



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—CLAUDETTE RAINEY



I greet you in the name of our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ. I know that we have all had a busy Summer and I trust an enjoyable one. I was able to fit in an enjoyable visit to our son Christopher, who you may recall sustained an Anoxic brain injury two years ago in February. God is keeping him as a much loved and cared for head of his young family. I was delighted to be able to spend time with them, he enjoys listening to an auditory ver-

sion of the Bible. Now its time to get back to the work of Church Women United although it felt as though CWU matters were just under the surface. Thanks to all involved our Human Rights Luncheon held at THIS IS IT Corporate Banqueting Facility, In Fayetteville, was a great success! Our Honorees have been activists who have made a significant impact on our community. They reminded us to do as much good as possible every day as we serve God's people. That may be easier said, than done, as we find ourselves living in such troubled times.

We welcome the Fall and cooler weather. Those of us who travelled to Athens for the State's Assembly Found it to be a pleasant interlude. The fellowship was warm and sisterly. The forty two members in attendance from Athens welcomed guests with love and enthusiasm shared with a hug for all present. This year's Theme for Celebrations is "The Time Is Now" and it is, if not now, when? So, Church Women United Will rise to the occasion. We will continue to Partner with Tapestry Church which is now housed in our Savannah Street property. Their ministry has changed somewhat to working daily with the Homeless on the streets of Atlanta, especially around Little Five Points. Taking the homeless for showers, a meal and Bible Study on Tuesdays is a big part of their activity on the property, In October, we joined the neighbors in supplying towels and Pastors Matt Stacey and his brother George in their efforts to supply socks to the homeless. Thank you for your support in this venture.

We were Blessed with the oratory of the versatile, widely traveled, Iman Emeritus of the Atlanta Masjid of Al-Islam, Plemon T.El-Amin who replaced Rev. Timothy McDonald at our World Community Day Celebration on November 1, 2019. We hosted Dekalb Unit and brought joy to two stalwarts of the Atlanta Unit Margaret Koehler and Lola Parks by honoring them with the first Atlanta Unit Lifetime Achievement Awards. These ladies gave much of themselves to the service of Church Women United. THIS was their TIME! It's harvest time again, and time to give thanks! In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you .....1 Thess.5:18 Happy Thanksgiving to all!



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*Church Women United is a racially, culturally, theologically inclusive, ecumenical Christian women's movement, celebrating unity in diversity and working for a world of peace and justice.*

# NEWS

**August 8th** To commemorate 2019 World Day Against Trafficking in Persons the International Human Trafficking Institute partnered with Ashanti Films to present the premiere of BONDAGE, a film by Antonio Moses. Lillie Hercules, Sheila Louder and Claudette Rainey attended the Premier at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights.



## September 25th

A Hymn Sing sponsored by Rev. Dr, Sheryll Powell, Senior Pastor, and Musician Sonya Williams was awesome. I arrived to the sounds of wailing Baggpipes, followed later by a band which regularly plays at St. James live on Butner Road. The GTC mixed choir and their Children's choir were riveting. Other area musicians, choir directors, conductors and soloists added to the pool of talent which led up the feature artist Dr. James Abbington, a former Professor at Candler School of Theology. He introduced a new African American hymnal "One Lord One Faith One Baptism". As Executive Director of the project Professor Abbington gave us a short History of the origins of many well known hymns. The new hymnal was a collaboration of Seventh Day Adventist, Pentecostal, AME, AMEZ and CME

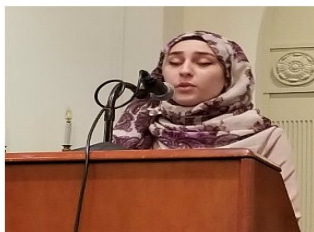
musicians. Several members from these congregations were present and sang along to hymns in the book at the direction of Dr. Abbington who conducted with vigor. Your favorite hymn is in the book. We sang along to "The Lord will make a Way", "My help cometh from Thee," "My Soul Loves Jesus", "We Shall Behold Him" and "Come Thou Fount of every Blessing." CWU members present were Roberta Rhodes, Lillie Hercules, Joyce Tillman, Connie Pope, Elouise Young and President Claudette Rainey. An offering taken at the end of the evening was earmarked for the victims of the Bahamian Hurricane. Submitted by: Claudette Rainey Member GTC AME

**October 4-5th** CWU members attended the CWU State Assembly & Leaders Council 2019 (Athens, GA). The meeting was not only hosted by the Athens' unit, it was well attended by its members (40+). The workshops were exciting, informative, and held the audience captive. The presenters were Christina Scott ("Importance of Wills and Trusts"), Floretta B. Johnson & Rev. C. Craig Topple ("Health Care") and Michelle Pearson (Investment Accounts registration, Wills, Living Trusts, Beneficiary designation and Durable Power of Attorney.)



**October 11th** Socktober kicked off at SSNH and Little 5 Points on October 1. CWU Members brought donations of socks and towels to the monthly meeting. See note of thanks below from Tapestry Church

**October 23rd** - CWU Atlanta Unit was able to be a \$1,000 sponsor again at the 2019 Interfaith Children's Movement Prayer Breakfast. The program was truly reflective of the children from diverse cultures now living in Atlanta GA



*Thank you so very much for all this goodness! What a wonderful surprise! After being surrounded by so much sickness, we spent hours at laundry mat doing shower trailer towels & our own. Then today & yesterday delivering hot food, wellness drinks, etc. to our friends in the streets (both sick & healthy.) On top of dropping off Wed night supper for Briarcliff Baptist members, one of Pastor George's side jobs. To come back & find towels, washcloths, socks! All are treasured items in our homeless ministry. Also for our single Mamas. It seems our world stopped with so many sick people in last couple months. We're finally able to take a breath & continue on. We are in awe of such a Mighty God who constantly provides & opens doors and hearts for this ministry! Wishing you all many blessings,*

*Tapestry Church Atl - Kimmi & Pastor George*

  
**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED**  
**2019 Human Rights Day**

**THE  
 TIME IS  
 NOW!**  
 "Unite to Serve"

Church Women United celebrated 2019 Human Rights Day on September 7, 2019 at This Is It Events Center (Fayetteville). We heard and learned from three dynamic women - Norma Joy Barnes and Elisabeth Omilami Honorees and Attorney McDonald who stood in for her father Rev. Timothy McDonald. Thanks to our esteemed Celebrations Coordinator, Rev. Angela Rice the venue was perfect and the food delicious. The event was enhanced by the exuberance of Emcee Rev. Economy Jackson who came bearing gifts. The Prelude and program music was provided by the haunting sounds of Amarylis Sueing on saxophone, Kudos again to Rev. Angela Rice. The HR luncheon apart from being uplifting, was also an occasion to donate to our Bahamian sisters and brothers during the Bahamian Relief Drive sponsored by the Bahamian Consulate in Atlanta. Church Women United, in response to the need, collected clothing, housewares, and other items at the Luncheon. We also raised \$400.00 at the event and purchased blankets, disposable diapers, canned goods, and snack items to help those in the Bahamas who were left with nothing after their homes were destroyed and their community devastated by Hurricane Dorian. Claudette Rainey, President of Church Women United - Atlanta section stated, "this was a very small thing to do to help people who were left with nothing, these are our sisters and brothers."



**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED, INC**

**2020**

**QUADRENNIAL ASSEMBLY**



**VISION**  
**2020** EST. 1941  
Church Women United

**A PROUD PAST WITH A CLEAR FUTURE**

**June 11 - 14, 2020**

**Church Women United, Inc**  
 475 Riverside Drive Suite 1926  
 New York, NY 10115  
[www.churchwomenunited.net](http://www.churchwomenunited.net)

**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED  
2019 World Community Day**

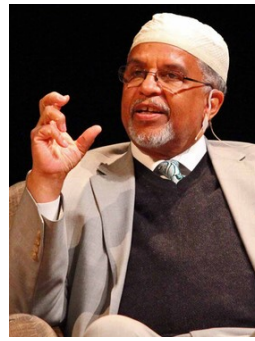


In 2019, we celebrated World Community Day in troubled political times, not unlike 1941 when Church Women United was created at a time of great concern for world peace. WCD focuses on global peace and justice. Despite the name of our organization, as women of faith, we need to be Inclusive, reaching out to black and brown people who many times could be Muslims, Jews and Buddhist who are being victims of injustice daily everywhere. THE TIME IS NOW to reach out, embrace and walk side by side with the persecuted. Atlanta Unit's program on Friday November 1, was attended by a multicultural group of people. We hosted the DeKalb Unit and presented our first Lifetime Achievement Awards to Margaret Koehler and Lola Parks, in absentia. Kudos to Mrs. Helen Sprewer, Rev. Angela Rice and other CWU members who helped to bring us this timely program.

The messenger Plemon T. El-Amin, who replaced Rev. McDonald, was well traveled, versatile and a man of God. Karen Jones, sitting in the audience was moved by his oratory and many quotes from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. She became a student. "One thing that stood out for me is that followers of every religion believe in what they believe and believe it, to be right and true. We should not try to influence others to give up on what they believe, but accept that there is One God, One Faith, One Baptism. We are better together than we are separated. Embrace the love, trust, unity, characteristics and attributes of God and continue to move forward. Peace is what we need and seek because God says he gives us Peace that surpasseth all understanding. Phil. 4:7"

In concluding, the Iman illustrated that as the commitment between a husband and wife is a lifelong binding covenant, so it is with God; when we stand the test of time together, we are stronger and we are better. It was a wonderful day of fellowship with our guests and visitors at Peachtree Christian Church. Congratulations again to all honorees.

Submitted by: Pastor Karen Jones in collaboration with President Claudette Rainey



Plemon T. El-Amin is the Imam Emeritus of the Atlanta Masjid of Al-Islam, one of the largest and most progressive Mosques in the United States. He is the former Director of the Clara Mohammed Elementary School and W. Deen Mohammed School of Atlanta. Working as a close aide and supporter of Imam Warith Deen Mohammed, Imam El-Amin has traveled the nation and the world, representing the concerns and interests of Muslim Americans and Interfaith adherents in such places as Palestine, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Syria, Jordan, Denmark, England, Spain, Egypt, Turkey, Malaysia and South Africa. Imam Plemon El-Amin serves on various religious and civic councils, including the Boards of the Faith Alliance of Metro Atlanta, the Atlanta Majlis Ash Shura, Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasters, Interfaith Communities Initiative, Georgia Piedmont Technical College, and the Atlanta Fulton County Recreation Authority. As part of the World Pilgrims, he has led 27 Pilgrimages with over 500 Muslims, Christians and Jews through the religious and cultural landscapes of Turkey, Morocco and Spain, Jerusalem and Palestine, Istanbul, Athens and the Greek Isles, and Jordan—to deepen their intimate personal friendships and working relationships with one another. He performed the greater Pilgrimage (Hajj) to Mecca in 1978 and in 2006, and has enjoyed 5 minor pilgrimages (Umra). Imam Plemon is a native Atlantan, with a degree from Harvard University. He is married to Cassandra Scott El-Amin.



# HONORS

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## November 1 - LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT HONOREES



**Margaret G Koehler** has a long history of involvement with Church Women United, an ecumenical movement including women of protestant, catholic, and Orthodox affiliations. In this movement she served as a professional volunteer in various positions of leadership, including president of Church Women United in Atlanta and president of Church Women United in Georgia. She was honored as a “Valiant Woman” by Church Women United in Atlanta and by Church Women United in Georgia, and as Georgia’s CWU Church Woman of the Year in 1989.

In 1989 Margaret was one of ten delegates chosen to represent Church Women United USA at the *Decade Festival* celebrating the close of the *Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women*, sponsored by the World Council of Churches and held in Harare, Zimbabwe. The assignment also included a week (prior to the Festival) in a Woman-to-Woman visitation program in South Africa. Following the Decade Festival, she was a press representative at the World Council of Churches Assembly, also held in Zimbabwe.

Margaret’s avocations include vocal engagements and free-lance writing. Her hobbies and interests through the years have included reading, drama, music, sewing, crafting, gardening, and travel. Her scriptural reference for life is Micah 6:8 “What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” Her favorite expression is “To God be the Glory.”

Margaret has given unselfishly of her time and talents to serve with the Church Women United ecumenical movement.



**Lola E Parks** is known as “Everybody’s Volunteer”. She has served with numerous non-profits and other organizations throughout her life. Church Women United Atlanta is one of the recipients of her unselfish and tireless service. Lola was honored with the “Valiant Woman” award in 1991. She has been a program participant in numerous programs over the years for CWU, Atlanta. She has served as the Treasurer of the Unit and

has been the “Official Musician” for the Atlanta Unit.

Some of her many other volunteer activities: Life Member, Salvation Army Women’s Auxiliary (Chaplain and tutor), Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau at the Airport Visitor Center, tutor for at the Fulton County Juvenile Detention School, Life Member Clark Atlanta University Alumni Association, Emory School of Nursing Auxiliary, Life Member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cancer Home Auxiliary, Life Member National Council of Negro Women.

She has received numerous honors and awards for volunteer service including President Barack Obama. Her most recent awards in 2019 – The Black College Fund and the North Georgia Conference United Methodist Women’s Doris Paul Purpose Award. Lola is not getting tired, just getting better with service to others.

## CHURCH WOMEN UNITED IN ATLANTA

Church Women United is a racially, culturally, theologically inclusive Christian women's movement celebrating unity in diversity and working for a world of peace and justice. Founded in 1941, Church Women United is:

A movement representing Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and other Christian women;

Biblically based, shared Christian faith;

Organized into more than 1,200 local and state units working for peace and justice in the United States and Puerto Rico;

Supported by constituents in state and local units and denominational women's organizations;

Impassioned by the Holy Spirit to act on behalf of women and children throughout the world; and

Recognized as a non-governmental organization by the United Nations.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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- November 28**      *THANKSGIVING DAY*
- November 30**      *CWU Woman of the Year Nominations  
Deadline*
- December 3**      *40TH Annual SCLC/W.O.M.E.N., INC.  
Senior Christmas Luncheon 11:00am  
Georgia International Convention Ctr  
College Park, GA*
- December 6**      *Annual Meeting 10:00am  
Peachtree Christian Church*
- February 8**      *Church Women United of Georgia  
Church Woman of the Year  
Award Luncheon 11:00 am  
Riverside United Methodist Church  
735 Pierce Avenue, Macon, GA 31204*
- June 11-14, 2020**      *2020 Quadrennial Assembly  
Sheraton Hotel  
165 Courtland St., NE, Atlanta, GA*

### CHURCH WOMEN UNITED IN ATLANTA

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**Submit News for our next newsletter by**

**January 26th** to [cwuatlanta@gmail.com](mailto:cwuatlanta@gmail.com)

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