



# The Good Word

May 2007

Recently, I've been reading more poetry than ever before and really enjoying the beauty, images and creativity of poets. Members of Community of Hope have encouraged me in this direction and made helpful suggestions of poets and anthologies they enjoy. I received the following poem in an email. It comes from a book titled "Faith and Doubt: An Anthology of Poems,"  
Patrice Vecchione, Editor

*God Says Yes To Me*  
by Kaylin Haught

I asked God if it was okay to be melodramatic  
and she said yes  
I asked her if it was okay to be short  
and she said it sure is  
I asked her if I could wear nail polish  
or not wear nail polish  
and she said honey  
she calls me that sometimes  
she said you can do just exactly  
what you want to  
Thanks God I said  
And is it even okay if I don't paragraph  
my letters  
Sweetcakes God said  
who knows where she picked that up  
what I'm telling you is  
Yes Yes Yes

The instant I read this poem, I knew I had found the core of my Easter message. There is no greater, more resounding YES, no more bold and undeniable affirmation of God's love for the world than an empty tomb in which men dressed in dazzling clothes proclaim – "why do you

look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen."

The proclamation of Easter morning, the fact of Jesus' resurrection and his ongoing presence among us are all joyful YES' spoken from a loving steadfast God to a people who have been called out of the darkness of death into the light of new life. No matter what has happened in the past, there is the opportunity for a second, a twentieth, a thousandth chance. No matter how deep our pit of despair might be, the promise of this day points to the possibility of climbing up and out one step at a time. No matter how cold and long-lasting the winter has been, the new life of Spring bursts forth as tender shoots find their way through the once-frozen ground to be kissed by the warmth of the sun.

Neither we, nor the world can contain the risen Christ. Neither we nor the world can silence God's Yes. He is not there in the tomb, but has risen – go and tell the others what you have seen and heard and what you know to be true. Not even death itself is powerful enough to silence the good news of Jesus Christ. There is not a single NO in this world, in our lives, in our experiences, in all the world that is powerful enough to silence God's YES. As Jesus affirmed as he traveled to Jerusalem - if we, his disciples, are silent even the rocks and stones themselves will sing.

My hope and my prayer for all of us in this Easter season is that we might focus on and embrace God's YES spoken to us through Christ's resurrection and find the strength in our daily lives to continue  
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- Coming Events, Aid to the troops, Drop-In Shelter Volunteers Needed, Thanks to the Tuesday Work Crew – p.4
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## MCC News

Continued from the previous page. finding ways to counter the no's through acts of kindness, faithfulness, justice, beauty and love. Let us have faith that even in what seems like a very dark night, the morning will come, the light will shine, the stone will be rolled away, the tomb will be empty and men in dazzling clothes will ask yet again "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen." And once we hear this we will be compelled to rush to tell the others because we remember what Jesus has said to us. We have seen his deeds of love and of power. We have been touched by his presence and healed by our own faithfulness. May this be so.

Tisha

### FATHER DOM'S DUCK'S DOO:

Miss your chance or forgot to order Duck's Doo compost/mulch for your garden, flower beds or pots? We have more and it is ready for pick-up today after church. We have about 90 bags left to sell so first come first served. Cost remains at \$7/bag or 3 bags for \$18. Any amount over 3 are \$6/bag. Remember that all profits go to charity both at MCC and the company. See you at the lower entrance to the building. The Environmental Task Force – Working for the good of the planet!

### Summer Worship Time begins on Sunday, June 3

Beginning Sunday, June 3 our worship services will begin at 9:30 a.m. We will worship at this time throughout the summer months, including Labor Day weekend.

### Thank You

I want to thank the many people who have helped me out in the past 5 months when I was unable to drive. People cheerfully drove me to various medical appointments, meetings, and events. Many others volunteered whom I never called upon as I had so many volunteers. My family and I greatly appreciate your generosity and services. It has been heartwarming and fun to better get to know some of the generous people at the MCC.

In honor of all who drove me to my many appointments, etc., we would like to donate \$100 to purchase vegetable oil fuel for the tractor lawn mower. We do this in thanksgiving for your help and in the hopes of all setting some of the carbon emissions caused by the many miles driven!

Thank you and God bless,  
Martha Nack, Peter Bakken and Mara Nack Bakken

### Pray Daily

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

### The Good Word

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Newsletter Preparer: Sonja Keesey-Berg  
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## Fellowship Groups & Activities

### MCC Community Group

Saturday, May 19 - Potluck & hiking at Maxwell's, 3264 Hwy JG North, Mt.Horeb. Wear your hiking clothes. Carpool from the MCC at 9:30 a.m.

Monday, May 28 - Picnic potluck at McNatt's cabin, please bring your own plates & utensils, coffee & lemonade provided. Bring binoculars & wear hiking clothes, some folding chairs needed also. Everyone is welcome!! Carpool from MCC at 9:30 a.m.

Future trips: Saturday, June 23 - Trip to Pendarvis at Mineral Point

Sunday, July 1 - Mallards baseball game, free day for seniors!

Wednesday, July 11 - Concert on the Square

### 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 (231-6723) 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

### Book Discussion Group

You are invited to participate in a group that will read and gather to discuss *Mandate to Difference: An Invitation to the Contemporary Church* by Walter Brueggemann. "The essays in *Mandate to Difference* call the church to courageously defy political polarization, consumerism, and militarism. 'If this is God's world and if the rule of love is at work,' Brueggemann writes, 'then our mandate is not to draw into a cocoon of safety; rather, it is to be out and alive in the world in concrete acts and policies whereby the fearful anxiety among us is dispatched and adversaries can be turned to allies and to friends.'

This group will meet four times and the first gathering will be at MCC on Thursday, May 17, 7:00-8:30 pm. The other discussion times will be determined by the group when they meet on the 17<sup>th</sup>. A copy of *Mandate to Difference* can be purchased in the office or from Jeff Wild at a cost of \$20.00. Participants should read the first three chapters for the first session.

### MCC Film Group 2007 Schedule

Our next gathering will be at 7:00 p.m. at Roger and Kristi Williams on May 11 to view *Waking Ned Devine*

June 15 Grapes of Wrath  
at Larry & Karen Eriksson's

You are welcome to join us. Call Larry Eriksson for more information.

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## MCC News—Coming Events

May 4-5	ELCA Synod Assembly
May 6	Order Mt Meru Coffee
May 12	<b>BIG WORK DAY AT MCC</b> —(landscaping the new shed, rain garden dig event, Memorial Garden, Spirit Woods)
May 19	MCC Community Group potluck and hiking at Maxwell's. Carpool from MCC at 9:30 a.m.
May 19	Family Time with kids through 5th Grade at 4:00 p.m.
May 20	Wexford Ridge Food Pantry Donation Day
May 20	Summer newsletter articles are due for June, July & Aug
May 20	<b>MCC Sundae Sunday</b> – Last day of education and Teacher Appreciation, MCC Worship
May 27	Worship time is 10:15 a.m. Summer schedule starts next Sunday.
May 27	Advent Confirmation Sunday
May 28	MCC Community Group carpools from MCC at 9:30 a.m. to McNatt's cabin for a picnic.
July 8– July 15	IHN Week

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

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### Aid to Troops — Update from Brad

There is a web site dedicated to providing support to the troops in Iraq and elsewhere: <http://www.anysoldier.com/> On the web site you can find the name of a person to support and find what it is that the person is requesting. Simply receiving some attention may be the most useful support of all. There are 10 contacts listed for units from Wisconsin. The members of Advent and Community of Hope have been wonderfully supportive of our troops and this is yet another opportunity.

Also you can register at <http://www.booksforsoldiers.com> to help fill requests sent by soldiers for reading materials, CDs, and so on.

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.

### DROP-IN SHELTER

The date is Thursday, June 7. 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.

### Thank you Tuesday Work Crew

On Tuesday, April 24, Doug Johnson, Peter William and Roger Williams pulled sumac trees. Our custodian Bruce Burns also helped. A lot of brush at the end of the gardens was loaded up and taken to a composting site by David Keesey-Berg. The gardens will be plowed soon and the hope is this area can *become* part of the gardens!

## MCC News —

### Food Drive for Wexford Ridge Food Pantry—Sunday, May 20

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 May. 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

### RAIN GARDEN AND PLANTING WORK DAY: May 12<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 a.m.

Many hands are needed to help build a rain garden to catch the roof runoff on the east side of the building. Rain garden plants from the Arboretum native plant sale will be ready to plant on the construction site. Some of these many hands will be planting shrubs around the garden shed (Adam's shed). And if time permits, mulch will be spread on the newly mowed paths in the Spirit Woods. Join us with your shovel and a rake. Wear old clothing (this is a work day), and bring a dish to pass for a potluck lunch.

Lois Komai, Chuck Pils, Susan Gruber

**Sustainable Travel To Worship Update** Congratulations! Slightly more than one-third of the MCC congregation on Earth Day, Sunday, April 22 traveled to worship in a sustainable way. That's 50 adults and 12 children who walked, biked, drove a Prius or carpoled. Wasn't it fun! I know that I enjoyed my morning walk so much that I plan to do it as often as possible throughout the Spring, Summer and fall.

### THE SALAD SUPPER THAT WASN'T

The Women of Advent didn't count on record-breaking snowfall when they planned the '07 Salad Supper for April 11! (We moved it from the usual February date just so it could be a SPRINGTIME event.)

We apologize to everyone who was inconvenienced, disappointed or confused about this canceled evening. We will try to set up another date to host Sven and Ole and all of you!

Thanks to our Sunday School youth, their teachers, and Mary & Ken Maxwell for working on the grounds at MCC on Earth Day.

### Thanks for making the Prairie Burn a success.

A BIG thank you to Jeff Wild for scything the prairie in preparation for the burn. His work made the burn go so much better! Thanks to: ► Jim Muehl for providing the fuel and taking pictures; ► Andrew Zutz and friend Tyler who set the fire; ► David Dueholm, who help set up and the last to leave making sure the fire was out; ► Lois Komai who obtained the fire permit; ► Sonja Keesey-Berg for making the neighbors informational door hangers; ► Lois Komai for distributing them; ► Tom Matthews who helped set up Fire watchers-protectors: ► Phil and Candi Bloedow, ► Mary Bowman, ► Beth and Josh Falkos, ► Mary & Ken Maxwell, ► John Gern, ► Jean Gilbertson, ► Georgia Grah, ► Margaret and Nathan Helming, ► Julie Hunter, ► Donna Leet, and ► Emily Wixson. Lois

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## MCC NEWS

Bike, sleeping bag, air mattress , tent, lunch and potlucks, vans and drivers ...

These are a few items on my list to make sure that the youth exchange program—which will take place this summer between July 3 and July 17 with youth from Juelich, Germany and youth from the MCC — has everything it needs to be a great experience for everyone.

For the youth exchange we put together an exciting program with various activities, things to see and explore in Madison and the area. Our program includes a tour through the Arboretum, work in a food pantry, time at the pool and playing ball, sight-seeing downtown, camping at Wyalusing state park, a bike tour and much more. For some of the events we've planned we need your help. If you have a spare bike, tent, sleeping bag and/ or air mattress the youth from Germany (14 people total) could use during this time, please let Katrin know.

Furthermore, we would like to give you opportunities to meet the youth group from Germany and be part of this exciting event even if you are older or younger than 15-18.

On July 15 the youth groups will be involved in the MCC worship and present their experiences. Some of our activities are open for the public to attend as well, picnics, the Mallards game and other activities. We'd be happy to welcome you at any of those events.

If you, as an individual or as part of one of the church groups, are interested in hosting a lunch, picnic or potluck for the group we'd appreciate this. The schedule for the program with specific requests will be out in the Shalom Room soon.

We are looking forward to the summer! If you like to help out one way or the other please contact Katrin.

### JAVA FOR JUSTICE—

Place your May order for Mt. Meru Coffee by May 6<sup>th</sup>, ready to be picked up on May 13<sup>th</sup>. To the coffee growers in Tanzania, the Project is not about coffee. It is about HOPE, the hope that, with a better income, their children can go to school, they can receive better healthcare, and they can improve their living conditions. When you buy (or drink) Mt. Meru Coffee, think about more than the cup of coffee. Think about the hope that the Project brings. It is this hope and a faith that sustains the small coffee growers in the Meru Diocese, and our consumer buying decisions that sustain the Mt. Meru Coffee Project. Write your checks out to *Mt. Meru Coffee Project* and place it in the envelope at the time of order. Price is \$8/small bag and \$38 for 4# bag. Consider ordering for Iraq as well.

Consider the Biblical definition 'made in the image of God' to mean we are made in the image God has for us to be and to become. We are just what the Artist intended us to be. Think on these things:

### YOU ARE THE WORK OF GOD

It is not you who shape God;  
It is God who shapes you.  
If, then, you are the work of God,  
await the hand of the Artist  
who does all things in due season.  
Offer the Potter your heart,  
soft and tractable,  
and keep the form in which  
the Artist has fashioned you.  
Let your clay be moist,  
lest you grow hard and lose  
the imprint of the Potter's fingers.

**Irenaeus, 2<sup>nd</sup>-century theologian**

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## MCC NEWS

### Need a gift for someone? Graduation, birthday, Mother's Day...

Get a gift card and support our youth:

\$25 Barnes&Noble

\$25 L.L.Bean

Katrin will be on vacation May 7-12, 2007.

## YOUTH EVENTS MAY

### Middle High

May 24 Game night, 6-8 pm at MCC with Katrin and Doug Crews-Nelson

### Senior High

May 25 Spanish Night

6 pm Spanish cooking

7 pm Spanish movie

May 30 7 pm Hang out @ Zutz's

**Please check your emails weekly to get the latest updates on youth events at MCC.**

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

May 19 4 pm "Family Time": "God's creation"; 30 minutes of "children's message" followed by a potluck.

**Next youth ministry board meeting is on May 29!**

### SUMMER SUMMER SUMMER SUMMER SUMMER SUMMER SUMMER 2007

Senior High **Boundary Waters June 19 – June 26**

Team: Kathy Mack, Jim Gern, Jeff Wild, Katrin Wuest

**German Youth Exchange July 3<sup>rd</sup> – July 15<sup>th</sup>**

(July 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> trip to Chicago)

Team: Steffi Arndt, Wiebke Waltersdorf, Katrin Wuest

Middle High **Rafting – August 3 – 6**

Team: Karen Kuhn, Marcus Murphy, Katrin Wuest

**Sugar Creek Summer Camp** for current 2<sup>nd</sup> graders and older: July 8-13

**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 August 13-16.

**All registration forms are downstairs next to Katrin's office door**

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# Advent News

## Judith Circle

Judith Circle will meet at church at 9 a.m. to car pool to Pasquall's Restaurant. Doris Roberts is our hostess. We meet for coffee, fellowship and study. 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.m. 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 April 2007

Beg. Balance & Love Offerings	4062.97
Rent & Eviction Prevention	1705.00
Security Deposit	200.00
Utility Assistance	525.00
Iraq Postage /Coffee	101.98
Car repairs /payments	615.00
Wexford Food Pantry	81.00
St Vincent de Paul Blankets	50.00
Car Battery	79.11
Mortgage payment	137.00
Storage Fee	25.00
Haiti Partners	100.00
Moving 3 families into housing	250.00
U-Haul	150.00
Checks In The Mail	<u>39.93</u>
Expenditure	\$4059.02
Balance as of 3/23/2007	\$3.95



## GEMS – Grumpy Elderly Men

Join us every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. in the lower level of the MCC. We will be meeting through the month of May with members choosing various topics to share and discuss over the last few weeks. 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.m. on the lower level of the church. New members are welcome. Please join us at our meeting on May 17 in the youth room-lower level of the church. The book is *Marley and Me* by John Grogan, 2005. Life and love with the world's worst dog. A funny, true story.

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

### Advent Worship Survey Update, May 2007

This information is printed on the insert in this newsletter.

### 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](mailto:sherrihansen@tds.net).

### Advent New Member Recognition

New member Sunday, originally scheduled for Sunday, May 6 has been changed to Sunday, June 3. The gatherings are planned for people who have an interest in becoming members of Advent and Madison Christian Community. This first session will be during the education hour, 9:00-10:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 20. The group will meet outside the kitchen area in the Shalom Room. The second session will include a meal and involve host members from Advent. This gathering will take place at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, June 1. If any current members are interested in becoming a host member for a new member please contact Jeff Wild.

### 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 May we will be praying for Don & Phyllis Ermer; Don, Beth & Joshua Falkos; Allie, Delaney & Mackenzie Fitzgerald; Darren, Lisa, Ryan & Lauren Fortney; Sandy Franson; Raelene Freitag & LisaAnn Trembath; Rob Fyrst & Tyler Fyrst; Mary Ellen, Rick, Bennett & Hugh Gabriel; Pam Gallagher & David Olson; Jim, Yvonne, Ben, Tyson & Hannah Gern; Gorvego, Kebeh, Korpo, Bemis & Youngor Gorvego; and Georgia & Bill Grahn.

### Sunday Morning Liturgies

Let us know if this is helpful to you.

5/6/2007 LBW 2A w/ communion

5/13/2007 ELW Service of the Word

5/20/2007 MCC service

5/27/2007 Confirmation

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## Advent News continued

### Giving Goal

Historically, members of Advent combine to shower the mission of the congregation during the month of April. The giving goal for April is 10% of the total spending plan which is \$29,600.00. With one Sunday remaining in the month members of Advent have generously supported our mission by giving \$24,470.00. It's doubtful that we will reach our giving goal this month, but we will be close. Thanks to all who give regularly and generously.

### Congratulation to Peter Billerbeck

Peter Billerbeck will graduate from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN. on May 19, 2007, with a Bachelor's degree in International Studies and Spanish and a minor in Middle East Studies. Prior to graduation, Peter is being awarded the Global Citizenship Award by the university for this year.

### Confirmation Sunday, May 27, 2007

We look forward to celebrating with Anna Boldt and Christopher Young as they affirm their baptismal covenant on Pentecost Sunday. Chris and Anna have been and will continue to be a blessing to their families, confirmation instructors and entire congregation.

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## Our Larger Community

### Sabbath and Society: A Café Conversation (A Three-Course Meal of Food for Thought)

You are invited to participate with your ecumenical friends throughout southwestern Wisconsin in a conversation designed to help us develop disciplines for Sabbath-keeping that inform the church's social witness.

This "café conversation" will be held at Madison Christian Community, 7118 Old Sauk Rd, Madison on Saturday morning, June 2, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

We will explore three questions together:

1. What does Sabbath-keeping mean to you?
2. How and why does our Sabbath-keeping move us to strategically disengage from the consumer economy?
3. How and why does our Sabbath-keeping move us to strategically engage with the ordering of public life (economics, public policy, culture, etc.)?



This event is sponsored by the Wisconsin Council of Churches

### Bob Forbess Honored

Bob Forbess, Treasurer and board member for Harvest of Hope, was honored with the Mike McKinney Community Volunteer Award on April 26. The award recognizes fifteen years of outstanding service for the Harvest of Hope Fund and a host of other community volunteer activities over the past 60+ years. The United Way of Dane County sponsors the awards ceremony annually and chooses honorees from a long list of volunteers nominated by community members. Nearly 500 people attend the awards ceremony. Congratulations for a job well done!

## Community of Hope News

### Strengthen the Church

On Sunday, May 27, 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. Our generous gifts are used, half by our Conference and half by Local Church Ministries for these purposes. In the next column is just one of many stories of congregations that have been strengthened and encouraged by our gifts.

### Blacksburg, Virginia

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." Please prayerfully consider your gift to "Strengthen the Church" in 2007.

### Mark your calendars – Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting – June 8-10

The Theme for this year's annual meeting is: Teach: Keep the Message Alive. Rev. Dr. John Riggs, Professor of Historical Theology and Church History at Eden Theological Seminary, will help us explore the depth and breadth of the teaching ministry. Throughout the weekend, Valerie Tutson will share creative scripture in her very unique style. The Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Wright of Trinity UCC, Chicago, will lead us in worship on Friday evening along with a choir from our newest church, Grace UCC in Milwaukee. The weekend's festivities also include a 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party for the UCC on Saturday evening.

If you're interested in attending the Annual meeting as a delegate from Community of Hope or as a Visitor please contact Tisha before May 8.

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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 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 in Iraq, and Afghanistan
- Bill and Freddie Feeny and family as they remember and celebrate the life of Freddie's mother, Anna Holm
- Petra Streiff, Larry Stuessy and family as they grieve the loss of Petra's brother, Stuart Streiff
- Bryan Sirchio whose mother is ill
- Baby Dorian born April 15, 2007 and his parents, Josh and Emily
- Ethan's parents – for health and wholeness

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

#### April 24-May 1

Murphy family, Ono family, Putnam family

#### May 1-8

Art & Mary Nack, Rebecca Payne;  
Bill Rettig & Jean Gilbertson

#### May 8-15

Chuck and Jean Pfeifer,  
Powell/Miller family

#### May 15-22

Wilma Sanks, Schuettpelz family

#### May 22-29

Bob and Chris Sessions; Beth Simmons;  
Bryan Sirchio

#### May 29-June 5

Bonnie & Gene Spindler; Jan Summers;  
Petra Streiff & Larry Stuessy

### Important Dates to Remember!



#### Birthdays

Sam Catlett-Sirchio	05/10
Emma Catlett-Sirchio	05/10
Twyla Clark	05/16
Bryan Sirchio	05/18
Dan van der Weide	05/21
Michelle Erschen	05/22
Mary Bowman	05/30

#### Anniversaries

Kevin & Tim Baird	05/12
Bill & Freddie Feeny	05/29
Steve & Theresa Haffner-Stearns	05/31
Betty & Corkey Custer	05/31

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

#### Hope Men's Breakfast Group

The men of Hope meet for breakfast on the first and third Wednesdays of every month at 6:30 a.m. at The Original Pancake House, 5518 University Ave. where we enjoy good food, good fellowship and good conversation.

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

## Our Larger Community Continued

**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 6:30 p.m. A complete list is posted in the Shalom Room at MCC.

**May 2** Six-Mile Creek, Fish-Rearing Pond WI Dept of Natural Resources, Woodland Drive, Waunakee. County Highway M, North on Woodland Drive (South of Mary Lake Road). Meet Kurt Welke, Fisheries Biologist, at the gate. Focus on how Northern Pike are raised and released and the associated benefits of wetland habitat.

**May 9** Jackson's Landing, Town of Westport, 5485 Willow Road, Waunakee County Highway M, South on Willow Road. Meet Jim Stephenson, ecologist in the Willows Tavern parking lot. Discover the cultural and natural history of the marsh at the Yahara River inlet to Lake Mendota.

**May 16** Cherokee Marsh South Unit, City of Madison Parks, 802 Wheeler Road, Madison. Highway 113 or Northport Drive, North on School Road to the junction with Wheeler Road, continue past the waste oil depot on gravel road to parking lot by boat launch. Meet Russ Hefty, Conservation Resource Supervisor. Learn about recent restoration efforts near a natural fen wetland.

**May 23** Gov Nelson State Park, WI Dept of Natural Resources, 5140 County Highway M., Waunakee. You will need a WI License Parking Pass: \$7/day or \$25/annual. Meet Gary Maier at the park office. Hear an interpretation of Native American Effigy Mounds found within the park and this "4 Lakes" region.

**May 30** Holy Wisdom Monastery, Benedictine Women of Madison, 4200 County Hwy M, Middleton. Meet Nancy Schlimgen and Paul Boutwell, restoration ecologists in Benedict House (upper) parking lot. Explore the restoration of Lost Lake and surrounding upland prairies within view of Lake Mendota.

### Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus

On Saturday, June 2, at 7:00 p. Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus will return to Mills Concert Hall on the UW Madison campus for ***Our Tenth Anniversary Celebration Concert***. We invite you to join us as we present a wide variety of music, including the premiere of two new pieces commissioned by Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus.

### Pray Daily

Worship Regularly  
Study God's Word  
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Friendship

**Our Website:** [www.madisonchristiancommunity.org](http://www.madisonchristiancommunity.org).

- Read Pastor Jeff, Pastor Tisha & Pastor Katrin'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.



## 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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Barbara Dueholm,  
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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.

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