

April 3: Election Day-State Supreme Court, local elections for Mayor, city council and school board.

Madison Christian Community
An Ecumenical Partnership of
Advent Lutheran Church – ELCA – Jeff Wild, Pastor
and Community of Hope – UCC – Tisha Brown, Pastor



The Good Word

HOLY WEEK

You are receiving this newsletter just before Holy Week, the most meaningful week of the Christian year. It's a great week to be a pastor because planning and participation in worship compels a pastor to immerse him or herself deeply in the passion narrative. I encourage you to enter the mystery by reading the passion narrative during Holy Week, meditate upon its meaning, and anticipate being struck by new insights.

I am mindful of how the mystery of resurrection continues to unfold as I ponder its meaning through the years. I was so taken in by the meaning of the crucifixion a half a lifetime ago that Jesus' resurrection didn't carry much weight for me. Then the pendulum shifted to the opposite end of the spectrum. I believed and preached as though sin, death and evil were obliterated by Jesus' resurrection. "Read my lips, no more death!" This was a triumphal understanding of resurrection and many of the Easter hymns sound a triumphant note. My stance in the pulpit was overstated, much like President Bush's four years ago when he hopped out of the fighter jet, strolled across the deck of a naval carrier and declared "Mission Accomplished!" Easter is one day above all others in history, but God's mission of reconciliation and restoration will not be accomplished until Jesus comes again. Theologically stated, my understanding of Jesus' resurrection has become less triumphal and more eschatological. In any case, it is the best news we can hear!

I encourage you to participate in the drama of Holy Week by attending worship at 10:15 on Palm Sunday, April 1, Maundy Thursday at 7:00 pm on April 5, Good Friday at 12:30 pm and Easter Sunday at 7:00 am or 10:15 am.

ELECTION FOR BISHOP

I reported in the March newsletter that I was a nominee for Bishop of this synod and the time between then and the synod assembly on May 3-5 was a time of discernment. I am surprised to be telling you now that I have withdrawn my nomination and do not plan to go forward in the process. To be honest, I felt a strong pull in the direction of becoming a bishop but my mind and heart were decisively changed. A recent crisis has led me to examine my priorities and values and I have concluded that becoming bishop is incompatible with what I cherish the most: my family and my calling as pastor of Advent and Madison Christian Community. I am confident that this decision is made with the guidance of God's Spirit. I am relieved and give thanks to God for helping me to dodge this bullet! I also give thanks to God for you and the ministry of the Gospel we share together.

Jeff

April 2007

Of Special Interest:

- A letter to the MCC Faith Family –p.2
- Coming Events , Memorial for Kevin McGinley, Aid to the troops, Thank you MCC – p.4
- Father Dom's Duck Doo and Support Amy Carlson in training for her walk for Breast Cancer Benefit –p. 5
- MCC Garden Ministry–p.6-7
- Environmental Task Force news –p.8
- Quilt Auction, Faith, Food and Earth Day – p. 9
- Easter Fire and Easter Breakfast – p. 12
- Java for Justice, Church World Service, Art Wall, How to get to Church on Earth Day – p. 13

Inside this issue:

Calendar	10-11
Fellowship Activities	3
Youth News	9
MCC News	2, 4-8, 11-13
Advent News	14-16
Hope News	17-18
Our Larger Community	19

MCC News

Dear MCC Faith Family,

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you for the loving support given to our family through our struggles.

I keep trying to find words deep enough to convey how much your kindness means to us. I can't describe what it means to be enfolded in the warm and loving embrace of this community.

Perhaps the best way I can attempt to capture in words how much your goodness means to us is by sharing a little snapshot of the way we were treated at another of our challenging moments in life.

At one point, we were homeless, living in a van with no heater, through a harsh bitter cold winter in Minnesota. In desperation, as a single Mom, fearing for the survival of my 3 children, I knocked on the door of the priest house connected to a church we had attended. As the priest answered the door, I didn't ask for a hand-out. I only asked for a hand reaching out to offer guidance on where to turn. I asked if he could offer a list of phone numbers where I might find assistance through this troubled time. He answered gruffly, "We don't offer that help here, there are numbers in the phone book to call," and without hesitation he slammed the door in my face. The harsh winter winds held no comparison to the bitter cold cruelty experienced in that moment.

To relay some warmth, I held tighter to the hands of my young children—

--a five year old in one hand who was toting a catheter due to extensive kidney/bladder complications he was experiencing at the time

--a six year old in the other who constantly barked like a dog due to his Tourettes Syndrome. Holding onto his hand was his eight year old sister desperately attempting to calm her brother's now escalated barking in her special way that sometimes worked. She patiently patted his head gently affirming, "Good boy, you're a good little puppy." The little guy stopped barking long enough to look up asking, "Mommy, why does God hate us?"

This past year as this now 6'2" young man was confirmed in this Community of Hope he exclaimed with ecstatic joy, "God really really loves us here!" His words capture better than I ever could, the difference that this beautiful community has made in our lives.

You have opened the door and welcomed us into the warmth, embracing us in the loving arms of God, showing us that here we are safe, we are loved and we matter. Here we are blessings, not burdens. No words can tell you what that means to a family like ours.

Thank you for all the ways that God loves us through you.

We Love You,

Michelle Erschen, Jeremy and Josh Ryan

Pray Daily

Worship Regularly

Study God's Word

Respond as Stewards

Cultivate Spiritual

Friendship

Serve at MCC &

Beyond

The Good Word

Published Monthly by the Madison Christian Community

Church Phone: (608) 836-1455

Next Issue: May 2007

Articles Due: April 20 to the church office

Newsletter Preparer: Sonja Keeseey-Berg

Newsletter Proofing: Lucetta Kanetzke and Karen Schwarz

Newsletter Collators: Susan Gruber and Brad Spencer

Newsletter Mailing Ready: Eileen Bolstad and Doris Roberts

MCC News—Coming Events

- April 1 **Palm Sunday**— Order Mt Meru Coffee
No Sunday School, Adult Education Class only
- April 1-8 IHN Week (Future dates: 7/8-7/15 and 9/30-10/7)
- April 1 Youth: Stations of the Cross, 6:00 p.
- April 8 **Easter Sunday** No education hour
Easter morning fire, 6:00 a.
Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.
Breakfast, 7:30 a.—10:00 a.
Advent & Community of Hope Easter worship at 10:15 a.
- April 11 MCC Women's Salad Supper
- April 15 Rain Garden Work Day
- April 22 Earth Day Activities

Save The Date – Saturday, July 28, 2007, 3:00 p.m. at the MCC
To celebrate Tisha and Cindy's Holy Union

Memorial for Kevin McGinley

The Advent community is planning a living memorial to Kevin McGinley. Contributions toward a tree in his memory are being collected. The tree will be planted on the MCC grounds, possibly near the Memorial Garden.

Anyone interested in making a donation toward this tree may make out a check to: *MCC Memorial Garden* (write "Kevin McGinley Memorial" in the memo line)

Checks may be placed in the offering basket or left at the MCC office. **Please make your contributions by April 29.**

THANK YOU MCC

Dear MCC,
Once again we want to thank you for your gracious offering of the building for our pre-adoption classes. The space is very comfortable and conducive to learning. We appreciate your part in preparing families to welcome children into their "forever families."

God Bless,
Martha Nack

Aid to Troops — Update from Brad

Peter Fribley came to the Advent Lutheran service March 18 and offered flat-rate boxes, pre-addressed labels, and customs forms to any who might wish to send items to the troops in Iraq on their own. There were labels and customs forms to use in sending to a chaplain at a cavalry unit or to a sergeant at a hospital near Mosul. (The hospital is where we sent the patriotic hats for Independence Day last year but with a different hospital unit now stationed there.) Fifteen families took boxes, labels and forms. The members of Advent and of MCC have been wonderfully supportive of this giving and sharing activity.

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

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

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

MCC News —

Reserve your FATHER DOM'S DUCK'S DOO COMPOST/MULCH

The deadline for placing your order for this award-winning soil conditioner is April 29th with delivery on Sunday, May 6th. Reservation orders will be filled first. The sign-up chart is located on the Coffee order table in the Shalom Room.

This product is organic, recycled, weed free and odorless! A natural blend of pressed cranberries, rice hulls, duck manure, wood shavings, pickles and vanilla bean waste products; wonderful for all of your garden and planting needs. This organic compost breaks up clay, adds nutrients to the soil and can be used as mulch.

We have ordered 4 pallets (360 bags) this year. Should we have more demand than our order, we will try to order more.

How much to order: One 20 qt bag will cover the following area:

- 1" – 8 sq feet
- 3" – 3 sq feet
- 2" – 4 sq feet
- 4" – 2 sq feet

(When applying as mulch to eliminate the need to weed as much, 2-3" of compost is suggested.)

Prices this year: All profits go to charity both at MCC (summer garden project/Help Us Grow [HUG], and other environmental projects) and for the company (after taxes and expenses, all profits go to benefit peoples of all races, religions, nationalities, lifestyles and creeds across America through God's Good Earth Foundation, Inc., especially people with disabilities and children with cancer – check the brochure for more details).

- \$7.00/bag or 3 bags for \$18.00 (a savings of \$1/bag)

● Make your checks out to *Madison Christian Community* with *Duck's Doo* written in the memo or some other place on the check. Place check in the envelope by the order form.

Thank you for caring about the planet, MCC's environmental and sustainable Projects, as well as helping people with special needs.

Don't hesitate---Place your order NOW! Spring WILL be here soon!

The Environmental Task Force – Working for the good of the planet!

Update from Amy Carlson on her preparation for her 60 mile walk for Breast Cancer.

I will be participating in the Chicago Breast Cancer 3-Day this August. The 3-Day is a 60 mile walk to raise money for the fight against breast cancer by raising funds for the Susan G. Komen For a Cure Foundation and the National Philanthropic Trust. I began training for the walk at the end of February, and so far the training has been going well. I enjoy the time to think, reflect, and pray. On March 6, I was rear-ended on my way to work and the insurance company declared my vehicle a total loss. As inconvenient as it has been to deal with finding a replacement vehicle, I've realized that an injury-free accident is praiseworthy. In my training walks since then, I've thanked God that I wasn't hurt and that I am still able to train for the 3-Day. I am happy to be sharing my journey with my MCC family. If you are interested in learning more about the 3-Day, visit www.the3day.org. If you would like to learn more about my journey or donate to my fundraising, please visit www.the3day.org/chicago07/amyb. Thanks, Amy Carlson

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

MCC NEWS

MCC-WRNC Garden News

Yellow Makes Gardens Look Bright and Beautiful

My name is Pa Nou. I am nine years old.

The garden is a place to make friends with big people and with other friends. These friends are nice and funny. If you don't have friends you are lonely. My friends in the garden are my brother and Eileen. I like to plant with my brother. I like to plant with Eileen. She is a good worker. She grows a lot and lets me help. She lets us plant and pick.

To garden, you start by growing so plants can grow. We dig holes. We put the plants, leeks and potatoes in the holes. We put the ground over. If you don't put ground over, the plant is not going to grow. If you don't take care, it won't grow. We put a string on top of the row. Now it is straight.

We garden in Thailand like you do. Use seed, it take a long time to grow. I think maybe three or five month. Here, Eileen dig and get out the potatoes. We pick up and put in the basket. Three or six potatoes go in a basket. We eat them, but we don't eat the skin. We don't like skin, we eat the inside. We eat big chunks.

I like the sunflowers. I like the yellow. Yellow make gardens look bright and beautiful. We ate sunflowers in Thailand. We let the sun dry them and put a sweet, but not sugar, on them. And we eat the seeds.

We ate tomatoes but we cook with chicken. I don't like tomatoes not cook. They taste sweeter. In Thailand we grow something that looks like corn, but not corn. It has seed on top. Get the seed on top and make dry so next year you grow again. Then you eat the...like the corn, but not corn.

I like the hot pepper. The long, skinny yellow pepper. Sometimes get very hot. At

home we eat the hot stuff. Once, baby put hand on the pepper and she cry. We used to grow in Thailand. If you pick peppers, careful with it. If you pick very hard, then the stem will come out. If you cook it, not hot at all. It does not burn. We eat hot a lot, it's very good. You wash them. You put in a pot. Take a knife and stir them. We put something like sugar but not sugar on. Stir them up. Take out. Eat from pan. We grow all kinds of peppers. Like this, and this, and this. We grow collards and cook in water. We eat the whole leaf.

I like to work in the garden. I like to work. I will work by myself, because I like to work a lot.

This story was written by Pa Nou with Annie Grugel in the WRNC After School Program.

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

MCC NEWS

MCC-WRNC Garden News continued -

MCC and WRNC begin their fourth year of gardening together.

Imagine. Some Wexford Ridge Neighborhood Center children will be gardening for their fourth year. Three years ago when the program first started, these gardeners had just completed first grade. This fall they begin fifth grade.

Three years ago, some children refused to sit on grass, put their hands in the soil, or walk to the gardens. Amazing. Now they walk to the gardens, sit under the welcome tree and plant potatoes, leeks, tomatillos, peas, collards, flowers, pumpkins, help eliminate insects and try not to chase the bunnies.

All gardeners in this program learn from each other that we have so much to share. Pa Nou tells her story on another newsletter page.

2007 Garden dates

The MCC-WRNC Program begins June 25 and ends August 17. Gardeners gather the first four weeks on Tuesdays and Thursday from 10 to noon. The second 4 weeks we meet on Mondays and Thursdays.

Three planting dates will be scheduled before June 15, the last day of public school.

Come and Garden with us.

We need you. We need MCC members and MCC friends to help with all kinds of gardening tasks. Ask Eileen Bolstad, Hildy McGown, Art Nack, Jan Robertson, Jeff Wild, Katrin Wuest, Adam Schneider, Bob Schneider, Susan Gruber, Annie Grugel, and Fran Grugel. They share their garden stories with the drop of an ask.

We need van drivers to return children to Wexford on garden days between 11:30 and noon.

Some Garden items needed

Children wagons (the old Radio Flyer type)
Tomato cages (large and small)
Large laundry detergent bottles (100 oz. size)
Plastic bags (medium size for picked produce)
35 clipboards

Our Garden Buddies again this year

Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is hoping to send another Vista volunteer to work with us this summer. They sent a volunteer in 2005 and 2006. Oakhill Correctional Institution Horticultural Program grows our starter plants. They generously gave 34 flats of plants in 2005 and 17 flats in 2006.

Thank you for your dollar donations

We send our appreciation to MCC for including \$100 in the 2007 budget for the garden program. We thank the 2006 MCC Women's Salad Supper group. Their donation of \$180 will be spent this summer. Being able to begin the season with these funds allows us to plan with confidence that we will have necessary equipment and plants for our fourth summer. Thank you for planting with the gardeners.

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

MCC News from our Environmental Task Force

Do you know what to do with your old light bulbs and batteries?

Bring them to church for recycling.!!! DO NOT PUT THEM IN THE TRASH!!! Your incandescent light bulbs contain lead. Your fluorescent bulbs contain mercury. Your alkaline batteries have lead and mercury, and your newer rechargeable batteries have lead and lithium, both are very bad for the environment.

THERE IS A CHARGE ASSOCIATED WITH RECYCLING DISPOSAL !

The PKK lighting company will come and pick up the recycling material free of charge, but the fee schedule is as follows:

Regular incandescent bulbs= \$ 0.30 ea.

Flood light lamps= 0.75 ea

Fluorescent tubes 4ft long or less =\$0.56 ea.

Circular fluorescent= 1.22 ea.

New long-life superficial fluorescent =\$1.20 ea

BATTERIES

Alkaline AAA to D size=\$2.50/#, Rechargeable (lithium) =\$ 10.00/#

TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT PLEASE RECYCLE!!!

Now for some good news, the new spherical long-life light bulbs last four or five times longer than the old incandescent ones. Therefore your recycle costs are diminished. In addition because they are of a lower wattage, they save you money:

40 watt lighting (9 watts) 10,000 hour life (about 9 years) save you \$31.00

60 watt lighting (14 watts) same life, saves\$ 46.00

75 watt lighting (19 watts) same life, saves \$56.00

100 watt lighting (27 watts) same life, saves \$70.00

Please, as each of your incandescent bulbs burn out, replace them with long-life fluorescents. Just go around your house and count the number and size of incandescent light bulbs you have or had and consider the operational savings you could have. Then consider the plus of recycling savings on top of that.

However, the best part of all is the environmental impact benefit. GO GREEN! Remember this also cuts down on our energy use, reducing the need for new generating stations, and new power line requirements. GO GREEN!

Next month more environmental impact news from your committee.

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

YOUTH EVENTS APRIL

- April 1 MH + SH Stations of the Cross: A walk through Holy Week, 2-7 pm
- April 7 MH+ SH Easter breakfast preparation, 3-5 pm (upstairs)
- April 8 MH + SH Easter breakfast 7:30 – 10:00 am
Youth fundraiser (applying for THRIVENT matching funds)
- April 12 MH game night, 6-8 pm, @MCC
- April 15 Registration deadline for Rafting Trip and Boundary Waters**
- April 24 SH Hang out @ Todd's
- April 26-27 SH Luther College tour with Bethel Lutheran Church

Mark your calendar for a "Family Time" at church!

- May 19 4 pm "Family Time" - "30 minutes children's message", following fellowship time with potluck

SUMMER SUMMER SUMMER SUMMER SUMMER SUMMER SUMMER 2007

- Senior High **Boundary Waters** June 19 – June 26
- German Youth Exchange** July 3rd – July 15th
(July 15th – 17th trip to Chicago)
- Middle High **Rafting** August 3 – 6

!! Registration deadline is April 15th!!

Sugar Creek Summer Camp for current 2nd graders and older: July 8-13
Registration forms are available in the Shalom room and downstairs.

Vacation Bible School with Sugar Creek counselors with St. Luke/ Middleton at St. Bernards June 25 - 28

Vacation Bible School with First Congregational UCC and First Baptist At First Congregational August 13-16.

Registration forms are downstairs next to Katrin's office door

Quilt Auction
Saturday, April 21, 1:30-3:00 p.
Christ Lutheran Church
220 S Main St
DeForest

Sponsored by Madison Lutheran Council to benefit the Dane County Jail Ministry.

One of the quilts to be auctioned has been donated by the MCC Quilters.

Faith, Food and Earth Day 2007 –
A Celebration for Christians on Sunday April 22, from 3:00 to 6:30 p.
Lake Edge Lutheran Church
4032 Monona Drive

Featuring Norman Wirzba, a rising star for people eager to explore the intersection of faith and earth stewardship. Currently an associate professor at Georgetown College in Georgetown, Kentucky. Wirzba has written numerous books and articles combining his agrarian vision with a call to recover the earth-friendly dimensions of our religious heritage.

Continued on page 19.

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

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

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

MCC News continued

Come and join us for **Easter breakfast**

April 8, Easter morning, 7:30 am - 10 am

Delicious food, good coffee, fellowship...
... and another good opportunity to support our youth!

Suggested donations \$5, families \$15, children under 5 free
(applying for THRIVENT matching funds)

If you like to donate food for the breakfast (like egg casseroles, bread, muffins, fruits, frozen apple and orange juice) please sign up in the Shalom room or let Katrin know (katrinmcc@tds.net, 824 1763). Please bring all food donations to church on April 7, between 3-5 pm.

EASTER FIRE

Now it's tradition: we will begin the early Easter morning worship (7am) again by gathering around an Easter fire, an ancient worldwide tradition, mainly known in Germany. **We'll start the fire at 6 am** so that you can experience Easter morning sunrise at the fire!

You can come any time between 6 am and 7 am and enjoy a time of prayer, meditation, hymns and more around the fire. Coffee and hot cider will be provided!

Marcus Murphy, Adam Schneider, Katrin Wuest

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

MCC News continued

JAVA FOR JUSTICE—

Place your April order for Mt. Meru Coffee by April 1st (Palm Sunday) and it can be picked up on April 8th (Easter Sunday). If you are having guests, order extra and spread the word/taste/aroma of this sustainable project/product. The coffee farmers in Tanzania greatly appreciate your support. They are receiving better than fair trade prices and are able to send their children to school and receive better medical services. Write your checks out to *Mt. Meru Coffee Project* and place them in the envelope at the time of order. Cost is \$8/small bag and \$38 for 4# bag. Consider ordering for Iraq as well.

Church World Services—School Kits Urgently Needed

CWS currently has an urgent need for School Kits. In 2006 CWS shipped over 70,000 school kits internationally and almost 8,000 here in the U.S.

Here is what is needed in each Kit or go to the CWS website for more information: www.churchworldservice.org

School Kits:

- * One pair of blunt scissors
- * Pads or notebooks of ruled paper 8-1/2" X 11", containing 140-200 sheets of paper. No filler paper, please.
- * One 30-centimeter ruler (12")
- * One pencil sharpener
- * Six new pencils with erasers
- * One large eraser
- * Twelve sheets colored construction paper
- * One box of 24 crayons
- * One 12"W x 14"L finished size, cloth bag with cloth handles and a closure (Velcro, snap, or button)

Pack these items in the cloth bag and secure contents with the closure. Or, if you prefer, a donation of \$13 per Kit will allow Church World Service to buy

school supplies for use in classroom settings. Processing/Shipping is \$2.00 per Kit.

Bring items and donations to MCC and we will get them to CWS.

DROP-IN SHELTER

The date is Thursday, April 5. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Shalom Room. Four people are needed from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. and two people are needed from 5:00 - 8:00 a.m. If you have any questions, please call Ken Johnson.

The Art Wall at MCC

What delights me most about working with the Holga is the serendipity. With this camera, I enter a magical realm over which I have very little control. I have to trust my photographic eye and release my expectations of what will emerge on the paper. By doing that, I can create glimpses of a different reality.

I am drawn to the natural world— its colors, textures, light, and patterns. My Holga enables me to transform what I see into mystery.

Susie Carlson

Walk, Ride your Bike, Run, Car Pool, Take the Bus to Worship Day Sunday, April 22, 2007

On Sunday, April 22 we will celebrate Earth Day with a combined MCC worship service. On this Sunday, you are invited to come to worship in a carbon free or reduced manner as a way of honoring the earth and reducing our impact on it. Plan ahead and walk, ride a bicycle, car pool, or take the bus to worship. Scientists have shown that the carbon we produce today remains in the atmosphere for more than 100 years. Honor the earth on Earth Day by producing less carbon on your way to worship!

Pray Daily

Worship Regularly

Study God's Word

Respond as Stewards

Serve at MCC &

Beyond

Cultivate Spiritual

Friendship

Advent News

Judith Circle

Judith Circle will meet for coffee, fellowship and bible study at Myrna McNatt's home on April 10. Bring binoculars. Please come, all are welcome! Jean Loichinger is the contact person.



Advent Elizabeth Circle

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

Treasury of Love March 2007

Beg. Balance & Love Offerings 2780.97

Rent & Eviction Prevention	1635.00
Security Deposit	200.00
Utility Assistance	100.00
Iraq Postage /Coffee	68.93
Car repairs	415.00
Wexford Food Pantry	31.00
St Vincent de Paul Blankets	50.00
Car Battery	79.11
Mortgage payment	137.00
Storage Fee	25.00
Checks In The Mail	<u>39.93</u>
Expenditure	\$2780.97

Balance as of 3/21/2007 \$0.00

GEMS – Grumpy Elderly Men New Book!

Join us every Tuesday at 10:30 in the lower level of the MCC. On March 27th we will begin a new book, *Ending Poverty: A 20/20 Vision* by Nancy Maeker and Peter Rogness. We enjoy fellowship, learning and discussion on a variety of books. Stan Klyve.

OPALS Book Discussion Group

OPALS meets the third Thursdays of the month all year. We meet at 7:00 p. on the lower level of the church. New members are welcome. Please join us at our meeting on April 19 in the youth room-lower level of the church. The book is *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson, 2004. This is a good story about kind people, told by an elderly Iowa pastor to his young son, as he tries to describe how to live a good life.

You are invited to join us.

Advent Women: Come for Thursday Coffee!

A lively group of "church ladies" meets on Thursday mornings at 7:00 a.m. at Panera Bread, 3416 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!

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



Advent News continued

UW Lutheran Campus Center celebrates Centennial this summer!

The weekend of June 29-30 commemorates the 100th anniversary of the ELCA student ministry (the oldest in the country) with a weekend of tailgating, tours, worship services and a banquet.

If the LCC was a part of your faith journey during college or grad school, please join us for the celebrations and especially the centennial worship service on Saturday June 30, 2 pm at the Monona Terrace. ELCA Bishop Mark Hanson will be preaching. Instrumentalists to play the Chicago Folk service liturgy and singers to participate in a special centennial choir are needed! For more information contact Sherri Hansen at sherrihansen@tds.net.

Martin Marty/Diana Eck on Religious Pluralism, Madison, April 12, 13

The Lubar Institute for the Study of the Abrahamic Religions delights to announce lectures by two of the foremost scholars of religious pluralism in the United States, Martin Marty and Diana Eck. The lectures are **FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**. Both lectures will take place in 1100 Grainger Hall, 975 University Avenue, Madison. For further information, go to: <http://lisar.lss.wisc.edu/events/pluralism.html> or contact the Institute at 608 263-1821.

Advent Prayer Ministry

Every household of the congregation will be remembered in the prayers of the church during worship over the next twelve months. The names of three households will be printed in the bulletin each week and the names of twelve households will be listed in the monthly newsletter. All the members of Advent are encouraged to pray for these people each week.

This ministry is under-girded by a group of about ten members comprising the Advent Prayer Team. This group will gather following worship the fourth Sunday of each month for a short time of mutual support, and pray to uphold their commitment. I will be contacting the households the week before and asking if they have any prayer requests and if appropriate, forwarding the requests to the members of the prayer team. In addition, I will also offer to meet with each of the twelve households we will be praying for during the month.

In April we will be praying for Beverly Brekke Baily, Dotty & John Brugge, John Brugge, Sara Hulsether, Noah, Mariah & Joel Hulsether-Brugge, Terry Burke & Sharon Young Burke, Scott, Ann, Stella & Margo Bush, David, Sarah, Neal, Katherine & Sophie Canon, Amy Carlson, Solveig Carlson, Karen, Scooter & Cody Cooke, Doug, Marily & Sadie Crews-Nelson, Sherri Daugherty, Jim, Alex & Sean Morrison, Lori Demeuse & Alex Demeuse, George Diel, Tom, Joan, Erin, Brittany, Nick & Max Eggert, Larry Eriksson, Don & Phyllis Ermer.

Pray Daily

Worship Regularly

Study God's Word

Respond as Stewards

Serve at MCC &

Beyond

Cultivate Spiritual

Friendship

Advent News continued

Oakwood Service League Plant Sale
Spring is here! The birds are back and singing ... and it is time to begin thinking about those flowers you want to plant for the coming summer season. Oakwood Service League's plant sale is in progress, offering some favorite bright blooming annuals, as well as quite a few perennials - already in gallon containers. Irish Lane \$20 gift certificates are also available. Order forms can be found in the Shalom Room. Completed forms and checks, made out to Oakwood Service League, should be sent to the Oakwood Foundation Office, 6201 Mineral Point Rd, 53705 by April 4. Pick up is Friday, May 11 (two days before Mother's Day), from 11 to 3:30 at Oakwood West and East. If you have any questions, please ask Margaret Smith, 231-1496, Advent's OSL contact.

Oakwood Resale Shop

Looking for some furniture, dishes, nice glassware, retro jewelry, books, and other items ... all slightly used, but in good condition?

Check out Oakwood's Resale Shop, again open for the season on the last Saturday of each month until November. You will find some very nice items and all at a very reasonable price. The shop also welcomes donations of household items. Contact Oakwood Foundation office, 230-4264.

Giving Goal

The giving goal for the month of March is \$23,680.00. Advent members have generously supported the mission of the congregation by giving \$21,679.00 through the first three weeks of the month. Barring a blizzard on Sunday, March 25 our giving goal is within reach.

Thank you from Madison-area Urban Ministry

Thank you for your recent contribution to MUM through the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin. Your faithfulness to this work is impressive and necessary. We have been able to co-sponsor an initiative looking at discriminatory hiring practices called, "A Chance to Work , A Chance to Succeed." We have continued our efforts with formerly incarcerated individuals, and we are expanding our "Who Is Our Neighbor" simulations to address issues of poverty.

Thanks for working with us.

Lori Powell

Her note is posted on the bulletin board in the Shalom Room at MCC.

One suggestion received during the Advent worship survey discussions was to include Sunday morning liturgies in the newsletter. Let us know if this is helpful to you.

4/1/2007 Palm Sunday - MCC service

4/8/2007 7:00 am Easter Sunrise

4/8/2007 10:15 am Easter LBW 1A

4/15/2007 Chicago Folk with communion

4/22/2007 Earth Day - MCC service

4/29/2007 Sundays & Seasons

5/6/2007 LBW 2A w/ communion

5/13/2007 ELW Service of the Word

5/20/2007 MCC service

5/27/2007 Confirmation

Pray Daily

Worship Regularly

Study God's Word

Respond as Stewards

Serve at MCC &

Beyond

Cultivate Spiritual

Friendship

Community of Hope News

Opportunities in Christian Education Offered by the Wisconsin Conference, UCC

Lay Academy: The Teaching Ministry – Wisconsin Conference Center – 2007-2008

Where can educators get information, resources, practice and networking to build their skills and develop their program? That was the question posed at a Great Lakes meeting, so a group of educators came together to craft five weekends to address these needs. Topics are:

- Biblical Foundations for Teaching
- Faith Formation
- Methodology
- Administration/Leadership/Vision
- Domestic Church

This is a stand-alone year of Lay Academy: no prerequisites, no professional credentials, no requirements other than a desire to learn, get better at what you do and meet others on the same path.

More information is available at www.wcucc.org along with a registration form.

Educator's Day – June 9, 2007 – Green Lake Convention Center – 10 am to 4:15 pm

This year's Annual Meeting will focus on the Teaching Ministry. We have made it possible for educators to register just for the educator's day, to hear our keynote speaker, Dr. John Riggs, Professor at Eden Theological Seminary and choose from a wide variety of excellent workshops, all offered on Saturday. This will also be a wonderful way to experience the excitement of the wider church as it gathers as the Body of Christ.

More information will be coming in the Annual Meeting packet and a registration brochure is available.

Mark your calendars - Spring Association Meeting, April 21st

The Spring Association meeting is Saturday, April 21 at Darlington UCC. We are calling this Church 101 and it will cover the gamut! Workshop titles include: "Can I hug my pastor?", "What do we do when our church is in conflict?", "What do we do when our pastor leaves?" "How do we sing a new song?" and "Why do we call them sacraments?"

It looks to be a very interesting and thought-provoking Association meeting. We hope to see some new faces this spring along with our regulars! Contact Tisha by April 17 if you're interested in attending or would like more information.

Back Bay Mission Update

Since Hurricane Katrina destroyed six of their seven buildings, staff at Back Bay Mission have been operating out of a crowded trailer. Rebuilding efforts on their only standing building are now complete and they are moving in to their permanent headquarters. In addition to offices, the building will house a food pantry and clothing distribution center. Back Bay gives thanks to all the churches that helped to make this re-built building a reality.

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 have included in next month's newsletter please contact Tisha at the church office.

- Those who are unable, for health reasons, to join us in worship on a regular basis but whom we love: Mary Beth and Steve Udvari, Kathy Alexander and Wilma Sanks
- All military personnel and their families. Especially those involved in Iraq, and Afghanistan.
- Bill and Freddie Feeny and family on the death of Freddie's mother, Anna Holm
- Stuart Streiff, Petra's brother who received a lung transplant in March and for his family – for healing and hope
- Petra Streiff as she spends time in Texas caring for her brother Stuart and for Larry as he supports Petra from a distance.

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

March 27-Apr. 3

Lois and Hirochika Komai; Laura Komai; Sachi Komai

April 3-10

Donna Leet, Lettman-Shue family

April 10-17

Bill Long, Jan Manser & Dave Manion; Tom & Joan Matthews

April 17-24

Martha McCurdy, Sef & Marcella; Letitia Moore

April 24-May 1

the Murphy family;
the Ono family;
the Putnam family

Thank you for your Generosity

On Sunday, March 18 we received our offering for One Great Hour of Sharing. Over \$700 was given in support of this offering. Thank you for your generosity and for your commitment to reaching out to our neighbors in need around the world.

Important Dates to Remember!



Birthdays

Lori Powell	04/01
Beth Simmons	04/06
Peter Williams	04/07
Morgan Eder	04/07
Bill Feeny	04/14
Margaret Helming	04/18
Luke Geistlinger	04/20
Wilma Sanks	04/21
Silke van der Weide	04/23
Sage Ono	04/23

Anniversaries

No anniversaries in April

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

Hope Men's Breakfast Group

The men of Hope meet for breakfast at 6:30am on the first and third Wednesdays of every month at the Original Pancake House, 5518 University Avenue. We enjoy good fellowship, conversation, and food. Tisha joined us on March 21st. Our next breakfasts will be on April 4th and 18th.

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 providing a meal to us on February 25, 2007. We'd especially like to thank Barbara Dueholm and Corkey Custer. In the midst of your busy lives, we are grateful to you for remembering us! Food is always a way into the heart of a student!"

Thank You,
Karla, Dustin, Suzie, Mara, Brittney,
Chris, Aly and others...

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

Our Larger Community

Continued from page 9

Of his most recent book, *The Paradise of God*, Madisonian Calvin DeWitt wrote: "With joy and wonderful spirit, Wirzba deepens our understanding of the great love of God for the world and invites us to find our own joy in the joy of the whole creation." Organizers of this event were referred to Wirzba at the recommendation of Wendell Berry!

Schedule of Events:

3:00 p. Food Fair, Booths and Displays
4:00 p. Celebration with Music and Norman Wirzba
5:30 p. Food Fair, Booths and Displays

LET'S HULA!

Join in for a three-class series of adult hula lessons on Monday, April 9, 16 and 23. You will learn the Hukilau, Little Brown Gal and more! You pay only \$25 for all three classes, plus you get a CD. Even if you have to miss a class, you're still guaranteed to learn two or three dances. Registration required - call Debbie Knuth at 347-9390 or email drkyoga@yahoo.com today! (ask about Family Hula April 15 & 29)

Wednesday Evening Watershed Walks — A series of walks within the Upper Yahara River Watershed and beyond, extending from Earth Week to Yahara Lakes Week. All walks begin at 6:30p. A complete list is posted in the Shalom Room at MCC.

April 25 Token Creek Park—Earth Week Token Creek Watershed Association, 6394 Portage Rd DeForest, Highway 19, North on Portage Rd. Meet TCWA member Scott Woody in the parking lot then walk to the stream. Receive an update on current stream bank restoration efforts to create better trout habitat.

The Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr.
Healing the Spirit of the Nation

The David P. Lyons Lectures Saturday, April 28, 10:00a.—3:30 p. at First United Methodist Church

Registration begins at 9:00 a. The fee is \$40.00 per person. A box lunch will be provided at no additional cost. Childcare is available for \$12 per child (arranged in advance). Registration forms are on the bulletin board. You may also download registration materials at www.fumc.org. Call 256-9061 with any questions.

Pray Daily

Worship Regularly

Study God's Word

Respond as Stewards

Serve at MCC &

Beyond

Cultivate Spiritual

Friendship

Our Website: www.madisonchristiancommunity.org.

- * Read Pastor Jeff and Pastor Tisha's Sunday sermons on the web!
- * Sunday texts are on the monthly calendar.
- * Lenten Sermons are on our website.

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.

Contact the Website Committee at office@madisonchristiancommunity.org.



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
hope@madisonchristiancommunity.org

Jeff Wild, Pastor
Advent Lutheran
Church, ELCA
advent@madisonchristiancommunity.org

Katrin Wuest,
Director of Ministry to
Children & Youth
katrinmcc@tds.net

Sonja Keesey-Berg,
MCC Administrative
Secretary
office@madisonchristiancommunity.org

MCC Logo Design by
Lucetta Kanetzke

Tom Matthews, Secretarial Assistant AND
MCC Maintenance
mccfixit@tds.net

Bruce Burns and
Jean Oliverson
MCC Custodian

Community of Hope
Steering Committee

Ann Bolger
Barbara Dueholm,
Corkey Custer,
Moderator

Marcus Murphy
Bruce Jarvis
Bill Long
Donna Leet

Advent Council
Doug Johnson
Sarah Zutz
Jim Muehl
Joanna McDonald,
President

JoAnne Streit
Brian Kuhn
Edd Hellmer

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:
Doug Johnson, Chair

Joanna McDonald
Corkey Custer
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
7118 Old Sauk Road
Madison WI 53717-1099

Phone: 608-836-1455
Fax: 608-836-7658
Email:
office@madisonchristiancommunity.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Non-Profit Org.
US POSTAGE PAID
Madison, WI
Permit #1928