at Brails**
Tues 7-8:30am 1689 Willamette St.
Annual Meeting

(Note change: 2nd Friday)

December 9 **First Christian**
Fri 9:15 am 1166 Oak Stt.
Annual Meeting

(Free Parking is limited: Carpool! No parking in large parking lot off Willamette. Enter South door to the parlour down stairs. Elevator on NE corner of church.)

January 3 **Breakfast at Brail**
Wed 7-8:30am 1689 Willamette
Homeless Students and their Struggle

January 6 **Ebbert Memorial United Methodist**
Fri 9:15 am 532 C St., Springfield
Homeless Students and their Struggle

DECEMBER PROGRAM

Please join us at Breakfast at Brails on Dec 7 and First Christian Church for our Annual Meeting Dec 9, 2nd Friday in December. Highlights include the election and installation of officers, a presentation from those who have attended the 70th Anniversary, a scavenger hunt with prizes, some Christmas fun, and other surprises. You won't be disappointed! A little work and a little play to end the year. See you there!

LOOKING AHEAD TO JANUARY

In January the Springfield Public School District Homeless Liaison and Family Center Staff and some local teens will be visiting CWU to give a face to youth homelessness. So many of the youth in our community struggle with homelessness and the discrimination that comes with it. We will discuss this phenomenon and how our community can come together to support these teens and help make them successful, contributing members of our community.



**Happy Birthday,
Sr. Margaret!**

**Join Sr. Margaret in celebrating
95 wondrous years of living!**

Saturday, Nov 19, 12 to 4pm.

**St. Mary's Catholic Church
11th and Charnelton**

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT Phyllis Hockley



Maybe it's because our sacred earth looks so beautiful right now, with the red and yellow trees decorating our streets, that I'm more and more conscious of our responsibility to care for our sacred earth.

Bill McKibben, an environmental hero of mine, writes in his book, "Eaarth" that one gallon of gasoline represent a hundred tons of ancient plants, and that we've wasted it so mindlessly is depressing. When I think about that, it is definitely depressing. But right now what I see is an awakening across the globe in the faith community and that is so uplifting.

In Nebraska the clergy were in total protest against the Keystone pipeline. They asked, "Can we endanger the earth's precious fresh water reserves supporting crops that feed the world because of our greedy desire for cheap oil, and do it at the expense of our health, food, and children's future?" And when I saw the picture of all those people holding hands circling the White House to tell President Obama, NO to the pipeline, I cheered wildly.

The UN Convention on Climate Change is starting on November 28 in Durbin, So Africa. And the faith community in Africa is out there in the forefront.

There is a faith youth caravan traveling through Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia and Botswana to South Africa and Durban to coincide with the upcoming climate summit (COP 17). The main aim of the caravan is to create awareness about climate change and the importance of the summit.

Southern African faith leaders are speaking out on climate change too. They gathered in Lusaka, Zambia and declared "Africa is a continent of the faithful. God has entrusted us with a rich, living planet. Protecting the environment is demanded of us by our faith. We, the people of the world, have lost our moral compass, and reduce all economic decisions to maximizing profit and consumption. As faith communities we must renew our commitment to compassion for other living beings and the principle of justice."

Let us, Church Women United, renew our commitment to love, to enjoy, and to care for our sacred earth.

REVIEW OF NOVEMBER PROGRAM WORLD COMMUNITY DAY Anne O'Brien

Living our Faith--unlocking our actions was our theme. Thanks to Martha Newman who coordinated a celebration of the 70th Anniversary of Church Women United at the national level with a lively program that got us all in on creating some plans to add women to our local unit as a way of continuing the good works of CWU national and especially CWU of Lane County. Many valuable ideas were generated both at Brail's on Wednesday and at Northwood Christian on Friday. We are grateful to the women of Northwood Christian Church for their loving hospitality on Friday.

HOLIDAYS: A TIME FOR GIVING Cynthia Kokis

Last year CWU collected gifts for homeless youth at Station 7 in Eugene. In January, homeless youth from Brattain House in Springfield will speak at our forum. **Please bring gifts for Brattain House youth to our December meeting:**

- Coupons for meals at Subway or McDonald's
- Gift cards for movie or from Target, Shopko (\$20)
- Warm socks (not white athletic ones)
- Quality hygiene products (deodorant, shampoo, razors, shaving cream, hair brushes, feminine hygiene products, etc.)
- Cash donation for birth certificates (\$50)

A local dentist is supplying tooth brushes and tooth paste.



STILL NEEDED FOR OUR DISH LENDING KIT

**25 Plastic bowls and 4 plastic cups.
Let's finish this for Christmas!**

ELECTING THE BOARD FOR 2012

At our December meeting we will have an installation of our officers. Below are the nominees. Nominations can be made from the floor as well.

President: Phyllis Hockley

Vice-President: Anne O'Brien

Recording Secretary: Jane Heidegger

Treasurer: Trudie Atkinson

Ecumenical Action Chairs: Leslie Hall, Anne O'Brien

Ecumenical Development Chair: Diane Beuerman

Finance Committee Chair: Dorothy Webber

Communications Chair: Phyllis Hockley

Nominating Committee Chair: Diane Beuerman

Celebrations Chair: Rose Marie Zook Barber

Historian: Dorothy Webber



Cindy Kokis

Several CWU members attended the November 9th public forum "Occupy Eugene in Context." Harris Hall filled with people of all ages and classes. The panel gave a review of these nationwide occupations.

In fighting corporate person hood and working to build a living economy, Professor Daniel Pope (U of O History) noted that this is in the traditional historical populist pattern, little people against moneyed interests. Coming from progressive sources, these movements are inclusive, emphasize internal democracy, and decide by consensus.

Joe Lowndes (U of O Political Science) said that in a crisis normal channels don't work. With wealth and political power unequally distributed, combined with recession and the assault on unions, Wall Street becomes the clear enemy. The goal is public control, the public good, with economic equality.

Panelists noted that the current need for deep systemic change is pushed by the climate crisis, peak oil, and the failure of the current economic system. With change at the roots, the younger generation must lead.

William Wise (St. Vincent de Paul) stated that the federal budget cuts focus on the poor, the media focus is on the middle class, and the true unemployment rate is about 16%. One in six is poor in our country, and 2,000 homeless children attend school in Lane County. "How do you do your homework when you haven't got a home?"

Letter writing and politics as usual haven't worked. At the camp, homeless people can sleep without fear. Eight hundred meals are served each day. Occupy Eugene has an account at the Oregon Community Credit Union and donations are welcome. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this action.

WE DO THE WORK

Cindy Kokis

On November 11th the City Club of Eugene hosted a meeting about the status and concerns of present day workers. The panel- a farm worker, a child care provider, and a Fred Meyer employee of 25 years - shared experiences.

With 600,00 Oregonians below the poverty level, panelists agreed that things get harder for workers year by year.

All three speakers felt that Occupy Eugene is positive and shows people are standing up for economic justice. It is a witness that it is not okay for the super rich to skim profits for themselves when 20% of our children live in poverty.

Sheila Lowe and Cindy Kokis attended.

INSIDE OUT SUNDAY

Gaye Gough

Come IN for Worship-Go OUT in service.

This was First United Methodist putting faith in action.

Maybe small choral groups or bell ringers aren't so unusual on a Sunday, but moving out to sing to Assisted Living or Rehab Centers was new for several terms on Sunday, Oct. 31. Others were winterizing homes of elders/disabled or working in a grass roots garden. One went to an emergency shelter for homeless youth. Careful planning ahead of time allowed for other choices in the fellowship hall assembling Birthing Kits for women throughout the world, giving birth in less-than sanitary conditions and assembling hygiene bags or food bags. Teams of all ages and abilities participated.

ALL ARE EXPRESSIONS OF THIS DAVID HAAS SONG

Come! live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God!

We are called to act with justice.
We are called to love tenderly.
We are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.

Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless,
so all hatred and blindness will be no more!

Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers united in love.

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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Judy Romans

Many consumers are now aware of the sweetener called "high fructose corn syrup" and that its use is implicated in health problems such as obesity and diabetes.

Since the mid-1990's, the United States has subsidized corn growers \$40 billion, while placing a tariff on imported sugar, thus making sugar more expensive than corn syrup. Manufacturers found a way to change corn syrup to increase the amount of fructose sugar, which is sweeter than sucrose (table sugar). High fructose corn syrup is now ubiquitous in processed foods, including soft drinks, breads, cereals, lunch meats, yogurt, soups, condiments, and many more.

In a move it claims will resolve consumer concerns and confusion about the use of high fructose corn syrup (HFCS), the Corn Refiners Association (representing makers of HFCS) has petitioned the Food and Drug Administration to change the name of their product from "high fructose corn syrup" to "corn sugar". In other words, the product will remain exactly the same, but the new name will make it harder to identify in a list of ingredients.

Michael Taylor, FDA deputy commissioner for foods, wrote on March 15, 2010, "it would be affirmatively misleading to change the name of the ingredient after all this time, especially in the light of the controversy surrounding it".

For further information, search the internet for "high fructose corn syrup name change". If you have concerns about this issue, write to the FDA at www.fda.gov.