



The Good Word

September 2006

Sabbatical Coming to a Close

Dear Friends,

The three month sabbatical you graciously afforded me will come to an end on Labor Day weekend. I will shift into full throttle on Tuesday, September 4, but I feel obligated to inform you about the process leading up to my plans to retire.

In the springtime I was not shy about sharing my excitement for taking a sabbatical this summer. I also was apprehensive, but kept this to myself. I was confident that you would get along fine without me. Our dedicated staff, responsible leadership and faithful members, not me, are what make MCC a vital community of faith. What I didn't know was how I would adjust to three months without working, because I often feel that I should be doing something even when my time is unscheduled. Rumor has it that the staff was betting on how often I would check in at the office! I wondered how guilty I would feel not being present for people in need of pastoral care. I wondered if I could not be what I have been now for half my life, a pastor serving a parish.

I kid you not, I am surprised to say that I didn't have any difficulty adjusting to this change because I cherished every day as though it was a gift both from God and you. Therefore, I was motivated by gratitude to use this time to honor its purpose rather than to squander it away. Daily exercise, deeper engagement in prayer, hiking the Ice Age Trail, biking the rail

trails, canoeing on the rivers in Southern Wisconsin, leisure time with Nan, and a wonderful trip to Holden Village in the Cascade Mountains of Washington was nothing less than rejuvenating.

I've heard pastors who have been on sabbaticals say that this was a leading factor contributing to long-term pastorates. Speaking now from experience, I can see how this would be true and it is for this reason that I plan to retire in 2025! Twenty more years of service as pastor of Advent/MCC means that I will work three more five-year increments, each followed by a three-month sabbatical. After the fourth cycle you can put me out to pasture! Deal?

I've also heard pastors say that one of the greatest joys of being a pastor is the privilege of sharing in the most significant events of peoples' lives: baptisms, funerals and weddings. Sabbatical time has taught me that in addition to the privilege of sharing in these most important times, the greatest joy of being pastor in a congregation arises from the constancy of ordinary day-to-day life. I can't wait to catch up with all of you, hear about your summer and how your loved ones are faring. I look forward to gathering with you every Sunday to worship and celebrate God's steadfast love. I am eager to partner with you in the mission and ministry of God's church. I look forward to seeing you in September newness. Jeff Wild

Of Special Interest:

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MCC News

Food Drives for Wexford Ridge Food Pantry

St. Thomas Aquinas, which also supports the Wexford Ridge Food Pantry, holds a food drive every other month and usually about 50 grocery bags are delivered to the food pantry.

Those of us who volunteer at this food pantry would like to see a similar project here at MCC on the alternate months. The suggestion came from Sonja.

We are asking that members of Hope and Advent make a special effort to bring food on the 3rd Sunday of odd-numbered months beginning on September 17. (This coordinates well with the Kanetzkes request in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary).

Suggested items include: canned goods (fruit, vegetables, tuna, beef stew etc.), peanut butter, jelly, cereal, large containers of fruit juice.

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 food pantry.

A reminder will appear in the bulletins on the 2nd Sunday of the appropriate months.

Dobbin McNatt, Coordinator, Wexford Ridge Food Pantry

SEPTEMBER 17th = 50th CELEBRATION for Howard and Lucetta

Howard and Lucetta Kanetzke will host a celebration of their 50th anniversary following services, sharing time with friends from Hope and Advent. There will be a light lunch and a time for sharing memories--nostalgic, humorous, musical or entertaining. No gifts, please, but do remember IHN or the food pantry.

JAVA FOR JUSTICE—

A reminder to place your coffee order by the first Sunday of each month (September 3rd...a holiday weekend so plan ahead if you are going to be out of town). It will be ready for pick-up the following Sunday (September 10th).

FYI – we imported twice as much coffee in 2006 as previously...a total of 18 ton! We are working with a new roaster in Milwaukee who is distributing to specialty grocery stores. (You can now buy Mt. Meru coffee at Brennan's in case you run out during the month. And they are returning \$1/pkg to the project. However, purchase at MCC first! Your purchase not only supports the coffee farmer and his family but church schools and health clinics as well. Make checks out to Mt. Meru Coffee Project **WHEN** you place your order. \$8/bag of regular or decaf bean, drip or perk or \$38/4 pound bag for those of you who are big coffee drinkers. Thanks for your wonderful support!

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Fellowship Groups & Activities

PRAIRIE PROJECT – Join the prairie work group at MCC and the Pheasant Branch Conservancy –Dane CO. Park area to help restore/maintain sections of both prairies. Watch the weekly announcements for when and where the group will work. If you would like to do service-learning concerning prairies, this is a wonderful opportunity. Each session has a bit of learning with a bit of work. To be on the "call" or "email" list, contact Lois or Susan Gruber.

GEMS (Grumpy Elderly Men) will reassemble on Tuesday, September 12th at 10:30, lower level of MCC. The book we begin discussing will be Tomorrow's Faith: A New Framework of Christian Belief by Adrian B. Smith. The book will be available before September 1st at the church office. I look forward to another 9 months of fellowship, learning and discussion. Stan Klyve

MCC Community Group

MCC Community Group will have a potluck following church services on Sunday, Sept. 24. Think of things you would like to do in the fall/winter, we will be setting up the schedule of activities. Anyone interested in Community Group is welcome to attend!!

The Theological Discussion Group will meet September 20 at 7:00 p.

The third Wednesday of the month from September through May a group of people gather at 7 p.m. at MCC to discuss a book. Last year, we read Joan Chittister's Becoming Fully Human and Marcus Borg and John Crossan's The Last Week, a Day-by-Day Account of Jesus' Final Week in Jerusalem. The group usually discusses two books throughout the fall and winter/spring season. Come for interesting discussion. The fall selection has yet to be determined.

MCC Film Group 2006 Fall Schedule

The Film Group will meet on September 22 at Ann Bolger's to view *Walk the Line*. We will add more details to our film list on Sept. 22. Please send your film suggestions to Larry Eriksson and he will put out the list of suggestions for the group's con-

sideration. If you like watching films and haven't joined this group yet, please consider doing so.

Date	Film	Location
Sept. 22,	<i>Walk the Line</i>	at Ann Bolger's
Oct. 27, 2006	TBD	Komai's
Nov. 17, 2006	TBD	TBD
Dec. 15, 2006	TBD	Eriksson's

The "One-Club Golf Outing" is Back!!!

Middle High and Senior High Youth, and any adults who enjoy being involved with Youth are invited to participate on Sunday, September 10th, beginning at 3pm, at Glenway Golf Course. This golf outing is open to all levels of players - no experience is needed and no bags or carts are allowed -- you bring only one golf club! The outing is a "scramble" * (see below) and prizes will be awarded for various "events." Costs: about \$25 for adults, about \$15 for youth under 18. Please RSVP to Katrin, as soon as possible. We need to reserve tee times for this so please let us know, no later than **September 7th**. *A 4-person Scramble is a competition format that is exactly what it sounds like: a scramble in which the teams consist of four players each. After each shot, the best of the four shots is selected and all players play from that spot, until the ball is holed. One team score is recorded. Awards will be given out at the potluck!

Please join us for a **family potluck** following the One Club Golf Outing. We will meet around 5:15 at Westmoreland Park which is on the north side of Tokay Blvd and west side of Westmoreland Blvd. We **will not be able to use the shelter**, so please don't count on electricity to keep things warm. Bring lots of blankets or chairs. There will be a couple of coolers of lemonade available. Bring whatever other beverages you might like and your own picnic dishes.

Many families will have some golfing and some not. For those who aren't old enough to golf, please meet at the park with frisbees and other fun outdoor games. We will meet around 3:00 at Westmoreland Park. In case of rain, the potluck will be held at MCC at 5:30 pm. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

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Youth News & Activities

Senior High Youth:

Oct 22 "Amazing G-RACE"

The G-RACE will be run like the popular CBS TV reality show. Teams will follow clues to make their way around the greater Madison and Dane County area on a race to the finish line at an undisclosed location. The team that crosses the finish line first will win the First Place Trophy, bragging rights and a sum of money will be donated to the charity of their choosing. The Amazing G-RACE is organized by the First Congregational UCC. A team will consist of a group of Sr. High Youth accompanied by two adults, one adult to drive and one adult to capture the event on camera. A church may have more than one team. Youth and adults - Let me know if you'd like to participate!

Middle High: Retreat - time

"Knock Knock" is for Middle School students, grades 6-8. Nov 17-19, at Pilgrim Center.

The founding verse of Knock Knock is Revelation 3.20: "Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me." Five workshop-doors are dealing in creative ways with themes like family, friendship, hurt, and influence. The fifth workshop is a play-shop.

There is plenty of time in between the workshops to get to know the youth from the other churches and have fun together. For more information call Katrin.

VISITATIONS —To get to know you even better I'd like to come and visit you. I'll call you, but to make it easier for me you are welcomed to give me a call as well to let me know what might be a good time for you and your family for having me over. Call Katrin.

Please help! The Sunday School program is looking for people to be substitutes/shepherds.

In case any teachers need substitutes, we like to have a list of people who'd be willing to teach. We also ask those people to be a "shepherd" approximately once every two months. This involves being available in the Sunday School office to help teachers with photocopies, and supervising timeouts. If you can help, please contact Micki Bradt or Laura Komai. Thank you.

6th & 7th Graders are invited to participate in a program that's called "Our Whole Lives" (OWL), a sexuality program that is offered to the 6th & 7th graders at Orchard Ridge UCC every other year.

The OWL program is an abstinence-based comprehensive sexuality program that consists of 28 sessions of middle school students. It is a program that honors young people by honoring their questions and providing them with accurate information, as well as teaching them healthy relationship skills.

Here are some tentative dates:

Parent Orientation: Tuesday, Sept 19th at 6:30 p. It is important to have parents attend this, even if another child has gone through the program.

Opening Retreat: Sept 29-30

Weekly Sessions: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays beginning on Oct 3, 6:30-8:30 p.

Mid-Year Retreat: January 12-13

Odd Session Out:

Feb 20 rescheduled to Feb 27

Final Retreat: April 27-28 at Pilgrim Ctr.

For more information contact Katrin.

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MCC News — Helping our members help others!

Racing for a Reason—Help Darren Fortney Help local cancer patients!

Darren's own experience with cancer when he was in his first year of college at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has lead him to want to help others. He has another challenge—raising money for cancer patients through participation in the 2006 Ironman Wisconsin Triathlon. His goal is to raise over \$10,000 for the UW Comprehensive Cancer Center and Mindfulness Program. He will be swimming 2.4 miles, biking 112 miles and running 26.2 miles that day.

Every dollar raised will go directly to locally treated cancer patients in the form of cancer-related treatments and services. Make checks payable to *UWF - Mindfulness Program* and send to Ann Johnson, UW Comprehensive Cancer Center, 600 Highland Av, Rm K4/658, Madison WI 53792-6164.

September 30th will mark 12 years of Jean Pfeifer's participation in AIDS WALK WISCONSIN.

Since my brother's death on September 25, 1994, it has been a good way to remember and honor him. Since I first participated in this walk, the number of participants has dropped dramatically. As with many such events, the enthusiasm and energy seems to flag as the years progress; though the seriousness of the HIV/AIDS crisis has not diminished. Many, if not most of us, know or have known someone with HIV/AIDS. My goal is to raise a minimum of \$250. Any contribution you can make (no amount is too small) is greatly appreciated. I will need your contribution no later than September 29th. Checks to AIDS WALK WISCONSIN; given or sent to me. Thank you more than I can say. Jean Pfeifer

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Fair Wisconsin Canvassing Opportunities

The campaign to oppose the proposed ban on civil unions and marriage, which will be voted on this November, will be decided based on how many people we can talk to about the ban and encourage to vote. The best way to have these conversations is by going door-to-door. Throughout the months of September and October, Fair Wisconsin will be canvassing 4 days per week all over Dane County. For more information regarding times and locations of canvasses, go to www.fairwisconsin.org.

The United Church of Christ Congregations in Madison will be sponsoring two door-to-door canvasses in the coming months. The first will be on Saturday, September 30 and the second on Saturday, October 21. If you plan to join in on either of these canvasses, please contact Tisha.

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS – Exciting events have been planned for the year to raise awareness of our global brothers and sister and to share personal experiences from individuals who have lived/worked/served in various parts of the world. Watch the weekly announcements for details on scheduled events. Featured will be Cuba, Malawi, the Gambia, Haiti, China, Mexico, the Muslim world.

October 14 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 five 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.

MCC News and Activities

Parish Protection Program Update

The Leadership Team approved implementation of the Madison Christian Community Parish Protection Program for Children and Youth at its August 8 meeting. This program is in part a set of policies and procedures and recommended behavioral guidelines, which will help to ensure that when children participate in ministry programming at the MCC they are in a safe, nurturing environment. Our insurance company as well as both the UCC and the ELCA encouraged us to develop and implement such a program to not only protect our children but also our volunteers and our church as a whole. If you would like to review a copy of this document, you may contact Tisha Brown to request a copy.

The main way that the Parish Protection Program will effect ministry at the MCC is that from now on, all members of the MCC who are interested in doing ministry with children and youth will be asked to complete an application form, submit to a criminal records background check and attend a training session. Personal references will also be contacted. The training session will discuss the program and its requirements as well as educate volunteers about how to identify, report and prevent child abuse in its many forms.

Another way in which this program will impact our ministry is through requiring a minimum number of adults to be present when children or youth activities are taking place at the MCC or when we take our children or youth away from the MCC. All of the measures outlined in this program are designed to minimize the chances for abusive behavior to occur, which protects everyone involved. If you have any questions about this program or how it will be implemented feel free to contact either Tisha Brown or Martha Nack.

Rally Sunday – Sunday September 10 Christian Education – 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m.

Sunday, September 10 will be a special Sunday at the Madison Christian Community. Why is that? Well, because we will be returning to our 10:15 worship time and starting another year of Christian Education for all ages at 9:00 a.m. Also, this will be a special Sunday because we will be welcoming Jeff Wild back into the fold after his summer sabbatical. I'm sure we're all excited to hear about all the wonderful things Jeff did while he was away and to reap the benefits of his renewed energy and enthusiasm after an extended time of rest and relaxation. I'm looking forward to reading the book he worked on and hearing all about his hiking, biking and canoeing adventures.

But, the fun doesn't stop there because we will also be marking the successful completion of Rev. Katrin Wuest's year as our Ecumenical Associate Pastor and bidding her farewell as she heads home to Germany for some well-deserved rest and relaxation. Happily, she won't be gone for long, as she returns in October to take up her role as the Director of Children and Youth Ministry.

Finally, Sunday September 10 is a special day because every day we have the opportunity to gather together as the body of Christ in worship is a special day. See you in worship! Tisha

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MCC News continued—

Sunday Morning Adult Education
September 10 *The Slow Travel Movement and Discovering A Place Again for the First Time* led by Jeff Wild and based upon his sabbatical experience.

Living the Questions Series

This series will pick up where we left off in the spring. No previous participation is necessary to attend these sessions. The number of weeks devoted to *Living the Questions* will be determined by other topics yet to be chosen by the Adult Education Committee.

Garden or Forest? Abundance follows Gardeners

Can't see the forest for the trees? You know the expression. This year MCC gardeners with Wexford Ridge Neighborhood Center (WRNC) children gardeners named parts of the garden a forest. A forest of tomatoes. A forest of tomatilloes. A forest of potatoes. A forest of squash. Our garden runneth over. Surely, goodness follows us. But mercy! Help! We need tomato cages to hold the 2-pound Brandywine tomatoes off the ground.

For a third summer, MCC and WRNC gardeners enjoyed growing plants from seeds and starters. Twenty-one elementary children, ages 6 to 10, met with MCC gardeners every Monday and Thursday from 10 to 11:45 a.m. during their eight weeks of WRNC Summer Camp. Again as in years past, the MCC gardeners experienced the growth of new crops of plants and children.

What fun it is to garden again with children who returned from last summer. This year Houa and Pa Nou along with Eileen Bolstad were featured on the front page of the Wisconsin State Journal. They were pictured planting leeks, a new plant for this year's garden. Last year, Houa did not speak any English. This year he couldn't speak fast enough nor plant and pick fast enough to

keep up with his incredible abilities to absorb his new world.

For the second year, we received starter plants from the horticultural program at Oak Hill Correctional Institution. In addition, inmates along with Jeff prepared the gardens this spring by setting up the fences and garden gates. How fortunate we are to have such good sponsors.

Thank you to MCC members Hildy McGown, Eileen Bolstad, Art Nack, Beth Kemp, Jan Robertson, Susan Gruber, Fran Grugel and Annie Grugel, who have gardened all three summers. Thank you to newcomers Katrin Wuest, Adam Schneider and Jackie McGinley. Thank you to Jean Oliverson, John Malecki and Tom Matthews for transporting the kids to WRNC. Thank you Bob Schneider for tilling and John Rowe for loading and hauling mulch. Thank you Advent Elizabeth Circle for your financial support. Thank you to all who supported the gardeners with contributions of plants and ice cream pails. Thank you to Katrin's parents for additional leek and pumpkin starters. Thank you to RSVP for supporting our gardens by sending a Vista volunteer. You turn our gardens into forests of abundance.

Ten Week Class on Forgiveness

Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 p., September 17-November 28. The class is based on the Enright Forgiveness Process Model & New Thought Spiritual principles; taught by Rev. Cecilia Pohs and Rev. Candace Suarez, both with 10+ years of work with Dr. Robert Enright, UW Madison. Further information, cost and other details contact Mary Bowman.

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MCC News continued

List of Items you can donate for Iraq:

Hard candy, coffee, microwave popcorn, DVD movies, razors, toiletries, cup style ramen soups - 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 that can be made into clothing is welcome.

The CSM at the hospital still accepts **National Geographic Magazines** 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.)

2006 MCC Pictorial Directory pictures will be taken on September 14, 15 and 16.

The pictures will be taken on Thursday, Sept 14 (3:00 p.-9:20 p.), Friday, September 15 (3:00 p.-9:20 p.) and Saturday, September 16 (10a-4:40p.). Olan Mills is the company we are working with. Thanks to all of you who have so graciously offered to help. Many volunteers are needed to make this event happen. You can still volunteer. Call Sonja and ask how you can help.

Enclosed in this newsletter is information about scheduling your appointment online as well as making appointments at other locations in the area if Sept 14, 15 and 16 do not work for you.

The 2006 MCC Pictorial Directory won't be complete without you!

Second Chance Mentor Needed

The mother of our second chance apartment project family is in need of a new mentor. If you are interested in supporting this mom as she strives to meet the goals she's set for herself as she moves toward a better future for her family, or would like more information on this opportunity, please contact Ann Bolger or Tisha Brown. Training is provided by Interfaith Hospitality Network..

Our Second Chance Apartment Family

Our Second Chance Family has asked if they may borrow a carpet cleaner to clean their carpets. Dana Palmer, our family connection, will pick up the cleaner, teach Our Mom how to use it, and return the cleaner in clean shape to the lender. If any MCC family has a cleaner to lend you may call Ann Bolger at to make arrangements.

Our Older Boy will be starting school soon. Our Mom has asked if anyone has some hand-me-down school clothes for him. Male clothes size 7/8 for both tops and bottoms--clean and in good shape please--will be appreciated. Please contact Ann Bolger to make arrangements.

Request from Ann Bolger: **please continue to pray for Our Family** as they grow and learn during their time in Our Particular Care. God has given us this Family to open our hearts and help us grow in peace along with them. Even if most of us have no specific contact with them, we are blessed by the gift of their presence in our lives. Thank you.

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Advent News

Advent members are reminded to try to catch up with their pledge giving.

Due to the usual decline in summer attendance, offering revenue has also declined over the summer. Expenses, however, do not take a summer vacation. Thank you.

Advent Confirmation

Seventh and eighth-grade students will meet on Wednesday evenings, 7:00-8:00 p. beginning Wednesday, September 13. Due to the small number of students this year an orientation for students and parents will be unnecessary. Jeff Wild will be in contact with each of the families.

20th Annual Lutherdale Fest and Quilt Auction

The Fest and Quilt Auction is on Saturday, September 9. Preview the quilts at 8:00 a. The auction begins at 10:00 a. There is free admission. It is a day for the whole family. Check out their website for more details at www.lutherdale.org.

Oakwood Lutheran Homes Association Information

The Resale Shop will open Saturday, September 30 from 9:00 a.-4:00 p. The Shop is full of bargains on furniture for nearly every room of the house or apartment. We have lots of kitchen utensils, household items, glassware, books, jewelry, puzzles and more. If you would like to donate items, please drop them off at the Oakwood Resale Shop, 6203 Mineral Point Road any Tuesday or Thursday morning. We can arrange to pick up larger items by calling Lori at 230-4264. We do NOT accept clothing, exercise equipment, sofa sleepers, or computer equipment.

MCC Quilts attend Advent worship before traveling

For the last two August Sundays, dozens of quilts covered rows of chairs in the Blessing Room. Parishioners prayed, sang and listened while embracing quilts intended for others with different needs than their own. For the last ten months, MCC women worked thousands of hours to prepare these quilts. In October, Lutheran World Relief sends these quilts along with many others to people around the world. MCC women work all year long at church and home to prepare these quilts for people they will never meet. However, the receivers will touch the prayers sewn into these quilts and many will recognize the love sent their way.

Prairie mural signals Rally Day in Blessing Room

From Rally Day (this year September 10) until Advent the fabric prairie panels hang in the Blessing Room. The fall colors of the prairies remind us of the beauties of creation and the glories of our Creator. The fall liturgical setting says it is time to gather again for a new season of worship. The hills and the valleys of the mural invite us into the Word. We come together after summer to congregate and welcome this beautiful colorful season of God.

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Advent News Continued



Judith Circle

The Judith Circle will be meeting on September 12 at 9:00 a. at the home of Alice Ohlrogge. 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 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.

Treasury of Love August 23, 2006

Love Offerings	6,736.45
Rent & Eviction Prevention	2,367.00
Security Deposit	750.00
Utility Assistance	1,049.00
Iraq Postage	994.45
Car payment	358.00
Court Mandated payment	100.00
Wexford Women's Program	45.00
Haiti Partners	569.00
Advent Member's Rent	350.00
Storage Rent	89.00
Registration Fee Trust	<u>65.00</u>
Expenditure	6,736.45
Balance as of 8/23/2006	\$0.00

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. Please join us at our meeting at 7 pm on September 21 in the youth room-lower level of the church. We will be choosing books for 2007.

Oakwood News

Oakwood is pleased to share with its association of churches that it is creating a dedicated rehabilitation wing in Hebron Oaks, the skilled nursing facility at Oakwood Village West. Now, those who wish to rehab at Hebron Oaks will receive outstanding short-term rehabilitative care while enjoying the company of other residents in similar health situations. We encourage seniors who are not residents of Oakwood to ask for Hebron Oaks if their doctor recommends a short nursing home stay following surgery. The entire staff will work with them towards the goal of restored and improved health and to return them home as soon as safely possible.

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 News



Thank you

From Table of Grace Christian Church who received a donation from the Special Fund: *"Thank you for your generous gift to Table of Grace Christian Church. Your support means so much to us. Blessings, Pastor Molly".*

From Iris Christenson and the Board of Family Connections:

"On behalf of the entire Board of Family Connections and the families we serve, I want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your congregation's generous gifts to support our efforts. The gifts will go far to assure that the expenses related to transportation to and from prison settings will be covered so the children we serve can have regular monthly visits."

Hope Men's Breakfast

Hope men enjoy having breakfast together on the first and third Wednesdays of every month at 6:30am at The Original Pancake House, 5518 University Ave. Good food, warm fellowship and stimulating conversation. Our September breakfasts will be on the 6th and 20th. What special meaning does September 6th 1948 have for Madisonians? Answer: next month.

Reflections from the 44th Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Conference Rev. Jan Summers

WOW! What a special time of connection with other UCC'ers. As always I come away grateful for our able leadership within the Conference and our National Offices. What a pleasure to see and hear our General Minister and President, John Thomas, preach and bring us updates from Cleveland. It grieves me to hear of the continuing challenges and changes our National Office is dealing with. We truly need to be faithful in our prayers and our gifts to the national church as they try to make their financial commitments and witness in our behalf.

Rev. Tony Pappas brought the keynote address which positioned the theme for the conference "Neighbors Around Christ's Table – Where Two or Three are Gathered."

Rev. Deborah Krause, Professor of New Testament Studies at Eden Theological Seminary brought the Bible Studies and a workshop. She truly brought the Bible alive to us as she worked with the theme "God is Still Speaking."

After much discernment and in the spirit of prayer, the only resolution presented to our conference, "Fairness for All" was passed in the affirmative. This vote established the Wisconsin Conference of the UCC as going on record to oppose the proposed constitutional amendment defining marriage and allows this position to be communicated to all churches of our Conference and to the general public through the media.

Next year's 45th Annual Meeting will again be held at Green Lake Conference center and since our UCC body will be celebrating its 50th year many exciting things are being planned.

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

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, Kathy Alexander and Wilma Sanks.

- All military personnel and their families. Especially those involved in Iraq, Afghanistan, Israel and Lebanon.
- The Custer family as they grieve the loss of Betty's sister Ruth Garner.
- Jan Manser and Dave Manion as they grieve the loss of Jan's father, who died in May.
- Cindy Thiesenhusen and her extended family as they grieve the loss of a close family friend.
- All who struggle with chronic disease or pain, whether emotional or physical or both.

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

August 22-29 Steve and Theresa Haffner-Stearns, Margaret Helming

Aug. 29-Sept. 5 Keith Johnson, Julie Hunter, Sarah and Hannah; Bruce, Colin, Alison and Ian Jarvis

Sept. 5-12 Howard and Lucetta Kanetzke; Rolf Killingstad

Sept. 12-19 Lois & Hirochika Komai, Laura Komai, Sachi Komai

Sept. 19-26 Donna Leet; Tanya, Greg, Sarah & Hannah Lettman-Shue

Sept. 26-Oct. 3 Bill Long; Jan Manser & Dave Manion; Tom & Joan Matthews

Important Dates to Remember!



Birthdays

Joanne Kirkland	9/03
Joshua Ryan	9/03
Luke Matthews	9/10
Peter Streiff-Stuessy	9/10
Donna Leet	9/11
Rebecca Payne	9/13
Lynn Breedlove	9/18
Kathryn Murphy	9/21
Barbara Dueholm	9/24
Bonnie Trudell	9/24

Anniversaries

Chuck & Jean Pfeifer	9/06
Phill & Candi Bloedow	9/07
Dianna & Marcus Murphy	9/14
Howard & Lucetta Kanetzke	9/15

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

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Our Larger Community

Seven Spiritual Gifts of Waiting - A Fall Women's Retreat With Rev. Holly Whitcomb September 29, 7:00 p. - September 30, 3:30 p. Pilgrim Retreat Center on Green Lake

Waiting presents such an enormous challenge for all of us. We are "fix-it" people, impatient with delays, eager for the gratification of accomplishment. But not all situations can be fixed. What do we do when we can't roll up our sleeves and get busy? With wisdom and humor, gentle questioning, spiritual exercises and reflection, Holly will help us discover the gifts of waiting and how to welcome them into our lives. If you are interested in this fall retreat, contact Tisha for registration information.

An Invitation from the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters to a Special Middle East Series

September Presentations are at the Capitol Theater from 7-8:30 p.

The Roots of Conflict – Joe Elder on Wednesday, September 13

Rx for "Oil Addiction": The Middle East and Energy Security—Jan H.

Kalicki Wednesday, September 20

The Dilemma of Fundamentalism—Martin E. Marty Wed., September 27

The series continues on Oct 4 and 11 at other locations. More detailed information is on the bulletin board in the Shalom Room.

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Coming Events

Sept 9 Teacher training for Senior High Sunday School Teachers at the MCC, 10a -1 p.

Sept 10 Fall Schedule begins
Education at 9:00 a. and Worship at 10:15 a.

Sept 10 Welcome back Jeff!
One-Club golfing at Glenway Golf Course, 3:00 p.

Sept 14-16 2006 Pictorial Directory Pictures will be taken.

Sept 17 Wexford Ridge Food Pantry Donation Day—bring your donation to church.
Howard & Lucetta celebrate 50th wedding anniversary

Sept 23 Fall Equinox Labyrinth Walk, 6:00 p

Oct 1 Stewardship "*Living in Abundance*"

Oct 8 CROP Bike/Hike/Rock for Hunger and Poverty
"*Living in Abundance*" - stay for dessert after worship

Oct 11 "*Living in Abundance*" - 7:00-8:00 p. at MCC

Oct 14 "*Living in Abundance*" - 6:00-7:00 p. at MCC

Oct 14 Cuba, *Pearl of the Antilles*-Chuck Pils, 7:00 p.

Oct 19 "*Living in Abundance*" - 7:00-8:00 p. at MCC

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.

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*

Staff:
Tisha Brown, Pastor
Community of Hope,
UCC

Jeff Wild, Pastor
Advent Lutheran
Church, ELCA

Katrin Wuest, MCC
Youth Minister

MCC Senior & Middle-
High Youth and Youth
Education

Sonja Keesey-Berg,
MCC Administrative
Secretary

Tom Matthews, Secre-
tarial Assistant AND
MCC Maintenance

Frank Parker,
MCC Custodian

Community of Hope
Steering Committee
Martha McCurdy
Petra Streiff
Ann Bolger
Barbara Dueholm,
Moderator
Marcus Murphy
Corkey Custer
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 prac-
tices and to serve as part of
Christ's presence in our world.

Madison Christian Community
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