



The Vine

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF LANE COUNTY
cwulanecounty.org

Editor: Phyllis Hockley

Address: P.O. Box 5824 Eugene, OR 97405 December 2012

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec 4 **Breakfast at Brails**
Tuesday 1689 Willamette
7-8:30am **Annual Meeting/Peace Reflection**

Dec. 7 **Emerald Baptist Church**
Friday 631 E. 19th
9-11:15am **Annual Meeting/Peace Reflection**

January 4 **Ebbert United Methodist**
Friday **532 C St., Springfield**
9-11:15am **"Stewardship of Creation"**

January 8 **Breakfast at Brails (2nd Tuesday)**
Tuesday 1689 Willamette
7-8:30am **"Stewardship of Creation"**

DECEMBER FORUM **Annual Meeting**

Please join us at Breakfast at Brails and Emerald Baptist for our Annual Meeting with the election and installation of officers.

Then in keeping with the season, Mary Sharon Moore will guide us in a reflection on peace from her newest book, "Moving in God's Direction." We are looking forward to her insights. Hope you can join us.

LOOKING FORWARD TO JANUARY

Starting off the year with a look at our environment. The theme is "Stewardship of Creation: Healthy Environment-good jobs." There are many concerns from coal trains moving thru our city and our organic fields to pesticides in our parks and public places. Lisa Arkin from Beyond Toxics will share her insights. Come and learn about solutions and what we can do.

CARING CONNECTION

If you know of a CWU woman or family member needing a card or connection because of sickness or other need, call Jane Heidegger at 541-485-6229.

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Phyllis Hockley

A month or so ago I wrote a letter to the Register Guard stating that over 700 kids in the Eugene School District were homeless, sleeping under a bush, cramped in a car, or on someone's couch, and that this was so so not right! On Sunday a man walked into church and looked at our big signup chart (to sign up to do a breakfast, dinner, etc. for our two weeks that homeless families will be sleeping at our church). "This is perfect for me," he said. "I get my check in two weeks." But this was not perfect for him. He could not be a part of this First Place "Family" program, I gently told him. Then came the awful question, "But then where do I sleep tonight?" I'd just read that the Mission had cleared out some storerooms and put down cots as they had over 100 extra people and were over full up. So I talked to my friend about having him come sleep at my house but was told I was all heart and no head and had to be realistic.

So I went home thinking maybe God wasn't saying, "Care for him." Maybe it wasn't Jesus coming to me as a homeless man. But maybe it was! Maybe Jesus came to say, "Phyllis, this is where you need to put a lot of attention and energy." Maybe Jesus was saying, "What is happening to my children is unacceptable and you need to do something about it."

Friday was our World Community Day with Jean Stacey as our speaker. Back came the cry for help for the homeless. We need a place for them to stay. We need your help to make that happen. We'll need food, we'll need demonstrations, we'll need teams: Logistic team, safety team, communication team, financial team. And a council of consciousness team." What is that? Community people, especially people of faith, to keep watch on the sites, to pressure the elected officials, to network with others to give them an understanding of what is going on.

This week a friend of mine told me she is doing a yearlong process of discerning her life's direction. Lots of reading, lots of weekend workshops. She asked me to join her.

"WOW!" I thought. Jesus just saved me a year of time, effort and money. Not only did he give me direction, but said, "You belong on the consciousness team.

Let me know if you think you belong there too!

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY CELEBRATION LOVE IN ACTION: ABIDING IN COMMUNITY

Anne O'Brien

Our thanks to Vi May and her team at Asbury First United Methodist for their warm hospitality including the finest of goodies. Thanks to Pastor Lydum for his inspiring words.

The celebration, planned by Helen Liguori featured scripture and song celebrating our theme: "Love in Action, Abiding in Community." Thanks to our scripture readers Judith Roman, Shirley Kingsbury, and Phyllis Weare and to Rose Mary Zook Barber who facilitated and led us in a spiritual exercise using our hearts and hands. Many thanks to our official CWU pianist Mary Roth who keeps us harmonious.

Our speakers, from **Opportunity Village Eugene**, fit right in with our theme of putting love into action. Jean Stacey spoke about her own learning from homeless folks as she has become better acquainted with them and her journey from Junior League to activist. She and Elana shared visuals of the kind of village envisioned.

Opportunity Village Eugene is envisioned as a transitional alternative-planning site for those experiencing homelessness and community members who have joined with them. The hope is to create a more humane and sustainable Eugene by establishing a transitional eco-social community village, a temporary place in which to transition away from the streets into a lifestyle that is more sustainable and fulfilling. The belief is that keeping it small -30 folks- will optimize success. Agreements would include zero tolerance for alcohol, drugs and violence. Jean spoke of virtually no problems in models seen in Seattle and Portland. Finding a site in Eugene has been problematic. Fear is an issue for some community members.

What could we do? OVE needs help with food (in the way that so many helped at the Occupy site), and our moral support to overcome the fear of some community members. Many of us signed up to be a part of OVE and of SLEEP, another community group working to find solutions for our people who are homeless. CWU of Lane County can help by being visible in their support. Those present voted to support OVE's proposal to the City Council.

Jean pointed out that our mothers had Forums and Junior League to express their activism and that we have many more options. We need a coordinated effort to get people of faith to be visible. **We can begin by being there at Harris Hall, County Building, 2nd and 4th Mondays for City Council meetings.**

The November Celebration taught us about putting love into action and how that might include leaving our fears at the doorstep as we demonstrate "Love thy neighbor as thyself."

<http://www.opportunityvillageeugene.org/> is the website for OVE. Check it out and consider some involvement.

ISSUES TO THINK ABOUT

Cindy Kokis

Safety and Justice

"It's important for us to create a public safety system that holds people who commit crimes accountable, but also takes advantage of the growing body of evidence and data about what works and what does not work in the criminal justice system. The cost of doing nothing is profound."

.....Governor John Kitzhaber, 9/24/12

CWU will be supplying updates on actions to take: we can save tax money and reinvest into programs and services that benefit all Oregonians. Our February program focus is on criminal justice issues.

Workers Rights = Community Well-Being.

Grocery Workers Deserve Respect

CWU members stood with the United Food and Commercial Workers in October wearing signs of support.

We entered Safeway, spoke with the clerks and joined the UFCW delegation that went to speak to the manager. We will continue work to secure a fair contract, decent health care, and full time jobs.

Nationwide, corporations seek part time workers so they pay no health care. Our community can't afford profit over people. Living wage jobs are necessary to make Lane County a just community. Tell your Safeway cashier that you/CWU stand with them.

The United States Postal Service

Why we support it:

Delivers everywhere

Allows us to vote by mail, securely, and quickly

Is a distribution center for medications

Provides living wage jobs

Is in small communities

Is a gathering place and the only government office flying the US flag

CWU stood with carriers with their motto, "Delivering for America." One 30 year employee stated: "We are not going broke, not wanting a bail out, just getting the mail out." Rep. DeFazio urged us to demand that Congress repeal the law requiring that the postal service have savings for retirement for the next 75 years. (The USPS already has more money on account than any corporation or other agency in our nation.) DeFazio called this the most dangerous privatization action proposed so far and it can be stopped only by grass roots opposition.

Privatization= for profit business, closed postal stations, cuts in service, job loss.

Speak up. Defend our postal employees and this service.



CITIZENSHIP 2013-LOOKING AHEAD

Cindy Kokis

In Washington, DC, ten new women will take their seats in the US Senate. What a wonderful way to celebrate women's suffrage. Rep. Peter DeFazio, and Senators Wyden and Merkley will be there, ready to hear from us. Now is the time to call and urge: no cuts in services and entitlements to the low income.

In Salem, our state legislature will be in session. The new federal health care plan will be on the agenda. Environmental issues will be debated. Governor Kitzhaber's bipartisan commission will be looking at prisons: sentencing laws and recommendations for reform will be determined. We all have a state senator and representative. Do you know yours?

In Lane County, Eugene and Springfield decisions will be made that affect those who are poor and less powerful. Through our ongoing involvement we can work for justice. We must "speak truth to power."

Do you know your city council person and your county commissioner?

"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing."

Need help with the names of your state and local reps?

Call Lane County Elections, 541-682- 4234

Coming: Thursday, February 28, 2013:
Interfaith Advocacy Day, Salem.

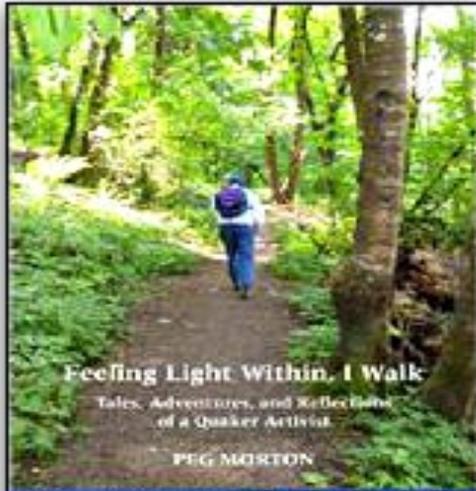
"Where one has been given much, much will be expected and the more with which one has been entrusted the more one will be required to repay."
Luke 12:48.



**CHRISTMAS AT
BRATTAIN HOUSE
Bring to December
Forum:**

**Socks, soap, toiletries,
mittens,
scarfs, etc..**

CONGRATS TO PEG MORTON AND PHYLLIS WEARE, LONGTIME MEMBERS OF CHURCH WOMEN UNITED



They say you can't judge a book by its cover. It seems to us that you can tell a whole lot about Peg Morton, however, just by looking at this cover of her memoirs to be published this summer, *Feeling Light Within, I Walk*.

Peg's Quaker background has led the way in her pursuit of peace and justice and it has taken her to the solace of the forests, to the tear gas of WTO actions in Seattle, and to acts of nonviolent civil disobedience at the Army School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Georgia.

With a focus on nuclear dangers, Peg brought in the new millennium by attending a conference near the Nevada Test Site. She was welcomed by the Western Shoshone people and met with a group of Hibakusha, survivors of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

We may feel strongly about the goals of our mission to work for peace and justice but not many of us have had to explain our beliefs and the actions prompted by those beliefs to a judge in a courtroom. Peg has. More than once.

Book Launching:

Saturday, Nov 17, 1-3pm,
Eugene Friends Meeting, 2274 Onyx
Sunday, Nov 25, 4-6pm,
Tsunami Books, 2584 Willamette
Saturday, Dec 1, 2-5
Pick up books, 510 Van Buren St.



A 2012 HARVEST OF HOPE HONOREE

Phyllis Weare was presented with one of the 2012 Harvest of Hope awards at the Oregon Faith Roundtable Against Hunger Breakfast, held in Portland.

PHYLLIS WEARE created and still is the energizer behind Eugene's "Sunday Breakfasts", which are held every Sunday at First Christian Church and are hosted by First Christian the first, third, and fifth Sundays, and hosted by a rotating group of congregations the second and fourth Sundays. Over 200 people come for a free meal every Sunday. Phyllis initiated and is the primary organizer for the community garden at First Christian, which provides fresh produce for many in the congregation as well as for the "Sunday Breakfast".

The Oregon Faith Roundtable Against Hunger seeks to engage diverse religious communities throughout the state, including direct service agencies, in order to develop solutions to the root causes of hunger through education and public policy advocacy. Check out their work at <http://ofrah.net/>.



**BLANCH SMITH
CWU NATIONAL
GLOBAL ACTION CHAIR**

The entire CWU movement expresses solidarity with members of our East Coast community gravely affected by Sandy and with the families who have lost loved ones during this unprecedented weather event. We pray for a speedy recovery for the region and for consolation of those who have lost family members and friends during this tragedy.

This anomaly began early and was indeed a different experience. This hurricane reminds us that we are going through unusual weather patterns which the majority of scientists agree is part of the climate change we are experiencing. Sandy was terrible and while there will be those that may want to attempt to 'rate' just how bad this experience was, let's remember that many of those discussions may very well depend on how much each of us lost. If you lost nothing in another event and lost everything in Sandy then Sandy may be the 'worst you've ever seen'.

Let's provide assistance as we can to our community through whatever means each of us may have available. Let each of us be reminded of the urgency to address the root causes of climate change and the consequence of ecological disasters affecting the most vulnerable and impoverished sectors of our society. It is imperative that we as CWU continue to act to heal our hurting planet and to change the course on which we have been in the last several decades. It is also urgent that we promote an Eco-theology of justice and sustainability for the whole inhabited world.



**WINTER SQUASH
NOT JUST FOR DECORATION
Judy Romans**

This time of year, grocery stores display a variety of winter squash: acorn, butternut, hubbard, spaghetti, delicata, kuri, turban, as well as pumpkins of various sizes. Although most people recognize that pumpkins are edible, the other winter squash are usually tastier (the giant Halloween pumpkins are not very good to eat, being watery and stringy).

Squash are native to the Americas, and seeds dating from 12,000 years ago have been found in Ecuador and Mexico. The early use of squash was limited to seeds, since the flesh was thin and usually bitter, but over the years better varieties were developed. Like many native plants, squash traveled to Europe and beyond with the early Spanish explorers. The Iroquois planted corn, beans, and squash, known as the "three sisters", and these quickly found their way into the colonists diet. Nutritionally, squash is low in calories and salt and packed with vitamins and minerals. The USDA calculates that a cup of plain, cooked butternut squash, for example, contains 82 calories along with more than 400% of the daily value of Vitamin A (from that lovely dark yellow or orange flesh) and 52% of the day's Vitamin C value along with a healthy measure of magnesium, potassium, and manganese.

While we generally eat the flesh of the squash, the seeds and blossoms are also edible. Squash can be baked, steamed, or microwaved, and many markets offer pre-cut pieces of the larger varieties along with squash that is peeled, cubed and ready to cook. Usually we think of "pumpkin" (or any winter squash) in desserts, such as pies, cakes, muffins, etc, but it can be added to soups, stews, curries, or as a side dish either mashed or in pieces, drizzled with a little butter and a sprinkle of salt and pepper. One of my favorite dishes is baked squash served with spicy black beans.

So put all those table and porch decorations to good use and try them in some new recipes this winter. Since they keep well in a cool, dry spot, you can enjoy them throughout the winter months.



FAIR TRADE ON MAIN

Nov. 15, 5-7 pm, Nov. 16, 11-7 pm and Nov 17, 11-6 pm.

Annual International Event at Fair Trade On Main,
1072 Main St., Springfield

As usual there will be new Fair Trade merchandise
with emphasis on the upcoming holidays.

Perfect place to find your gifts for the season.

Phone number for the store is 541-743-0657.

Regular hours are Fri and Sat from 11 to 6 pm.