

Bethel Women's Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2012

The meeting was attended by 18 Bethel members. The following circles were represented: Blessings, University Hill Farms, Inspiration, Evelyn, Beth Keyes, Dorcas, Rejoice, Abigail, Seekers, Grace, Celebration, and Compassion. In addition the following position/group had a representative present: New Circle Liaison, Prayer Shawl Ministry, WCC Secretary, President and Treasurer, Pastoral Advisor, Lydia's House and Bethel Archives.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:02pm and attendees sang "Good Soil".

II. Prayer

The meeting opened with a prayer by Pastor Swanson.

III. Approval of Minutes from October 11, 2011

The minutes from the October meeting were approved.

IV. Old Business

- A. Treasurer's Report-Jeanne Gill** Jeanne passed out a sheet summarizing the activity in the Women's Ministry Accounts. Jeanne extended a special thank you to all the women's groups for their support of these important ministry and offering opportunities in 2011.

Special projects: Balance: \$1477.66 Deposits made to that account include \$810 from sale of Advent by Candlelight tickets. A total of \$225 was withdrawn from the account for Advent by Candlelight expenses.

Worship Offering: A check for \$820.00 was sent to the Women of the ELCA. A total of 5 circles participated. This offering is sent to our local synod. This amount is down some from the \$1000 that was sent in 2010.

Thank Offering: A check for \$1180.00 was sent to the Women of the ELCA at the national level. A total of 9 circles participated.

Blessed to be a Blessing: A total of \$1375.00 was collected from 11 participating circles. The subcommittee allocated the funds as follows.

The Bhutanese ministry.....\$175.00

Domestic Abuse Intervention Service.....\$400 (A thank you was already received)

Meriter Foundation for free Dane Co. Health Clinic.....\$400

Porch Light, Inc.....\$400.

Circle Treasury Reports

Jeanne wanted to make circles aware that they can request a report of the financial account of their treasury. A plan to distribute a yearly report to circles was discussed.

B. Bhutanese Ministry Work-Nancy Wanless

Mary Lou Tyne has some requests concerning the Bhutanese Ministry.

- She would like to know if you received a thank you if your circle sponsored a Thanksgiving basket.
- She would like you to continue to pray for the families, especially for jobs. There are three family men who are still looking for jobs. Please contact Mary Lou if you know of any job opportunities.
- Families need help with writing resumes. Contact Mary Lou if you would be willing to assist with writing resumes.

Please continue to keep the Bhutanese families in your prayers and consider these opportunities to help support the ministry. Financial gifts are also welcome.

C. Homeless Ministry-Nancy Wanless

Alice Hansen would like to thank all women who supported the Homeless Ministry by providing birthday cakes. She also encourages Bethel members to greet the homeless Sunday mornings. The Homeless Ministry is in need of lip balm, hand warmers and hand lotion. Any of these items can be dropped off at the front desk at Bethel. Designate that the items are for the Homeless Ministry.

D. WCC/Women's Projects for 2012

1. Women's Retreat -May 4-6, 2012-Pastor Swanson

Mark the date on your calendar for the retreat in May. Normajean Strommen will be the featured speaker for the retreat. She is a gifted woman that has worked in grief, prayer, spirituality and meditation. The two-night retreat will close with a Sunday morning worship service. There will be games on Friday and "Breakfast with the Birds" on Saturday morning. The retreat will be similar to

ones in the past with the addition of another night. A pending foundation grant will help minimize the fee for the retreat.

2. **Lydia's House-Lynne Krainer**

Lydia's House will resume Feb. 20th, 2012. The speaker for that date will be announced as soon as that information is available. Lydia's House will not meet in March but will return on April 16th, when the guest speaker is Pastor Sorensen.

3. **Mother's Day Brunch- May 13, 2012**

Volunteers are needed for the Mother's Day brunch. Pastor John will work with Larry Larrabee to help coordinate volunteers on Sunday as has been done in the past. In addition, it may be possible to have high school students or confirmation students assist as well.

Volunteers are needed to help in the kitchen with food preparation the Saturday morning before.

Additional volunteers are needed to help with table decorating. A committee is needed to organize decorating for the brunch. Nancy suggested that each circle make a small donation (~\$20) to cover the cost of flowers used in decorating tables.

4. **Bold Women's Day- Jeanne Gill**

Jeanne distributed a handout on *Internet Resources for Women of the ELCA*. All these resources can be navigated to from Bethel's website. There are so many resources available. Please check them out!

Triennial attendees brought back an idea they want to turn into an event at Bethel. Using a Triennial theme of being "Bold in Faith", they are planning an event at Bethel called Bold Women's Day. This event is still in the early stages of planning. Possible ideas for the event include displays of Fair Trade items and mission projects and a possible tie-in with Leymah Gbowee, the speaker at the Triennial who won the Nobel Peace Prize, and whose message is about women and boldness. The video about Leymah, *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*, could possibly be shown in a group setting at that time. Pastor Swanson suggested showing the video as an adult forum to share the message with others beyond the scope of circles

and the women's groups. Scheduling the event on a Saturday seemed preferable. Since this event will take lots of planning the event will likely be scheduled sometime next winter.

Another idea discussed was to engage a speaker for the event. One suggestion was to contact Bethel members who are authors. Another suggestion was to contact the synod office for information about speakers. Currently there is no money in the budget for speakers. Pastor Swanson suggested, if we were able to engage a speaker or two it may be possible to open up the event to the synod.

Anyone interested in joining a planning committee for this event should contact Jo Thomley or Jeanne Gill.

V. New Business

A. Prayer Shawl Ministry-Helen Kruse

Last April Helen had hoped to transfer the Prayer Shawl Ministry responsibilities to someone new. At that time no one came forward to help. Recently, Diane Meredith came forward to work with Helen. The Prayer Shawl Ministry is part of the care ministry at Bethel. Prayer shawls provide recipients with a tangible symbol that says people of God care for them. On January 29th, 2012 the prayer shawls will be blessed at Bethel. Please contact Linda Kubly if you know of someone that could benefit from a prayer shawl.

B. LWR Article in Trumpeter Bev Hanson

The January issue of *The Trumpeter* includes an article written by Bev Hanson highlighting Bethel's participation in LWR for 2011. Handouts of the article were available at the meeting. The WCC extended a big thank you to Bev Hanson for the wonderful article in *The Trumpeter* highlighting Bethel's LWR efforts.

C. Information on Trumpeter Articles

Nancy encouraged women to submit articles to The Trumpeter about events at Bethel. *The Trumpeter* is issued quarterly in the months of January, April, July and October. The deadline for article submission is the 15th of the month prior to the month of the issue. To submit articles to *The Trumpeter* contact Marcia Thompson. Her email is marciathompson57@yahoo.com

D. Women's Ministry Sunday Thank You-Jo Thomley

Women's Ministry Sunday was November 6th, 2011. The event spotlights many of the Women's groups that are active at Bethel. Jo extended a big thank you to all who participated in Women's Ministry Sunday. Jo also wanted to recognize and thank Annette Durkin for so effectively promoting Women's Ministry Sunday in the Bethelite and in Sunday bulletins. A big thank you goes out to Jo as well for her time and efforts in organizing this event!

E. Circle Informational Meeting –Jo Thomley

Jo reported that she has many names of women interested in joining a circle. A circle informational meeting will be held in spring.

F. Seminary Scholarship Request from Stacy Gahlman-Schroeder

Stacy Gahlman-Schroeder made two requests of the WCC as she plans to attend seminary in the fall. She would like us to keep her in our prayers as she starts at the seminary. She also requested a book scholarship in the amount of \$550 to cover the cost of books her first semester of seminary next fall. A motion was made and unanimously approved to award Stacy her request. The funds will be taken from our "Special Projects" account. A total of \$1,477.00 remains in that account, \$800 from Advent by Candlelight which Stacy actively supported with her time. The WCC was happy to award her request as Stacy is a long-time Bethel member, a strong supporter of Women's Ministries, a dedicated staff member at Bethel and attending a Lutheran Seminary. The award is also in keeping with our mission as listed in the Women's Ministry Resource Guide, (...to support one another in our callings...). Please keep Stacy in your prayers as she answers the call to serve in ministry.

G. Lent 2012-Jacqui Shanda

Bethel will once again be using the 40 Days of Spiritual Renewal Bible study during lent this year. The theme for Lent this year is Promise and Renewal. Bible study will be based on the study of Romans. The service projects will be the same as last years. Personal care items will be collected on given Sundays for the Food Pantry and Bethel

members are encouraged to volunteer at Second Harvest to achieve Bethel's goal of 1000 hours. (Last year Bethel fell just short of the goal volunteering 972 hours.) Jacqui distributed a calendar handout with available Second Harvest shifts. She noted that there are 4 Saturdays this year, which should make it easier for people with weekday conflicts to volunteer. In addition to other Bible studies, Pastor Sorenson will lead a Wednesday Bible study at 7pm with a short service following at 7:45pm.

Jacqui advised circles to sign-up for shifts with their circle name too so Jacqui will have that information on the sign-up sheet. The Second Harvest Volunteer Challenge Committee, which Jacqui is a member of said "The circles were the very best group of the groups and well organized." So ladies, keep up the good work!

H. Forum at Bethel-Jacqui Shanda

Bethel will be hosting a forum scheduled on Sunday, Feb. 19th, 2012 at 10:30am. Beth Lewis, CEO of Augsburg Fortress will be speaking on Congregational Hospitality.

I. Mary Conlin's Funeral-January 12, 2012 at 11:00am

Family, friends and neighbors gathered together at Bethel to remember Mary with fondness and heavy hearts and give thanks for her life. Faith was the cornerstone of Mary's life. That faith was apparent in how Mary lived her life. It was evident in her compassion, her kindness and her ability to be a good listener. She was a source of inspiration for her nieces and nephews, and to many of us as well. She had the gift of being able to relate to the very young and very old and all ages in between. Pastor Swanson wanted to share a conversation he had with Mary's brother, Dave, about Mary. Mary was so pleased and touched by the many, many cards she received during her leave. He said she read each and every card she received and the well-wishes from so many people meant a lot to her and inspired her. Please keep Mary's family in your prayers.

VI. Closing Prayer The meeting adjourned at 1:00pm and Pastor Swanson closed in prayer.

Next WCC Meeting April 10th at noon.

Future WCC Meeting Dates in 2012-July 10th and October 9th

Respectfully submitted by Patty Saxe