



Church Women United In Tucson

August 2013 Newsletter

Motto: Agreed to differ, resolved to love, united to serve



CWU CHRISTMAS IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER...

Saturday, September 21, 2013
First Christian Church (Disciples)

9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
740 E. Speedway (at Euclid)

Join **Church Women United** in giving thanks and celebrating "*Christmas in September*" as we lift up those **serving our community in love** for us all. Even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve (Mark 10:45). We will celebrate Christmas in worship, song, and offerings for the following organizations:

The Salvation Army, bringing spiritual and material support to those in need and making Christmas happen where otherwise it would not. *Bring age appropriate gifts for birth to 12 years of age.*

Clinica Amistad, providing quality free health care to uninsured working families and low income seniors with all volunteer staff in South Tucson. *Sharing in our cash offering.*

Casa Paloma Women's Center, a drop-in house of Primavera for single, unaccompanied homeless or near-homeless women providing breakfast, lunch, laundry, showers, and clothing four days a week. *Sharing in our cash offering.*

Pima County Jail Ministry, bringing a reading program and bible study to hundreds of inmates. *Sharing in our cash offering.*

For More information contact: Susan at susanlaiharris@gmail.com or 390-5648.

Cannot attend the celebration but want to contribute to these community efforts? Mail a check to CWU c/o Martha DeWarf, Treasurer, 2107 N. Catalina Ave, Tucson, AZ 85712; checks payable to CWU, memo line- Christmas in September.



CWU Begins Email Distribution of Newsletter: More news at less cost!

Send your email *today* to veralander345@gmail.com

Postal delivery upon request: Call Teena at 390-4575

Agreed to differ - Resolved to love - United to serve
Peacefully advocating for the equality and safety of women and families since 1941.
A force of love in the world.

We are CHURCH WOMEN UNITED in Tucson, a Movement of women of Christian faith who are committed to living the message of Jesus in our world. We are inviting women of other faith traditions to join with us in our Call to create a space of safety for women in the challenging environment in which we live. We are re-tooling and stabilizing our organization to be capable of harnessing the power accumulated over the past 75 years and mobilizing it to bring to fullness the purpose and goals and policies we have advocated for and recorded in our Social Policies over the years. CWU has faithfully recorded its stance on many of the issues that are consuming our public life at the present moment.

We are re-structuring our operational pattern to intentionally include the voices of modern women in our decisions about what our goals, objectives and activities need to be. Check out the President-elect's report to see what work the board is addressing. Our immediate need is to expand our website, establish a Facebook page and begin to effectively utilize modern technology to get our message out. We need someone to help create and manage an emerging data base.

We invite everyone to go to www.cwutucson.org. Give us feedback about its usefulness and promise. If one among you feels called to take on the task of expanding and making it interactive, we welcome you to join with a committed team of women – young and working and retired - to help us in several areas in order to accomplish this.

If this message speaks to you, we invite you to check us out at our Christmas in September Celebration (see page 1). And we invite you to join us at a meeting of the Board of Directors to get an in-depth experience of how we do our business. Next board meeting is Saturday, August 24 (see calendar for details).

Living in the Light, Vera Lander, President

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**Welcome, Judith Salzman, our incoming newsletter editor** and member of Pima Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. Previous involvements include: National Council of Jewish Women, Buddhist Peace Fellowship, Arizona ERA Coalition, National Organization of Women, and Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Association. As a digital and technical support professional, she brings fresh ideas and significant IT skills to creation of a newsletter. Hallelujah!

*Carolyn Redmore*



THE BOARD by Teena Cross, President Elect

The BORED!!! Not hardly. Your Board has been busy envisioning the revitalization of our Tucson Unit. Working to put that vision into action by participating in a very enlightening Board Day Away that was hosted by our one and only Mary Lou Barker. This is an extended Board meeting allowing for more in-depth discussions and sharing of ideas. The Board has had more frequent meetings to review and revise policies, procedures and job descriptions. We have also established an Ecumenical Calendar to help us in our Unit's planning. This calendar is designed to help prevent scheduling of CWU activities at the same time as a denominational major event, which could adversely affect attendance.

We are also working diligently to improve the communication with the Unit membership regarding our Celebrations and Forums by developing a recommended timeline for the Celebrations/Forums Chairs to accomplish the tasks necessary to host a successful event. Improving communication with Key Women, young church women and reaching out to guests that attend our events is another major effort. You can see, we have a lot on our plate. We ask for prayers for our continued strength, energy and persistence as we proceed on your behalf. Many blessings to you all from your NOT BORED BOARD.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS DAY CELEBRATION: Behold I Stand at the Door & Knock**

Our theme for this year certainly seems true for many of us in our work on behalf of human rights. Opportunities beckon and when we respond, our lives are changed. Sometimes there is a persistent call and when we answer it, we find our lives transformed. Yet getting to that place of action is sometimes hard.

We will examine our connections to human rights: What motivates us to get involved? What is it like to respond to a calling? When we do respond, how are our lives changed? Participants will share their stories of wonder or surprise when they have responded to a call to action. We will celebrate the mystery that changes us when we try to do new things.

Lisa Hopper, founder of World Care, is this year's honoree. Lisa will share her story, how she responded to a call and developed an organization which provides emergency relief to people in Tucson and all over the world. Through this celebration, it is hoped that more of us will feel more confident about ourselves and more able to pursue our callings.

*Join us Friday, October 4th, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm First United Methodist Church, 915 E 4<sup>th</sup> S. & Park Hors d'oeuvres will be served. Questions? Please call Susan Calhoun at 520-320-0622.*

### **OUR LOCAL CHURCH LINK: A KEY WOMAN**

The backbone of Church Women United is women committed to tangible ecumenical engagement. The strength of our ecumenical body in Tucson is directly related to women in local churches committing to be the bridge between her local church and CWU. She is a woman who, as a disciple of Christ, values diversity and sees beyond the boundaries of "my church" and "my denomination." Formerly, she was called a local church rep, but in recognition of her strategic role the CWU Board voted to name her our Key Woman. In the coming year, we will be renewing relationships with our Key Women, recognizing them at each celebration or forum, and telling their individual stories. Go to page 4 for Judy Bodnaruk's story, Key Woman from St. Andrews Presbyterian.

Connect with your Key Woman: thank her for her service, keep her in your prayers, and support her in ecumenical witness. As the Ecumenical Development chairperson in Tucson, I am here to lend support. Call on me at cdredmore@aol.com or 319-1319. *Carolyn Redmore*

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### **MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY** By Teena Cross, President Elect



On a beautiful spring Saturday morning May 4, 2013, 48 faithful women gathered at Our Saviour's Lutheran church to celebrate "Swinging Wide the Doors of Opportunity." The WELCA of Our Saviour's served a wonderful breakfast enjoyed by all. Kudos to Holly Winter, Marylyn Tobey, and Jane Rohwer for leading us in a program that provided wonderful stories, music and sharing of experiences with our tablemates. Judy Bodnaruk of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church was honored as our 2013 Valiant Woman. Many thanks to Joyce Dow for creative name tags of beautifully decorated hats. Unable to join us this year? We missed you. Mark your calendars now for upcoming Celebrations noted in this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you soon.

## KNOCKING AT THE DOOR OF YOUNG WOMEN

Young church women, we are missing you. We are missing your energy, your vitality and your ideas. The CWU Board is embarking on a path of revitalization by being more working-women friendly. So far this year, we are scheduling more Celebrations and Board meetings on Saturdays and in the evening to accommodate working women and also providing childcare for our mothers with small children.

We would like the opportunity to share with you the history of women's fights for the rights that we enjoy today and that are being systematically stripped away in a climate of hostility. We would like to hear your concerns and share ideas on how we can address issues together. To begin these conversations, the Board has approved additional positions for young church women. We extend the invitation to any of you who would be interested in working with the Board representing young church women. Please call Vera at 770-9861 for more information about serving in this way on the board.

We look forward to seeing you at upcoming Celebrations: Christmas in September, Human Rights Day and World Community Day. More information can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

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Valian Women (left to right): Martha DeWarf, Mary Lou Barker, Jane Rohwer, Carolyn Redmore, Judy Bodnurak, Vera Lander, Sue Gilmore, Marylyn Tobey, and Mona Toombs.



Church Women United's 2013 Valiant Woman Award

The Valiant Woman Award is given to women known as living the gospel message in every day life and who have given service to Church Women United, their church and community. Valiant Women lead by example. At the May Friendship Day Celebration Judith Marie Allen Bodnurak was recognized as our 2013 Valiant Woman. She was warmly received by a circle of eight other Valiant Women (see photo), including Mona Toombs, a Church Woman United pioneer in Tucson and one our first Valiant Women in 1999.

Ecumenical participation comes naturally for Judy. Her family moved a lot, always connected with a church, but different denominations in different places. The Presbyterian church helped launch her into adulthood. There she settled. St. Andrews is her home church where she is known as a doer: leadership in Presbyterian Women; usher with husband, Peter; volunteer at Gospel Rescue Mission; and 15 year leading weekly worship at La Canada Rest Home.

Judy is a devoted and protective daughter, wife, mother, and grandmother. Recently, she willingly took on multiple responsibilities in the last chapter of her parents' lives. Just over a year ago some of us were with Judy for their memorial services that came only two months apart.

In CWU Judy was one of the first young church women recognized, and one who stayed with us taking on multiple roles over the ensuing years. In Tucson she has served as Coordinator for Resources and Christmas in September, Treasurer, and (Immediate Past) President. For CWU Arizona, she serves on the Nominating Committee and hosted the 2012 state annual meeting at St. Andrews. *Yes, she is that Key Woman, linking St. Andrews and Presbyterian Women with Church Women United.*

I cannot close without saying, "Hats off to the woman with the amazing collection of hats, so faithfully worn to meetings and events."

Carolyn Redmore, 2009 Valiant Woman

ANNUAL RETREAT

CWU IN ARIZONA

SATURDAY

OCTOBER 26, 2013

9 am - 3:30 pm

Check in and Continental Breakfast 8:00

University Presbyterian Church 139 E Alameda, Tempe

"Knock and the Door Will Open: *Who is Mother God to You?*"

with Beverly Phillips

Christian Feminist Theologian, Minister, Author

Originally from Nebraska, Beverly Phillips attended San Francisco Theological Seminary and was one of the first women in the Presbyterian Church (USA) to earn a master of divinity degree (1961). Now retired to Gilbert, Arizona, she writes Bible studies and text for women's retreats. In between San Francisco and Gilbert, with husband, Rev. Norm Phillips, she raised a family (two adopted children with asthma & Type I diabetes) and supported his ministry in Nebraska, Kansas, and Chicago. In Chicago she was ordained the Hunger Action Enabler for the Presbytery of Chicago and went on to become Bread for the World Regional Organizer for Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri.

During this amazing life, Beverly had trials and days when she did not feel God was by her side. She had days when she felt doubt--sometimes despair. To combat these days of darkness and bring her closer to God, she began a daily prayer journal. Thirty years of spiral notebooks of morning prayers of this ordinary woman living an extraordinary life became her second book, *From Heaven to My Heart, God's Journey With Me*. Her transparency about her own spiritual journey not only enlightens but also encourages. It witnesses to, yes, trials, but also to faith in a benevolent creator.

Her first book, *Learning a New Language, Speech About Women and God*, grew from her discovery of feminist theology and biblical scholarship. Changed by her encounter with Elizabeth A. Johnson's book, *She Who Is: The Mystery of God in Feminist Theological Discourse*, she wanted to make this perspective more accessible to the women with whom she worked in retreat settings. Her next book will be about a dear friend who served poor residents in Chicago public housing, from whom Beverly says, "...what I know about prayer, I learned from her."

We are fortunate to have the opportunity to engage with this deeply spiritual woman with special gifts to meet us where we are and help us continue on our faith journeys.

Registration Form

Name _____ Email Address _____

Address _____ Phone _____

_____ Emergency Contact _____

Church and/or CWU Unit _____ Relation _____ Phone _____

Dietary & Other Special Needs _____

Before September 30: \$35 Early Registration Fee (Meals included)

****No Refunds after October 21****

After September 30: \$40 Registration Fee (Meals included)

Mail registration and check payable to AZCWU to:

Lila Dell'Aringa

Email yamalil@cox.net

11596 West Sierra Dawn #24

Surprise, Arizona 85378

Church Women United in Tucson

Christian women celebrating unity in diversity and working for a world of peace and justice.

.....<http://cwutucson.org>

DATES TO REMEMBER

- August 24** Board Meeting *Saturday 9:00-11:30 a.m.* **Pima Meeting 931 North 5th Avenue**
- September 21** **Christmas in September Celebration**
Saturday 9-11:30 am, First Christian Church 740 East Speedway
- September 23** Board Meeting, *Monday 9:00-11:30 a.m. Northminster Presbyterian 2450 E. Fort Lowell*
- September 30** CWU Arizona Retreat registration due (*see page 5 for registration form*)
- October 4** **Human Rights Celebration, Friday, 5:30-7:30 pm, 1st U. Methodist, Park at 6th St.**
- October 21** Board Meeting, *Monday, 9:00-11:30 a.m. Northminster Presbyterian*
- October 25** **CWU Arizona Retreat, Saturday, 9 am - 3:30 pm, University Presbyterian, Tempe**
- November 16** **World Community Day Celebration**
Saturday 11 am - 2 pm, Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist, 210 East Lester
- November 18** Board Meeting, *Monday, 9:00-11:30 a.m. Northminster Presbyterian*
- February 1, 2014** **CWU Arizona Assembly** *University Presbyterian Church, Tempe*
- August 1-3, 2014** **Southwest Regional Gathering: "Building Bridges"** *San Francisco*

We celebrate the life of Mary Dillon who died earlier this summer and extend condolences to her family & friends.

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, email veralander345@gmail.com or call 390-4575.



Sisters,

This is my last "go" at editing our newsletter. What a learning curve I have been on for the last seven years. My heartfelt thanks to all: writers, members of the mailing parties (especially Martha DeWarf), and readers. I look forward to all that Judith Salzman, a real IT person, working with Vera and Teena will bring to our communications.

So much news had to be covered & in keeping the NL to 6 pages (this last half page is space for the mailer portion of the hard copies), that nothing was said about Shares of Responsibility. We had a good response through May. Understandably quiet over the summer. If your women's group has not yet given, please, send in your shares to Martha DeWarf, 2107 N. Catalina, Tucson, 85712. Or, bring them to Christmas in September at First Christian. And, remember to keep a "Prayers, Nickels & Dimes for National" cup near where you pray and bring the coins to any CWU event. We value your support.

Hoping all are having a good summer and looking forward to seeing you at one or more of the CWU events this fall.

Shalom,

*Carolyn Redmore
cdredmore@aol.com*