



UNITY

The Official Voice of

Church Women United in New Jersey

“Agreed to differ, Resolved to love, United to serve”

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Since 1941, the women of the Church Women United movement have held a vision of Christian unity and prayerful action. CWU was founded as a racially, culturally, and theologically inclusive Christian women’s movement to celebrate unity and diversity and work for peace in the world.

May Friendship Day at the Toms River Unit



The Toms River Unit of CWUNJ celebrated May Friendship Day on May 12th at the United Church of Christ Toms River. The theme for the program was “A Heart to Care.” The program took place at eleven with a luncheon following.

There were 25 ladies at the program, representing thirteen different churches in the area. Our state President, Sara Joslin was present as well.

The “7 UPS “ was a big hit during the worship part of the program. Then everyone treated to a skit. “ Spreading Seeds of Love...A Heart to Care,” by Molly Bedware and Patti Kemps. The skit spoke of the importance of love and spreading it around to everyone you meet. A short discussion of the skit followed. Patti brought packages of flower seeds and distributed them to everyone attending---seeds of love to spread in their gardens—and then remember the theme of love that day.

In accordance with our CWU Quadrennial Priority #4 on Hunger and Poverty, everyone attending was asked to bring a non-perishable food items. The food was then donated to Your Grandmother’s Cupboard, a local charity in Tom’s River, that gives food, clothing and personal items to those who need them.

Cindy Williams, Unit President, was grateful to everyone who provided food for the luncheon. The women of the UCC set the food up and provided the coffee, beverages and desserts. There was lots of happy talking going on during our meal. Women of different churches getting to know each other which is one of the purpose of May Friendship Day in motion! Our state photographer, Maxine Husbands-Brown, was in attendance and posed everyone for a picture to remember the day! It was a wonderful celebration of God’s love being lived out in real time!

Submitted by, Marilyn Russell
Celebrations Chair



Frances Wynn – Valiant Woman

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Newark Unit Celebrated their May Friendship Day in June

On June 2, 2023 a beautiful first Friday in June, May Friendship Day was celebrated at Bethany Baptist Church in Newark directed by Patricia Jones, our Second Vice President. The Theme was the National theme provided "Labor with Love---A Heart to Care" (Matthew 25: 37-40).

Song used for this occasion was "What the World needs now is Love, Sweet Love" ,which was song by everyone in attendance. There were about 30 persons in attendance including members and guests. We were very happy to have present our State President, Sara Joslin, also. She stayed with us throughout the program and for our fellowship afterwards.

The program began as outlined from our Nationals: Welcome by Unit President, Cheryl Walker, Opening Prayer by Rev. Vivian Cook, Litany the "7 Ups Blessings," was led by Janice T. Watson.

Then a very inspiring skit by Rev. Dorothy Clark and Jackie McFarland entitled "**Spreading Seeds of Love**"

Bible study was very thoroughly presented (from Matthew 24:31-33) by Sis. Minnie Kreps which gave us the biblical study "Spreading Seeds of Love."

Our program was dedicated to the Mental Health Awareness Month which was in May. Each person was asked to wear something green and each person in attendance was given a green ribbon to wear in observance of Mental Health.

Our Valiant Woman was Frances Wynn, our past Fundraiser for the Unit. She served for almost 20 years in that capacity. Our meeting ended in fellowship with State President Sara Joslin and good food provided by



various Newark unit members

Newark Unit CWU-NJ Sunday visit at Phillips Metropolitan Church in Newark, NJ.



On Sunday, June 25, 2023 the members of the Newark Unit visited the church of one of our past State and Local Unit Presidents, Louse Ballard. The church service was very inspirational and uplifting. After service the members gathered together at the local IHOP for a very scrumptious breakfast.

CWU Plainfield and Vicinity Unit Annual May Friendship Event



On Friday, May 5, 2023 CWU Plainfield and Vicinity Unit held their MFD event at Wallace Chapel AME Zion Church, Summit NJ. Pastor, The Rev. Dr. D. Harrield and his gracious wife, Sister Tina Harrield hosted us. Pastor Harrield generously and unexpectedly gave us detailed interesting history of the Wallace Chapel from its roots, as it will celebrate 100 years in 2023, well as a brief summary of surrounding churches in Summit.

It was the pleasure of the entire membership to select our wonderful hardworking, very dedicated unit President, Jackie Lynch to receive “The Valiant Woman Award” for 2023. Other than our sincere endeavors of working hard and together as a unit to provide Godly love through our time, talents, and treasures to the less fortunate, bestowing the Valiant Woman Award to our deserving President Jackie was glorious to us. Our newly elected Vice President Tami Williams took a vacation day from her job to be present with her unit for May Friendship Day 2023. Each member of the unit contributed to our delicious luncheon (food, decorations, monetary and generosity acts of love and labor). Special thanks to Evangelist Janet Jasper our unit’s Celebration Chairlady for the spoken and unspoken contributions she made. We are truly blessed to have such sincere giving members to our causes, the Lord’s work.

Our speaker, Evangelist Rene Cummings delivered a message **“Staying on the road for Christ”**, in which she delivered an eye opening personal testimony. We all thoroughly enjoyed her testament. We were also graced with the presence of our State President, Sara Joslin, who greeted us with warmth and provided us with marvelous displays. She reminded us that she was only a phone call away and is available at anytime for our units.

Jackie’s daughter also was a very nice surprise to her in her mother’s honor. We were blessed to have a collection of non-perishable items with the church to provide to the community from our attendees.

“To God Be The Glory For the Good Things He Has Done” and continues to do for his children.

Sincerely on behalf of our President Jackie Lynch and members of our unit I submitted this caption. Blessings, Maxine Husbands-Brown-Recording Secretary and Treasurer

CWU Retreat 2023

Poem written By Marilyn Russell

We started out with twenty strong
A really great group to sing a song.
We gathered and broke bread together
We were inside—no worry about weather.
We gathered with Armelia to study the Bible
For all our thoughts we each were libel.
It’s good to share what each of us thinks
It shows us all about our links.

We moved to the chapel---- a lovely setting
With worship on our minds—you can’t be betting.
Marilyn led us in scripture and song
It was just right---not too long!

But to and behold----it’s time to get to work
We moved again—no time to lurk!
The beautiful sunroom was waiting for us,
We found our places without a fuss.

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We diligently worked at all our chores
No one was allowed out the doors!
Sara kept us going without a whip
And no one gave her any lip!

But good news comes----it's time to eat
So everyone is back on their feet.
The dining room was a little late
We had to eat some cookies as we wait!

The food was delicious---the company was the best
Our sisterly love was put to the test!
After we ate----we worked a little bit more
Until our bottoms were getting sore.

We moved to the room at the other end---
Where all our voices could really blend.
Vivian tested us----- yes she did
And prizes were won---they were not hid!

The snacks were yummy---we needed to eat
It had been **an hour** since we ate our meat!
Some of us were yawning—time to stop
But one more devotion before we went up top.

All slept well----the rooms were fine
Not one of us got out of line.
Coffee was ready to start the very next day
And **more** cookies were there to lead the way.

Some slept late--- some went to worship
The sisters were happy to have us join in the dip.
The French toast at breakfast—it was divine
To get some seconds—there was a line!
We planned our calendar----oh yes we did.
Not one date was left out—not one hid.
We picked our projects---they are fine.
And then to the room where we once more dined.

We closed in worship---as we always do
We sang together—a farewell---boo hoo!
“Blest Be the Tie That Bind Our Hearts in Christian Love”
What a better way to go—a message from God above!



I Have Heard About Your Faith

June 14 2023 retreat attendees, from left to right - front (seated): Rosalia Clegg, Rev Vivian D. Cook; middle row: Effie Taft, Cindy Williams, Barbara Montgomery, Armelia Adams, Barbara Looock; back row: Judy Hood, Sara Joslin, Evelyn Jacobson, Susan Haag McLaughlin, Cheryl J. Walker, Rose Hudgins, Louise Ballard, Tina Harrield, Betty Roberts, Marilyn Russell, Lorraine Cuffie

“So then, just as you received Jesus Christ as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened by the faith you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness, Colossians 2: 6-7

CWU in NJ Projects
2023-2024

PROJECT NAME	LOCATION	WEBSITE
COMMUNITY FOOD BANK NJ	Hillside	cfbnj.org
COVENANT HOUSE OF NJ	Newark	covenantrousenj.org
ST. JOSEPHS INDIAN SCHOOL	Chamberlain SD	stjo.org
THE MAKER’S PLACE-DIAPER DEPOT	Trenton	makersplace.org
YOUR GRANDMOTHER’S CUPBOARD	Toms River	ygcnj.org
PRISON MINISTRY	(To be determined at the September Executive Board meeting)	

Descriptions of 2023-2024 CWU–NJ State Projects:

Community Food Bank NJ -Provides food to individuals and agencies throughout the state.
Also offering on the job training.

Covenant House of NJ – Provides help for trafficked and abused women.

St. Joseph’s Indian School- Provides education and housing for Native American children while respecting their culture.

The Maker’s Place Diaper Depot- Provides a diaper bank and resource center connecting neighbors with neighbors for support.

Your Grandmother’s Cupboard- Provides individuals “shop” for free clothing, shoes, linen and toiletries. A mobile unit that goes where needed.

Please notice that this year the websites are also listed- you are encouraged to go to the website for further information. Thanks!

By Effie Taft
Projects Chair

“The Holy Spirit works in each person one way or another for the good of all.”

2 Corinthians 12:7



Fellowship of the Least Coin

I am Marsha Love Anabeza, 33 years old, Philippines native, separated from my husband, a native of North Cotabato, Kidapawan City. I dreamed of going abroad to have a good life, saved for my two children’s education and to help my aging parents. I was recruited by our neighbor

who told me that she knew about an agent in Hong Kong who can quickly process my documents to work abroad. I trusted her knowing that she was also working here at that time.

I applied for work here in Hong Kong and was asked to pay Php 48,500 to process my application. She promised that she would give me a kind boss. I completely trusted her, so I immediately paid Php 48,500 and sent it to Hong Kong after that I waited seven months that includes undergoing training in Manila. But a week prior to my scheduled flight, my agent told me that the employer who signed my contract backed out. Yet, my agent assured me that I can still go to Hong Kong because I was hired for temporary job while she was arranging for my second employer. I was confused then, I do not know what to do. I accepted her offer because of her promised that nothing bad would happen to me in Hong Kong. On August 15, 2019, I left for Hong Kong. I didn't anticipate that the temporary work that my agent arranged for me would lead to a horrible experience. While working, I was deprived of food, I had no breakfast nor lunch. My dinner was only two spoons of rice without viand. I endured all the verbal abuse of my old employer almost every day. She was always angry at me. If she eats, she shows the food to me. She preferred to throw it away in the trash rather than give it to me. I also experienced when we were shopping with my old employer when we took a taxi, leaving me behind while carrying the heavy groceries and goods that we bought. Worse even in taking a bath my employer will decide whether I should take a bath or not. I endured this for months until my young employer hurt me, She threw a plate at my foot. I was very scared during that time. So I told my agent that I could not take it anymore. My agent told me that I should go to her office. I went there and I trusted her again. I stayed at her office for 3 weeks. I endured sleeping on the floor with a carton. I was not allowed to use the office toilet but required to use the public toilet instead. My agent prepared the documents for a new employer. I signed but I did not understand. She told me that I should just sign it so that my second employer can process my work application. October 2019, I submitted all the necessary documents prepared by my agent to the Immigration Department. Together with my agent I returned to the Immigration Department in November 2019. Only to find out that I was charged or suspected of five charges against immigration law of the Hong Kong government. I was shocked and confused then. I did not know what had happened or what was my fault. My case started November 2019. Since, then I have been attending court hearings defending my rights and dignity, clearing my name. I've been in Hong Kong for 2 years 8 months and I am still fighting. I survived through the support Mission for Migrants Workers, the Bethune House Migrant Women Refuge, the people around me and my family in the Philippines. I firmly believe that I will gain justice for what happened to me and persons who victimized me will be held accountable and punished. **I want to share this to my fellow migrant workers who are the victims like me. Do not be afraid in fighting for justice.** Okay, you'll get tired. But do not give up. If I'm given the chance to work in Hong Kong again. I will grab that opportunity for the sake of my children and my family.

This story was taken from: The Fellowship of the Least coin Website

CWU-NJ President's message: Hearts to Care, Hands to Help

Dear Sisters, We are thankful for the blessing of cooler weather ! July was the hottest month on record as people throughout the world continue to be impacted with drought, flood, wildfire, and severe weather events due to global warming. You are **decision-makers** and **influencers**. As Church Women United, we connect and engage with others in our networks and community to think, discuss, advocate and act. Individual/family and community preparations / emergency response requires assessment of hazards/risks. Proactive responses to risk are to **BE ALERT** - watch and monitor risk, **BE PREPARED** - accept and assume risk, and **BE ACTIVE** to assess, plan and take appropriate immediate, short term or long term action to control risk, avoid risk, and/or transfer risk. Being informed, knowing what to do and taking appropriate action are critical to the health, safety and security of ourselves and our neighbors in an emergency.

We ACT - Hearts to Care and Hands to Help - Church Women United together in community exhibit agape love through prayer, witness, and service, empowering work for peace and justice.

FAITH: We are visible witnesses to God's love and draw upon the power of the Spirit.

Thank you to all those who participated in the 2023 CWU-NJ annual planning retreat at St Marguerite Retreat Center in June. We celebrate the **servant leaders** among us, such as Valiant Women Jacqueline Lynch and Frances Wynn, our denominational representatives, the CWU-NJ Executive Board and local units including newly-elected treasurers Ada and Dr Marcia Davis Dawkins, and celebrate "special birthdays" for our CWU sisters June Stoll, Emma Enoch, Joyce Smith, Louise Ballard, Patricia Jones, Marilyn Russell, and Rev. Vivian D. Cook, among others.

Newly-elected Church Women United National officers taking office on July 1st 2023 include Vice President **Gianni Daniels-Staley**, and President-elect **Margaret B. Rushing**. The CWU National **Giving from the Heart** campaign was launched in May 2023 to raise \$200,000 over 2 years. All gifts to support the mission of Church Women United are appreciated.

The Church Women United 2024 National Assembly "**ALL THINGS NEW: New Beginnings, New Perspectives**" is on Jun 19-23, 2024 in Oak Brook IL. Visit the Church Women United National website to register and subscribe to the weekly Tues Trending e-newsletter.

SOCIAL JUSTICE:

We work for a fuller implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Church Women United in New Jersey continue to work for peace and equality, social, economic, and legal rights including voting rights as we celebrate Women's Equality Day on August 26th in this Centennial year of advocacy for the Equal Rights Amendment. 2023 is the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which affirms and recognizes that the inherent dignity and the inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.

"God is our refuge and our strength, an ever-present help in trouble" Psalm 46:1 (NIV)

Jesus is our example. **Be Love in all things** - faith-filled and overflowing Love ! Let the peace of Christ rule in your heart, seek to live in harmony, and serve with thankfulness. Blessings, Sara