



BUILDING ON COMMON GROUND

TRANSFORMING LIVES. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES.

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:

Bethel Temple COGIC
 Canaan Baptist Church
 Catholics for Peace and Justice
 CMPerceptions: A Fine Art Gallery
 Community Baptist Church
 Congregation Beth Jehudah
 Congregation Emanu-El B'Ne
 Jeshurun
 Congregation of Sisters of
 St Agnes
 Core El Centro
 Corinth Baptist Church
 Gesu Parish
 Grace Lutheran Church (LCMS)
 Hanson Dodge Creative
 Hopewell Baptist Church
 Immanuel Presbyterian Church
 Invisible Reality Ministry
 Islamic Society of Milwaukee
 Marquette University
 for Common Ground
 Mt Calvary Church LCMS
 Mt Hermon Baptist Church
 Mt Horeb Baptist Church
 Mount Mary College
 North Shore United Educators
 OK Organization
 Pilgrim United Church of Christ
 Progressive Baptist Church
 Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church
 St Anthony on the Lake
 St Catherine Congregation
 St Francis Cabrini Parish
 St James Episcopal Church
 St Luke's Lutheran Church
 St Mark's Episcopal Church
 St Martin of Tours Parish
 St Michael Parish
 St Paul Episcopal Church
 Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church
 Transformation City Church
 Uniting Garden Homes, Inc.
 UU's United for Social Justice
 Unitarian Universalist
 Church West
 Village Church (ELCA)
 Wauwatosa Presbyterian Church
 WI Nurses and Health
 Professionals

Editor: Sharon DePue
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• TEAM MEETINGS

• EDUCATION

Date: Thursday, November 17
 Time: 6:30—8:30 pm
 (6:00 pm briefing — see below)
 Place: St. Paul's Episcopal Church
 914 E. Knapp Street
 Childcare available*

EDU Briefing: Please join us at 6pm prior to the Education Team meeting to ask questions and get updates from EDU team leaders.

**Reserved childcare available with your RSVP —\$5 for two kids, additional \$3 for more children. RSVP to Julie Lange.*

• FORECLOSURES (Milwaukee Rising)

Date: Thursday, November 17
 Time: 7 pm
 Place: St. Catherine's
 51st and Center

• HEALTHCARE

Date: Monday, December 5
 Time: 7:00 pm
 Place: St. Mark Episcopal
 2618 N. Hackett

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Common Ground is an organization of organizations. Our members are congregations, businesses, religious groups, unions, schools, non-profits, neighborhood associations and civic groups. As a member organization, you are able to request the time of Common Ground's staff to help work on issues that are of concern to your members. If you're interested in supporting or joining Common Ground, please contact us.

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN



Keisha Krumm, Lead Organizer
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OTHER NOVEMBER EVENTS

COMMON GROUND UNIVERSITY

Date: November 1, 8 & 15
(need to attend all 3 sessions)

Time: 6—9:00 pm with registration & dinner at 5:30 pm

Place: Mt. Mary College

Cost: \$25 Registration Fee
(to pay for dinner)

RSVP: julie.lange@commongroundwi.org
to register

IN THIS ISSUE...

Healthcare Cooperative update
 "Milwaukee Rising" news
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 Delegates Assembly report
 Welcome new member Shiloh Baptist



MILWAUKEE RISING

If you happen to find yourself on the 2400 block of North 46th Street, don't be surprised to spot Janet and Andy Martin. They've adopted this block as part of Milwaukee Rising's neighborhood revitalization initiative. Other Common Ground members have adopted additional Sherman Park blocks as well.

What does it mean to the Martins to have adopted that block? They have committed to getting to know the neighborhood by becoming familiar with the block's housing stock, house by house, and the people who live in them — which homes are stable, privately-owned and occupied, which are already targeted by MR for renovation, and which are problematical. The problematical homes are highlighted for further research to identify who owns them and their status.

The Martins are making an effort to get to know the residents of the block. They are introducing themselves, inviting the neighbors to an open house, and following up on the concerns the residents have identified in the Martins' conversations with them.

Janet and Andy and others are taking the Milwaukee Rising commitment to creative solutions for pressing social problems one step further — to the building of personal relationships with those most affected by Milwaukee's foreclosure crisis, thereby strengthening this neighborhood. Way to go, Martins!



Brenda and Charles in front of their new home at 2350 N. 46th Street.

So — a dream has been realized, and CG is privileged to have played a role in the attainment of that dream.



Brenda Washington and fiancé Charles

Brenda Washington, the first Milwaukee Rising homeowner, undoubtedly will meet the Martins as she settles into her North 46th Street neighborhood.

Ms. Washington epitomizes the kind of neighbor who will be welcomed.

She is a single mother of 4 children and one granddaughter who arrived in Milwaukee in 1991 from her native Mississippi. Shortly thereafter, she was struck by a car. The accident triggered three subsequent strokes which left her with difficulty eating, talking, and walking for the next seven years. Eventually, inspired by the prayers and love of her daughter, a strong desire for a home of her own for her family began to burn in Brenda.

She set about preparing herself for home ownership. She paid off her debt, connected with Select Milwaukee, and sought pre-approval for a mortgage loan. After looking at more than twenty properties and rejecting them all, a realtor brought a newly-rehabbed Common Ground-Milwaukee Rising home to Brenda's attention. This was Brenda's house! It had everything she wanted and was perfect in her eyes! Then began daily pilgrimages to the house until the October 12 closing.

EDUCATION

The time has been set for conducting the Education Survey, November 6—November 13. Before then, Common Ground members are being asked to plan how they will distribute the survey in their organizations — religious education classes, choir practice, Bible studies, or some creative way not thought about yet. Those who want to get a jump on the November 6 start date are encouraged to do so.

This survey will be a vital source of information about where CG members and our children connect in the education landscape, thus enabling us to direct our energies on the educational front to what can benefit all of our children. You can find the survey on our website at www.commongroundwi.org/educationsurvey.

COMMON GROUND HEALTHCARE COOPERATIVE

It's happened! After several years of meticulous research, a false start or two, and countless hours of relationship building, the Common Ground Healthcare Cooperative Solvency Loan Proposal, provided for in the Affordable Care Act, has been submitted for funding. Thirty-one people worked to produce the 355 page document.

We should know if ours is a successful application in January. In the meantime, kudos to all of the individuals who have moved Common Ground one step closer to the realization of a truly audacious dream, the availability of more affordable health care in Southeast Wisconsin.



FRIENDS OF COMMON GROUND

On the Common Ground web site and elsewhere in this newsletter, reference has been made to the newly-launched “Friends of Common Ground” campaign, our plan to ratchet up our already intense efforts to transform lives and strengthen communities. Our aim is to do much, much more, and that is where the Friends campaign enters the picture.

Common Ground is funded by the dues and gifts of member groups and friends. The current \$275,000 annual budget pays for three professional staff members who guide and serve the 44 member organizations. It also funds the training of the 100+ volunteers who lead Common Ground, as well as the expenses for conducting the various issue campaigns.

Common Ground is strong in the City of Milwaukee. Now we have a goal to hire another organizer to strengthen our suburban participation. Your tax-deductible pledge/gift will support all the important work of Common Ground so we can continue to create change you can see.

CG does not accept government funds in order to remain autonomous and politically independent. We offer a variety of ways to give and encourage you to consider a recurring gift in installments, every month or quarter. **You can mail your contribution, or give online at: www.CommonGroundWI.org/donate.**

Rod and I have already made our commitment. Won't you consider joining us?

OCTOBER 4 DELEGATES ASSEMBLY

A full house of Common Ground member leader/delegates assembled on October 4 to launch the exciting Friends of Common Ground campaign, “Change You Can See,” meet the newest members of CG — Unitarian Universalist Church West, Village Church, Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, and CM Perceptions — and hear updates on CG's Foreclosure (Milwaukee Rising), Healthcare Cooperative and Education campaigns.

Unitarian Universalist Church West played a prominent role in hosting the evening with the team of Larry Krolkowski and Julie Lange leading us through a very busy agenda.

Highlights were the remarks from MR's first homeowner, Brenda Washington, who left no doubt that what CG's Milwaukee Rising has undertaken is transformative in the lives of real people.

Teams of the Education campaign are busy planning the rollout of CG's education survey, Strengthening Our Base, to identify where our congregations' children go to school and congregational members are engaged in the educational landscape.

You'll be hearing about the “Change You Can See” campaign over the coming weeks. It will offer each of us an opportunity to accelerate our efforts to create change in our neighborhoods and across our region.

Delegates' Assemblies are always excitement-inducing, and this one was no exception.

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

It is always interesting to learn about faith communities other than our own, so I particularly enjoyed hearing about **Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church**, one of the newest members of Common Ground. It is our differences that make us distinctive, but the things we value and share in common unite us all as members of the human family.

Shiloh's faith, since its founding in 1954, is informed by the belief that Jesus Christ is God's son and the only way of salvation and that God's truth is transformative of people and nations.

Pastor C.W. Griffin cites the social justice legacy of the black church and biblical injunction of Micah 6:8 as foundational to the congregation to seek justice for all people, especially those who are powerless to obtain it for themselves. Shiloh, therefore, welcomes the opportunity to work with all denominations and all people for a more fair and just world. Common Ground is honored to walk with Shiloh toward that end.

Welcome Shiloh!

