



May 2017

Email: Newsletter@cuqca.org

2535 Tech Drive, Suite 205, Bettendorf, Iowa 52722 * 563.332.5002 * www.cuqca.org



**A MOTHER'S HEART
IS ALWAYS WITH
HER CHILD**

A Note from Anne

Greeting Readers;

We, as Christians, have finished celebrating Easter. I often hear a variety of single words representing Easter to some folks. Forgiveness, Grace, Loving and Kindness and Reflection are just a few of the descriptive words.

Churches United is also going through a reflection of sorts. We have some devoted new staff. With that staff is the opportunity to look at how we deliver our ministries, where we are as an organization, what can we do better, etc. We are also looking at ways to be even more beneficial to the community. There are so many needs here in the Quad Cities, we want to make sure those needs can be addressed as much as possible.

While Churches United is a small organization compared to many non profits, we also are mighty; and cherish and feel blessed that we have such a strong faith presence.

If you are reflecting and looking deep in your heart for a way to give back to the community, perhaps you might want to join us? Check us out and let us know.

Blessings –

Anne

New Deadline for articles, Current Events and Classifieds!!

We are changing the way we produce the newsletter, so we must change the deadline date for Current Events and the Classified section. The new deadline date is the 12th of the month prior to your event. The newsletter is mailed on the first Monday of the month. If your event falls into that week, you may want to email your event information two months prior.

Winnie's Place

Greetings from *Winnie's Place*! As you probably are aware, the shelter provides services to those who are homeless or victims of violence. Last month, N shared her story, which was of homelessness due to drug addiction. This month, V is going to share her story with you.



I moved from my Uncle's house to start over and be a family with my kid's father. He has been out of jail for about a year. We have had an on again, off again relationship for 11 years. Even though I had been through this with him before, I was still in shock because the abuse began again almost immediately. My childhood contributed a great deal to my homelessness. My grandmother had custody of siblings, my cousins and me, which was about 12 in all. While she struggled to take care of us, my parents were running the streets getting high and going back and forth to jail for fighting each other. My childhood was unhappy, depressing, embarrassing, and I felt no one cared about me or loved me. All of the family fought each other and people on the streets. This shelter and staff are not what I expected for my kids and myself. It's a lot better than what I expected. To make it simple I have received help with everything. There was not one time that I was turned down for help or haven't received the things I ask for. Because of the shelter, me and my kids don't have to go back to my family and live in a house full of drug addicts.

As we celebrate Mother's Day this month, please be in prayer for all the mothers and daughters that will be served through *Winnie's Place*. Thank you all for the wonderful Easter and Mother's Day gifts you provided!

Because of Him, Kit

NEEDS: rugs sizes 5X7, 6x9 & 8X10, carpet shampooer, cough syrup, paper towels, 13 & 30 gallon trash bags, baggies – quart, gallon and 2-gallon sizes, boxed side dishes (rice/pasta), umbrellas, parmesan cheese, pizzas, butter, gallon size vinegar, fresh fruit/veggies and vinyl mattress covers. Call 309-764-9466 if you are able to help or would like information on special needs/projects.

Faces of Churches United

Minister Jay McCowan

Minister Jay McCowan checks shelves and boxes in the newer area set aside for the food pantry at Second Baptist Church in Rock Island and shakes his head.

“We’ve outgrown this space,” he says. “The need has gone up that much since 2002.”

McCowan joined the Churches United of the Quad City Area board two years ago. As president-elect, he’s agreed to lead the board next year.

Members of Second Baptist Church are asked to give time, talent, and substance, he explains. McCowan does what he can to give all three to help people in need.



“My family has never been hungry, never missed a meal,” says the retired East Moline firefighter. “But I’ve always seen people around me that have struggled. I never forget that.”

McCowan grew up in the west end of Rock Island in neighborhoods near Second Baptist Church. “We’ve always had a food pantry and a benevolent fund. Our history with Churches United goes back 25 or 30 years,” he says.

McCowan sees the growing need and the problems that cause hunger getting worse. “There’s a whole bunch of new poor, more working poor. We get three pallets of food delivered on Monday. Ninety percent of it is gone before the end of the week.”

McCowan describes Churches United’s hunger and shelter ministries as the “stop gap to step in. We help those who have fallen through the cracks. That’s what we do best and we need to tell that story in the community and find steady donors who will help us grow.”

What is his vision for Churches United’s future? Hire staff to open another Winnie’s Place for homeless women and children who may have been displaced by domestic violence. Provide more and larger food pantries and meal sites.

But ending hunger and homelessness requires more than emergency shelter and free food, he says. “People need stable housing and stable jobs. We have to fix those problems first.”

Thank you to our Grantors!!

Emergency Food and Shelter Program
(Shelter)

IA Annual Conference of the UMC
(Hunger)

IL Conference of the UCC
(Hunger)

Rotary Club of Rock Island
(Shelter)

Go Green! If you would like to receive the newsletter through your e-mail, we would be happy to make that happen. Please, email your current address and your e-mail address to jmartin@cuqca.org.

Winnie's Wishes Resale Shop

1605 N. Harrison St., Dav.

Hours:

10am-4pm Monday-Friday

10am-1pm Saturday

Donations are accepted:

10am-3:30pm Monday-Friday

10am-12:30pm Saturday

Winnie's Wishes Resale Shop is now accepting spring/summer clothing. Items needed are: furniture, small kitchen appliances, gadgets, décor and specialty items! We have an abundance of infant – children's size clothing so please spread the word to those who may need clothing for little ones or grade schoolers. Please go to Facebook and "Like" the *Winnie's Wishes Resale Shop*



Facebook page so that you get updates and sales information! Please share our page and updates on your page as well! We are trying something new. We are listing some specialty items on craigslist.org. Items could be furniture, glassware, collectables or other unique items. You should be able to find the items by typing in Winnie's Wishes in the search box on craigslist.org.

We hope you have stopped by the shop and found something special for Mother's Day, Graduations or even Wedding gifts. I have seen some beautiful wedding baskets created from items purchased at the shop!

Thank you all for how you support this ministry. Whether you shop, donate, or volunteer know that you are making a difference!!

United in Faith Helping People in Need

Churches United invites all of our 136 congregations to help us fight hunger by participating in a pair of events to fill the shelves of our 26 food pantries and serve hot meals at 3 meal sites.



The second annual “Thanksgiving in July” food drive kicks off July 1st and continues through July 31st. Collection boxes and posters will be on display at all three Quad City area Fareway stores, Caddy’s Sports Bar and Grill, and QC Core Chiropractic in Bettendorf .

Our food drive needs more businesses in the community to help us collect non-perishable food items such as baby food, canned fruits, vegetables, and meat goods like tuna, Spam and chicken, pasta and pasta sauce, macaroni and cheese, rice, boxed juice drinks and meals, soups and paper products. Please contact the Churches United office at 563-332-5002 with locations willing to accept donation boxes or for more information on holding mini-food drives to assist with this event.

In 2017, we’re again asking people planning to attend the 4th of July festivities in Bettendorf to bring a non-perishable food item for Churches United’s emergency food pantries. Imagine the significance of representatives from each of our 136 member churches walking together in the parade, celebrating our diversity and pledging to fight hunger in our community! You may wear a t-shirt or carry a sign proclaiming that we are United in Faith Helping People in Need. Churches United welcomes the call that confirms your congregation’s participation on July 4th!

Do you like to get your hands dirty? Have you got time to give to help feed the hungry? Asbury Ecumenical Garden Ministry needs volunteers to plant tomatoes, peppers, cabbage and cucumbers in May! Contact ministry coordinator Dave Phillips at (563) 340-6594, the featured Faces of Churches United in our upcoming June newsletter!

Current Events

May Friendship Day: The Rock Island/Milan Church Women will be holding this event on Friday, May 5th at Olivet Baptist Church, 1115 21st Ave, Rock Island. The Theme will be Kindling New Fires. Registration is at 9am. Bible Study: 9:30am, Worship Service to follow. Outstanding Young Women from participating churches will be recognized at this event. Lunch will be available for \$6.00. Reservations to Ethel Basset 788-5370.

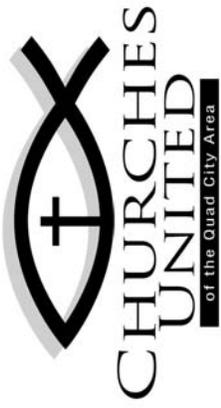
Suicide Prevention Seminar: Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church (GSPC) in Rock Island, Il. will be hosting a suicide prevention seminar on Friday evening May 19th from 6 to 9 and Saturday morning May 20th from 8 to 2. Lunch will be provided by Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church. The presenter will be Goran Kojcev, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care, Discipleship, Counseling, and Recovery at Calvary Christian Church in Lynnfield, Massachusetts. Please use the GSPC website for reservations.

Bible Art Journaling will have a special guest in May; please join us as Pat shares her passion for Bible Journaling. All are welcome to join us on Saturday, May 20 at First Baptist Church, 3020 30th Street, Rock Island from 9:30 – 11 am. Cancer survivor, Pat, is very excited to share her Bible Journaling experience throughout 2016 as she dealt with her cancer. Only a few months into her treatment, her daughter – who was a new mother, was diagnosed and would have surgery for a brain tumor. Pat says, “Bible Journaling played a part by giving us a sense of peace knowing He was walking with us through it all”. Learn more about our local Bible Journaling experiences on Quad City Bible Art Journaling on Facebook! This is a great way to connect, heal, worship, and spend time with God that is fun for all ages! All materials are available for you to use and there is no cost to attend.

Classified

Wanted: Bettendorf Presbyterian Church is searching for a full-time Director of Christian Education to lead in the educational ministries for our children, youth and their families. Candidates would preferably have a four-year degree in Christian education or five years experience working in Christian education/youth ministries. For more information or to send resume please contact Rev. Troy Winder at Bettendorf Presbyterian Church, 1200 Middle Road, Bettendorf, IA 52722; 563-355-6494; or bpcpastor@hotmail.com

Available: Conference table w/8 upholstered chairs, office desk, cradanza, bookcase, waiting room furniture (15 armed chairs, 2 end tables). All items are in perfect condition. For prices and more information please contact: Mary @ 309/738-6176.



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8

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