



The Good Word

Advent and Christmas at the MCC

The Advent and Christmas Season are once again upon us. Let us gather in worship throughout the month of December as we anticipate Christ's birth together. Let us gather and rejoice as one family in the joy, peace, hope and love he brings.

Our special worship celebrations during December begin with our annual Children's Christmas Worship on **Sunday morning, December 17**, a combined MCC worship service. Come to be led by our children to the manger; to travel together along the journey to Bethlehem.

Sunday evening, December 17 at 5:30 p. you are invited to attend the second annual Blue Christmas Service. This is a contemplative worship service designed to open space for the wide range of emotions that accompany the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Sunday morning, December 24 we will celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent as a combined community in the Blessing Room.

Sunday Evening, December 24 we will join in welcoming the newborn Christ with Christmas Eve worship services at 5:00 p. and 10:00 p.

Sunday morning, December 31 will also be an opportunity for combined worship as we join our voices in song to continue the celebration of Christ's birth at a special musical worship service.

A special note about the 5:00 p. Christmas Eve service:

Over the past few years we have had the wonderful challenge of trying to find enough chairs and floor space for everyone who comes to worship at the 5:00 p. service. In 2005 the MCC Worship Team felt that we had exceeded the comfort level of the Blessing Room and recommended developing an alternative plan for Christmas Eve Worship at 5:00 p. After much thoughtful deliberation and discussion the following plan has been decided upon for this year. We hope this plan will allow for further growth in attendance at this meaningful service.

We will have two separate worship services on Christmas Eve at 5:00 p., one in the Blessing Room and one in the Covenant Room. Jeff Wild will preside and preach at the service in the Blessing Room. Tisha Brown will preside and preach at the service in the Covenant Room. Members of the MCC are free to choose to worship in either sanctuary. Both services will be identical with the exception of the sermon.

Tisha

December 2006

Of Special Interest:

- Put Mosquitoes "Behind Bars", The Gift of Security, MCC Meeting Minutes available – p. 2
- Java for Justice, "Blue Christmas" – p. 4
- Dane County United – p. 5
- Shalom Room Report – p. 6
- Global Connections, IHN Week, Alternatives to the Mall – p. 7
- Sunday Morning Adult Education, Iraq Update – p. 10
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MCC News

Put Mosquitoes "Behind Bars", Buy a Bed Net!

A bed net costs about \$10.00. It provides mosquito-free sleeping for a family and greatly reduces the risk of contracting malaria since the mosquitoes attack mostly at night. But most families living in countries such as Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, Liberia, Bangladesh, Papua New Guinea, India and Madagascar are too poor to purchase a net.

How you can help?

1. Purchase a Christmas ornament made by the youth of our congregations, these are lovely glass ornaments to remind you of the gift you made to support this project.

2. Send funds directly to: Malaria Bednet Project #95-04, Global Health Ministries, 7831 Hickory Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55432

1-763-586-9590, www.ghm.org

Meeting Minutes are available in the book on the library counter in the Shalom Room.

If you are interested in minutes from Community of Hope, Advent and MCC meetings, you can find them in the large black book on the library counter in the Shalom Room.

Food Drive for Wexford Ridge Food Pantry—Sunday, December 17.

Again we are asking that members of Advent and Hope make a special effort to bring food for the pantry on the 3rd Sunday of November (the 19th). Suggested items include canned goods (fruit, vegetables, tuna, beef stew, fruit juice, etc.) peanut butter, jelly, cereal. We can especially use any large grocery bags.

We do not have facilities to handle fresh produce. For those who prefer to donate money, checks can be made out to the Wexford Ridge Neighborhood Center and designated for the pantry.

Dobbin McNatt, Coordinator

The Gift of Security

Imagine fleeing your home with only your children and any items grabbed on the way out. Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS sees this daily. Your donations can supply a bus ticket, prescription, lock change or copies of personal documents to help victims on the path to safety.

Consider making a contribution in memory of a loved one or in place of a gift exchange item. Deadline: December 17. Make checks payable to Hope or Advent with DAIS in the memo line.

Kanetzkes will coordinate.

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Fellowship Groups & Activities

The Theological Discussion Group Discussion of [The Spiral Staircase: My Climb out of Darkness](#) by Karen Armstrong will conclude on Wednesday, December 20, 7:00 p., at MCC. Come and join this group of readers who share spiritual paths.

We will also be choosing our next book on December 20 and would welcome your participation.

GEMS (Grumpy Elderly Men)

GEMS meet on Tuesdays, at 10:30 a., lower level of MCC. The book is [Seven Spiritual Gifts of Waiting](#) by a Milwaukee woman author, Holly Whitcomb. We enjoy fellowship, learning and discussion and a variety of books. Stan Klyve

MCC Film Group 2006-07 Schedule

Here is the new schedule of films for this fall and winter. As usual it contains a diverse mix of films -- old and new, foreign, drama, comedy, adventure, classic, etc.

Our next gathering will be at 7:00 p. on December 15 at Eriksson's to view *The Shipping News*.

Even if you have not attended film group, please join us to watch this classic film. Larry Eriksson

January 26, 2007 *World's Fastest Indian*

Location: TBD

February 23, 2007 *Babe* Location: TBD

March 23, 2007 *Water* (from trilogy) TBD

Attention Young Singles, Couples and Families —

Friday, January 19-Progressive Dinner 6:00-10:00 p. The location will be announced. If you are interested in hosting for appetizer, salad/entrée, or dessert, contact Kris Knoepke. Three homes are needed. Who: Adults only (get your babysitters now, if needed.)

MCC Community Group Events Saturday, Dec. 9 - Christmas Tour of the Governor's Mansion.

We will meet at noon for lunch at Panera Bread on University Ave. and carpool from there. The 25 min. tour is from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Families are welcome!!

Sunday, Dec. 17 - 7:00 p.m. - "White Elephant" gift exchange at the home of Jan Robertson, 12 Bayberry Trail. Bring a Christmas treat if you wish.

Saturday, Dec. 31 --- 6:30 p.m. New Year's Eve progressive dinner. The location for the main meal is not known yet. If you would like to host appetizers or the main meal, please call Kathy Johnson. There is a sign-up on the bulletin board in the Shalom Room. All MCC adults are welcome!!

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Youth News & Activities

Jesus Core

“ Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it”

(Romans 12:9; The Message Bible)

Retreat for High School Students Pilgrim Center, January 5 5-7, 2007

Experience faith in community, meaningful worship and great music, silence and time for prayer, getting to know new people and hanging out with friends.

Be inspired by the songs of musician Andra Moran (andramoran.com), by the beauty of God's Creation on Green Lake, and by workshops and discussions with adult leaders and your peers.

Rest from the stress of school, listen to God's word, connect with yourself and others, and find satisfaction in silence and in fun activities.

Find your way to the core!

Who? *Youth grades 9-12*

Cost? \$126 early-bird before Dec. 1; \$131 after. Deadline is Dec. 15

When? *Friday, Jan. 5, 7 p.m. through Sunday, Jan. 7, 11:30 a.m.*

Where? *Pilgrim Center, Ripon (www.ucci.org)*

Registration deadline: December 15, 2006.

For more information call Katrin or send her an email.

Registration forms are at the box next to my office door!

When the cold and dark winter days seem to be endless it's time for THE

“GIRLS NIGHT – Winter Dream”

January 12, 2007

6-10 pm at MCC

Mark your calendars for a night full of everything to enjoy the warm, cozy, relaxing, energizing side of winter!

GIRLS and WOMEN of the MCC come for fellowship, hot choc/ tea, games, spiritual activities, relaxation, massage and more!!!

Please respond by Sunday, January 14th if you like to come!

For more information or questions please call Beth Falkos (441 2476) or Katrin (824 1763;

email: katrinmcc@tds.net)

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Youth News & Activities Continued —

DECEMBER

Senior High and Middle High
Dec 3 "Parents' night out",
4:30 - 7:30 pm at MCC

Parents with preschool kids and older, this is your chance for a night out without your kids!!! Bring them to church for different **fun activities and workshops** like board and group games (Katrin and Emily Kuhn), wood workshop (Mary and Ken Maxwell), water coloring and pencil drawing (Brenna Clark), stamp cards, ... and more. Middle and Senior High kids will be there and co-lead the event!

The traditional youth Christmas fundraiser is on:

Dec 8 Candy making, 6 pm at MCC, bring \$6 for supplies we provide and pizza we'll order.
Candy will be sold on Sunday Dec 10!

Middle High
Dec 15 Christmas party at MCC 7-8

Senior High
Dec 20 Christmas Party at Katrin's
8:15 pm

JANUARY

Senior High and Middle High

Jan 12 Girls night "Winter Dream",
6 - 10 pm at MCC

Middle High

Jan 11 Campfire/ game night, 7-8 pm
at MCC

Jan 26 Campfire/ game night 7-8 pm
at MCC

Senior High

Jan 5-7 Senior High Retreat "Jesus Core"

Jan 24 Hang out, at ??? 8:15 pm

Planning for the Youth Raffle

Contact Marcus Murphy if you have items you would like to donate for the raffle, to take place later this year, to benefit MCC Youth Ministry. And, does anyone know a generous travel agent whom Marcus might ask to donate two round-trip tickets to anywhere in the U.S. as the grand prize?

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Our Website: www.madisonchristiancommunity.org.

Read Pastor Jeff and Pastor Tisha's Sunday sermons on the web!

Sunday texts are on the monthly calendar.

On the Home Page find **Weekly Announcements** and the **Newsletter**. If you decide that you no longer need the newsletter delivered in the mail, please call the church office to let us know.

Please let the Website Committee know if you are not finding what you need or have other suggestions. The Website Committee: Tom Matthews, Edd Hellmer, John Brugge, Carrie McGinley, Jeff Greene and Sonja Keesey-Berg. Contact the Website Committee at office@madisonchristiancommunity.org.



MCC News and Activities

JAVA FOR JUSTICE—

The holiday season is coming soon. Think of your gift list and consider giving an alternative gift of coffee for the java drinkers on that list. Place your December and holiday order by December 3rd ready for pickup on December 10th. Place your check AT THE TIME OF ORDERING made out to the *Mt. Meru Coffee Project*, in the envelop by the order form in the Shalom Room. You can order regular or decaf; bean, drip or perk; 12 oz pkg. (\$8.00) or 4# pkg. (\$38.00). In addition, consider ordering an extra package for the troops in Iraq who have requested "gourmet" coffee (drip grind). Justice never tasted so good – here, in TZ and in Iraq. And thanks for supporting the coffee farmers in Tanzania.

"Blue Christmas" Longest Night Worship Service—Sunday, December 17 at 5:30 p.m.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Madison Christian Community's second Blue Christmas Service. This worship service is designed to provide opportunity during the Christmas season to acknowledge that not all holiday time is happy time and that many of us need quiet reflection and support for painful experiences in our lives. We will share a series of readings, sing a number of hymns and enjoy periods of silence in a meditative environment. We hope to see you there.

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Coming Events

- Dec 3 IHN Week is Dec 3-10
- Dec 3 Parents' Night Out, 5:00 p.
- Dec 10 Community of Hope New Member Sunday
- Dec 17 Christmas with our youth at 10:15 a. No Sunday School.
Adult Education Hour only.
- Dec 17 "Blue Christmas" Longest Night Worship Service, 5:30 p.
- Dec 20 January Newsletter information is due
- Dec 24 MCC Worship at 10:15 a. No Education Hour
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion, 5:00 p.
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion, 10:15 a.
- Dec 31 MCC Worship of music and carols, 10:15 a. No Education Hour
- Jan 1 New Year's Day Labyrinth Walk from 1:00-4:00 p.
- Jan 5-7 Senior High Retreat Weekend
- Jan 10 Indoor Labyrinth open to the public from 9:00 a. - 6:00 p.
- Jan 14 Indoor labyrinth open to the public from 1:00-3:00 p.
- Jan 12 MCC Girls' Night at MCC, 6:00-10:00 p.
- Jan 20 February newsletter information is due
- Jan 21 Wexford Food Pantry Donation Day
- Jan 21 Youth Cinnamon Roll Sale
- Jan. 27 Global Connections *from Italy, to Egypt, to Senegal, to Gambia*
with Beth Wild & J.D. Stier at 7:00 p.
- Jan 28-Feb 4 IHN Week

MCC News continued—

Dane County United Action Update

-Organizing universal: The essence of the action is in the inevitable reaction(s).

1) Early Childhood Action Team – VICTORY AT THE CITY AND STATE LEVEL!! On May 31st of this year the Early Childhood Action Team worked through Dane County United to organize a Citizen's Assembly on Early Childhood issues to challenge the State (through Secretary Roberta Gassman) and the City to act on two important issues facing low-income families in Dane County's early childhood system.

As we teach in Dane County United, the essence of the action is in the inevitable reaction. While the early childhood team has continued to organize since May 31st the victories we have realized recently are a direct reaction to that event.

So, what have we won?

At the City level... Mayor Cieslewicz announced he would fully fund our proposal of putting 225k into the city's accreditation subsidy program! This is the first increase of any kind in the last 15 years and will cut the current waiting list in half. Over 50 families in Madison will have access to high quality, accredited childcare because of this work!

At the State level... The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) has announced that they will make permanent the task force they set up out of our May 31st event as a vehicle for ongoing dialogue between providers and the State.

Early Childcare providers in Dane County and throughout the State have hailed this as a victory because there was no vehicle for providers to share their concerns and be updated by DWD in the past.

While many of us played a role through Dane County United (and many more are now getting involved) in making these ac-

complishments happen, it is important to remember that the issues were really driven by a small core of dedicated leaders who deserved to be recognized.

2) Emerging Area of Action...Jobs/Workers/ Corporate responsibility:

-This team recently met with the CEO of St. Mary's Hospital, Dr. Frank Byrne, to initiate a relationship and to encourage him to meet directly with workers at Superior to hear their stories. St. Mary's has a large laundry contract with Superior and being a Catholic, non-profit hospital; we believe a responsibility to help ensure decent working conditions for all their employees, even "secondary" ones.

Unfortunately, Dr. Byrne spent most of the meeting trying to absolve the hospital of any responsibility toward these workers and distancing the hospital from its faith-based mission. Our action team is meeting soon to discuss our response and next steps.

-We are initiating a campaign to engage more DCU member institutions in this work and to build stronger relationships with the workers, primarily through the Catholic Parishes of which they are members.

-We are also initiating discussions at other institutions that have contracts at Superior Linen. Most notably, if you or your institutions have active members living at Oakwood Village Retirement

3) Land Use Action Team: Continuing discussions on water quality concerns to identify actionable issues in McFarland and Dane County.

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MCC News continued—

Shalom Room Report

In 2005, the Task Force for Renovation of the Original Building set aside 5,000 dollars to hire a design firm to address improvements in the Shalom Room. A committee was formed to define our needs and hopes for a more welcoming space. The committee met November 1, 2006 and expressed the following concerns about the Shalom Room:

- 1) The visual impact on entering the Shalom Room from the parking lot.
- 2) Traffic flow into and through the space.
- 3) Few areas to meet and greet friends comfortably.
- 4) The location of the name tags.
- 5) Lighting.
- 6) Location of seasonal sales or sign ups (youth, ornaments, IHN, Coffee, Iraq, Food Pantry, etc.)
- 7) Orientation of entry doors directly toward the Blessing Room.
- 8) Traffic to either sanctuary
- 9) Size of boxing around support pillars, do they have to be so big?
- 10) Storage.

Possible recommendations included:

- 1) Round the corners of the kitchen and sacristy.
- 2) Create islands of comfortable seating.
- 3) Store folding chairs elsewhere.

- 4) Remove table for nametags from between the two pillars and shrink the boxing around the support beams.
- 5) Create a rack for name tags either around the pillars or on a wall.
- 6) Change the orientation of the entry doors so they do not send traffic directly toward the Blessing Room
- 7) Have a welcoming center at the entrance to help visitors.
- 8) Enlarge the Shalom Room toward the parking lot to create a more spacious welcoming environment.
- 9) Keep in consideration the use of the room for meals and presentations.
- 10) Improve lighting.
- 11) Improve the alternate entrance.

The committee agreed that it was time to hire an architectural design firm to help form these ideas into a concrete plan. We would like to get bids in January from three firms using the money designated by the Original Building Task Force. If you have further ideas or concerns please let a committee member know. Members include Candi Bloedow, chair, Fran Grugel, Tom Matthews, Carolyn Hahn, Bill Long, Kristi Holden and Tisha Brown.

Another suggestion: Raise consciousness of members gathering before services to maintain a clear avenue of access from entrance to the Covenant Room.

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MCC News Continued

Global Connections: From ITALY, to EGYPT, to SENEGAL, to GAMBIA!

Jan. 27, 7:00

Beth Wild and J.D. Stier will share their experiences, photos, and reflections on their trip during the summer of 2006. Their adventure began in Milano, where they visited the third largest church in the world, which can comfortably seat 40,000 parishioners. From Italia they were off to Egypt for the Great Pyramids, Mosques, and the Nile. It was then time for West Africa. They arrived in the wild city of Dakar, Senegal with all of its music, colors, rhythms, and commotion. Then a laborious overland trip into The Gambia where the experiences were too many to recount in brief. Please join Beth and J.D. to hear all about this experience. Thank You.

Care Notes Available

The following titles are available in the Care Notes brochure rack next to the book case in the Shalom Room. "Feeling Depressed at Christmastime," and "Getting Through the Holidays When You've Lost a Loved One," "Answering your Children's Questions About God," "Teaching Children Simple Ways to Pray," "Sad Isn't Bad: When Someone You Love Dies (for kids)," "Caring for yourself When You're Caring for Someone Ill," "Grieving in Your Own Way," "Four Things Your Aging Parent Needs Most," "Coping With Chronic Pain," "What Everyone Should Know About the First Year of Grief," "Healing Your Body, Mind, and Spirit Together," "Where is God in my Suffering?"

Thanks to Community of Hope Anchors, these notes are available to all who think they might provide a source of comfort or insight. Feel free to take one or more for yourself or for anyone you think might benefit from them.

MCC's next week with Interfaith Hospitality Network is December 3 – 10th. Interfaith Hospitality Network uses volunteers at churches around Dane County to provide shelter to 4 to 6 homeless families for a week at a time. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights, MCC will host these families at Orchard Ridge UCC (near Whitney Way and the Beltline). On these three nights, we need volunteers to make and serve dinner, to host activity time and play with the kids and to stay overnight with the families. Please sign up on the board in the Shalom Room. Please see Aaron Anding with any questions.

Alternatives to the Mall

Again we will provide an alternative to shopping at the mall for the holidays. Two options will be available. First, information about the Heifer Project, where you donate an animal to someone instead of giving them something else to dust! We will provide a toll-free number, and you can use a credit card to select your animal. Prices range from \$10-10,000 and everything in between, so there is a price for everyone.

Second, we will once again offer items from A Greater Gift, especially food items. Since opening stores in Madison, you are able to shop for most hand-crafted goods locally, so we usually only stock consumable items for sale at church. However, if you wish to order from the catalog or buy from us directly there is an added benefit, since we receive 20% of sales which we then give to Harvest of Hope, benefiting local farmers in need. Sales will start toward the end of November and last into December. See Kathy Johnson of Advent for further details.

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MCC News continued

Sunday Morning Adult Education

Hunger On Our Doorstep: A Study-Action Guide for Wisconsin Congregations is the topic of study for the first three Sundays of December. Peter Bakken, the author of the study continues to lead the study.

The sessions are:

December 3: What Can Be Done About Hunger?

The goal is to be aware of the main governmental and community programs that respond to hunger in Wisconsin, and the need for both public policy and direct service.

December 10: Hunger in Our Community.

For this session, a local expert on hunger will be invited to more adequately address hunger and food insecurity problems in our community. This assessment of community needs provides an essential knowledge base for the action plan we will develop in session five.

December 17: Taking Action Against Hunger

The purpose of this session is to move beyond studying the problem of hunger in the community to becoming actively engaged in doing something about it. Matt Moreland Gross, the lead organizer of Dane County United, will lead this session.

Iraq Update

Brad received this email from a chaplain who will be our new contact.

"Dear Mr. Spencer,
Thank you so much for your support of CH Park and the soldiers of 7-10 CAV. I would be thrilled and honored to continue to receive whatever items you might be able to send my soldiers. 1-7 CAV will take over responsibility from 7-10 in just a few short days, and I look forward to a year of exceptional ministry here in Taji. Generous gifts from caring Americans like yourself can only make my job easier and provide a much-needed taste of home to battle-weary and homesick soldiers. PLEASE feel free to continue sending whatever donations you are able to make and I will personally see that they are distributed to the soldiers as needed. God Bless you, and thank you for your support of the soldiers of 1-7 CAV.

List of Items you can donate for Iraq:

Hard candy, coffee, microwave popcorn, DVD movies, razors, toiletries, cup style ramen soups

ALSO: The most recent Christian Century contained an article written by Glenn Palmer, our chaplain contact in Iraq who recently was reassigned. The article is posted on a poster board by the Iraq box at MCC.

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Advent News

Graphic Here

Advent Season Resources from Bread for the World:

Graphic Here

"Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given," Isaiah declares. As we prepare to receive the Christ child anew in this season of Advent, our faith compels us to hear the cry of all children, especially poor children. We must remember that every day millions of children are born suffering from hunger and poverty. Many of them will die of preventable disease.

If we are to receive the Christ child fully unto our hearts, we must allow the Holy Spirit to work within us and shape our lives. We are called to take on God's passionate concern for the world's poor and oppressed people. This Advent and Christmas, let us remember with Isaiah that the Child who brings light to those "who walk in darkness" tells us that if we "offer food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted," our own "light shall rise in the darkness" and our "gloom shall be like the noonday." (Isaiah 58)

Actions you can do to lift up children and families in poverty during the Advent season:

I. PRAYER: Prayers for the lighting of the Advent wreath can be found at www.bread.org.

Click on Get Involved, then click on At Church, then Advent Resources then Wreath Prayer. There are also printed copies of this Wreath Prayer available on the back table in the Blessing Room.

2. JUSTICE ACTION:

Write or call your Senator: The House and the Senate Appropriation Committee's poverty-focused development measures for 2007 include substantial increases over 2006. However, both fall far short of the \$5 billion increase needed to meet our nation's promises to the world's poorest countries. The full Senate has not yet voted on its final measure and has the opportunity to do more.

Urge your Senator to make sure poverty-focused development assistance is increased by at least the \$2 billion amount requested by President in the FY 2007 State Department/Foreign Operations bill. Tell him our country is not on track to keep the promises we have made to the world's poorest people; we need to be doing more.

Points to make:

- Our country is not can track to keep the promises we have made to the world's poorest people.
- The U.S. should be providing an additional \$5 billion a year in poverty-focused development assistance -- programs that reduce hunger, poverty and disease in the world's poorest countries.
- There is too much at stake for hundreds of millions of hungry people around the world for the United States not to keep its commitments.

Christmas Gifts for Badger Prairie

Please bring your Christmas gift for your Badger Prairie resident to your December circle meeting or to church by Sunday Dec 17. There will be a wicker basket in the narthex for your wrapped and labeled (as to content) gift. Questions: call Phyllis Ermer.

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Advent News Continued



Judith Circle

The Judith Circle will meet on December 12 at 9:00 a. at MCC. Irene Rasmussen will be the hostess. We will have a social hour followed by a Bible study. You are welcome to join us.

Advent Elizabeth Circle

Would you like to mingle with a great church circle without having to house clean? Elizabeth Circle meets every second Thursday of the month at Tabor Oaks at Oakwood Village West at 7:00 p. We share our prayer needs, discuss a Bible lesson from the now very well-written *Lutheran Woman*, and truly enjoy each other's company. We'd be happy to welcome you, too. Call Margaret Smith if you want more information.

OPALS Book Discussion Group

Note earlier date for December.

OPALS meets the third Thursdays of the month all year. We meet at 7:00 p. on the lower level of the church. New members are welcome. Please join us at our meeting on December 7 in the youth room-lower level of the church. The book is *The Mermaid Chair* by Sue Monk Kidd. A middle aged woman has her stifled dreams and desires take shape during an extended stay on Egret Island where she is caring for her troubled mother.

You are invited to join us.

Treasury of Love Nov 28, 2006

Love Offerings	9,814.89
Rent & Eviction Prevention	3,184.00
Security Deposit	1,400.00
Utility Assistance	1,587.00
Iraq Postage	1,106.90
Car payment	582.99
Court Mandated payment	100.00
Wexford Women's Program	45.00
Haiti Partners	744.00
Advent Member's Rent	350.00
Storage Rent	89.00
UW Freshman Student's Books	265.00
Mental Health Appt.	100.00
IHN	50.00
Wexford Food Pantry	100.00
Registration Fee Trust	<u>65.00</u>
Expenditure	8,530.10

Balance as of 11/28/2006 \$46.00

The balance is designated for Iraq postage.

Advent Women: NEW LOCATION! Come for Thursday Coffee!

A lively group of "church ladies" meets on Thursday mornings at 7:00 a.m. at Victor Allen's, 2623 Monroe St.

The only agenda is sharing friendship, and there is always laughter. We do service projects several times a year, pray for one another's concerns, and celebrate joys. If you can be an early bird at least once a week, please drop by!

News about a "Daughter of the Congregation" -

Susan (McNatt) Hilgers has just accepted a new job in San Antonio, TX, so she and her husband, John, will be moving soon.



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Community of Hope News

Praying for our Community

Please pray for the people and situations listed below as well as our entire community in the coming month. If you have prayer requests you'd like to be included in next month's newsletter please contact Tisha at the church office.

- Those who are unable, for health reasons, to join us in worship on a regular basis but whom we love: Mary Beth and Steve Udvari, Kathy Alexander and Wilma Sanks
- All military personnel and their families. Especially those involved in Iraq, and Afghanistan
- Joyce Matthews and Nancy Greenwald and their family as they celebrate the life of Joyce's dad, Chet and grieve his passing.
- Jo Kolath as she continues to recover from surgery and Bonnie Trudell as she provides care for Jo.
- Raj Atalla as he addresses health concerns
- Michelle & Lori, Jeremy and Josh as they address various challenges in their lives.
-

These people and their families as we pray our way through the church directory:

Nov. 28-Dec. 5 the van der Weide family;
Julia Weaver and family
Dec. 5-12 Roger and Kristi Williams;
Katrin Wuest
Dec. 12-19 Nancy Zabel; Doug Wubben
and their families
Dec. 19-26 Kathy & Robin Alexander;
Rajai & Chickee Atalla;
Dec. 26-Jan. 2 the Baird family;
Phill and Candi Bloedow

Important Dates to Remember!



Birthdays

Rose Gear	12/18
David Manion	12/19
Marcus Murphy	12/26
Zoe Meyer	12/31

Anniversaries

None in December

Please let us know if we have missed your special day.

Thank you letter from MUM (excerpts)

"Thank you for your September 13th contribution to MUM....I am so glad that I belong to a congregation that supports the work of peace and justice.

We have continued to work on restorative justice issues.

We continue to provide re-entry support to individuals who have been incarcerated. We are in our third year of our Mentoring Connections program matching children with an incarcerated parent to caring adults for weekly one-on-one time.

Thank you for your support and for partnering with us as we work for social change."

Blessings,
Lori Powell, Congregational Liaison

Pray Daily
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Study God's Word
Respond as Stewards
Serve at MCC &
Beyond
Cultivate Spiritual
Friendship

Community of Hope News

Christmas Fund Offering (formerly Veterans of the Cross)

Our joy at Christmas is a response to God's promise of new life through the birth of Jesus. It is a joy we are called to share widely, through our witness and gifts, both to loved ones and to distant neighbors.

The Christmas Fund Offering, one of four Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ, is an important way of sharing our joy at God's renewing and life-giving grace. The Offering, which is administered by the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance of the Pension Boards on behalf of the UCC, is an expression of joy and gratitude to, and for, those who serve the church. Gifts to the Christmas Fund help provide pension and health premium supplementation to low-income retirees, emergency assistance to the families of clergy and lay employees and Christmas Gift checks to hundreds of annuitants.

Hear the words of three who benefited from the generosity of persons contributing to the Offering:

"Thank you for the very generous gift check at Christmas time...It is always nice to be remembered any time, especially during this blessed season..."

It brings special joy into my soul to be remembered in fellowship of UCC. I appreciate very much all the ways the Board has found to help us – me."

"I want to thank you so much for the Christmas check that I received this morning. Your thoughtful concern for the needs of retired UCC pastors means so much to all of us."

Your generous contributions can and do make a difference in the lives of many.

Please prayerfully consider what you can give when Community of Hope receives this offering on Sunday, December 10. Checks can be made out to Community of Hope with "Christmas Fund" in the memo line.



Hope Men's Breakfast

The men of Hope meet for breakfast on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 6:30 AM at the Original Pancake House, 5518 University Ave. We enjoy good food, warm fellowship and interesting conversation, which, at our last get-together, included (what else?) the election, and a report from our very own Tahiti Traveler, Roger Buffett. Our December breakfasts will be on the 6th and the 20th.

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Our Larger Community

The Festival Choir presents (twice!) its annual Christmas concert on Saturday, December 2 at Asbury United Methodist Church. Choose from 3:30 or 7:30 concerts.

This year we will be performing works from Purcell to Poulenc on the theme of O Magnum Mysterium. More concert info at <http://festivalchoir.org/newhtml/events.html> or contact Phill or Candi Bloedow for tickets.

Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus

On Sunday, December 3, at 7:00 p., Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus will celebrate the joys of the season with *The 12 Day of Christmas*. This concert features ancient carols, reinterpreted classics, and a musical journey through the *Twelve Days of Christmas*. This season we return to the home of our first concerts, First Unitarian Society at 900 University Bay Drive. Tickets are \$12 general admission or \$9 for students and senior citizens. Tickets will be available at the door or may be purchased in advance online at www.perfectharmonychorus.org.

The Global Express Shop seeks Volunteers

The Global Express is a fair trade, non-profit shop that works with Serrv International, and Ten Thousand Villages to provide a market for handmade goods created by artisans who live in developing areas of the world. The shop is located at 646 West Washington Ave. in the Train and the Depot. They are looking for volunteers to act as cashiers for two-hour shifts. The store hours are Tuesday – Saturday from noon to 5:00 p. Interested individuals should call 255-5506 for more information.

Madison Ballet's Nutcracker — one of Madison's Best 150 things!

This year will be even more special for many of us who have watched Genevieve Custer (now Weeks) from 17 years ago as a Bon Bon to returning this year as a featured guest artist as both the role of Dewdrop, which she has danced before, and as Snow Queen. She will be the Snow Queen and Dewdrop in every performance. Ticket information is available at <http://www.madisonballet.org>. Betty Custer also has some tickets. Other MCC folks in the cast include Kelle and Ken Adams and Noah Hulsether-Brugge. They could be contacted for shows they are in.

There is ONLY ONE weekend this year, December 15-17, so don't miss it.

There are two pictures on the bulletin board in the Shalom Room in the member news area of Genevieve and her Cinderella partner David Bier rehearsing with Madison Ballet Artistic Director Earle Smith.

Lighthouse Singers in Concert

The Lighthouse Singers will perform a winter concert on Sunday, December 10, at 6:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 5763 Cty Rd. Q in Waunakee. A light reception will follow the concert. The program will feature a wide variety of musical styles ranging from classical to gospel.

21st Annual Holiday Blood Drive

Friday, December 22, 7a.–2 p. Exhibition Hall at the Alliant Energy Center. For an appointment call 1-800-Give.Life or visit givelife.org. Free parking, free childcare, local music & more. The Red Cross provides nearly half of the nation's blood supply. It's efforts span our community, our nation and our world.

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A Word About Our Partnership— *Madison Christian Community*

Advent Lutheran (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and Community of Hope (United Church of Christ) are partners in Christ. Together we are the *Madison Christian Community* (MCC). We share education for all ages, youth activities, building space, fellowship groups and efforts to preserve the land. We worship together about 8–12 times a year. Community of Hope is an Open and Affirming congregation and Advent is a Reconciled in Christ congregation. We welcome people of all ages, denominational backgrounds, races, gender and sexual orientation. May our church be a sanctuary for all!

The Good Word

Monthly Newsletter of the
Madison Christian Community
*An Ecumenical Partnership of
Advent Lutheran Church – ELCA
and Community of Hope – UCC*

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Jack Benjamin
David Canon, President
Sarah Zutz
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Joanna McDonald
JoAnne Streit

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Lucetta Kanetzke

Office Hours:

Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

If you call our office and there is no answer, please leave a message. Someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

Are you still interested in receiving our newsletter?

If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please contact the church office and let us know.

MCC Executive Committee:
Petra Streiff, Chair
Doug Johnson
Barbara Dueholm
David Canon
Tisha Brown
Jeff Wild

MCC Mission Statement

We affirm our unity through Christ and commit to share a journey grounded in faith practices and to serve as part of Christ's presence in our world.

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