

# NEWSLETTER

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED IN ATLANTA, INC.

**"AGREED TO DIFFER, RESOLVED TO LOVE, AND UNITED TO SERVE"**



## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS & OLDER AMERICANS & FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH

Mental Health Awareness Month's purpose is to raise awareness and educate the public about mental illnesses, such as the 18.1% of Americans who suffer from depression, schizophrenia, and bipolar disorder.

Foster Care Month is a time to celebrate our current foster caregivers and their commitment to providing stable, loving homes for children and youth in foster care.

We commemorate Older Americans Month (OAM) to encourage and recognize the countless contributions that older adults make to our communities. We salute our Older American members of CWU Atlanta.



*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.*

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## JOIN OUR MEETINGS:

MEETING ID: 835 320 3221  
PASSCODE: 83532032  
DIAL IN: 312 626 6799



## VISIT US ON THE WEB:

[WWW.CWUATL.COM](http://WWW.CWUATL.COM)



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Greetings!*

*First I express congratulations to the May Friendship Day honorees: Valiant Women Rev. Angela Harrington Rice, Karen Turney and Joyce Thomas; Young Church Woman, Lauren Fields Barringer and Key Women, Sharon Ingram, Vivian Davis, Minister Donna Meredith, Gayle Neal and Linda Wortham. These extraordinary women will receive their Awards at Everybody's Birthday our annual fundraiser.*

*Join us at "Everybody's Birthday" June 17, 2023, St. Mark AME Church, 3605 Campbellton Road, Atlanta, GA. Fun, fellowship, games and delicious food is the order of the day. Enter to compete in the table decoration contest, the desert contest and the Membership contest. A flyer is included in this newsletter with more details. Also watch your emails and listen for calling post messages for updates.*

*As a movement the Atlanta Unit Church Women United is excited to begin planning and implementing our programs and projects for the next two years January 2023 through December 2024. The projects voted on by the unit are:*

- Girls Rite of Passage*
- Atlanta Community Food Bank Annual Walk/Donation*
- Stand for Peace (4th Friday of each month 12 Noon-1PM) or Stand Weekly*
- Interfaith Children's Movement Annual Prayer Breakfast (October) and Georgia State Capitol Visit during Georgia Legislative Session (Date TBD)*
- Georgia Festival of Tree Decoration (November 2023 and 2024)*
- Book Creation (Her Stories: Our Legacy)*
- Nursing Home Ministry*
- Healthy Cooking Demonstration*
- Say Yes to the White Dress (White dresses for Underprivileged Students graduating from college.*

*These projects will provide the opportunity for all Atlanta Unit members to participate. There is something for all members to help plan and implement. Look for a call asking which project sparks your interest and to sign you up.*

*Save the Date for the CWU in Georgia State Assembly Friday, September 15-Saturday, September 16, 2023 at the Holiday Inn Express and Suites Campcreek Parkway, hosted by the Atlanta Unit and led by Young Church Woman Atlanta Chair Leticia Haynes. The schedule will include the opportunity for leadership and advocacy training, phenomenal speakers, presentation of workshops and our time to support Young Church Women who will lead the Assembly. Registration to attend the Assembly is \$20. Hotel cost is separate. A packet with detailed information and deadlines will be sent July 2023 to all emails on file.*



*Last, JOIN or RENEW your membership!! The Membership campaign and contest has begun and will conclude at Everybody's Birthday Saturday, June 17, 2023. Contest winners will receive the below prizes! The last page of this newsletter contains a membership application.*

*1st Place a \$100 gift card to Studio Café at Trilith in Fayetteville, GA*

*2nd Place a \$75 gift card to Studio Café at Trilith in Fayetteville, GA*

*3rd Place a \$25 Visa gift card*

*1st place winner must bring in or renew at least 6 people.*

*2nd place winner must bring in or renew at least 5 people*

*3rd place winner must bring in or renew at least 3 people*

*As a Unit we take a summer break July and August. I pray you stay safe and enjoy much needed rest and relaxation. Because of your support and participation CWU Atlanta has had a successful six months January through June.*

*I look forward to seeing your return in September where we will strive for even more success with our advocacy, celebrations and projects through December 2023.*

**Facebook has over 2.07 billion  
monthly active users.**

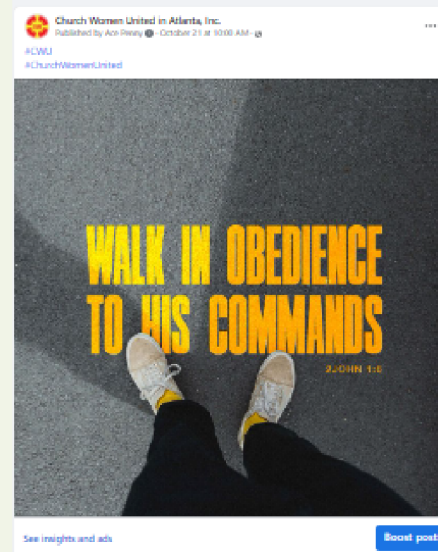
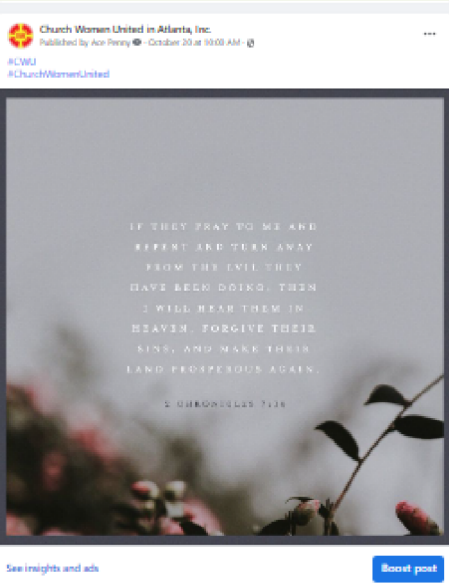
**Using this social media platform allows us to  
reach a larger audience in a fast and cost-  
effective way to tell our story.**

**Follow our Page today!**

**<https://www.facebook.com/cwuatlantainc>**



Find us on  
**Facebook**



# NEWS



*Did you Know? by Sheila Louder*

*Earth Day (April 22-Annually) was the brainchild of Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin, a staunch environmentalist who hoped to provide unity to the grassroots environmental movement and increase ecological awareness.*

*Along with Denis Hayes, a Harvard grad student organized the first Earth Day in 1970. Legislation by Nelson in Congress to protect the Appalachian Trail organized the first Earth Day.*

*Because of Earth Day in the early 1970's the most important environmental legislation in the U.S. was passed "The Clean Air" and "The Clean Water" acts. Many important environmental events have happened since 1970 and Earth Day's kickoff "The Paris Agreement".*

*What ACTION can you take to support this important issue?*

- Take part in the great global cleanup: push to end plastic pollution and use.
- Purchase sustainable clothing so cut down on greenhouse gas emission in landfills
- Make an Earth Day yard sign stating "Let's Help Save the Environment"
- Make your next meal plant based. Shifting to a plant based diet and avoiding animal products relieves our planet of the burdens of animal agriculture, a huge contributor to ecological destruction.
- Plan or participate in a community clean up removing plastic and trash from the areas and lakes and waterways.
- Send a letter to your elected officials stating fossil fuel is devastating the environment asking them to Invest in our planet by supporting the Earth Bill that will help the U.S. adhere to the Commitments of the Paris Agreement and transition to renewable energy by 2030.

*\*The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 196 parties at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris, France, on 12 December 2015. It entered into force on 4 November 2016. The Paris Agreement works on a 5 year cycle of increasingly ambitious climate action by signers of the Agreement to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.*





# NEWS

CSW67 by Sheila Louder

*On March 6-17, 2023 I joined 15,000 women and a few men who attended CSW67 out of New York City. Seven thousand (7000) attended The Commission in person while 8,000 joined the forum virtually. As part of the Church Women United delegation and Ecumenical Women I had the opportunity to participate in the drafting of our NGO Agreed Conclusion written prior to the opening of the forum.*

*As a result of Agreed Conclusions being reached, I will summarize affirmations on the forum theme “Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all woman and girls”.*

*(1) The Commission on the Status of Women reaffirms the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 4-15 September 1995) the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the declarations adopted by the Commission on the occasion of the tenth, fifteenth, twentieth and twenty-fifth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women, and stresses the need to further strengthen their implementation.*

*(2) The Commission reiterates that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, provide an international legal framework and a comprehensive set of measures for realizing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all women and girls, throughout their life course.*

*(3) The Commission expresses concern that the economic and social fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic has compounded the impacts of the global food security crisis, climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, and has pushed women further behind and into extreme poverty, exacerbated pre-existing debt vulnerabilities, with many developing countries at high risk of or already in debt distress, magnified the unequal pace of digital transformation within and among countries and shown how these factors, when combined with structural and systemic barriers, can translate into unequal opportunities for women and girls, since the poorest and the most vulnerable, who are the hardest hit, are also those who lag behind the most in access to information and communications technologies. It expresses deep concern over the increased demand for unpaid care and domestic work and the reported surge in all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence.*

*(4) The Commission notes with grave concern that about a third of the world's population, mainly in developing countries, especially women and girls and people in vulnerable situations, as well as two thirds of women in the least developed countries, DO NOT have access to the internet.*

*(5) Support the important role of civil society actors in promoting and protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women: take steps to protect such actors, including women human rights defenders; integrate a gender perspective into the creation of a safe and enabling environment for the defense of human rights and to prevent discrimination, violations and abuses against them, such as threats, harassment, violence and reprisals; and combat impunity by taking steps to ensure that violations or abuses are promptly and impartially investigated and that those responsible are held accountable.*

*(6) Condemn and take appropriate measures, including legal action, to combat the use of digital tools, including social media and online platforms, for the purpose of harassment, hate speech and racism against women and girls, trafficking in persons and all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse of women and girls, as well as for child, early and forced marriage and forced labour, and any non-consensual sharing of personal,*

(6) Condemn and take appropriate measures, including legal action, to combat the use of digital tools, including social media and online platforms, for the purpose of harassment, hate speech and racism against women and girls, trafficking in persons and all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse of women and girls, as well as for child, early and forced marriage and forced labour, and any non-consensual sharing of personal, sexually explicit content of women and the production and distribution of child pornography, also known as child sexual exploitation and abuse material.

(7) The Commission affirms that women be included at the table and included in discussions where policy making and strategies are developed.

(8) The Commission further recalls the Declaration on the Right to Development, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.

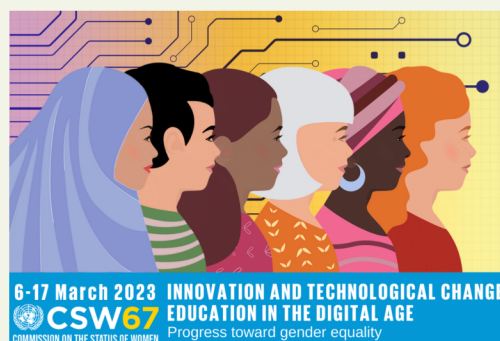
(9) The Commission reiterates that the 2030 Agenda needs to be implemented in a comprehensive manner, reflecting its universal, integrated and indivisible nature, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development, and respecting each country's policy space and leadership while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments, including by developing cohesive sustainable development strategies to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. The Commission affirms that Governments have the primary responsibility for the follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda at the national, regional and global levels with regard to progress made.

(10) The Commission recognizes that adolescent girls are part of the most digitally connected generation in history and can disproportionately face discrimination, violence that occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology, and other barriers in the context of innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age, which prevents them from accessing the full benefits of digital technologies and meaningful participation in society, and can create and exacerbate inequalities.

(11) The Commission calls upon the United Nations system entities, within their respective mandates, and other relevant international financial institutions and multi-stake holder platforms to support Member States, upon their request, in their efforts to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age.

AND

The Commission calls upon the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to continue to play a central role in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and in supporting Governments and national gender equality mechanisms, upon their request, in coordinating the United Nations system and in mobilizing civil society, the private sector, employers' organizations and trade unions, and other relevant stakeholders, at all levels, in support of the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age.







# Rev. Lillie Holman

SPIRITUAL FORMATION DIRECTOR

## *June Inspiration*

### *Fatherhood ... One of God's Ultimate Creations!*

*It's always intriguing to know the history of our various national holiday observances with "Father's Day" being one of them. Our traditional "Father's Day" in America is a holiday honoring one's father, grandfather or relevant father figure, as well as fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society. Across our nation, it is annually observed on the third Sunday of June. Credit for originating the holiday is generally given to Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington in 1910. Her father is said to have been a Civil War veteran who raised her and her five siblings after their mother died in childbirth. Today it is held on various dates across the world with different regions maintaining their own traditions of honoring fatherhood.*

*One of the most significant roles in society, both past and present, is that of being a father. The foundational role of fatherhood in the family structure is pivotal to the overall wellbeing of our children. It has been statistically proven that children raised in homes with good fathers or father figures produce emotionally stable, productive adults. Many of us are familiar with the statement, "As the family goes, so goes the world." We look to fathers for guidance, wisdom, affirmation, love, discipline and security just to name a few of the aspects of this crucial role in life and family as we know it. You need not look far to experience the impacts of fathers and father figures in today's society ... positive or negative!*

*So why is the role of fatherhood so significant in humanity, past and present? The answer to this question can be found in the Holy Bible. The role of "father" was created by God, "our heavenly Father," as seen in Genesis 1:26-28; Genesis 2:18-25; and Genesis 4:1-2. As evidenced in these scripture passages, family and parenthood were the pinnacle of God's creation with the express intent of relationship with Him first and second, each other. It's within the family structure that children first experience relationship between and with their father and mother. When our heavenly Father desired to demonstrate His unconditional love for us, He sent His divinely conceived Son, Jesus Christ, born of a virgin named Mary, and commissioned Joseph, her husband, to be His "earthly father" until He became of age. Throughout the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, we see evidence of a strong sense of "fatherhood" birthed out of the relationship between Him and our heavenly Father. Without a doubt, "fathers" are extremely significant to God!*

*Church Women United sisters in Christ take time this month, and every day, to champion fathers around the world who endeavor to be the best "fathers" they can be and we pray and request God's grace and mercy for those who are adversely challenged with the blessing of fatherhood. We continue to advocate for those families with absent fathers leaving mothers and others to be both fathers and godly father figures. Ultimately, we praise God that He continues to extend the invitation of salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ, to anyone that they may come to experience the priceless relationship and love of Him being their Heavenly Father. "I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father." (John 16:27)*

**Happy Father's Day blessings to all fathers, grandfathers and father figures!**

*Joyfully Submitted,  
Rev. Lillie Holman, Spiritual Formation Director  
Church Women United, Inc.*







# **Church Women United, Inc**

**Agreed to Differ, Resolved to Love, United to Serve**

# ***Congratulations!***

**To our newly elected  
National officers.**

**July 1 – 2023 – June 30, 2027**



**Margaret Rushing**  
*President Elect*



**Gianni Daniels-Staley**  
*Vice President*



**Janet Vernon**  
*Mid-Atlantic Regional  
Coordinator*



**Christina Penrose**  
*Southeast Region  
Nominating  
Committee Member*



**Karil Drake Starleaf**  
*Southwest Region  
Nominating  
Committee Member*

We are collectively excited about your leadership skills and experiences you will bring to Church Women United, Inc. May you always lead with excellence, passion and grace. On behalf of the Board of Directors we welcome you to the national ecumenical women's movement.

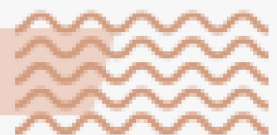
And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

**Mira J. Washington**  
**National President**



# ANNUAL CHURCH WOMEN UNITED, INC. "GIVING FROM THE HEART" CAMPAIGN

*Agreed to Differ, Resolved to Love, United to Serve*



Introducing CWU's Annual "Giving from the Heart" Campaign goal of \$200,000 to enhance movement advocacy of human rights, social justice and peace.

Contributions can be given  
at any time.

Mail Contributions to:  
CWU National Office  
3605 Campbellton Road, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30331  
Phone: 678.705.3711

OR

Donate On-Line After Website  
Update at:  
[churchwomenunited.net](http://churchwomenunited.net)

For More Info Contact:  
Sharon Brooks, Chair  
CWU National Finance Committee

Email:  
[SABrooksTreasurer@ChurchWomen  
United.net](mailto:SABrooksTreasurer@ChurchWomenUnited.net)

## Mission Statement

Church Women United, Inc. is an inclusive ecumenical Christian women's movement celebrating unity in diversity and empowering women to work towards a world of peace and justice.

## Vision Statement

Women of Faith Cultivating Love, Hope and Peace for all Creation.

## Core Values

Faith - Service - Education - Advocacy  
Diversity - Social Justice



Mira J. Washington  
CWU National President



*Your contributions are tax deductible.*





*CWU sisters, family, and friends are encouraged to stand in solidarity of the many individuals impacted by gender violence.*

*In every country, gender-based violence is a tragic reality. This violence is frequently hidden, and victims are often silent, fearing stigma and further violence.*

*Thursdays in Black grew out of the World Council of Churches' (WCC) Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women (1988-1998) campaign in which the stories of rape as a weapon of war, gender injustice, abuse, and violence became all the more visible. This global ecumenical campaign has been adopted by many of the WCC's member churches, national councils and ecumenical partners, inter-religious partners, student associations, and more.*

*The color black is often associated with negative racial connotations. In the Thursdays in Black campaign, the color black is used as a color of resistance and resilience.*

*The campaign is simple but profound. WEAR BLACK ON THURSDAYS. Wear a pin to declare that you are part of the global movement resisting attitudes and practices that permit rape and violence. Show your respect for women who are resilient in the face of injustice and violence.*

*Encourage others to join you. Share your Thursdays in Black photos on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. Use the hashtags #ThursdaysinBlack and #WCC. Post the Thursdays in Black logo image in local CWU unit newsletters and electronic communications.*

*CWU sisters are also encouraged to send Thursdays in Black photos to Rev. Jameka Redmon Matthews, [jamekaroshaun@gmail.com](mailto:jamekaroshaun@gmail.com), who will post them to the National CWU Facebook page.*

*We all have a responsibility to speak out against violence, to ensure that women and men, boys, and girls are safe from rape and violence in homes, school, work, streets--in all places in our societies. Wear black on Thursdays in support of the Thursdays in Black campaign.*





## 2023 JUSTICE and PEACE Book Discussion Group

FEBRUARY 13

### WHAT KIND OF CHRISTIANITY

A HISTORY OF  
SLAVERY  
AND ANTI-BLACK  
RACISM IN THE  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

WILLIAM YOO



SPECIAL WEBINAR  
WITH AUTHOR



DISCUSS THE BOOKS WITH OTHERS VIA ZOOM

• The J&P Book Discussion Group is open to all!



DISCUSSION GROUP MEETS EVERY OTHER MONTH

• Read and discuss any or all books that appeal to you. Registration will be needed to join the discussion on Zoom.



RECEIVE STUDY GUIDES TO INFORM YOUR READING

• Questions for discussion or reflection will be sent with your registration confirmation.

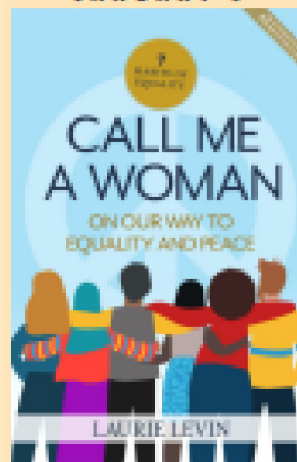


To register, scan the QR code with your smart phone or go to [presbyterianwomen.org/justice](https://presbyterianwomen.org/justice).

## Reading Selections

(6:30 PM – 8:30 PM Eastern Time)

JANUARY 9



JULY 10

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

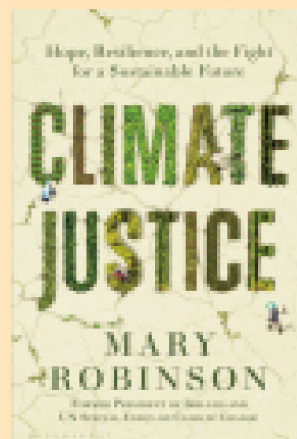
### BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY



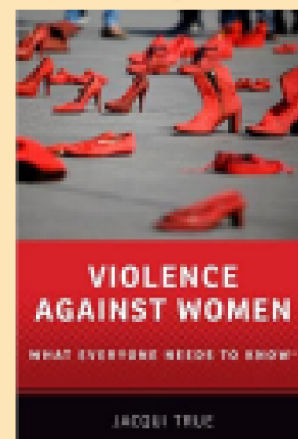
Qian Julie Wang

A Memoir of an  
Undocumented Childhood

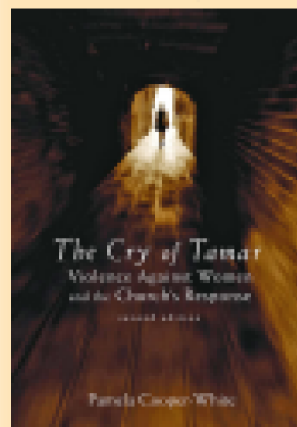
MARCH 13



SEPTEMBER 11



MAY 8



NOVEMBER 13



Selections are recommended by  
the Justice & Peace Committee of PW's Board of Directors.



# **Training & Development**

***YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND CWU'S VIRTUAL TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS ON DESIGNATED TUESDAY EVENINGS, 8:00-9:30 P.M. EDT. REGISTRATION REQUIRED. LOG IN EARLY @ 7:30 P.M. EDT FOR SOCIAL TIME AND FELLOWSHIP.***

***TUESDAY, 06.20.23: CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN***

***SPEAKER: MARILYN LERCH***

***TUESDAY, 06.27.23: CHRISTIAN CHURCH DISCIPLES OF CHRIST***

***SPEAKER: REV. TERRI MCLELLAN***

***SPEAKERS AND TOPICS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE***

***REGISTRATION IN ADVANCE THROUGH ZOOM IS REQUIRED. AFTER REGISTERING, YOU WILL RECEIVE A CONFIRMATION EMAIL CONTAINING INFORMATION ABOUT JOINING THE MEETING. THE SAME LINK WILL WORK FOR ALL TUESDAY EVENING TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS.***

# NEWS



Dear Church Women United Atlanta Members and Friends,  
The Nominations Committee needs your help. We are seeking persons to fill the positions of **Vice President** and **Financial Secretary**. If you know of individuals who are capable and available to serve in either of these positions, please contact Annie Milner, Bettie Durrah, or Helen Sprewer at 404-305-3536, or text me at 404-754-8110. Thanks in advance for your assistance.



## We Are In Need of Volunteers!

We need 4 volunteers for our Action and Global Concerns Committee

This committee speaks to social concerns, writes the Organizational Priorities and is open to all members. If you are interested in serving please contact Rev. Terri Strong at [terristrong3082@gmail.com](mailto:terristrong3082@gmail.com)



*Renewing/New Members  
This Quarter*

**SANDRA MARTIN  
SHERYL JOHNSON  
HELEN STEWART  
BETTYE HIGHTOWER  
REV. ARIT UMOH JAMES  
SHARON INGRAM**



# CELEBRATIONS



**Church Women United Inc.**

Agreed to Differ - Resolved to Love - United to Serve

## Happy May Friendship Day



*On May 5th, 2023 we celebrated a virtual May Friendship Day and it was such a beautiful event! We gathered to honor and celebrate the friendships that have sustained us, and to reflect on how we can continue to support and uplift each other. We congratulate our 2023 Honorees!*





# CELEBRATIONS



## VALIANT WOMAN - DR. ANGELA HARRINGTON RICE

*Rev. Angela Harrington Rice has been a longtime member of the Atlanta Unit and served 4 years until 2022 as CWU Atlanta Unit Ecumenical Celebration Chair. In this capacity, she skillfully planned and executed the 4 celebrations of the Unit. Because of her creativity with planning the celebrations many new members joined the Atlanta Unit.*

*Reverend Rice was instrumental with having the Unit highlighted on AIB TV which gave visibility to the community of the witness and service of the movement. She has brought Reflections at meetings and have served as Mistress of Ceremony at the CWU Georgia Annual "Women of the Year Celebration in 2016 and 2018. She is the Executive Director of Interfaith Community Initiatives where she provides guidance and leadership for its'*

*World Pilgrims and Immersion programs. Through this organization, she has traveled with Jews, Christians, and Muslims to countries around the world.*

*For over twenty-five (25) years, Angela led a distinguished career in television broadcasting in the Atlanta region. During her career, she developed and produced award-winning television series such as Spiritual Journey, a program that explored the spiritual lives of faith leaders in Atlanta and A Women's Place, a series that addressed the concerns of women. For her work that focused on interfaith relationships, she was awarded a regional Emmy Award for World Pilgrims: A Sacred Journey to Turkey. In 2013, Angela was inducted into the National Association of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS) Silver Circle, an honor that recognizes individuals in broadcast media who have exhibited exemplary service to the industry.*

*Rev. Angela Harrington Rice is the author of Resurrecting the Lives of Liberated Women, a collection of vignettes about inspiring women and in contributor of the anthology Shaking Off the Dust: Personal Narratives of Triumph.*

## VALIANT WOMAN - JOYCE L. THOMAS

*Joyce L. Thomas is an active member of Church Women United Atlanta Unit and a devout Christian. She has demonstrated a strong commitment to the values and mission of Church Women United.*

*Joyce has been an active member of our organization for 2 years, during which time she has consistently demonstrated her dedication and leadership skills by being involved in a wide range of activities, including service as Chair of the Ecumenical Development Committee and serving as a participant in celebration programs. In each role, Joyce has shown a deep understanding of the importance of our organization's work and has worked tirelessly to advance its goals.*



*In addition to her involvement with Church Women United in the community, Joyce is also an active member of Faith A.M.E. Zion Church for 25 years and a founding Member. She is currently the Prayer Coordinator of the Intercessory Prayer Team of the Atlanta District and a member of the Atlanta District's Special Events Committee. At Faith, Joyce established and served as the former leader of the Altar Guild and as an Usher, a member of the Acolyte Ministry, Chancel Choir, Lay Council, Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society, and the Stewardess Board. She also serves as the head of the Culinary Ministry and Leader of the Daniel Ministry.*

*Joyce volunteers her time with Girl Scouts of America having served as a Troop Leaders over 30 years and is always willing to lend a helping hand to those in need. Not only does she pick up food from Faith Outreach Ministry, she cooks the food and delivers it to several Seniors not only at Faith but also in other communities.*



# CELEBRATIONS

## VALIANT WOMAN - KAREN TURNEY

*Karen Turney has been actively involved with Church Women United Dekalb for many years prior to the unit temporary dissolution. She has served as the Ecumenical Celebration Chair for many years in the Dekalb Unit planning and implementing the celebrations of the Unit requested by Church Women United National.*

*Karen joined the CWU Atlanta Unit and currently serves as the Atlanta Unit Interim Vice President overseeing Celebrations. Celebrations are the movements opportunity to highlight World Day of Prayer, May Fellowship Day, World Community Day and Human Rights Day. She encourages and invites members from the community to come together to learn about and promote advocacy about gender equality of women and girls in other countries. She brings together*

*the ecumenical community for prayer and worship as well as addresses justice and peace concerns.*

*Karen is a Ruling Elder in the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. at Covenant Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, Georgia. In the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, she serves on the Georgia Legislative Session annually to address bills and policies that affects the lives of Georgian citizens.*

*Karen serves on the Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team (PWCT) as the historian and liaison for AMIS, an organization that assists foreign students who attend college in the United States make a smooth transition to American life and culture. International Students who cannot go home for Thanksgiving and Christmas are hosted in homes for the holidays. AMIS, also known as Friends of International Students, does an excellent job of connecting these students with American families throughout the year and many students continue their relationships with these families for years even after graduation from college.*

*Karen also serves on the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta's Peace and Global Witness Partnership Committee where she studies and discuss the work of peacemakers in the world as well as support the work of the Office of Public Witness P.C.U.S.A. out of Washington, DC.*

## YOUNG CHURCH WOMAN UNITED - LAUREN FIELDS BARRINGER

*Lauren Fields Barringer serves as a Ruling Elder at Church of the Master Presbyterian Church USA, Atlanta, Georgia where she was the youngest person to be elected to this position as well as the youngest person to be elected moderator of Presbyterian Women at Church of the Master. Recently, Lauren was elected to serve as President of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus (NBPC) in Atlanta. In this role, she helps Black Presbyterians in Atlanta stay connected to the National Black Presbyterian Caucus where training is provided to hone leadership development skills for serving on committees and boards at the national, synod, and presbytery levels. She leads work with advocacy concerns that involves addressing issues of Black Presbyterians voting rights, educational and racial inequities, and assists NBPC Atlanta members with strengthening their spiritual life. Lauren serves as Secretary of the Maria Fearing Fund for African/African American Partnership in Ministry. She is the proud Mother to one child Liam.*



# CELEBRATIONS

## KEY WOMEN

**Minister Donna Meredith** has been married for 25 years. She is retired employee of Grady Hospital, Atlanta, Georgia, where she was employed as a "Risk Management Specialist (Director of Nursing). She is an active member of Greater Deliverance Baptist Church where Reverend James Dixon serves as her pastor. At Greater Deliverance Baptist Church, she is a member of the Ministerial Alliance and Women Ministry. She chairs "It Takes A Village" program which involves three children that she nourish because their mother passed away at a young age. Minister Meredith is very active in many roles that include but is not limited to working with Christians in Actions, the Growth and Dove Ministries, participating in Bible School, working as a Sunday School Teacher, working with the Youth and Children Ministry, and the Bible Institute of Learning. Minister Donna Meredith is faithful in letting her light shine.

**Gayle Neal** served for several years and continues to serve as the Moderator of Presbyterian Women at Rice Memorial Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, Georgia where she is a Ruling Elder. She has been a consistent supporter of Church Women United Atlanta, Inc. by attending celebrations and events such as the inaugural "Girls Rites of Passage" Program in 2022 where she enrolled two of her granddaughters in the program. Gayle has used her creative skills in writing plays and skits for Rice Memorial that engaged and encouraged participation as an intergenerational congregation as well as has led the planning and implementation of several Women's Day celebrations. She has attended Presbyterian Women Gatherings at the National and Synod levels in the United States and Epworth by the Sea at St. Simon Island. Gayle has a special gift of connecting with people and uses excellent communication skills.

**Linda Wortham** serves as a Deacon at Radcliff Presbyterian Church USA. She has valuable skills of advocacy, witness and service at Radcliff and her community garnered her the honor of Women of the Year during their Women's Day Service. She served as a member of the Nomination Committee on the Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team. Linda has traveled extensively attending Presbyterian Women Churchwide Gatherings throughout the United States for more than 10 years which included her attending Presbyterian Women Synod Gatherings at Epworth by the Sea at St. Simon Island. In attending these events, she brought back resources and tools that allowed her Presbyterian Women at Radcliff to engage in advocacy work in the community and current work that addressed issues such as gender inequality, environmental justice, sex trafficking, and poverty/food insecurity.

**Sharon Ingram** is a dedicated member of Faith African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and has been an active member of Church Women United Atlanta, Inc. since joining two years ago. She consistently demonstrates her commitment to Church Women United's vision and mission by advocating for social justice, promoting unity and fellowship among women, and supporting local and global missions. At Faith, Sharon leads the local Children's Department of the Christian Education Department, serves as an Usher, taught Children's Church, serves as the Treasurer for the Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Department, participates as a member of the Lay Council, and serves the Atlanta District as the Director of Children for the District Department of Christian Education. She continues to demonstrate exceptional leadership skills, creativity, and humbling service to the community at large. Sharon Ingram is a true role model for other women in our church community and embodies the spirit of the Key Women Award. We honor her tonight as a Key Woman.

**Vivian T. Davis** is a native of Montgomery, Alabama where she graduated from the Alabama State University (Hornet Nation) in Montgomery. She was nurtured in Christian Faith beginning at an early age and continues in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church with 35 years of service. As a member of Hope African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, she serves as the Preacher Steward, a Church School Teacher, the Trustee Board Secretary/Treasurer, and as the Lay Council President. Vivian was certificated by the South Atlantic Episcopal District as the Georgia Conference and Atlanta District Home Missions President for 7 plus years. While serving in this capacity, Vivian has coordinated workshops for the Lay Academies and recently a retreat for the Atlanta District Lay Council. On the Atlanta District, she also serves as the Events Chair for Fundraising and the Presiding Elder's Appreciation. As a member of Church Women United Atlanta, Inc., Vivian holds the position of Historian. She is proud to be called a Christian and works to let "her little light shine."



# IN MEMORIAM



*MINNIE CLAYTON*



*VIRGINIA YOUNG*



## **Transition of Retired Episcopal Supervisor**

### **13th Former National President Church Women United Inc.**

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It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Dr. Sylvia Ross Talbot, the 13th Former National President of Church Women United, Inc. Please join the sisterhood of Church Women United in a moment of silence and prayer as we remember the precious life of Dr. Ross Talbot. Dr. Sylvia Ross Talbot served Church Women United, Inc from 1984 - 1988.



# OUR LEGACY

FROM THE FILES OF THE HISTORIAN.....

## INTERESTING FACTS

IN 1991, SEVEN WOMEN RECEIVED THE VALIANT WOMAN AWARD.

1. SELMA RICHARDSON
2. LILLIE MITCHELL
3. ERNA BRYANT
4. ELISE HINDS
5. SADYE POTTER
6. ANGES MARSH
7. VIRGINIA HOWARD

THE RECORDS INDICATE THIS IS THE LARGEST GROUP TO DATE TO RECEIVE THE AWARD.

CWU RECEIVED A PLAQUE AND \$100.00 FOR DISTINGUISHED VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD SEMIFINALIST IN 1964 PRESENTED IN 12/2/1965 BY LANE BRYANT ANNUAL AWARDS.

CWU RECEIVED A COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD, 1977 IN RECOGNITION OF THE ORIGINATION HAVING THE COURAGE TO DESIGN, PRINT AND DISTRIBUTE 10,000 BROCHURES CONTAINING 1957 MANIFESTOES SIGNED BY 80 ATLANTA MINISTERS URGING THE PEACEFUL INTEGRATION OF SCHOOLS. PLAQUE FROM CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF METROPOLITAN ATLANTA, GA.

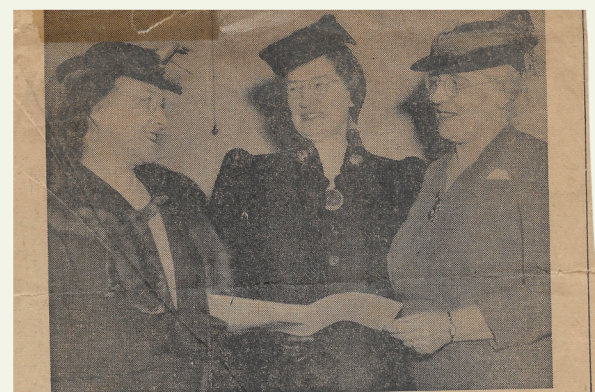
DECEMBER 8, 1967 UNITED CHURCH WOMEN CHANGED ITS NAME TO CHURCH WOMEN UNITED.

AT THE EXECUTIVE MEETING JAN. 1968, THE PRESIDENT DISCUSSED HOW TO GET MORE CHURCHES INVOLVED.

IN 2023, THE PRESIDENT DISCUSSED HOW TO GET MORE CHURCHES INVOLVED.

IN 1967 CWU WAS GIFTED PROPERTY ON MAGNOLIA ST FOR PROGRAMS IN THE VINE CITY AREA.

MOST AFFLUENT WOMEN BEFORE 1970 USED THEIR HUSBAND'S NAME BY PUTTING A MRS. IN FRONT OF IT.



THE NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS of the Atlanta Council of Church Women, shown here, are left to right, Mesdames A. H. Sterne, second vice-president; C. M. Lancaster, the new president, and Edward G. Mackay, past president and the new vice-president.

## Mrs. C. M. Lancaster Heads Council of Church Women

Mrs. C. M. Lancaster was elected president of the Atlanta Council of Church Women at the organization's first open meeting of the new year Friday at Central Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Edward G. Mackay, the retiring president, presided.

Other officers chosen include: Mesdames E. G. Mackay, first vice president; A. H. Sterne, second vice president; L. E. Robb, third vice president; R. E. Bruce Jr., treasurer; E. D. Brewer, recording secretary; P. T. Bridges, corresponding secretary.

church denominations, heard reports on the activities of the past year, world day of prayer, Easter sunrise service, Red Cross roll call, two sacrificial luncheons, May Day luncheon, Negro Boys' Club and other interdenominational projects.

Mrs. W. L. McCalley, president of the auxiliary of the Central Presbyterian Church welcomed the women attending and short talks were made by Mesdames J. N. McEachern, P. H. Widenhouse, A. H. Sterne, B. K. Laney and Miss Daisy Davies.

# OUR LEGACY

EXPANDING THE HORIZONS OF CWU—ONE PERSON AT A TIME

As the History Committee works with sorting out and preserving the records of the Atlanta Unit of Church Women United, we are finding some interesting history. One such piece is an acceptance speech made after the installation of the president of the Atlanta Unit at the Annual Meeting, June 1977. A portion of that speech is shared with today's readers:

Frances Kennedy (Mrs. William B. ) wrote the following in 1977:

*As I read the world we are living in - positive and cooperative global living is no longer an option. Our local imperatives have been clearly presented to us today in the previous reports. I would add a broader concern. "The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute has just reported that about thirty-five countries will be able to make the first atomic weapons within nine years and that nuclear war will become inevitable."*

*The issue of world peace and our response to it through our faith in Jesus Christ as Lord was one of the first ways in which I became involved with Church Women United in Atlanta, when we returned to the United States last year. We worked together on a people's platform for a global society. This unit's creed, "Agreed to Differ, Resolved to Love and United to Serve" is a wholistic expression derived from our view of the interrelationship of all aspects of life: human dignity, adequate means of livelihood, health, education and cultural opportunity, personal aspirations, religious freedom and growth, sound environment, participation in decisions affecting our interdependence between what happens in the local community and what is happening in other sections of the country and in other parts of the world. 'Every land is a mission field and every Christian is a missionary' and yet, "culture is persuading us in a hundred different ways that everything human is useless and that we can only hope to get lost by narrowing our consciousness and coping with that little bit of life that is allowed us and to stay where we are with that." But to be a Christian is to have a renewed hope in people and to be an advocate for God in keeping alive that hope in one another, that hope in the silent majority, that hope in people who work around us every day.*

*Frances Kennedy was born in Columbus Georgia, grew up in Macon, Georgia and attended Queens College, and as she lived in different communities, she became involved in various ministries along with her Presbyterian pastor spouse, from Virginia, Charlotte, New Haven, South Carolina, Atlanta, Switzerland, etc. When her spouse accepted a position with the World Council of Churches in 1969, the family moved to Geneva Switzerland, where they remained until early 1976. There she interacted with persons from all over the world. When they returned to the states to Atlanta, Georgia, Will took a position as director of the Atlanta Action for International Education. During her Atlanta sojourn, Frances became involved with Church Women United, and became its president in June 1977. In 1979, Will, a Presbyterian minister, accepted a teaching position at Union Seminary in New York City. Both became active at the historic Riverside Church, New York City, and Frances continued her work with national Church Women United. She served in several national leadership positions as she used her skills developed from global encounters. She even traveled by Trailways Bus at her expense (national body could not cover the expense) to a CWU event in California on one occasion when the bus*



# OUR LEGACY

*broke down in Texas. Travel was no better on her return as she met up with her spouse in Denver as he drove the family car. This information was shared by family members at her memorial service. At the Riverside Church, she was part of the Search Committee that brought the name of Jim Forbes, a prominent African American to serve as senior pastor. When the family retired to Montreat, North Carolina, Frances served as a ruling elder in the Black Mountain Presbyterian Church. It was Jim Forbes, now living in North Carolina, who would deliver the eulogy at her memorial service. He told about her "radical wave of hospitality" as a "good, white woman" as told through his stories, poems, and songs to illustrate how she tried to "repair the damage of diminished humanity" through her life and work, using the biblical story of Dorcas (Acts 9: 36...). At the service, members of her family read from her notes about her witness and service over the years.*

*One of her associates, Emily, wrote the following on her obituary page: "We got arrested together in Washington, DC, in front of the South African Embassy with about 50 members and pastors of Riverside Church. It's what we had to do to fight apartheid. She waltzed into the office of the CEO of Chase Bank, with her sweet voice and southern charm and explained that she would have every member congregation of Church Women United and the National Council of Churches move their portfolio of retirement saving out of Chase holdings if they didn't divest from South Africa. She was a fierce and determined warrior for justice."*

*If you are interested in reading the entire acceptance speech, see members of the History Committee. If you would like to listen to the memorial service, look on the web for memorial services at Black Mountain Presbyterian Church, North Carolina*

*--Bettie J. Durrah, who knew Frances Kennedy briefly when she was active in the Atlanta group, followed her encounters with the ecumenical and global church. Frances Kennedy died August 21, 2022. Her memorial service was held November 19, 2022.*



*The International Fellowship of the Least Coin (IFLC) is a worldwide ecumenical movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation. Persons in this movement made a commitment to spend time in prayer, and to uphold in prayer others who are victims of jealousy, hatred, violence, and injustice to the family, community, nation, and the world. Every time one prays, she sets aside a "least coin" of her currency as a tangible token of her prayer. Church Women United is the custodian for FLC in the United States.*

*All monies raised on behalf of the Fellowship of Least Coin.*

*Make check payable to:*

*Church Women United, Inc.  
3605 Campbellton Road SW  
Atlanta, GA 30331*





# **Church Women United in Atlanta, INC.**

## **Annual Fundraiser**

Invites You For Fun, Games, Prizes & Great Food

**Saturday, June 17, 2023**

11:00 A.M. TABLE DECORATING

12:00 P.M. PARTY TIME

**ST MARK AME CHURCH**

3605 CAMPBELLTON RD. SW

Atlanta, Georgia 30331

**ENTER**

**BEST DECORATED BIRTHDAY MONTH TABLE CONTEST**

**BEST HOMEMADE DESSERT CONTEST**

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION MEMBERS 80 + YEARS OF AGE**

**Donate 50 cents for every year you were born**

**RSVP BY THURSDAY JUNE 15**

**PLEASE CONTACT MARGARET TILLMAN (770) 262 - 5942**

**DONATIONS – DROP OFF AT CELEBRATION OR MAIL TO**

**M. TILLMAN 580 Lakeside View, Fairburn, GA 30213**



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Church Women United, Inc.



Win Wednesday is about changing people and places.

Church Women United on the **MOVE**

We want to hear what's happening in your State and Local Unit. This will be an open platform for the CWU community to share. Come and share your programs, initiatives and success stories.

Join us on:  
June 14, 2023  
June 21, 2023

We will resume Win Wednesday on  
September 13, 2023 @ 12:00pm EST

Meeting ID: 810 5538 0600 Passcode: 258057

Mira J. Washington, National President



## 20<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Convention

**JULY 30 - AUGUST 3, 2023**

**Orange County Convention Center  
Orlando, FL**

**REGULAR REGISTRATION  
EXTENDED THROUGH JUNE 2ND**

**WMS QUADRENNIAL**  
Register Today

**YPD QUADRENNIAL**  
Register Today

## Women and Girls' Day

MINISTERIO de las  
**Mujeres**  
BAUTISTAS AMERICANAS

Bible Study Leader:  
Rev. Dr. Yamina Apolinaris

Friday June 23, 2023  
9:00am-3:30pm ADT

AB GIRLS Bible Study Leader:  
Rev. Dr. Jessica Lugo-Meléndez

Primera Iglesia Bautista  
de Caguas  
Caguas, Puerto Rico

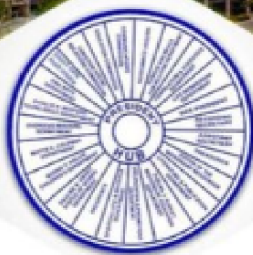
[www.abwomensministries.org/events](http://www.abwomensministries.org/events)



## Women's Missionary Council 20<sup>th</sup> QUADRENNIAL ASSEMBLY June 23-30, 2023



Dr. Jacqueline I. Scott  
International President



Bishop Charley Harnes, Jr.  
Patron Bishop

Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront  
225 E. Coastline Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32202 - USA



**KANSAS CITY | JULY 3-6**  
**CLIMATE SUMMIT | JULY 7**

**REGISTER BY  
MAY 14 FOR  
EARLY BIRD  
DISCOUNT**

[CONVENTION.MENNONITEUSA.ORG](http://CONVENTION.MENNONITEUSA.ORG)



## 30<sup>th</sup> WH&OMS QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION

**JULY 22-28, 2023 | NEW ORLEANS, LA**





**Church Women United in Atlanta**  
**Individual Membership**  
**Please join or renew your membership**  
**by January 31st**

*We request \$25 annually for an individual membership contribution*

Title:

☐ Mrs ☐ Miss ☐ Ms. ☐ The Reverend ☐ Dr ☐ Esq ☐ Other

First Name: Middle Initial Last Name

Address

Address

City State Zip

Home telephone number:

Other telephone:

Email address:

Birthday month/day \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Church membership/Denomination \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Church Women's Association President and Church Address:

**Please indicate your special interest/ministry or activity:**

Peace ☐ Race Relations ☐ Women's Initiative ☐

Interfaith Relations ☐ CWU Young ☐ Legislative

Youth ☐ Children's Issues ☐

Action or ☐

Health Care ☐ Domestic Violence ☐

Development

Human Trafficking ☐ Ecumenical ☐

Program Planning ☐ Awards Comm. ☐

Church Women United in Atlanta  
Church Women United  
**Mail To:** P.O. Box 311795  
**Phone:** 404-696-3247  
Atlanta, GA 31131

*Please give us additional information about yourself. Thank you.*

**Current/Former Occupation:**

**Hobbies:**

**Church Positions Held:**

**Travels:**

**Additional Information:**

**Comments:**

**Suggestions:**

**Thank you!**