



The Good Word

March 2007

THIS I BELIEVE

Lenten Worship at the Madison Christian Community

You are invited to worship at 7:00 p.m. each Wednesday evening in Lent beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 21 and continuing through March 28. This year our series is called "This I Believe" after the popular segment of the same name on National Public Radio. "This I Believe" was first introduced to radio programming by Edward R. Murrow in the 1950s. In our own "This I Believe" series we will hear from 6 members of the MCC as they share what they believe about a variety of theological topics. The speakers and their topics are listed below. There will be no soup suppers prior to worship this year.

Wed. Feb. 21 (Ash Wednesday): David Keesey-Berg "This I Believe about Judgment"

Wed. Feb. 28: Al Heggen, "This I Believe about Mercy"

Wed. March 7 Roger Buffet, "This I Believe about Salvation"

Wed. March 14 John Mix, "This I Believe about Awakening"

Wed. March 21 Martha Nack, "This I Believe about Suffering and Lament"

Wed. March 28 Al Wahl, "This I Believe about Belonging"

Lenten Sermons are on the MCC website.

Dane County United Citizen and Candidate Action Assembly, Thursday, March 15, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. Location TBD

Plan to be a part of the Madison Christian Community's delegation for this important assembly. MCC members who attended the February 15 Delegate's Assembly have pledged to bring 30 people to this event where we will have the opportunity to speak directly to mayoral and school board candidates about our vision for Dane County and hear their commitments to work with Dane County United in the coming years to take action on our vision.

DCU's current vision includes:

- Ensuring all CHILDREN have access to a strong start in life by taking a lead on State-wide reform of the early childcare system, creating a collaborative and play-based 4 year old kindergarten program and by fully funding City of Madison early child care assistance programs;
- Providing support to YOUTH by working to create systemic reform to keep youth out of prison;
- Supporting low-wage WORKERS in their struggles for dignity and fair pay in their jobs;
- Preserving and sustaining the ENVIRONMENT by working to lower carbon emissions in Dane County

If you are interested in or have questions about any of these action areas or are planning to attend the Citizen and Candidate's assembly on March 15 please contact Keith Johnson, Jeff Wild, or Tisha Brown.

Of Special Interest:

- Java for Justice, List of items needed for our soldiers in Iraq, Sunday Adult Education –p.2
- Coming Events , Haiti Update and Thank You MCC – p.-4
- Father Dom's Duck Doo and Support Amy Carlson in her walk for Breast Cancer Benefit – p. 5
- Environmental Task Force news –p.6
- March Food Drive for Wexford Ridge Food Pantry and Hatha Yoga at MCC – p. 7
- Where in the World is Dumka? – p. 8

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MCC News

MCC Directories Available at MCC!

Pick one up on your way home on Sunday. There are baskets of them in several locations, including in each sanctuary and near the front entrance.

Pictorial Directories are expected soon.

JAVA FOR JUSTICE—

March Madness, St. Patrick's Day, Spring! Order extra coffee for events you might be hosting during March. Order by March 3rd (including your check with your order made out to *Mt. Meru Coffee Project*) and pick it up on March 11th. Order regular or decaf, 12 oz (\$8) or 4# bags (\$38). Thanks for helping Tanzania coffee farmers become sustainable. Plus, you get the pleasure of a fine cup of coffee.

Aid to Troops — Update from Brad

Here's what Brad is hoping to send to Iraq in the next few weeks: DVD's, chocolate (while it's cool enough to travel OK), beef sticks and similar products, cheese, coffee, microwave popcorn, and cup-style ramen soups.

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.

Sunday Adult Education Hour

March 4 will be the final session in our study of the health care issues in Wisconsin.

March 11 will begin sessions of *Countering Pharaoh's Production: Consumption Society Today*. While some congregations used the DVD-based course by Walter Brueggemann during the season of Advent, our Adult Education Committee decided that Lent was equally appropriate and at a time when we had some time to contemplate without being distracted by shopping lists for Christmas.

Brueggemann is an Old Testament scholar and retired professor from Columbia Theological Seminary. The first session begins with Pharaoh, the slaves and Yahweh/God in Exodus and looks at the systems, oppression and commitments of the people. The *Countering Pharaoh* series has some similarities to the *Living the Questions* series by using the DVD for 20 minutes and also using the small group for discussion. However, Brueggemann takes the next step of asking each participant to name one discipline that you will commit to between now and the next Sunday that will counter your Pharaoh. Both Brueggemann and the small groups will use Biblical texts throughout for study.

We strongly encourage you to attend these sessions as part of your Lenten worship.

Pray Daily

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The Good Word

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Newsletter Preparer: Sonja Keesey-Berg

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Fellowship Groups & Activities

Interested in an Adult Quetico Canoe Trip?

Any adults (age 18-98) considering going on the MCC canoe trip to the Quetico in September, please note: we will begin planning the trip on Sunday March 4th immediately after church (11:30) in the Youth Room downstairs at MCC. We'll be choosing our destination lake so we can apply for our Canadian permit and reserve accommodations. Questions? Call Joan Matthews or Barb Bickford.

Talent Show and Raffle-March 11

There are only *two more weeks* to purchase raffle tickets!! We have raised \$250 so far and are shooting for \$1000 so please buy some tickets to help support youth activities for those who might need the financial help. Drawing March 11th. Need not be present to win. Thanks! Youth Ministry Board

June 15-17 for MCC Camping

"It's time to start planning summer events and one of our favorites is the **Annual MCC Campout at Bethel Horizons!!** Families of all ages and sizes are welcome to join in the fun for a weekend of camping, hiking, swimming, eating and fellowship June 15-17. We have the campground reserved at Bethel Horizons camp near Dodgeville - people are welcome to camp one or two nights or join us for the day on Saturday and stay for a potluck/bonfire that evening. Mark your calendars now!! Please contact Karen Kuhn with any questions. "

Aug 24, 5:00-9:00PM – Women and Girls Event

Who: MCC Women and Girls (those finished with 5th Grade on up)
What: An evening together....details to come

MCC Film Group 2007 Schedule

Our next gathering will be at 7:00 pm on **March 23** to view *Babe*, at Bill and Freddie Feeny's home.

April 13	Syriana	Komai's
May 11	Waking Ned Devine	William's
June 15	Grapes of Wrath	Eriksson's

MCC Community Group

Monday March 5 Eagle watching at Sauk City, then Bavarian Smorgasbord at the Dorf Haus. Carpool from MCC at 4:00 p., smorgasbord at 5:30 p.

Sunday, March 18 Potluck after church at Karen & Dan Schwarz, Weston Place, condo.

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS EVENT – SOUTH AFRICA, April 20 at 7:00 pm

Tom and Brittany Eggert traveled to South Africa this last summer with Brittany's soccer team. While in South Africa, Brittany's team played 5 matches. They played against high school girls on immaculately groomed fields in Cape Town, and against barefooted village girls on baked clay outside of Kruger National Park. Everywhere they went they were enthusiastically received. In addition to soccer, the girls also worked with elementary school children in townships around Cape Town, and with AIDs orphans. They did find time to spend three days on safari, seeing elephants, rhinos, lions, water buffalo, warthogs, ostriches, giraffes, and all of the other wildlife South Africa has to offer. Join them for a recap of their trip, loads of pictures and fun treats!

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MCC News—Coming Events

Mar 7-28	Wednesday Lenten Services at 7:00 p.
Mar 11	Youth Cinnamon Roll Sale
Mar 11	Indoor labyrinth open to the public from 1:00-2:30 p.
Mar 11	MCC Talent Show and raffle, 6:00 p.
Mar 14	Indoor labyrinth is open to the public from 9:00 a.—6:00 p.
Mar 18	Wexford Food Pantry donation Sunday
Mar 21	Spring Equinox labyrinth walk. 6:00-8:00 p. in the Covenant Room
Mar 21	Lenten Service at 7:00 p. in the Blessing Room
April 1	No Education Hour, Palm Sunday
April 1-8	IHN Week (Future dates: 7/8-7/15 and 9/30-10/7)
April 1	Youth: Stations of the Cross
April 8	No education hour, Easter Sunday
April 8	Breakfast, 7:30 a.—10:00 a.
April 11	MCC Women's Salad Supper
April 22	Earth Day Activities

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School Supported by Haiti Partners Under Attack:

Bryan Sirchio from Community of Hope reports that the Cite Soleil area in Haiti, where students sponsored by MCC members attend school, has been under attack by the United Nations forces serving in Haiti as peacekeepers. Innocent civilians, many of whom are young children, have been wounded or killed in what has been reported as unorganized, aggressive and reckless violence committed by the UN forces. St. Thomas School, which MCC members help to support, has been fired upon and damaged several times now.

A number of grassroots organizations from Cite Soleil in Haiti are forming a new coalition to offer a non-violent response. They are asking for participation of international human rights organizations in forming a commission to develop a plan with involvement of all branches of the Haitian government to place the UN forces under local Haitian control.

A copy of the petition can be signed on the internet at:

<http://www.petitionspot.com/petitions/stopdeadlyUNattacks>.

Contact Bryan Sirchio, Ken Streit or Keith Johnson from the MCC Haiti Partners Group if you want more information.

Thank You MCC from St Vincent de Paul Recycle the Warmth

Over 2400 new and used blankets were collected. Financial contributions added up to over \$4,200.

All of the resources gathered during the drive will be given away to needy individuals and families in Dane County during the next twelve months.

The St Vincent de Paul Service Center receives requests for assistance with furniture and bedding at a rate of 25-30 households each week. The donated blankets and financial contributions are essential in helping many in the community keep warm each year.

We appreciate your cooperation and want you to know your efforts are essential in helping us provide the necessary items for living to needy people in our community.

MCC News —

FATHER DOM'S DUCK'S DOO COM-POST/MULCH

Think Spring! Yes, March is here and spring is on its way.

Place your order for this award-winning soil conditioner on the chart located on the Coffee 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. Current plans are to pick the order up by the end of April or first part of May. Watch for future announcements about the deadline for placing your order.

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.)

Order some for your indoor and patio plants as well as to mix with your potting soil or to place in the holes when planting new plants.

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 people of all races, religions, nationalities, lifestyles and creeds across America through God's Good Earth Foundation, Inc., especially people with disabilities and chil-

dren 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 envelop 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!

Amy Carlson is training for the Breast Cancer 3-Day, a 60-mile walk benefiting Susan G. Komen for a Cure and the National Philanthropic Trust. She will walk in the Chicago 2007 event, which takes place from August 10-12. As a condition of her participation, Amy must raise at least \$2200, but she hopes to raise much more than that! To learn more, visit www.the3day.org and to donate in support of Amy, go to www.the3day/chicago07/amyb

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MCC Environmental Task Force News

The Task Force will soon launch a compact fluorescent bulb (CFL) initiative using CFL's that are classified as energy star products. This project will involve MCC members and will result in energy and money savings. What are Energy Star CFL's?

ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs:

*Use at least 2/3 less energy than standard incandescent bulbs to provide the same amount of light, and last up to 10 times longer.

*Save \$30 or more in energy costs over each bulb's lifetime

*Generate 70 percent less heat, so they're safer to operate and can cut energy costs associated with home cooling.

*In addition to other quality requirements, must turn on instantly, produce no sound, and fall within a warm color range or be otherwise labeled as providing cooler color tones.

*Are available in different sizes and shapes to fit in almost any fixture, for indoors and outdoors.

Why Use a CFL?

NPR.org, February 8, 2007 · According to the federal government, if every American home replaced just one light bulb with an Energy Star approved compact fluorescent bulb (CFL), the United States would save enough energy to light more than 2.5 million homes for a year and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of nearly 800,000 cars.

Energy Star is a joint project with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy that promotes energy efficient – and thus climate-friendly – products.

But not all CFLs are created equal. Here, some tips from Energy Star about what to look for and where to use a CFL:

The Benefits

– Energy Star qualified CFLs use at least two-thirds less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer (average lifespan of a CFL is five years).

– CFLs save \$30 or more in energy costs over each bulb's lifetime.
– CFLs generate 70 percent less heat, making them safer to operate.

Where to Use

– To get the most energy savings, replace bulbs where lights are on the most, such as the family and living rooms, kitchen, dining room and porch.
– Install them in hard to reach fixtures, like ceiling fans.
– Make sure the CFL matches the right fixture by reading any restrictions on the package. Some CFLs work with dimmers, others are specially made for recessed or enclosed fixtures.

Myths

– *CFLs have a harsh, cold light quality.* Increasingly, this is less of an issue.

Over the past few years, manufacturers have worked to provide a warmer color. Some people say they still notice a difference, but the gap is narrowing. For a warmer, white light, look for a color temperature of 2,700–3,000K on the package.

– *CFLs aren't for bathrooms.* Not necessarily. CFLs can work in bathrooms, but humidity may shorten the bulb's life. CFLs can't be used in older houses. In fact, CFLs may work better than incandescent bulbs in houses with older wiring; CFLs generate less heat and draw less electrical current.

Questions and Answers

What compact fluorescent light bulb do I buy to replace a 60-, 75-, 100- or 150-watt regular bulb? How are the watts calculated? While a regular (incandescent) light bulb uses heat to produce light, a fluorescent bulb creates light using an entirely different method that is far more energy-efficient – in fact, 4-6 times more efficient. This means that you can buy a 15-watt compact fluorescent bulb that produces the same amount of light as a 60-watt regular incandescent bulb.

Continued on the next page

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MCC News continued—

Don't worry about the math, though – we make it easy for you to figure out which compact fluorescent bulb to buy by displaying the equivalent regular watts you're used to prominently on the package. Just look for the wattage you would normally buy in a regular bulb.

In case you're curious, here are the watts needed by regular incandescent bulbs and compact fluorescent bulbs to produce the same amount of light.

- 60 watts incandescent = 15 watts compact fluorescent
- 75 watts incandescent = 20 watts compact fluorescent
- 100 incandescent = 26-29 watts compact fluorescent
- 150 incandescent = 38-42 watts compact fluorescent
- 250-300 incandescent = 55 watts compact fluorescent

Read this information and get ac-

From the MCC Environmental Task Force — 10 SIMPLE THINGS TO DO TO GO GREEN (For details see WI State Journal, 12/29/06, page D6)

1. Use compact fluorescent bulbs
2. Save water bottle-use reusable bottles
3. Pull the plug on electronics & chargers
4. Take shorter showers
5. Buy a hybrid car
6. Create idle-free zones (turn off your car engine)
7. Buy local food products
8. Bring cloth bags to market
9. Put on a sweater instead of turning up the heat
10. Use recycled paper

Food Drive for Wexford Ridge Food Pantry—Sunday, March 18

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

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

Dobbin McNatt, Coordinator

HATHA YOGA with A Way of Life - classes now available at Madison Christian Community! Experience a form of stress reduction that not only relaxes the mind and body, but also creates core awareness, strength and balance. Come enjoy a FREE class on Tuesday 5:45-6:45pm (Yoga Flow) or 7:00-8:00pm (Yoga Flex) OR Thursday 7:00-8:00pm (Core Yoga). Please bring a large towel and exercise mat with you (or two large towels) - yoga mats will be available for \$12.

Classes begin March 1.

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MCC News continued

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS DUMKA? and WHY IN THE WORLD DO WE CARE?

Dumka (doom'-ka) is a rural village (relatively speaking) located in Jarkhand state of northeast India. The central offices for our "walking partners," the Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church (NELC) reside in Dumka. This Lutheran church body of 80,000 members has 5 diocese, each with a Bishop. There are 506 congregations with only 99 pastors total. Male catechists minister to each congregation.

Why do we care about the Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church of India (NELC) and its people? They are half a world away! They live in a culture strange and exotic to our understanding.

We care because **GOD CARES!** God's love and care is not parochial or exclusive, not limited just to us.

We care because **GOD CARES!** We are members of the same family, "members of Christ's body in the world." To help us translate our theology of "Christ's body in the world," the ELCA has linked each Synod to a particular partner church somewhere in the world. Our Synod is linked with the NELC in India. Exchange visits between the two Lutheran synods have helped develop this partnership. Lutherans from this synod and those from northeast India have shared hopes, dreams, fears; they have prayed and sung together; they've embraced one another in the love of Christ.

Over the next couple of months, Solveig Carlson (new member of Advent) will invite us to board the INDIA EXPRESS to explore together rich treasures of this covenanted relationship. Solveig co-chairs the South-Central Synod's COMPANION SYNOD team and has herself visited India twice.

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Advent News

Judith Circle

Judith Circle will meet for coffee, fellowship and bible study at Eileen Bolstad's home on March 13. 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 February 2007

Beg. Balance & Love Offerings 2198.86

Rent & Eviction Prevention	1360.00
Security Deposit	200.00
Utility Assistance	.00
Iraq Postage /Coffee	15.93
Car repairs	275.00
Wexford Food Pantry	31.00
St Vincent de Paul Blankets	50.00
Car Battery	79.11
Checks In The Mail	<u>39.93</u>
Expenditure	\$2187.97

Balance as of 2/12/2007 \$10.89

A Thank You for a Treasury of Love Gift

"To Whom it may concern,
I would like to thank the church for their support in helping me through this time of need. You all are very much greatly appreciated and I will be keeping you all in my prayers for many blessings to come your way. Thanks for everything.

In love and peace,
Whitney"



GEMS

will resume meeting on January 9th at 10:30 a. in the lower level of MCC. They will begin a new book, Losing Moses on the Freeway by Chris Hedges. The group enjoys fellowship, learning and discussion and 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 March 15 in the youth room-lower level of the church. The book is *The Living Great Lakes* by Jerry Dennis, 2003 (NF). A tale of a man and his journey through the lakes. Covers many topics, from shipwrecks to zebra mussels.

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!

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- Cultivate Spiritual Friendship



Advent News continued

Election of a Bishop for the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

Nominations for office of bishop were received from November through January. The nominees were informed of their nomination the first week of February and given the month to decide whether to go forward with the process leading up to the election at the synod assembly, May 3-5, 2007. I am one of twenty two nominees.

My time of discernment has not led to strong leanings either way. I am both attracted and daunted by the opportunities and challenges of serving the church as bishop to the 151 congregations in this synod. In spite of my reluctance, I am going to "test the waters," and go forward with the process. The process includes submitting a sermon, providing personal information and a written response to a series of questions that are over my head. All of the candidates' information will be provided on the bishop's election website, www.bishop-election-scsw-elca.org. Pastors, voting members of the synod assembly and members of ELCA congregations in the synod are invited to attend one of two bishop's forums. The first forum will be at 2:00 pm on Sunday March 25 at Grace Lutheran Church in Dodgeville. A second forum will be convened at 2:00 pm at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Monona on Sunday, April 15. You are welcome to attend either forum.

This is a time of discernment for both the members of the congregations in this synod and for the nominees. A nominee can withdraw before or after the nominating ballot that will be cast on Friday, May 3. I will continue to be prayerful with the hope that clarity will come for the other nominees and myself, pastors and voting members at the synod assembly through the next couple of months.

It is not easy to disclose this information to you. The thought of ending my ministry here is unsettling. I enter this process not so much as a bishop wannabe, but as pastor of Advent Lutheran Church and Madison Christian Community, aspiring to honorably represent this community and its mission in our synod.

Jeff

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 March we will be praying for Kelle, Ken and Jack Adams, Connie Allen, Cathy Anderson, Joyce Anderson, Aaron Anding, Julie Armbricht, Peter Bakken, Martha Nack and Mara, Lynne Bethke, Janet, Peter, and Krista Billerbeck, Jeff, Rebecca, Allison and Anna Boldt, Eileen Bolstad and Mitch, Micki, Casey, Timothy and Mindy Bradt. Jeff

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Advent News continued

Advent Worship Conversations

The ELCA has published a new worship resource, Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW), to replace The Lutheran Book of Worship that was published in 1978. The introduction of a major new worship resource is an adjustment for most, if not all congregations, not only because it is new, but because it causes us to seriously examine how we meet God and how God meets us in worship. Because our varying values, preferences of worship styles, and backgrounds form strong personal convictions, discussions about worship can be challenging.

The Advent Worship Committee has devoted great time and energy in discussing how the ELW meshes with the values of the congregation. The question that arises pertains to the degree of importance members of the Advent worshiping community place upon the values it considers important. For this reason, members of the worship committee feel it is wise and necessary to engage members of the congregation in discussion about our worship. The question is not whether or not we should purchase the ELW, or whether we should use the book or print the service on paper. Rather, the committee's interest is using this resource in a way that is compatible with and upholding the values of the worshiping community.

Members of the Advent council and worship committee plan to engage members by visiting study and fellowship groups and by offering times to gather for discussion on two different Sundays in March. If you are a member of a fellowship or study group please allow time for this discussion to take place sometime in the next month. And if you do not participate in one of these groups, please plan to attend a session during the Sunday School hour or following worship on Sunday, March 4 or Sunday, March 18. The discussion groups during the Sunday School hour will

gather outside the kitchen area in the Shalom Room and the groups following worship will meet in the Blessing Room. Please allow approximately forty minutes of your time.

In addition to a short survey you will be asked to fill out, we will share our responses to three questions:

1. How do you experience God most meaningfully in worship and what hinders you from experiencing God meaningfully in worship?
2. How do the words that we use to name and address God affect your worship experience? What images of God do you want the children of our congregation to experience?

It is important to listen to as many members of Advent as possible. Your voice is important. Please plan to participate in the consultation process.

Giving Goal

The giving goal varies with each month because giving trends also vary according to the month of the year. The goal is calculated by taking the particular month for the past three years and determining the percentage of the annual budget that was received as income for that month. The three percentage amounts are averaged to determine the giving goal for the month in 2007. The giving goal for February is $296,000 \times .0768 = \$22,733.00$. Members of Advent supported the mission of Advent/MCC by giving \$26,919. Thank you for your generous support.

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Advent News Continued

Hunger, Rural America and the U.S. Farm Bill

This year, Congress will renew the U.S. farm bill. The term "farm bill" doesn't really do justice to this complex piece of legislation. In addition to agriculture programs, the farm bill contains policies and programs that affect *both* rural Americans (whether or not they work on farms) *and* hungry people nationally and internationally. Bread for the World's 2007 Offering of Letters, *Seeds of Change: Help Farmers, End Hunger*, calls for reforms in the farm bill that will strengthen rural communities, better support farmers, improve the Food Stamp Program, and provide increased opportunities for farmers in other countries to earn a living from agriculture.

The federal budget allocates meager funding for small-scale farmers, farmers who grow fruits, vegetables and other specialty crops, and rural people who do not farm. Yet these are the vast majority of rural residents. In fact, *only six percent* of people in U.S. rural areas are involved in farming, and those who are also hold jobs off the farm.

The Food Stamp Program receives a significant part of the farm bill budget-- food stamps are the country's first line of defense against hunger. Yet the funding made available is not sufficient to address our nation's hunger and food insecurity problem. Only about 60% of eligible people actually participate in the Food Stamp Program. And for most of the families who do receive food stamps, the benefits last only until the second or third week of the month.

Farm bill spending also has an impact on hungry and poor people around the world. The farm bill funds commodity pay-

ments to some U.S. farms-- often the largest producers and those who grow "commodity crops" -- chiefly corn, wheat, soybeans, rice and cotton. Such commodity payments contribute to artificially low world prices. As a result, farmers growing these crops in poor countries find it difficult to receive a fair price for their harvests, and thus fail to earn enough to support their families. This is of particular concern since the U.S. has promised to help cut hunger in half as part of the UN Millennium Development Goals.

BFW believes our country can do a better job of managing the resources in the farm bill. They are asking Congress to improve the farm bill so that U.S. small farmers receive better and broader support, rural communities are strengthened, hungry people in this country are helped, and farmers in developing countries are supported in their efforts to sell their crops and support their families.

The MCC will participate in the *2007 Offering of Letters: Seeds of Change*. Watch your newsletter and Sunday bulletins for more information.

Baptismal/Dedication Birthday Updates for Children

The Women of Advent send out Baptismal/Dedication Birthday cards to the children of the MCC (5th grade and younger) each year. If your child is not currently receiving a card, call Sarah Zutz or send an email with your child's name, birthdates, and Baptismal/Dedication Birthday to Sarah. If you have a creative urge, and would like to make some cards for these occasions, please contact Sarah.

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 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 Feeny as he receives the results of tests and hopes for surgery to relieve pain. These people and their families as we pray our way through the church directory:
 - Feb. 27- Mar. 6 the Geistlinger/Meyer family; the Zamora/Green family
 - March 6-13 Theresa & Steve Haffner-Stearns; Margaret Helming
 - March 13-20 Keith Johnson & Julie Hunter; Bruce, Ian, Colin and Alison Jarvis
 - March 20-27 Howard & Lucetta Kanetzke; Rolf Killingstad
 - March 27-Apr. 3 Lois and Hirochika Komai; Laura Komai; Sachi Komai

Hope Men's Breakfast News

The men of Hope meet for breakfast on the first and third Wednesdays of every month at The Original Pancake House, 5518 University Ave at 6:30 AM. There, we enjoy good food, warm friendship and interesting conversation. In February, our conversation included genealogy and stories about our ancestors. Our next breakfasts will be on March 7th & 21st.

Important Dates to Remember!



Birthdays

Roger Williams	3/03
Chuck Pfeifer	3/04
Tisha Brown	3/06
Theresa Haffner-Stearns	3/08
Nancy Zabel	3/12
Ken Ono	3/20
Eliza Meyer	3/20
Lucetta Kanetzke	3/23
Tanya Lettman-Shue	3/24

Anniversaries

Martha McCurdy	3/18
Barbara & David Dueholm	3/24

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

Thank you from the Wisconsin Conference

"Your gifts to OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) enabled the Conference to finish the year with a balanced financial position. We did not have to dip into reserve funds, as we have in recent years. We were able to 'restore' some of the budget cuts we had to make to mission partnerships. On the average, churches gave nearly 99% of the goals they adopted at the beginning of the year, an all time record.

Please accept my personal gratitude as your Conference Minister and as well the gratitude of our board of Directors and our entire staff. In 2006 you were willing to be "generous in every way," as the Apostle Paul suggested to the Corinthian Church. May you experience great joy in your giving, and know that in all ways, we seek to shape our common ministry so that it may indeed be one which produces "great praise to God."

Sincerely, David S. Moyer,
Conference Minister

- Pray Daily
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- Serve at MCC & Beyond
- Cultivate Spiritual Friendship

Community of Hope News Continued

Summer Camp Brochures are here

Every summer at two locations in Wisconsin the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ sponsors a wide array of camping options for children, youth and their families. Camping with the Wisconsin Conference, UCC is a great way to nurture faith and build relationships with other UCC-ers around the state.

Pilgrim Center, located near Ripon, WI offers camps for children from pre-school all the way through senior high. Younger children can participate in camps with their parents (ages 4 through 2nd grade). Children completing first grade and older can choose from a wide variety of camping options with their peers.

Moon Beach Camp, located near St. Germain, WI offers a wide variety of family camps throughout the summer and into the early fall. If you have questions about family camps, Howard and Luccetta, Barb Bickford and Judy Green, Margie Zamora and Rebecca Zamora Green have attended family camps in the past and always come home with great stories.

Both locations have an array of adult retreats and events scheduled throughout 2007.

For more information, pick up a brochure in the back of the sanctuary or check out the website – www.ucci.org. There are discounts available for early registration.

One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday, March 18, 2007

When floods arose in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, emergency supplies were sent right away by the United Church of Christ. Because churches had already contributed to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, the shipment was expedited.

This is just one example of how your gifts make a difference. One Great Hour of Sharing is improving lives in more than 90 countries, as the UCC works with local mission partners and with highly effective international ministries such as Church World Service.

Since 1949, One Great Hour of Sharing has been helping North Americans share their blessings with our neighbors around the world. Together, our gifts support programs that:

- * Rebuild communities ravaged by natural disasters,
- * Create sustainable sources of food and water for rural villages,
- * Provide micro-credit for women to start businesses that provide years of income,
- * Offer children a chance to survive past the age of 5 and attend school... and so much more.

One Great Hour of Sharing gives us each an opportunity to be the Good Samaritan to our neighbors living in disastrous circumstances. Through our gifts, we show the kindness, compassion and mercy to which Jesus calls us.

Please prayerfully consider what you can give to One Great Hour of Sharing this year because "Together, we make a world of difference!"

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Our Larger Community

The Unexpected Caregiver

How Boomers Can Keep Mom and Dad Active, Safe and Independent

By *Kari Berit*

Some of you may remember Kari Berit. She was a member of Community of Hope a few years ago and now lives in Redwing, MN. Kari is proud to announce that her second book "The Unexpected Caregiver" is now available for sale. This book addresses the issues faced by people who find themselves in the role of caring for their aging parents and provides helpful insights and suggestions for dealing creatively with those issues.

When Kari last visited the Madison Christian Community she left a copy of her book for us. Our copy of the book is located on the book shelf in the Shalom Room if you'd like to take a look at it. If you'd like to order your own copy of "The Unexpected Caregiver" e-mail, call or mail order: kb@kariberit.com 651-388-6789 or Kari Berit Presents PO Box 2 Red Wing, MN 55066-0002. Books are \$19.00 plus \$4.00 shipping and handling.

"Isn't it Romantic?"

A concert by The Festival Choir of Madison on Saturday, March 3 - 7:30pm at Asbury U. Methodist [6101 University Ave].

Detail can be found on the bulletin board in the Shalom Room at MCC, on their website at www.festivalchoir.org or by calling 274-7089.

Start Talking Before They Start Drinking.
March 7 6:45-8:45 p.m. Exhibition Hall, Alliance Energy Center.

Registration and refreshments at 6:45 p.m., program begins at 7:00

Childhood alcohol use is Madison's silent drinking problem. Parents, educators and all who know and work with middle school youth are invited to a Town Hall Meeting on Middle School Drinking, hosted by Tom Farley, of The Chris Farley Foundation. Join us on Wednesday, March 7 at the Exhibition Hall of the Alliant Energy Center, registration opens at 6:45, the program begins at 7:00. Learn what childhood alcohol use does to the developing brain and body and learn what parents and community members can do to stop childhood alcohol use.

The meeting is free and open to the public, free parking available.

Visit

http://www.danecountyhumanservices.org/pdf/ATODA_townhall_20070307.pdf for details.

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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.

* 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.



Our Larger Community Continued

Registration forms for all these events can be found at www.benedictinewomen.org.

If you have questions, call Jerianne Bland at 836-1631 x 158.

Women's Lenten Lunches at Holy Wisdom Monastery

Wednesdays, February 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28, 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

During our time together we will explore holiness in persons and all created things. The format for this series includes Midday prayer, lunch and an hour of reflection and sharing. Facilitated by Benedictine Women of Madison and oblates. \$104 for the series.

Lenten Day of Prayer - a one day retreat for women and men March 17, 2007 Saturday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. The inevitable changes in life can become transforming moments. How can times of transition be sources of new life? The day includes lunch, prayer, group sharing and time for solitude. Facilitated by Lynne Smith, OSB and oblates. \$50 before March 10, \$55 after March 10.

Holy Week in the Monastery - for women and men April 5-8, 2007
5 p.m. Thursday - 10 p.m. Sunday

Join the Benedictine community in the Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. Take time for solitude and silence as you enter into these sacred days. Prayer includes Liturgy of the hours, Centering prayer and liturgical celebrations. Also available are shared reflection on the Scriptures and personal spiritual guidance. This is a silent retreat experience. Single: \$173 before March 29. \$190 after March 29. Double: \$235 by March 29. \$250 after March 29.

Madison Ballet's *Cinderella* comes to life in all its colorful and magical glory for two performances only at Overture Hall.

On March 31 and April 1, 2007, guest artist Genevieve Custer will return to her native Madison to dazzle audiences as she dances the lead role of Cinderella. This extravagant full-length ballet will charm audiences of all ages and levels of sophistication with its wit and beauty.

David Bier, of the San Francisco Opera, will also reprise his original *Cinderella* role, as the Prince. He and Custer will give the audience a wonderful display of neo-classical ballet technique as they perform alongside a cast of 90 dancers who range from area professionals to students as young as five years old.

First staged by Madison Ballet in 2005, *Cinderella* rivals *The Nutcracker* as one of the most ambitious projects Madison Ballet has undertaken. The production features historic costumes commissioned by noted Native American prima ballerina Maria Tallchief and built in Russian émigré Barbara Karinska's costume shop for Balanchine's New York City Ballet.

Cinderella

Saturday, March 31st, 7:30 pm
Sunday, April 1, 2:00 pm
Overture Hall

Tickets are available now
Ticket Prices start at \$11
Overture Box Office: 608-258-4141
Or online at www.madisonballet.org

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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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Bill Long
Donna Leet

Advent Council
Doug Johnson
Sarah Zutz
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Joanna McDonald,
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JoAnne Streit
Brian Kuhn
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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.

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