



The Good Word

May 2006

Faith Inclusion Network Task Force Invitation

The question is not 'how can we help people with disabilities?' the more important question is how can people with disabilities give their spiritual gifts to us and call us to love? Henri Nouwen.

The MCC Leadership Team decided during 2005 that it would be important as well as exciting to ask ourselves how open and welcoming we are in both our culture at MCC and in our physical structure to those with special needs. The "Faith Inclusion Network" (FIN) organization was engaged to begin a process this year of exploring this issue with the MCC and an MCC task force was formed as a liaison between FIN and MCC (members are: Martha McCurdy, Marjorie and Wayne Nelson, Joanna McDonald and Katrin Wuest).

The MCC-FIN task force is pleased to announce that FIN members will attend COH and Advent Lutheran worship services and will facilitate "listening sessions" following each of the worship services. The worship services are scheduled for Community of Hope on April 30 and for Advent Lutheran on May 7. These two services will focus on the *process of welcoming* as an invitation to the following meeting. The after-worship meetings, or so called "listening sessions," will provide a conduit for us to share our own stories and experiences about being welcomed and welcoming. We may reflect on ourselves and share our own areas of need and brokenness. Some of our stories may

be stories of "success," some of us may discover painful experiences of failure and as the listening sessions may well encompass the joys, challenges and sorrows of each of us. We will not endeavor to problem-solve or evaluate comments at the sessions, rather, the intent will be to receive each spoken or written offering as guides toward insight. One of the great joys of community life is how we tend one another, as though we each are gardeners nurturing human growth. Please attend the service and following listening session to help explore ways we may need to grow!

Martha McCurdy, Katrin Wuest

Tractor Drivers Wanted

The soon-to-be vegetable-powered Kubota tractor is looking for a crew of MCC people to take turns mowing the lawn this year. Please contact Tom Matthews if you are willing to serve in this capacity. Tom will set up a time for some behind the wheel training.

Of Special Interest:

- MCC Art Wall need you! Global Connections in May, Java for Justice, Sunday Adult Ed – p. 2
- May 21, Stories with Storyteller Don Falkos – p.3
- Sunday School News – p.5-6
- Youth & Family Ministry at MCC, Bur Oak, Haiti School Scholarship Concert, Second Chance Apartment Family – p. 7
- Wexford Ridge Neighborhood Center Garden program, Does being part of a community mean a great deal to you? – p. 8
- Marriage Equality, Fair Wisconsin, List of Items for Iraq – p. 9
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MCC News

Attention MCC artists and friends of artists:

The MCC Art wall needs you! Would you or someone you know be interested in exhibiting art for a two-month period at the MCC? This is a great opportunity to share your talents with others, as well as to help provide a creative and beautiful space for this church. Please contact Laura Komai to schedule an exhibit time.

MCC Art Exhibit by Jerome H. Kamps

Jerome H. Kamps, a retired art teacher from Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, taught art at the Beaver Dam High School for thirty-four years. He graduated from Lawrence University, Appleton, WI, in 1956, and earned a masters degree in art education from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Although he has produced art in a variety of media, his emphasis of study was printmaking. Jerry is a charter member of the Beaver Dam Area Arts Association and has served on the Board of Directors. Now, in his retirement years, he devotes much of his time as a member of the BDAAA Exhibit Committee to the production of major exhibits at the Seippel Homestead and Center for the Arts in Beaver Dam. He also assists in the general management and maintenance of the Center. His interest in the arts and history is reflected in his many years of participation in the Beaver Dam Area Community Theatre as a set designer and in his active membership at the Dodge County Historical Society Museum where he assists with displays.

May 20th is Global Connections

Cuba, Pearl Of the Antilles-*Chuck Pils*

Cuba is a misunderstood country to many Americans. I have been fortunate enough to have traveled there 5 times as part of the Madison-Camaguey Sister City, International Crane Foundation, and The Wisconsin Medical project. Join me for a discussion of the people, ecological resources, schools, buildings, and medical facilities. I will present power point and slides along with a sample of Cuban food and drink.

JAVA FOR JUSTICE—order by May 7th

Pick up your coffee on the 14th. Remember it is Mother's Day on May 14th. Consider a gift of coffee for all of the mothers on your list. Order a bag to send to the troops in Iraq. This coffee is a win-win for everyone, especially for people who love the taste of high quality coffee. The Tanzanian coffee farmers are especially grateful for your order, helping them become more sustainable, provide education for their children & better health for their families.

Sunday Morning in the Covenant Rm.

Living the Questions on May 7 will be about "Evil, Suffering and God of Love." May 14 and 21 will be on the topic of "Intimacy with God." The presenters via the DVD provocatively ask us to reexamine our own religious thinking. When we break into small groups and begin discussions, many of us just do not want to stop. As of May 21, we will have processed half of the *Living the Questions* materials. We will return to the remaining half throughout the 2006-2007 Education year.

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The Good Word

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Next Issue: June is our Summer Issue—Next Issue is in September 1

Articles Due: May 20 to the church office

Newsletter Editor: Sonja Keesey-Berg

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Newsletter Mailing Ready: Eileen Bolstad and Doris Roberts

Fellowship Groups & Activities

Celebrate with ice cream and stories!
May 21 is the last day of Sunday School.

Following worship you can enjoy Sundae Sunday and then, beginning at noon, join us in the Blessing Room for a program of stories by Storyteller Don Falkos. Don will be presenting "In the Beginning" in which he tells the stories from the opening chapters of Genesis, from "Creation" to "The Tower of Babel."

MCC Knitting Circle/Scrapbooking Club

Work on your creative pursuits while being in fellowship with other MCC members!

May 12, Knitting at Sue Young's house, 9-11:30 a.m.

June 2, Scrapbooking at MCC, 6:30-10:30 p.m.

Call Sue Young or Debra Greene with questions.

GEMS*

The MCC GEMS meet at 10:30 every Tuesday morning for coffee, treats, fellowship and great discussions. They are studying *Life Together-The Classic Exploration of Faith in Community* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. All GEMS* (Great/Grumpy Elderly (and not elderly men) are welcome!

MCC Film Group

The MCC Film Group will meet at 7:00 pm
May 19, 2006 *Some Like It Hot*
(1959 comedy; #14 on AFI Best 100 films) at Eriksson's

June 16, 2006 *Blowup*
(1966 film about photographer; nom. for 2 Oscars: Best Dir., Best Writing, Story) location TBD

If you would like more info. on these films, I suggest going to www.imdb.com. Mark your calendars, and I hope you can attend. Call Larry Eriksson at 222-1815 for more information.

The Theological Discussion Group begins discussion of their new selection, *The Last Week: A Day-by-Day Account of Jesus' Final Week in Jerusalem* by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan to be discussed during April, May and June. This book follows many of the Borg and Crossan discussion points you may have heard in the Living the Questions series, the MCC Adult Education topic.

In the preface, the authors write, "we do not in this book intend to attempt a historical reconstruction of Jesus' last week on earth. Our purpose is not to distinguish what actually happened from the way it is recorded in the four gospels, which proclaim it as 'good news' (gospel). We intend a much simpler task: to tell and explain, against the background of Jewish high-priestly collaboration with Roman imperial control, the last week of Jesus life on earth as given in the Gospel According to Mark".

The Theological Discussion Group meets every third Wednesday of the month (May 17, and June 21) at 7 p.m. in the MCC downstairs.

MCC Community Group

On Monday, May 15 the MCC Community Group will travel to Kohler WI for the day. They will begin with a factory tour starting at 9:00 a. After that they will tour the Kohler Design Center. They will have lunch at Blackwolf Run Golf Club. After lunch there will be some time to have a self tour of the Kohler Shopping Center before returning to Madison.

This will be an early start, 6:30 a.m. Please call Fred and Jean Loichinger if you would like to be included. We will car pool.

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Youth News & Activities (Check Out the Youth Page of our Website)

Time for Flamingo Flocking...

Well...the flamingos are ready to help us with our last big fundraiser for the San Antonio Youth Gathering. We have 20 plastic flamingos ready to flock your yard, your pastor's yard, your Sunday school teacher's yard, or the yard of a special friend. A flock of 20 flamingos is a great gift to send for a birthday, anniversary, or just to say "Thinking of You!". Flamingos will continue to flock thru June 1.

Here's what you have to do to send the Flamingos flocking...

Fill out a confidential flocking form in the Shalom room and attach cash or a check for \$20 starting now through May 14th. The flamingos will flock the friend's yard of your choice. If you have a specific date you want your friend to be flocked, add a \$5 rush flocking fee. You may flock as many yards as you want.

Here's what will happen if you get flocked...

You'll wake up one morning to 20 beautiful Flamingos flocking in your front yard. You can say a quick prayer... something like, "Thank you God for flamingos!". There will be a little card at your front door explaining the gift of flamingos you have received. The flamingos will be removed

from your yard in 3 days at no charge. OR you can choose to have the flamingos removed immediately and sent on to flock a friend for \$25.

Happy Flocking!

Middle High:

May 5th Bogey's, 5:00 p. - Bring \$10

May 22 Campfire at MCC 7-8:00 p.

June 11-14 Middle High Rafting on the Wolf & Peshtigo Rivers

Senior High:

May 6th- "Scary Movie Night and Sleep-over (for the girls)" at Kelly Todd's 6:30pm. Bring a bag of chips if you want!

May 7th- Sunday Discussion Group- "Pajama Breakfast" at Kelly Todd's -9:00-10:00am.

May 10th- "Parents Upstairs, Youth Downstairs" at the Canons- 7-8pmish.

BWCA people... watch for an email about a time and date to get together prior to the trip.

Sugar Creek Bible Camp week for MCC youth of all ages is July 9-14.

Extra brochures are in the Shalom room. Get your registrations sent into camp ASAP to reserve your spot. Craig and Alli will be there for the beginning part of the week.

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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.



Check out the new calendar, new pictures of CoH Men's Breakfast Group, MCC Film Group, Advent Thursday Breakfast Group, pictures from Iraq and pictures of Earth Day at MCC on April 23.

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.

MCC Sunday School News

HELP WANTED: SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND ASSISTANTS FOR THE 2006-2007 SCHOOL YEAR.

To EVERYONE at the MCC --

I am writing to you as a member of the Sunday School committee, and as an adult who as a child attended Sunday School here at the MCC. Though I am not a parent, I gain much happiness from the children in my lives and I genuinely feel that we have much to share -- to teach children, but just as importantly, to learn from them. It is from this place that I ask you to consider what you might share with and gain from the youth of the MCC. We are looking for teachers for the upcoming school year and still have many different opportunities. We're trying something a little different this year and have a goal of finding FOUR teachers per class for a total of about 30 teachers. Four teachers per class breaks down to two teams of two people each. Each team is only responsible for two Sundays a month and each person then only has to teach one Sunday and assist one other Sunday. Perhaps you have a friend you'd like to teach with? Perhaps you're retired and often out of town? Perhaps you are nervous about committing to several hours of teaching? I am optimistic that our new plan will ease your mind on these and other concerns. A curriculum is provided so you don't have to "wing it."

You don't have to be a parent, you don't have to be a teacher by formal training -- our requirements are like no other job description I've seen in the classifieds. We're looking for people who are nice, friendly, patient and who enjoy children. There are various ages of students to teach, as well as ways that you can be a "helper" to the Sunday school program. I truly believe that the joys and responsibilities of raising children fall not to parents alone. I hope to maintain the MCC's strong tradition of supporting and

nurturing these growing people, which I've experienced myself as a child. Finally, I personally believe that the "grown-up" world has much to gain from children -- to be a witness to their energy, their spirit, their generosity and their delights is to share in the spirit of our Creator and I hope you will join me.

If you'd be interested in teaching or otherwise participating in the Sunday school program, please contact me, Laura Komai or Karen Kuhn. Thank you very much.

TEACHING SUNDAY SCHOOL—Lois Komai

Teaching 2nd grade Sunday School for the last 4 years has been a learning experience, a challenge, and a joy. I thought I had "paid my dues", but when called, perhaps by God, but more specifically by my daughter, Laura, serving on the Youth Education Committee, it was hard to refuse. I remember loving Bible stories when I was young and I wanted to share that love and, hopefully some lessons with some of our young people. Using an inspiring curriculum, *Bible Quest*, Martha McCurdy and I have had fun watching the kids grow as they acted out stories, worked on art projects, and thoughtfully discussed the meaning within the Bible stories.

Me, teach Sunday school?

By Cindy Thiesenhuisen

Laura Komai and I were talking a few Sundays ago and she asked if I would write a little something for the newsletter about my experience teaching Sunday school. "Of course", I said instantly, hoping that

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MCC News and Activities

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she would forget. The great leader that Laura is, she remembered. I am not much for words. I'm one of those... I like to sit in the background and observe. But, Tisha knows me well and knows that I adore children. So, she came home after a meeting one night and said "by the way, I told Laura that you wanted to teach Sunday school". Flopped on the couch watching TV, I looked at her and said "WHAT???" Ok, so, give me a State Statute book and I can go on for hours talking about what is written in there. BUT the Bible? Teach kids about the Bible? Holy Cow! "Tisha, you are crazy!!" I exclaimed. "I can't teach kids about the Bible, what in the world do I know about that book?" "I know you can do it" Tisha said while patting me on the head. "Laura will call you." So for the next few days, while waiting for 'the call', I pondered the parallel that exists between my understanding of the State Statute book and the Bible. Both containing hard and fast rules, but also open to interpretation. A few days later, the 'call' came. Laura happily exclaimed that Tisha said I was interested in teaching Sunday school. I said: "Well, I've never taught kids before, I'm not sure I can" Laura, in her cheery yet calming voice said "sure you can." She continued "How about if you team teach?" "Oh, now that's interesting" I said. "What would that entail?" Laura said that she would pair me with another teacher and we could share responsibilities. "Now I'm listening!!" So, I told Laura that I would give it a shot.

My first year, I was paired with Martha Nack. How in the world could I be so lucky! Martha took on the primary teaching responsibilities. Mary Nack and I stood in the background and played helpers. We were responsible for the 4th and 5th graders. I learned that they don't bite! They are a group of little people that blow my mind, COOL! The year flew by. Then

the next year came. This time, I agreed without much hesitation. This year, it would be just the 5th grade class. Laura said she would try to get some more teachers to team teach. Enter stage left, LisaAnn, Raelene, and Jeff. The four of us took on the 5th grade class. This year, I actually taught a few classes and found that the kids get this stuff no matter how you present it. They are engaged and thoughtful. So, am I going to teach next year? YES, YES I AM!

What am I saying here? I'm saying that even if you think you can't do it, you can. Better yet, the system that works for what the 5th grade class did is fantastic. On an average, each one of us taught 1 or maybe 2 classes a month and when one of us could not be there, we were able to call on one of the awesome substitutes. For those of you counting hours, that's 1 or 2 hours a month! Now, how hard is that? And best of all, you get a chance to spend time with the kids. What could possibly be better than that? Volunteer! Call someone on the youth education board and sign up today!!!

Vacation Bible School

Please join us this summer, June 25-29 for Vacation Bible School! Sugar Creek Bible Camp counselors will be back for an exciting week of songs, games, good times and fun stories! Any child going into 1st grade through 5th grade (current 5th graders are welcome) please mark your calendars and watch for sign-up! Any questions please contact Karen Kuhn.

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MCC News continued—

Youth and Family Ministry at MCC

Craig and Alli Pierce will be resigning their position as youth directors at the end of July. They have both secured teaching positions in Minnesota and will be closer to both of their families. An important question to consider during this time of transition is what is the big picture and vision for youth and family ministry at Madison Christian Community?

Any interested members of MCC are invited to a discussion pertaining to youth and family ministry from 5:30-7:00 pm on May 21 (preceding the Haiti School Scholarship Concert). We are please that Pastor Karen Locken is willing to lead an interactive discussion on this topic. Karen is currently serving at Peace Lutheran in Waukegan. Her ministry has focused on youth and family ministry and she also serves on the staff of The Institute for Youth and Family Ministry in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Bur Oak

Our appreciation is extended to all who helped with the cutting of the bur oak on April 1. Thanks especially to Jackie Muehl who prepared breakfast for the crew, and Jim Muehl who served as crew leader. Wood from one seven-foot section will be cut on April 30. The wood will be cured and eventually something will be crafted from it. Smaller limbs and branches will be put through a chipper and the chips will be used for paths on the property. John Mix has slabs that after being cured will become carvings. The bur oak task force is receptive to any suggestions for other uses of the wood.

Haiti School Scholarship Concert, May 21 at 7:00 p. at MCC

Bryan Sirchio and Marcus Bovary in concert. There will be a free will offering to provide continued support for Haiti school scholarships. Light refreshments will be served.

McGINLEYS AND McGOWNS EXPRESS THANKS

There just aren't words to tell all the wonderful people at the MCC how grateful we are for the care and support lavished upon us following Kevin's death on March 14. We drew strength from your presence, your words, your prayers, and your practical acts of kindness.

Carrie, Kristi and Jackie McGinley
Wayne, Hildy and Dan McGown

Our Second Chance Apartment Family

Thanks two generous MCC families for a used red bike with a new tire for Our Bigger Boy and a used vacuum cleaner. There are several more identified needs--please check your garages and basements (it is Spring Cleaning time) to see if you have any of these items you can share with Our Family:

- a used tricycle for our smaller boy who is 16 months old
- a used dvd/vcr player, or dvd player, or vcr player

Also one of mentors requests the donation of two rubberized, twin sized, mattress pads to protect the mattresses against those surprising too-sleepy-to-get-up-in-the-middle-of-the-night incidents. New or used would be fine. Meanwhile Our Family is working with their mentors weekly. School is going smoother for Our Bigger Boy and Our Mom is working on finalizing her budget and credit clean up items. Keep them all in your prayers--Mentors and Family. Please contact Ann Bolger with any questions/concerns. Thanks.

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MCC News continued

Service of Lament, Sorrow and Hope

More than one hundred people, many of them from the wider community, gathered for a meaningful worship to Lament the War in Iraq on Sunday, April 2, 2006. A freewill offering as an expression of outrage against torture and to support the ongoing work of The Center for Victims of Torture in Minneapolis, Minnesota totaled \$600.00. We received this note from Holly Ziemer at the Center:

Thank you very much for the generous donation to CVT. We all appreciate the opportunity to share information about our work, and the message that, despite the horrors of torture, healing is possible. The gifts from your worship are signs that we can hope and work toward a world where torture will be eliminated and all victims are provided the healing they deserve.

Does being part of a community mean a great deal to you?

How does this sound for a mission statement? "To be what we wish for the world, a diverse and caring community committed to neighborliness and environmental stewardship." If you are curious, and want more information about cohousing, consider coming on May 19th to the MCC. Noted cohousing expert, Laura Fitch (www.krausfitch.com) will be in town for the weekend, working with a group who are planning a cohousing project on the west side of Madison (www.oakpointcohousing.org). On Friday, Oak Point is offering a "Taste of Cohousing" complete with slide show and Q&A by Laura. This opportunity is being offered to MCC members as well as members of the greater Madison area. Friday, May 19 at 7 pm. Dessert and coffee will be offered. If you have questions, call Ellen Lindgren or Sonja & David Keesey-Berg.

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MCC News Continued

MARRIAGE EQUALITY – A PERSONAL VIEW– Lynn Breedlove

I fully support the recent Community of Hope resolution to support equal rights to marriage for all persons (regardless of sexual orientation), and to oppose the proposed amendment to the WI Constitution to ban civil unions. I also applaud the strong affirmation from the UCC General Synod in favor of marriage equality, including its theological basis for that view.

But there's a more personal dimension to this for me as well. My daughter Caitlin announced to Evelyn and me that she was a lesbian in her freshman year of college. Now, 7 years later, she has been in a serious relationship with a woman whom we are quite fond of. They don't know yet if this will turn into a lifetime commitment. If it does, that would be fine with us. Whether or not that happens, it's pretty clear that Caitlin is "the marrying kind". We fully expect her to settle down at some point and have a family.

As with most WI parents, we hope that might happen in Wisconsin. Whether the state passes this amendment will be one of the important factors in Caitlin's and her partner's decision. This event in our state's history is a formal way of saying to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons who already live in WI (including some MCC members) or might consider moving here, one of two things: "We respect and welcome you, and your rights will be protected here," or "This place is hostile to you and your family." I hope we do the right thing.

Fair Wisconsin Phone Canvassing Opportunities

This month's UCC sponsored phone canvasses are taking place on Monday, May 8 (sponsored by Orchard Ridge, UCC), Tuesday May 16 (sponsored by First Congregational, UCC) and Sunday May 28. If you are interested in participating in any of these phone canvasses, please contact Justin Sweet at 441-0143 ext 306 or Justin.sweet@actionwisconsin.org.

Fair Wisconsin Door-to-Door Canvassing Opportunities in May

Thousands of Wisconsinites don't yet know about the far-reaching consequences of the ban or the effects it will have on families all over the state. That's why we're launching extensive door-to-door canvassing efforts in 13 cities.

Before you knock on your first door, Fair Wisconsin will help you learn how to talk with voters and will pair you with a partner to work with. Throughout the day, you'll feel the immediate effects of your work: changed minds. Join us as we fan across the state.

Door to Door canvasses will take place on Saturday, May 6, 20 and 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Each canvass meets in a different location around the city of Madison. Go to www.fairwisconsin.com for location information and to sign up for a canvass or contact pabitra.benjamin@fairwisconsin.com for more information.

List of Items you can donate for Iraq:

Hard candy, coffee, microwave popcorn, DVD movies, razors, toiletries - personal items that provide some comfort or ease.

There is an unbounded need for children's toys and clothing for young children, even if used. Anything a person would be proud to hand to a child here can be sent to Iraq so that a US military person can be proud to hand it to a child there. Fabric is welcome.

The CSM at the hospital still accepts National Geographics and would like red, white, and blue items to use in decorating areas in the hospital.

Comic books are a big hit. (Half-Price Books, Westside or Eastside are good sources.

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MCC News Continued

Sad News from Iraq

We just received this email from Chaplain Park: *I am so sorry to send mail lately. It is really crazy and unbelievable. I still can't accept what is happening to me and my unit. I think that you probably already know through CNN or FOX News. It was broadcasted to all the world. Today my unit lost three nice guys. The last 13 days my unit lost 7 guys including those today. I know you and your church are still praying for my unit. I am very sorry about this bad news. However I really appreciate your boxes and prayers.*

Army Capt Ian Weikel, age 31, was one of the 13. A Denver CO newspaper article is on the bulletin board. Brad Spencer says "Capt Weikel is just the kind of soldier I think of as distributing to the children of Iraq, what we send in our boxes."

Famous Footwear will be donating new children's shoes (Ann Bolger's efforts) and Don Falkos is connecting to the storytelling community for donations.

Thanks to Doug Johnson and Brad Spencer for packing boxes this week. List of items to donate is on page 9.

Rain Barrels- A nice way to start saving water.

Dane County is blessed with a wealth of water resources. This bounty includes 37 lakes, 475 miles of streams and 14 miles of the Wisconsin River. As a county, we make ample use of our water supply, consuming an astounding 42 million gallons a day! A look at your water bill reminds us this consumption comes at significant financial cost, but it also has an environmental impact. A nice way to start conserving is by installing a rain barrel to collect rain water for garden and landscape use. Rain barrels collect water that is naturally softened and can be delivered to garden soil through irrigation or soaking hoses. Barrel systems come with diverters that redirect flow back to the gutter when the barrel is full. Currently, SustainDane is accepting orders for rain barrels and they will install them! Barrels will be delivered on May 6th and 13th and cost \$99 for a single and \$150 for a double barrel system. More information, including a set of frequently asked questions about rain. Barrels can be found at http://www.sustaindane.org/main/rainbarrel_right.htm or by calling 608-819-0689.

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Coming Events

- May 5-6 ELCA Synod Assembly
- May 7 Mt Olivet Choir from MPLS sings at Advent Service followed by lunch
- May 7 11:30 a. Faith Inclusion Network with Advent
- May 14 Community of Hope Confirmation Sunday
- May 14 Advent New Member Sunday
- May 20 Global Connections Event: *Cuba, Pearl of the Antilles* with Chuck Pils, 7 p.
- May 21 *MCC Sundae Sunday* – Last day of education and Teacher Appreciation
- May 21 Enjoy your ice cream and a program of *Stories by Storyteller Don Falkos*.
- May 21 *Youth & Family Ministry Discussion* with Karen Locken, 5:30 p.
- May 21 *Haiti School Scholarship Concert* with Bryan Sirchio & Marcus Bovary, 7p.
- May 28 Summer Worship schedule begins – 9:30 a.
- May 28 Advent Confirmation Sunday
- June 11-14 Middle High Rafting on the Wolf and Peshtigo Rivers
- June 13-20 Senior High Boundary Waters Trip
- June 24 Farmers Market Pick-up
- June 24 Touching Body and Soul: A Grace-full Labyrinth Walk, 9 a–4:30 p.
- June 25-29 Vacation Bible School with Sugar Creek Staff
- June 30 Mother/Daughter Retreat, 4:00 p-12:00 a.
- Sept 14-16 New Pictorial Directory Pictures will be taken.

Advent News

Confirmation Sunday, May 28

When we gather to worship on Sunday, May 28 we will also be celebrating the lives of seven young men and women who will be affirming their baptismal relationship with Christ and his community of faith. It is also a day to celebrate our walk as a congregation with this group of people and to express our encouragement in continuing faithfulness. Our prayers are with Adam Schneider, Joe Thompson, Kristi McGinley, Gretchen Kloster, Cody Cook, Connor Todd, Katherine Canon and Tyler Fyrst as they prepare for Confirmation Day.

Graduations

High School graduates will be honored at worship on June 4. Their names along with college graduates will be published in the June newsletter. Congratulations are in order to Zubah Gorvego who will receive a degree in accounting from Upper Iowa University on May 6. Rob Fyrst will be graduating from the University of Wisconsin with a double major in sociology and political science on May 14. Rob does not have any out of town family or friends traveling to celebrate with him and therefore wishes to extend an invitation to members of MCC to celebrate this milestone. Rob is planning a party at 4:00 pm at a place to be announced. You are also welcome to attend his graduation at 2:00 pm at the Kohl Center on Sunday, May 14. Also, congratulations to Melissa Hind who will be graduating from MATC with a degree in nursing.

New Member Sunday, May 14

In addition to giving thanks for all mothers we will officially welcome new members into the congregation on Sunday, May 14. One of our council members had the audacity to suggest that we refrain from serving cookies and bars because of the burden it puts on women on Mother's Day. Advent men, it can't be that hard to make a batch of cookies or bars. Please join me in providing some goodies for the new member reception by signing the *For Men Only—Cookie and Bar* list. (You can always pick something up at the grocery store.) (Brad Spencer adds, *including gourmet chocolate cookie dough*). Jeff

Haiti Partners

Sponsorship Program Aiding Relationship and Education (SPARE) is a mission partnership at MCC. Individual members from both congregations have made a relational and financial commitment to sponsor a student's education. However, four students were supported from the proceeds of a resale held at MCC and now that funding has run out. In order to assure continued support for these four students the Treasury of Love offering will be designated for SPARE one Sunday each month. We hope this designation will be above and beyond the amount of money usually donated to Treasury of Love to help people locally who are in financial crisis.

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Advent News Continued



Judith Circle

The Judith Circle will be meeting on May 9, 2006 from 9AM to 11AM at the home of Doris Roberts. We will have a social hour followed by a Bible study. You are welcome to join us.

Treasury of Love thru April 25, 2006

Beginning Balance	651.00
Love Offerings to-date	2503.20
Wexford Women	45.00
Income	3,199.20
Rent & Eviction Prevention	1,667.00
Security Deposits	450.00
Utility Assistance	269.00
Iraq Postage	403.20
Car payment	200.00
Court Mandated payment	100.00
Wexford Women's Program	45.00
Registration Fee Trust	<u>65.00</u>
Expenditure	3,199.20
Balance as of 4/25/2006	\$0.00

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 pm. 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-

OPALS meets the third Thursdays of the month all year long. We meet at 7:00 pm on the lower level of the church. New members are welcome.

The May book is *The Spiral Staircase* by Karen Armstrong. Autobiography-the spiritual journey of a woman who left the convent in 1962 after 7 years and struggled with epilepsy and faith to a new relationship with God.

Please join us at our meeting at 7 pm on May 18th in the youth room-lower level of the church.

Advent Women:

Come for Thursday Coffee!

A lively group of "church ladies" meets on Thursday mornings at 7:00 a.m. at the Atlanta Bread Co, 3250 University Ave.

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!

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Community of Hope Special Report by Ann Bolger

Southwest Association UCC Annual Spring Meeting Report

The United Church of Christ Southwest Association Annual Spring Meeting was held at Janesville First Congregational UCC on Saturday, April 22, 2006 from 9 a to 3 p. It was a beautiful spring day and attendees from Community of Hope UCC, Madison Christian Community, Pastor Tisha Brown, Ecumenical Pastor Katrin Wuest, Roger Buffett, Ann Bolger, Jan Summers, and Mary Nack, enjoyed a lovely, sunny drive both ways.

The meeting started as it always does, with registering and eating a walk-around-breakfast while visiting with the UCC members from our corner of Wisconsin that we often run into at these meetings. Once we got into the sanctuary and Meg Shepard, Interim Minister for Janesville First Congregational, had welcomed us and introduced us to the church we were holding this meeting in (the actual building was an outpost of the Underground Railroad during our Civil War, we had one of my favorite parts of these meetings—the Roll Call of Congregations. During the Roll Call, the Moderator calls out the name of each church in the Southwest Association and representative members of each congregation stand up in recognition of their church. This time we had six members to stand for Community of Hope during the roll call. Some churches have one or two; some have none; some have as many as ten or twelve—it just depends on how many attend and/or how close a particular church is to the meeting church. You really know you belong to a larger church community when you see others stand and then you stand for your congregation during this All Association Roll Call.

After the Roll Call comes another of my favorite parts of the meeting—the Hymn Sing. The congregation stands and one after another call out the numbers of their favorite hymns from the song book and which verses to sing until the moderator calls out, "One last song!" One last song

is sung and then we move into the program for the meeting. The program this time was "Bear One Another's Burdens" and we had speakers from Partners in Palestine, Partners in Prison Ministry, and Partners in Hurricane Relief.

Our Partners in Palestine were a group who visited Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem. They spent ten days visiting in the Jerusalem area with both Arabs and Jews working to understand the complexity of their politics and living there. Two of the visitors were teachers and spent time in local schools enjoying meeting the children and teachers of this conflicted land. They came away with an understanding that the Palestinians feel close to this land because it is their ancestral land where their families have lived for hundreds of years, while the Israelites feel close to the land because it is the land the God of the Bible promised to them for their very own. Also, there are the Palestinian and world Christians who feel that our God's promise is not of this world, but another. The visitors did not attempt to offer a resolution to the serious and dangerous situation in Palestine, but they do offer concern, prayer, and support for all the people caught up in this conflict. One amazing fact is that the area fought over is the size of the American state of New Jersey. Such a small place for such a huge controversy.

Reverend Jerry Hancock, who is director of The Prison Ministry Project, represented our Partners in Prison Ministry. The Prison Ministry Project is a parish ministry of word and sacrament for the people in prison (inmates and staff) and their respective families. Our prison system is fair, but not just. Reverend Hancock spent 30 years as a lawyer in the Wisconsin criminal justice system. Five years ago, he received a call from God to serve this system in a different way. He knows that many prisoners belong in prison, but that does not mean we can

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Continued from page 15.

abandon them. Victims and prisoners suffer in common from criminal acts. Our current prisons are not humane—they are too crowded, the Truth in Sentencing Act gives prisoners no hope of getting out for transformative behavior, and an African-American or Hispanic-American is 218 times more likely to be in prison than a Euro-American. Reverend Hancock wants to take Truth to Power by working with both the prisoners in our prisons and the legislators in our State Capital to improve the conditions and lives of all those who are involved in the system. This is a young ministry, barely three months old, officially. But it is fair, smart and timely for Wisconsin to upgrade its treatment of our prison population—including both inmates and guards and their respective families.

Then we had lunch, and, oh my, they do serve a good lunch at these Association meetings. Did I mention that one of my favorite parts of these meetings is the opportunity to travel around the state and see all the wonderful and different churches that are a part of our denomination? Each biannual meeting takes place in a different church so we really get to see the variety and beauty of the actual buildings housing our congregations.

After lunch, we watched three separate video and PowerPoint slide programs about our Partners in Hurricane Relief in which we saw the Before Hurricane and After Hurricane of volunteer work. The first group was from Immanuel UCC and they took 20 youth to the Back Bay Mission area in Biloxi, Mississippi to side and paint the home of a Mr. Henry Garfield Jones. A month after their trip Hurricane Katrina came by and tore two pieces of siding off of Mr. Jones house but—because Mr. Jones had picked out a deep green color for the paint on his house—he was able to find the torn off pieces of siding and repair the holes himself. They did a good, solid job of

installing the new siding on his home for first-timers. The second group were 33 people from Mineral Point and Dodgeville who combined their congregations to drive in a caravan of 7 vans to Pass Christian, Mississippi to help with cleanup after the Hurricane. They slept in the public library, ate meals in God's Katrina Kitchen, and worked with a melting pot of natives and volunteers to do what they could to advance the cleanup after Katrina. They wondered how they could make a difference in all the loss and devastation they saw. They realized that they were continuing what others had started and their work would be finished by others who would come after them. There are years of work to be done in Mississippi to clean up after Katrina and Rita.

After the program presentation we had a short business meeting to elect new officers, introduce new clergy members, thank those who had served the association and were now stepping down, and discuss how the Association was working in general. Then we had worship with communion, another one of my favorite parts of the Association Meeting. Bob Mutton's sermon stressed that as we are the blessed and beloved of the Lord, therefore we are a blessing to the world as a witness to the Lord's love. As so ably demonstrated by the partners in our program, we are busy bearing the burdens of our siblings in Christ Jesus.

If you noticed how many parts of this meeting are my favorite parts, you were paying attention. I would hope that each one of you would have an opportunity to attend at least one Southwest Association meeting during your participation in Community of Hope UCC. As an ecumenical community, there is no better place to realize and relish the depth of our diversity than by seeing it well and living in our community of United Church of Christ congregations in Southwest Wisconsin.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Bolger

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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 but whom we love: Mary Beth and Steve Udvari and Wilma Sanks
- All military personnel and their families
- Neil Kanetzke and family
- Peter Streiff-Stuessy as he continues to recover from surgery
- Donna Leet as she cares for her ailing mother
- All who are frustrated in their attempts to find meaningful work.

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

- Apr. 25 – May 2 Chuck and Jean Pfeifer, the Powell family
- May 2-9 Wilma Sanks, the Schuettpeiz family
- May 9-16 Beth Simmons, Bonnie and Gene Spindler
- May 16-23 Bob and Chris Sessions, Jan Summers
- May 23-30 Petra Streiff and Larry Stuessy, Bonnie Trudell
- May 30-June 6 Mary Beth and Steve Udvari, the van der Weide family, Katrin Wuest

Strengthen the Church

On Sunday, June 4 we will be receiving the Strengthen the Church special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. Through our gifts to Strengthen the Church, we further our commitment to be a multiracial, multicultural church, open and affirming and accessible to all. We strengthen and renew existing congregations. We fund leadership for new congregations. We

provide exciting new programs for youth and young adults. We fund leadership development for the whole church. Your generous gifts are used, half by the Wisconsin Conference and half by Local Church Ministries, for these purposes.

The Rev. Kelly Sisson, pastor of Glade Baptist Church in Blacksburg, Virginia, explained why her formerly Southern Baptist congregation chose affiliation with the UCC. "The UCC placed a comma in our lives where the Southern Baptists had placed a period," she said. "We reached the conclusion that the church's leadership had abandoned fundamental Baptist principles—local church autonomy, religious liberty and the priesthood of all believers," says Judy Sewell, a lay leader in the congregation. "But we found these values in the UCC. It was a good fit." Money from Strengthen the Church has assisted this congregation as it changed its denominational affiliation.

Important Dates to Remember!



Birthdays

Sam Catlett-Sirchio	5/10
Emma Catlett-Sirchio	5/10
Barb Bickford	5/13
Twyla Clark	5/16
Bryan Sirchio	5/18
Dan van der Weide	5/21
Michelle Erschen	5/22
Mary Bowman	5/30

Anniversaries

Freddie & Bill Feeny	5/29
Steve & Theresa Haffner-Stearns	5/31
Betty & Corkey Custer	5/31

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

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Community of Hope News continued

Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting June 9-11, 2006 at Green Lake Confer- ence Center

The theme of this year's Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Conference, UCC is "Neighbors Around Christ's Table... Where Two or Three are Gathered." This theme lifts up the ways in which we are brought together in ministry in rural and urban settings. Speakers include Rev. Tony Pappas, a popular speaker on issues of church revitalization and Rev. John Thomas, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. Dr. Deborah Krause, professor at Eden Seminary, will lead a Bible study.

This year Tisha Brown, Cindy Thiesenhusen, Katrin Wuest, Jan Summers, Mary Nack, and Roger Buffett will attend from Community of Hope.

Interfaith Hospitality Network Coordi- nator Needed

The congregations of the MCC work together in ministry with Orchard Ridge, UCC and the Interfaith Hospitality Network to provide food and shelter to families that are homeless four weeks each year. Community of Hope is in need of a coordinator to work with Aaron Anding from Advent to recruit volunteers during our week of service and to provide volunteer coordination at the shelter one night during our week. If you are interested in serving in this way, please contact Mark Geistlinger or Aaron Anding.

Tisha's May Vacation

Tisha will be taking a week of vacation from May 1 through May 8. She will return on Tuesday, May 9. Pastoral care needs can be directed to either Katrin Wuest or Jeff Wild.

Thank You for your generosity

This year we collected over \$800 for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. These funds will assist Church World Service in responding to disasters and human need all over the world.

Thank you from the Crossing

The students and staff of The Crossing Campus Christian Center send a huge thank you to Community of Hope, UCC for serving us a meal on February 26, 2006. We especially thank the cooks and servers. Those we know of are: Martha McCurdy and Marcella Van Kan, Mary Bowman, Dave and Barbara Dueholm, Ann Bolger, Julie Hunter, Beth Simmons, Petra Streiff and Rebecca Payne. In the midst of your busy lives, we are grateful to you for remembering us!

Hope Men's Breakfast

The men of Hope meet every first and third Wednesdays at 6:30 AM to have breakfast at The Original Pancake House, 5518 University Avenue. We enjoy good food, warm friendship and interesting conversation. At our last breakfast, among other things, we heard the tales of a Tax Assessor (and you think *you* have an exciting life?). Our next breakfasts will be on May 3rd and 17th.

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Our Larger Community

Farm Fresh Eggs for Sale:

Enjoy local eggs each and every week. The Treinen Family Farm of Lodi acquired lots of egg-laying hens and is looking for anyone interested in buying eggs. The hens are free range and fed a diet that is medication free. They are really good eggs. Orders would be placed and paid for on Sunday and the eggs would be delivered to church toward the end of the week for pick up the following Sunday. The price is \$2.50 per dozen. The eggs range in size but are mostly large, x-large and even some jumbo. Orders would be first come, first served and there would probably be 5 to 10 dozen available each week. If you are interested, please contact Sue Young.

Healing Place: A Native American Celebration Presented by The Festival Choir May 6, 2006 7:30 pm at Asbury Methodist Church

Travel into the spirit world to celebrate Madison's unique history as a place of healing, peace, and well-being. World-renowned Native American composer Brent Michael Davids joins us for his new work based on Madison's "Taychoperah" heritage, commissioned for Madison's Sesquicentennial by the Festival Choir. With rich and haunting compositions by American composers with deep Wisconsin Roots and by the Festivians' own favorite, Jean Belmont.

Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus Spring Concert on June 3rd and 4th.

This year's concert is titled "Everything Possible!", a concert which will look back and forward with songs from PHMC's past as well as a debut of new performances. Additionally this concert will have a political twist, as PHMC will recognize the upcoming statewide referendum of the constitutional amendment to define marriage, between a man and a woman. Through music the members of PHMC will express that freedom is deserved by all. Visit their website at www.perfectharmonychorus.org.

Oakwood Service League Information:

Resale Shop will be open **Saturday, May 27 from 9:00 – 4:00**, 6203 Mineral Point Road. The Shop is filled with furniture, glassware, household items, dishes, jewelry, linens, tools, books and lots more! Price reductions are given from 3:00 – 4:00 pm. For more information call Lori at (608)230-4264.

One-Bedroom Apartments Immediately Available at Oakwood Village West:

Oakwood Village West currently has several one-bedroom apartments available for immediate occupancy. Residents receive the benefits of an on-site grocery store, housekeeping, pharmacy, and therapy services, pastoral care services, a wide array of activities, and the option of evening meals. Oakwood Village is proud to now offer RCAC (residential care apartment complex) services to all of our Apartments residents, meaning residents, for an additional charge, can have Oakwood staff provide health services for them in their apartment. Please call Hannah Fitting at (608) 230-4266 for more information.

Church Women United in Madison May 5 is Friendship Day—"Signs of Growth"

The program: *Visitors from Lodi: How Lodi Churchwomen Work Together.*

9:30 a. Coffee
10:15 a. Annual Meeting & Election of Officers
11:00 a. Service of Celebration
12:00 p. Luncheon

Host Church: Memorial United Church of Christ, 5705 Lacy Rd, Fitchburg.

Wednesday Watershed Walks

April through June 21 there are watershed walks each Wednesday. The entire list is posted on the bulletin board in the Shalom Room. The first one was great!

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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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Ann Bolger
Barbara Dueholm,
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Bruce Jarvis

Advent Council
Doug Johnson
Jack Benjamin
David Canon, President
Sarah Zutz
Jim Muehl
Joanna McDonald
JoAnne Streit

MCC Logo Design by
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.

Madison Christian Community
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