



The Good Word

Summer 2006

Jeff Wild on Sabbatical!

If you haven't heard, I will be on a sabbatical from Monday, June 5 through Monday, September 4. More than a decade ago members of Madison Christian Community worked through the process leading to the formation of a sabbatical policy freeing MCC pastors from the demands of parish responsibilities for a period of three months following five years of service. This must have been before the day of consensus decision-making because I am told there was some controversy involved. I thank those of you who supported the sabbatical policy when it was first proposed and thank all of you now for graciously granting me this time for respite and renewal. This is not only the first time I will have a sabbatical in my twenty-six years as a parish pastor, it is also the first time that I will be gone from the congregation more than two Sundays in a row! I don't expect the adjustment to be difficult, but I can't imagine what it will be like to have free evenings and weekends for three full months!

I've been asked, "Where are you going for your sabbatical?" I will be with the high school youth in the Boundary Waters from June 13-30. I will fly with Andrew to California and scope out Stanford University where he will be studying to earn a master's degree in teaching so that he might become a high school chemistry teacher. In July, Nan and I will be traveling to Washington and spending a week at Holden Village, a place we've longed to visit for many years. I will be riding the bike

trails, hiking the Ice Age Trail and canoeing the rivers in the twelve-county area of the ELCA South Central Synod of Wisconsin the other nine weeks. I want to move through this area slowly and prayerfully so that it might be a time to optimize my physical health and a time of repose.

I can hardly wait to undertake a writing project I've been dreaming about for the past half year. The focus will be on exploring a sense of place as it relates to a congregation's mission in its particular context. The project will explore the rationale behind our initiatives of the past four years relating to the environment, garden ministry, and the felling of the bur oak. The book will be printed on bamboo paper imported from Thailand. Lakeside Printing incorporates sustainable practices into its business and will print as many copies as funding allows. Partial funding will come from the proceeds from the Duck Doo Compost. The book will include pictures, essays, stories and sermons. I don't have aspirations to write the next Da Vinci Code, but I do long to write about my understanding of mission and ministry that has evolved since becoming a pastor of Madison Christian Community because it's been a deeply meaningful experience and I desire to share it with others for their consideration.

Pastor Katrin Wuest has been with us for eight months and I deeply appreciate her both as a person and as a pastor. Katrin will preach and preside at worship most

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MCC News

Sundays and provide pastoral care for members of Advent. I am glad that the members of Advent will have this one-on-one time with Katrin and am confident that it will be a time of deepening affection between you and her.

I know that the administrative and day-to-day work will be competently and responsibly accomplished by Sonja, Tisha and Tom. I'm confident that all the members of MCC will remain faithful in worship and serving through the summer months. All this is to say, you will get along without me just fine!

I plan to worship in a variety of settings in the Madison area. I'm not planning to change our phone service to an unlisted number or placing a "do not disturb" sign on our front door. I will welcome your phone calls and look forward to bumping into you around town. I will miss you almost as much as I will miss our garden ministry. I will hold you in my heart and daily prayers. Jeff Wild

MCC Lawn Mower Report

Back when there was still snow on the ground, we at MCC decided to mow our own grass instead of renewing the lawn mowing service we've been using in recent years. Remember Annual Meeting Sunday when there was a tractor parked beside the front door? We bought it. We're a month into the grass season and it's going pretty well. Members have remarked to us

that the lawns look great.

We're also saving *a lot* of money monthly in lawn cutting expense. Of course, we have had the expense of the tractor, but it will pay for itself in a little more than a year, assuming the grass needs cutting once a week through September. And it takes about 4 gallons of diesel fuel each time we mow, about \$12.00 worth. In the coming weeks we will convert it to run on used restaurant oil, in keeping with the renewable energy environmental ethic of MCC.

Of course, the money-saving argument for doing the lawns this way is based on the presumption of volunteer tractor drivers. We have had several members volunteer to mow, and we need more. It would be great to have somebody signed up for each week from now until the snow flies again. Please look at your summer calendar, and see if there's week when you can spend half a day mowing at MCC. You can call and tell us what week you want, or there will be a calendar in the Shalom room for you to write your name in.

It's not difficult, basically just driving. You can practice your Madison Beltline skills. If you mow counter clockwise, you can imagine you're on the NASCAR circuit. Except it's quieter, and there are no fiery crashes and the exhaust will remind you of a fine restaurant.

Tom Matthews

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Newsletter Editor: Sonja Keesey-Berg

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Fellowship Groups & Activities

MCC Knitting Circle/Scrapbooking Club

Work on your creative pursuits while being in fellowship with other MCC members!
June 2, Scrapbooking at MCC,
6:30-10:30 p.m.

Knitting and Scrapbooking will go on hiatus for the summer months!

Questions? Call Debra Greene or Sue Young.

GEMS*

The Grumpy Elderly Men's group will be on summer break until September 5th. The group will gather on August 8 at Stan's home for brunch at 10:30 a. and will pick a book for the fall.

All GEMS* (Great/Grumpy Elderly (and not elderly men) are welcome!

MCC Film Group

The MCC Film Group will meet at 7:00 pm
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 for more information.

The Theological Discussion Group

Last call to discuss [THE LAST WEEK: A Day-by-Day Account of Jesus' Final Week in Jerusalem](#) by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan.

Join the Theological Discussion Group [Wednesday June 21 7 p.m.](#) MCC downstairs for the final discussion of this thought-provoking book.

Whether you have attended any of the group's meetings or not, if you have read the book, come and enjoy this final session.

The Group chooses the next book selection prior to the first fall discussion on September 20. There are no meetings in July and August.

MCC Community Group

Wednesday, June 14 join Community Group at 5:30 p. for an Ice Cream Social (pie and desserts) at Lakeview Park in Middleton. This is a benefit for the Middleton Historical Society.

Thursday, June 22, 3:30 p. meet at Vilas Park Zoo Reptile House. After enjoying the zoo, a potluck will be enjoyed by the swimming beach.

Wednesday, July 12, Concert on the Square. Meet at 5:30 p. at Martin Luther King Blvd entrance. Bring chairs and "finger food to share.

August—A pontoon boat ride is being scheduled. Details will come later.

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

MCC Director of Youth Ministry Position

As you are aware, we are saying farewell to Craig and Allie Pierce, who have been our wonderful Youth Directors for the past couple of years. The search is now underway to find someone to fill this position, hopefully beginning the first of August.

If you know of anyone that you think would enjoy doing ministry with youth and adults as our new Director of Youth Ministry, please talk with them about our position and pass along the job description that is included in this newsletter.

They can contact Tisha Brown with any questions or send their resume to the Madison Christian Community, 7118 Old Sauk Rd., Madison 53717.

Resumes are due in the church office no later than Friday, June 9.

National Youth Gathering in San Antonio TX is July 11-17th

Sunday School Offering

Sunday School is finished for the year, and the money the kids brought for offerings has been sent to Heifer International. The kids voted on which animals to purchase and raised enough to buy one water buffalo (\$250) and 5 flocks of chicks (\$112). Great job, kids! The animals will be given to needy families around the world. For more information about Heifer International, visit www.heifer.org

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.

Senior High: BWCA people...

On May 30 the group gathered at a park and put their canoes in the water for BWCA orientation. They will *pack out* on June 12 at 1:00 p.

Middle High:

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

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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.



Coming Soon—History of the MCC on the web!

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 News

Fair Wisconsin Canvassing Opportunities over the Summer

Fair Wisconsin's efforts to identify voters who oppose the proposed ban on civil unions and marriage, which will be voted on this November, continue throughout the summer. Numerous opportunities to canvass both by phone and door-to door are available. For more information regarding times and locations go to

www.fairwisconsin.org. If you decide to volunteer for any of the dates listed below, contact Justin Sweet at 441-0143 ext 306 or Justin.sweet@actionwisconsin.org.

Phone Canvassing: (4:30- 8:00 p.)

Mondays - June 12, July 10 & August 14

Tuesdays - June 20, July 18 & August 22

Sundays – June 25, July 23 & August 27

Door to Door canvasses will take place every Saturday in June (June 4, 11, 18 and 25), every Saturday and Sunday in July (July 1,2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23 and 20, 30) and four days per week in the month of August. 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 pabi-tra.benjamin@fairwisconsin.com for more information.

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Civil Unions and Marriage Ban

Speaker/Discussion on Sun, June 4

This November, Wisconsin voters will vote on a proposed amendment to the Wisconsin Constitution banning civil unions and same gender marriages and threatening the rights of gays and heterosexuals in domestic partnerships. A couple months ago, a group of Advent and Hope members met to talk about ways MCC members might take actions to oppose this proposed amendment, that we see as unnecessary, unfair, and inconsistent with our religious and spiritual beliefs. MCC members received an email from the group concerning the marriage ban which the group encouraged members to for-

ward to friends and family members who are Wisconsin voters.

The group decided that it would be useful to have someone come and speak to help members better understand the amendment and its implications. On June 4, following worship, there will be a talk by and discussion with Terri Pepper. Terri will speak about the amendment from both political and religious perspectives. There will be time for questions and discussion. Some light refreshments will be available.

Terri moved to Madison with her partner about a year and half ago. She previously lived in Champaign, Illinois where she was Director of Religious Education at Community United Church of Christ. Terri grew up in the Disciples of Christ and is currently active at James Reeb Unitarian Congregation on the East side of Madison. She has a B.A. in Religion from Millikin University and a M.A. in Religion from the University of Chicago Divinity School. She is volunteering with Fair Wisconsin and has spoken at events to benefit the campaign.

This event is intended to help members feel more knowledgeable about the amendment and feel more comfortable about talking with friends and family about it and getting involved with this issue. There will be discussion of opportunities to volunteer with the Fair Wisconsin campaign and other ways to oppose the amendment.

Haiti Concert a Success

Thanks to everyone who attended or contributed regarding the Haiti SPARE Student Scholarship Concert last Sunday evening. Fifty people attended and nearly \$4,000 was received to either cover the \$3,000 still due for the recently completed school year or pledges for next school year. Bryan Sirchio began with songs and a riveting DVD of community development in rural Haiti and was followed by his friend, Marques Bovary. The Advent Council recently voted to have use one Sunday each month of Treasury of Love offering for this Haiti project.

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MCC News and Activities

Tisha and Cindy Seek Children's Clothing and Toys

Starting after July 1, 2006 Cindy and I will be put on the list of available foster homes in Dane County. We've indicated that we're open to having children of either gender ages 0-12 placed in our home. We'd like to collect a resource list of people in the MCC who could loan us children's clothing and toys for children in this wide age range so that we can have a few things available quickly and don't have to try and stock everything we might need in our home at one time. Our idea is to develop a list of people who have various items so that when a child is placed we know who to call for what. We'd like for you to keep the items, if at all possible, until we know the age and gender of the child that will be placed with us. If you have items you could loan or donate, please email or call us at home.

Thank you,
Tisha Brown and Cindy Thiesenhusen

MCC Book Shower for Tisha and Cindy

On Sunday, July 23, after worship, you are invited to a book shower. Bring a book for a child of any age. Tisha and Cindy are in the process of becoming foster parents. This is a way for us to support this new role in their lives as they look forward to including a child into their family. We want to help them develop a children's library for their home so that the enjoyment of books with their child will be a part of their foster care experience.

SUMMER JAVA FOR JUSTICE—order by June 4th. June 2nd, Aug 6th and Sept 3rd Place your monthly order on June 4, July 2, Aug. 6 and Sept. 3. Coffee will be ready for pick-up on June 11, July 9, Aug. 13 and Sept. 10. Order extra coffee to send to the troops in Iraq....it is one of the big item requests. Place your check for your order in the envelop on the coffee table WHEN you order. Make checks out to Mt. Meru Coffee Project. Price remains \$8 for a 12 oz package or \$38 for a 4 pound bag. And you can order beans, drip or perk in regular or decaf. Ordering this coffee is helping the coffee farmers in Tanzania become more sustainable. Justice never tasted so good, here, in TZ and in Iraq!

Midsummer Service of Meditation and Prayer

Wednesday, July 12 at 7:30 p. there will be a midsummer prayer service. Come celebrate the fullness of summer at a quiet service of prayer and meditation in the Covenant Room. MCC folks and friends from elsewhere are welcome. If you're interested in helping plan this service, contact the Community of Hope Prayer & Healing Team, contact Mary Bowman.

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—

A Gardener's Song

In the rain, Oakhill Correctional Institution inmates put up fences, mulched paths, pounded posts for new garden gates. On a clear day, gardeners planted peas along fences. Then it rained again. And rained.

Gardeners waited.

When the rain stopped for three days in a row, Bob Schneider pushed his tiller to the gardens, tilled for two and a half hours, then pushed the tiller home again. Gardeners plotted areas for companion plants and coaxed 24 flats of starters through 40-degree nights, plants Oakhill inmates had nursed since January.

"I can see clearly now the rain has gone."

Tomorrow MCC older gardeners and Wexford Ridge Neighborhood Center young gardeners plant tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, okra, pumpkins, flowers, beans, eggplant, squash, onions, watermelon, herbs, gourds, lettuce, collards, leeks, cabbage, and garlic.

"It's gonna be a bright, bright sunny day."

Today gardeners thank the Advent Elizabeth Circle for their \$100 gift. The new soaker hoses conserve water; new stakes support tomatoes; more fences separate bunnies from sprouts; and new trellises support birdhouse gourds, a new planting this year. Elizabeth Circle, you are like companion plants. We grow better near you.

What is the Memorial Garden of the Madison Christian Community?

This Memorial Garden, a place of meditation and prayer for family and friends to remember loved ones, a worship place to celebrate the gift of life and to recognize the pain of death, embraces remains in the earth for a final church home. This garden ministers to our community by providing us a place to stand together with comfort in the memory of All Saints.

For more information about the MCC Memorial Garden, contact Doug Crews-Nelson, 442-9468 or Lois Komai, 238-2503.

Farewell and Godspeed

The population in the Madison area is quite transient. Our lives are enriched by those who move here from other parts of the country or world. The difficult aspect is people also leave for other opportunities. This summer we will bid an affectionate farewell to Mary and Scott Hanna Weir, Alli and Craig Pierce and Jay, Dana and Beth Kemp. Mary will be attending law school in Michigan. Alli and Craig are moving closer to their families and begin new teaching jobs in Minnesota. Jay will be changing to a new job in the Twin Cities Area. All of these people have been a great blessing to us and the life of MCC and we know they will be a blessing to other congregations.

MCC Worship on July 9—An update on efforts toward peace in Israel Palestine

On Sunday, July 9 we welcome Matt Ley, a UW student who recently returned from Israel-Palestine to lead our worship and to preach. Matt was one of the student leaders of Quest: Israel-Palestine, a service/learning trip through which students were learning from peacemakers in that region about what strategies are working to bring peace.

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MCC News continued

Help Darren Fortney (Advent member) raise money for the [University of Wisconsin Comprehensive Cancer Center](#) and the [UW Health Mindfulness Program](#).

A couple of years ago, Darren Fortney didn't know how to swim, and he didn't consider himself to be much of a runner, either. He'd certainly never run anywhere near 26.2 miles, the length of a marathon. And he had definitely never attempted anything like the Ironman Triathlon - which ends with a marathon. Before that, there's a grueling 2.4-mile swim, followed by 112 miles of biking. It's amazing what people can do when they're motivated.

On September 10, looking to write the next chapter of his own cancer story, Fortney will compete in the Ironman Wisconsin to raise money for the [University of Wisconsin Comprehensive Cancer Center](#) and the [UW Health Mindfulness Program](#).

As a 19-year-old freshman at UW-Madison, Fortney successfully took on cancer with the help of the oncology team at UW Hospital and Clinics. Years later, the 38-year-old married father of two now says he has come to a point in life where he's compelled to give back to those who have helped him.

"Unfortunately, many cancer victims are simply not granted that possibility," says Fortney, who adds that he hopes his story will encourage young cancer patients who feel the same way he did at 19 - scared, confused, isolated and without hope.

"Yes, there is life after cancer - there are many uplifting stories out there," says Fortney. "Many have yet to unfold. Each story has the potential of positively affecting someone searching for hope."

From cancer patient to triathlete: A longtime kayaker, Darren Fortney used to volunteer for the Ironman Triathlon, helping to set up the perimeter for the aquatic portion, the 2.4-mile swim. But since he never learned to swim, Fortney didn't consider actually participating in the Ironman himself.

But as he started thinking about conquering one of the most physically demanding and inspirational endurance events in the world, Fortney's thoughts also turned to another formidable hurdle he overcame 19 years ago.

An 11-inch scar down his abdomen is all that physically remains to remind him of his experience with the disease. But Fortney doesn't regularly acknowledge himself as a "cancer survivor." He's not exactly sure why that is, but he thinks it was probably easier for him to just put the whole painful experience behind him.

As he prepares to run the Ironman for the UW Comprehensive Cancer Center and the UW Health Mindfulness Program, only now is Fortney beginning to seriously deal with the emotional toll of his long-ago cancer battle.

"Cancer treatment is not just about ridding the body of the physical disease," says Fortney, a project manager in transportation and urban planning. "It is equally important that treatment focus on the psychological tolls, especially as one prepares to move on in life in the shadows of a diagnosis.... It's short-sighted just to look at it from a physical standpoint."

Though [integrative medicine](#) treatments weren't available to him as a 19-year-old cancer patient, Fortney believes strongly that all cancer patients can benefit from obtaining a deeper awareness of the mind/body relationship. Such techniques are now available to UWCCC patients in

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MCC News Continued

an integrative medicine program that offers [mindfulness meditation, acupuncture and massage therapy](#), and more.

"There's a commonality across all cancers that I think needs to have more emphasis," Fortney says. "That's why I was excited to see integrative medicine coming more to the forefront. It's irresponsible to send someone through the dark tunnel of a cancer diagnosis without giving them a flashlight."

Fortney didn't have all the tools he needed when he took on cancer, so he's certainly preparing himself for this battle with the Ironman. But first things first - he had to learn to swim.

"As of last September, I couldn't swim at all - so I figured I kind of had to work on it," Fortney said with a laugh. So he began taking lessons, and now he's swimming four days a week and enjoying his new hobby.

All told, he trains between 12 and 20 hours per week, and by the time the Ironman rolls around in September, he will have trained for about 900 hours - or the equivalent of nearly 38 solid days.

He's up swimming at 5am almost every day while his kids, Lauren and Ryan, are sleeping. At night, he works out for a few more hours while his wife Lisa watches the kids.

"You obviously have to have a very supportive family to do this," Fortney explains.

He ran his first marathon in Chicago last fall, and he thinks he may have gotten hooked.

"Running with 45,000 other people and millions of people on the sidelines, it was amazing," Fortney says.

Though Fortney is a little worried about enduring the grueling day-long Ironman, he's nevertheless looking forward to the challenge. "I keep thinking, what a great thing to raise money for," Fortney said. "And when you're training for something like this, you need all the motivation you can get." How to help [Darren Fortney raise money for the UWCCC and UW Mindfulness Program \(via the Janus Charity Challenge site\)](#)

New Art Exhibit—

A Century Between Us

Julia Weaver and Joanne Kirkland

Joanne Kirkland and Julia Weaver bring work from various 2-D and 3-D mediums (drawing, painting, ceramics, fiberwork, metal sculpture) representing and celebrating their first fifty years of life and art-making. Their display includes work from each decade of those fifty years. They brought their personal history, interweaving it with Madison history to develop their visionary eco-feminist approach to art. The show reflects their art-making in the midst of family, education, jobs, and community work. For both of the, artistic growth has been nurtured by the Madison community. Businesses that sponsor art shows, Lynn Fieldhouse's Art Metals class at MATC, other UW and MATC Art classes, diverse affordable cultural opportunities, No Limits for Women Artists, Institutes for Racial Healing are just some of Madison's vibrant, creative intercultural networks which have supported their growth. Each woman explores images and techniques that reflect their lives in Madison. Julia and Joanne share their work to bring a sense of beauty to others and to demonstrate for them the possibilities for creativity in their own busy lives.

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MCC News Continued

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MCC News Continued

Iraq Donations — Update from Brad

We've received two major donations of children's clothing for Iraq: one from Amy Huff of MCC and one from the Barneveld UCC. Barneveld UCC also gave a generous donation of \$200 to help with shipping. That will really help but not cover the cost.

Festive patriotic hats in three styles are available at \$5/each. Money received for these will defray the cost of the hats already sent to Iraq. The styles are: red/white/blue cat-in-the-hat stovepipe, light-up Mad Hatter style, and metallic Uncle Sam.

Make checks payable to Advent Treasury of Love, *Memo: Iraq.*

Hats, Hats, and More Hats!

The response to the special request for money to send hats was good - but to meet the goal of a hat for every person in the unit (there are 200) there's still a need for more.

I have ordered enough hats so that, added to the 33 already sent to Iraq they'll receive 200 with extras to sell at \$5 each and we'll break even. I'll offer them for sale until they're gone. If need be I'll try to sell hats at other times and other

places: they should be fun on the 4th for anyone in a parade or going to a party. Donations can be made, too - both for hats and for the postage. Any excess will be put into the "Treasury of Love," for Iraq postage.

The hats will go to a forward hospital unit, similar to the one that is the subject of the documentary "Baghdad ER," on HBO. The stress felt by the hospital and support staff has to be tremendous. The hats are intended to provide a partial relief from that stress at their 4th of July party (and any use they make of the hats after the party will surely also be beneficial, as well.) I think they're a good idea - and the response from Iraq (they've seen pictures of MCC members wearing the hats) has been very positive.

List of Other Items for Iraq:

Bug spray, ground coffee-drip, green or black socks, baby wipes, hand sanitizer foot powder, cup ramen noodles , baby lotion and slim jims.

Thank you, In His Love, Ch Park

Hard candy, coffee, microwave popcorn, DVD movies, Comic books are a big hit. (Half-Price Books, Westside or Eastside are good sources.)

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Coming Events

- June 11-14 Middle High Rafting on the Wolf and Peshtigo Rivers
- June 13-20 Senior High Boundary Waters Trip
- June 16-18 MCC Campout at Bethel Horizons
- June 21 Summer Solstice Labyrinth Walk at 6:00 p.
- 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 Women and Girls Retreat, 6:00 p-11:00 p.
- July 9-14 Sugar Creek Camp Week for MCC
- July 11-17 National Youth Gathering in San Antonio TX
- Aug 20 MCC summer worship and hymn sing
- Aug 27 Hope outdoor worship and pet blessing
- Sept 10 Fall Schedule begins
- Sept 14-16 New Pictorial Directory Pictures will be taken.
- Sept 23 Fall Equinox Labyrinth Walk at 6:00 p.

Advent News—

On Sunday, May 14, Advent received new members.

Amy Carlson

The third child of a Lutheran pastor, Amy Carlson has been worshipping in Lutheran congregations all her life. She earned her master's in Communication with a focus in Media Studies from Northern Illinois University in May 2005 and moved to the Madison area the following August. She puts her degree to use everyday - personally and professionally - as a waitress/bartender at the Grumpy Troll Pub and Brewery in Mount Horeb and as a production assistant/video editor at Tweedee Productions in Madison. When not working, Amy can be found watching movies or tv (which she considers professional development) or spending time with friends and/or family.

Heggen, Alan & Joanne

Al and Joanne are returning to Advent and Madison after a 17-year sojourn in Milwaukee. Both are retired - Al from the staff of the Greater Milwaukee Synod and Joanne from Lutheran Social Services. They are busy readjusting to life in Madison (with the help of many friends) and adjusting to third floor condo living. Interest include reading, theater, traveling, tending plants, hiking, biking, being with friends and family. Their son, Eric, lives in LA and works at UCLA. Their daughter, Kristen, lives in Sandpoint, Idaho and is busy home schooling Drew (12) and Micah (10).

Wayne and Marj Nelson

Wayne & Marj were members of Advent in the 70's and left to serve a term as support staff for an ELCA mission hospital in Cameroon. Wayne is retired from health survey work with the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Sys. Marj is retired from work in long term health care, dealing with issues of aging. Our children are Doug, Pam and

Wendy. Our grandchildren are Sadie, Audrey, Rachel and Adrian. We enjoy family events, music, outdoor activities, reading, writing and world events.

Pentecost and Recognition of High School Graduates on Sunday, June 4

Members of Advent will honor and celebrate the accomplishments of five graduates upon their graduation from three area high schools during worship on Sunday, June 4.

Congratulations to Alyson Boldt, Matt Rogness Nauman, Ben Traun, Rachel Wixson and Amelia Zutz. We are proud of you and pray that God will guide and bless your future.

Congratulations to Amelia Zutz who was listed at one of Dane County's Top Graduating Seniors. (Details on the bulletin board in the Shalom Room)

College Graduates

Congratulations to Ellen Krahn, Chris Hahn, and Emily Schoolmeester upon their graduation from college. Ellen received a degree from St. Olaf in political science and will be teaching in Dallas through Teach America for the next year. Chris graduated from Boston College where he received a degree in biology and he will be seeking employment in the Boston area. Emily graduated from UW-Madison with a degree in fine arts and will be preparing to enter a master's program to become an occupational therapist.

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Advent News Continued



Judith Circle

The Judith Circle will be meeting on June 13, 2006 . Meet at the church at 8:45 a. to carpool to Pasquals in Verona for a light brunch and Bible study. You are welcome to join us.

Our next meeting will be in September.

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 June 15th book is *The Kite Runner* by Khalid Hosseini. Amir comes of age during the last peaceful days of monarchy in Afghanistan before revolution and invasion. But dramatic political struggle is only part of this story of fierce cruelty and redeeming love.

The July 20th book is *Shane* by Jack Schaefer. This is a classic western about a man and his relationship with the homestead family he ended up working for.

The August 18th book is *A Mighty Heart: The Brave Life and Death of My Husband Danny Pearl* by Mariane Pearl. Danny was a Wall Street Journal Reporter who was kidnapped in Pakistan. His wife was living in Pakistan with him at the time. She was also pregnant with their first child. This is the story of how his wife and others worked with the Pakistan authorities to find Danny and weave through the complicated layers of Al-Queida.

Please join us at our meeting at 7 pm on June 15th in the youth room-lower level of the church.

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 thru May 24, 2006

Beginning Balance	651.00
Love Offerings	3583.20
Wexford Women	45.00
Iraq Postage	200.00
Income	4,479.20
Rent & Eviction Prevention	1,842.00
Security Deposits	450.00
Utility Assistance	669.00
Iraq Postage	472.20
Car payment	200.00
Court Mandated payment	100.00
Wexford Women's Program	45.00
Haiti Partners	419.00
Registration Fee Trust	<u>65.00</u>
Expenditure	4,262.00

Balance as of 5/24/2006 \$217.20

(\$200 designated for Iraq for shipping boxes—a gift from Barneveld UCC.)

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

Pastor Tisha's Summer Schedule

Pastor Tisha will be gone for vacations and conferences at various times throughout the summer. Her schedule is listed below. Pastoral care needs and concerns during her absences should be directed to the church office. Sonja will know who is covering for emergencies in Tisha's absence.

June 9 – 11 Attending the Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting. Lois Komai and Bob Sessions lead a special poetry worship service on Sunday, June 11.

June 22-27 On vacation with extended family. Roger Buffett will preach on Sunday June 25.

August 18-29 On vacation. August 20 will be an MCC Worship service and August 27 will be our third annual Pet Blessing Service.

From the United Church of Christ:

The Southwest Association acknowledged Community of Hope with a certificate of thanks at our Association meeting. We were thanked for fulfilling 100% of our 2005 Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM) contribution in the amount of \$12,760. Our OCWM dollars support the ministry of the entire United Church of Christ and touch people and congregations around the world.

From Quest: Israel-Palestine:

Quest: Israel-Palestine would like to thank you for your generous gift towards our trip. Gifts like yours make service learning trips a reality and provide us with invaluable experiences that we will carry with us for the rest of our lives. Please share in our experience on our weblog at www.questip.org.

Prayer Matters

Community of Hope is a congregation that values prayer and believes that prayer does make a difference in the lives of those who pray and in the lives of those who are prayed for. We don't know how prayer works, we sometimes wonder

what God is up to when our prayers seem to go unanswered but still we believe that prayer matters. And so we pray together as a community in a wide variety of ways – in our own private devotions; during every worship service; at the hospital, in our homes, before meetings and when we gather for meals. Every moment of our day, every time we gather with friends, family and fellow disciples is a time when we might pray for God's guidance and help; for God's intercession and presence or to give thanks for God's abiding love and the many blessings of life. Prayer is one of the acts of Christian discipleship that holds us together and connects us with Christians in every part of the world.

It is because we take prayer so seriously that the Prayer and Healing Ministry team formed over a year ago and organized two groups of people – the prayer team and the communion prayers - to offer special prayers throughout the month. Our prayer team prays each week for the people and families of our congregation and for their loved ones and eight individuals take turns praying with worshippers during our monthly communion services. In addition to these ongoing ministries of prayer the Prayer and Healing Ministry team asked me to remind all of us that other special prayer services are available for anyone who might appreciate them. These special prayer services might include prayers for healing or laying on of hands either on Sunday morning after worship, in a hospital or hospice room or at your home. They might also include house blessing or prayers for the dissolution of a marriage or partnership or to mark some other transition in an individual's or family's life. Perhaps you can think of other times in life when a special prayer service might be meaningful for you or your family. If you would like a special time of prayer for yourself or your family, please feel free to contact me at any time so we can discuss what that might look like. In the meantime, know that I hold you all in my own prayers and trust that God is with us all as we pray.

Tisha

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Community of Hope News continued

Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting
June 9-11, 2006 at Green Lake Conference 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.

Hope Men's Breakfast—Summer Update

Men of Hope meet for breakfast every first and third Wednesdays of the month. The place? The Original Pancake House, 5518 University Ave. The time? 6:30 AM. We enjoy good food, warm friendship and interesting conversation. Among the topics of conversation in May were ideas for replacing the bur oak, engine repair, living to an old age and burning prairies. Our next breakfasts will be June 5th and 19th.

Anniversaries

Bonnie & Gene Spindler	6/10
Harry & Donna Fisker	6/13
Beth & Jerome Simmons	6/13
David Manion & Jan Manser	6/14
Lauren Stuessy & Petra Streiff	6/17
Arthur & Marie Dodd	6/19
Kristi & Roger Williams	6/22
Chickee & Raj Atalla	8/04
Mark Geistlinger & Kristin Meyer	8/07
Lynn Breedlove & Evelyn Mazack	8/11
Sandra Esrael & Peter Williams	8/14
Tanya Lettman-Shue & Greg Shue	8/18
Hirochika & Lois Komai	8/23

Important Dates to Remember!



Birthdays—June, July and August

Jan Summers	6/03
Harry Fisker	6/04
Rolf Killingstad	6/05
Keith Johnson	6/06
Ian Jarvis	6/08
Corkey Custer	6/12
Cindy Thiesenhusen	6/15
Kevin Baird	6/16
Ann Bolger	6/16
Hirochika Komai	6/17
Aspen Ono	6/21
Hannah Johnson	6/23
Doug Wubben	6/24
Judy Green	6/30
Marcella Van Kan	7/01
Noah van der Weide	7/04
Jonah van der Weide	7/04
Rebecca Zamora-Green	7/06
Steve Haffner-Stearns	7/09
Jill Schuettpelz	7/10
Art Nack	7/14
Katerina Schuettpelz	7/16
Brenna Clark	7/17
Kristi Williams	7/17
Candi Bloedow	7/20
Jackson Murphy	7/20
Joan Matthews	7/26
Rob Schuettpelz	7/28
Jamie Custer	7/29
Kathy Alexander	7/29
Sarah Johnson	7/31
Ben Smith	8/02
Freddie Feeny	8/03
Tim Baird	8/04
Avis Elson	8/06
Greg Shue	8/09
Sean Spindler	8/12
Tom Matthews	8/20
Evelyn Mazack	8/22
David Dueholm	8/23
Julie Hunter	8/29
Jeremy Ryan	8/29
Laura Komai	8/30

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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, Kathy Alexander and Wilma Sanks
- All military personnel and their families
- Martha McCurdy and family
- The family of Elizabeth Stuessy, Petra and Larry's niece who died suddenly
- Betty Custer's sister Ruth and sister-in-law Nancy who are both seriously ill and their spouses and extended family.
- All who are frustrated in their attempts to find meaningful or adequate employment
- 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:
 May 30-June 6 Mary Beth and Steve Udvari family, Dan van der Weide, Katrin Wuest
 June 6-13 Julia Weaver, Roger and Kristi Williams, Nancy Zabel
 June 13-20 Kathy Alexander, Rajai and Chickee Atalla; Kevin and Tim Baird
 June 20-27 Candi and Phill Bloedow, Mary Bowman and Ann Bolger
 June 27-July 4 Lynn Breedlove, Evelyn Mazack, Tisha Brown; Cindy Thiesenhusen

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.

Thank You

From CUE Seminaries of the United Church of Christ:

Your support for theological education through your 2005 OCWM dollars and special gifts has been gratefully received by Chicago, United and Eden Seminaries, we are grateful to you for remembering us!

Food, Fun and Fellowship at the Capital Brewery

Last summer a few of us had so much fun gathering on a Thursday evening at the Capital Brewery in Middleton that we'd like to do it again this summer. Mark your calendars and join in the fun on these Thursdays: June 29, July 27 and August 31. We'll gather beginning at 5:30. You are welcome to bring your own food in but can also order food to be delivered.

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July Calendar

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August Calendar

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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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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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