Church Women United in Austin PO Box 512 Pflugerville, TX 78691

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# CWU CWU

# Church Women United in Austin

NEWSLETTER SEPT 2014

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Website: www.churchwomenunited.org

#### SEPTEMBER SERVICE PROJECT

Bring toiletry items, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, feminine hygiene items; used blue jeans and sealed coffee for the benefit of FreeStore Austin.

A ministry of the Austin District of the United Methodist Church.

#### **ECUMENICAL ACTION**

Date: Friday, September 5, 2014

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: Oak Hill UMC, 7815 US Hwy 290, 78736 (across from ACC Pinnacle Campus)

Please car pool and allow extra travel time.

**Topic: Do Unto Others** 

Speaker: Susan LaSalle—District Representative of Church World Service

#### **FreeStore Austin**

1717 East 12th<sup>h</sup> St, Austin, TX 78702 A Mission of the Austin District of the United Methodist Church

**Mission:** We believe that in God's world there is enough for all people, and extend that abundance by freely giving clothing and household goods to all who come through the FreeStore doors. Through this tangible grace, we affirm the self-worth of every person by creating opportunities for all people to live in community with one another.

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# **Upcoming Events**

- Fri, Oct 3—Human Rights Celebration, 9:30am, St Mark United Methodist Church, 601
  Braker Ln, 78753, Theme: Through God, Our Hands Can Protect, Service Project: staples
  for the Manos de Cristo food pantry
- ◆ Fri, Nov 7—World Community Day, 9:30am, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 1711 East Oltorf St, 78741, Theme: Through God, Our Hands Can Heal, Service Project: Blankets Plus Offering

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Method: When our shop is open, all are welcome. "Members" will be enrolled and with guidelines based on family size, every item is freely offered. These "shoportunities" empower by giving the freedom to choose. Our model also encourages members to participate by either donating items back to the FreeStore or by volunteering in one of the many roles needed to extend the FreeStore experience to others.

Coffee is our most important day-to-day expense because we aren't just in the business of giving stuff away. We're building and building up the community. We linger near the coffee pot to listen and be heard, sometimes sharing prayers and songs and always extending warm hospitality and the chance to connect with other people and with God. More information is available on the website <a href="http://www.freestoreaustin.org/">http://www.freestoreaustin.org/</a> or at the Austin District UMC office at 512-444-1983.

# **Collections at CWU Meetings**

Used batteries and printer cartridges can be brought to any CWU meeting for convenient recycling: and paperback bibles and devotional materials for the Jail Ministry - Travis County Correctional Complex will continue to be collected at CWU meetings this year.

### **Membership Renewal Table**

At the September meeting, your finance committee members will be available to take your individual membership and church fair share renewals for 2015.

Renewal memberships received in September, October and November will be included in the 2015 CWU Yearbook. Individual memberships are \$10 (\$25 Angel). Fair Shares for Member Churches due Nov 30. (\$25, \$40, \$60).

### **Wellspring Bible Study Request**

Traditionally, CWU in Austin has held the Wellspring Bible Study on the first Saturday in June. This has been a time of spiritual renewal for our members. To help the planners make plans for future Wellspring Bible Studies, we need your feedback. At the September Forum, you can tell us if you prefer to have it held on the first Friday of June, the first Saturday of June, no preference, or discontinue Wellspring altogether! Forms will be available at the fall meetings for you to cast your vote.

#### **Valiant Woman Awards**

For those who missed the May Friendship Day, our most recent honorees for the Valiant Woman were Gloria Moreno and Minerva Rodriguez. I'm sure we all agree that they have been faithful and loving servants to God and to our community. Congratulations Gloria and Minnie!!

#### **Young Church Women Awards**

At May Friendship Day, four deserving young women were honored with Young Church Women Awards: Sarah French (Univ. Presbyterian), India George (Grant AME), Naomi Jones (New Covenant Presbyterian), and Maiquel Simpson (Grant AME).

#### **Jail Ministry Update**

Abbreviated CWU Celebrations are led by several members at the Del Valle Correctional Center for Women. New requirements for all volunteers at the Travis County Correction Complex need to be met by December 31, 2014 for participation to continue in 2015. Sue Sidney has requested an exemption for our CWU volunteers. Please pray that the exemption be granted so the jail ministry may continue in 2015. Call Sue, 512-259-8623 for more details.

#### **Newsletter for Women Leaders**

If you would like the leader of your women's group to receive a Newsletter, please provide her name and address to Claudette Hulce, and she will be included in Newsletter mailings for the issues through next May. <a href="mailto:chulce@austin.rr.com">chulce@austin.rr.com</a>

# Three Ways to get Involved in Our Community

- 1—Volunteer as a Classroom Coach, Mentor or School Based volunteer with **Austin**Partners in Education Sign up at http://www.austinpartners.org/getinvolved or 512-637
  0900.
- 2—Help organize and get your church involved in HOPEFEST 2014. Hopefest is held in
   October of each year at Reagan HS. It is a community celebration and educational event.
   Here's how you can help:
- □ Hundreds of volunteers are needed for the HopeFest celebration.
  - We are looking for church groups to take on a service project in partnership with an east Austin church, school or other organization.
  - Join in one of the planned prayer walks in the service area.
  - Start collecting gently used children's books and clothes, which will be given away at the fest. Email hopefest@austin.rr.com
- 3—Raise the Roof Interfaith Action of Central Texas iACT Hands on Housing
   Program

Saturday, October 25, 2014 - All Day

all day event that utilizes volunteers from diverse faith communities to repair homes of senior citizens in the Austin community that are living in deep poverty. See the website www.interfaithtexas.org for more information on how your church might get involved!