



# The Good Word

APRIL 2008

Faith, Food and Earth Day 2008  
A Celebration of Creation  
Sunday, April 13,  
from 3:00 to 7:00pm

I am writing this article late in the afternoon on Good Friday. Tisha preached a marvelous sermon at Maundy Thursday worship. I especially appreciated how she connected the common and sacred meaning of gathering around food to remember, renew relationships, tell stories, laugh and weep. She writes, "Gathering around this table and every communion table in every church in the world is an important and sacred practice within the global Christian family." I am inviting you to probe your understanding of the relationship between faith and food by attending the Faith, Food and Earth Day event on Sunday, April 13.

Madison Christian Community was asked to host Faith, Food and Earth Day because of its commitment to ecumenical partnerships and because of the unique ways it incorporates care of creation into its mission and ministry. The schedule is as follows:

3:00 p.  
Informational Booths and Displays

4:00 p.  
Keynote Address: Dr. Cal DeWitt, internationally renowned scientist, speaker, writer and conservationist.

5:00 p.-- Choose from Three Educational Workshops -  
(continued on the top of the next column)

Sacred Soil:  
Permaculture and Church Gardens

Social Action: Farm Policy

Soul and Heart: Eating Locally

6:00 p. Community Meal  
This meal will feature locally grown food lovingly prepared by the good people from The Dardanelles Restaurant.

The only cost to this event is for the meal, which is \$8.00. Reservations are required ahead of time because food is being prepared for 125 people. You may secure reservations by writing your name on the list posted in the Shalom Room on April 6, or by sending an email to [harvestofhope@tds.net](mailto:harvestofhope@tds.net), or calling me at 824-1761.

Please consider serving on one of the three teams that are being organized for this event. Team One will set up tables and chairs following worship on Sunday, April 13. Team Two will serve and clean up from the meal from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Team Three will return tables, chairs, and anything else that's not nailed down and moved to where it belongs. This team will work from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Please indicate your willingness to serve on one of the teams by signing up on the sheet posted in the Shalom Room.

Finally, Community of Hope and Advent members will worship together on Sunday, April 13. The theme of this worship will be centered upon Food and Faith. Thank you for your consideration and I hope for your participation as we seek to make important connections between food and faith.  
Jeff

Of Special Interest:

- Growing in Sanctuary Pledges are Due; Drop-In Shelter; Salad Supper; New Bench; IHN Housing & Hope—p.2
- Tisha's Sabbatical — p.4
- Iraq Update from Brad—p. 5
- JAVA for Justice; House Sitter Needed; Sustainable Travel to Worship; Gardening with MCC youth —p.6
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- Dane County United; Plant Sale & Resale —p.12
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## MCC News

### Interfaith Hospitality Network: Housing and Hope, April 6, 9:00 a.m.

The Interfaith Hospitality Network is launching a capital campaign called "Housing and Hope." The goal of this campaign is to raise \$4,000,000 to purchase and renovate four existing eight-unit apartment buildings that would be rented to low-income families. IHN will purchase and rehabilitate this housing with the help of Meridian Group, Inc. Meridian will manage the properties.

In addition, IHN intends to create an investment fund that will allow these apartments to be permanently affordable. This "Forever Fund," estimated at \$2,000,000 will be used to offset rents, assist with maintenance, and provide some case management services.

A representative from IHN will be presenting more information on this exciting initiative on Sunday, April 6 during the education hour in the Covenant Room. Following the presentation, the MCC will be asked to consider making a contribution in support of this campaign. Please plan to attend this informational session to learn more and help the Leadership Team decide how to support and participate in this campaign.

### Growing in Sanctuary - Pledges Due

The three-year MCC Building Fund campaign to finance the renovation of the original sanctuary (the Covenant Room), the Second Chance Project, and other property improvements is coming to an end on March 31, 2008. Those members who have not completed their pledge giving should try to do so during March. Thank you.

### DROP-IN SHELTER

The date is Thursday, April 3. 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.

### There is now a bench near the front doors.

This bench is made of a wood called zebrawood from Central Africa. Ken Maxwell made the bench for his son Scott who died in May 2007. Ken has refinished it for use at the MCC.

Thank you Ken & Mary for this thoughtful gift.

Ladies: After all the snow and ice we've had these past months, don't you think its about time we give some thought to the coming *Spring* ?

The Women of Advent invite all the women of Advent and Community of Hope to look ahead to 'it's almost here!' *Spring* and mark your calendars to attend the MCC **Women's Spring Salad Supper** on Wednesday, April 16, beginning at 6 PM at the MCC. A signup poster for needed salads, breads and finger desserts will be available later this month.

We invite the men of MCC to join us at 7:30 for coffee and sweets. Ole and Sven from Stoughton will entertain all of us at 8 PM with their program of Norwegian humor and music. More details will be listed in coming weeks.

### Pray Daily

Worship Regularly  
Study God's Word  
Respond as Stewards  
Cultivate Spiritual  
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## Fellowship Groups & Activities

**APT AWAITS** - Deadline to order is April 7<sup>th</sup> so read on.....

Sick of winter? Think summer and American Players Theatre. Once again we hope to have a good group traveling to Spring Green and potlucking before a play as a group from MCC. This year we have three options, all available at 4 tickets for \$76. Kathy Johnson will be ordering tickets, with payment after they arrive. Your choices are: June 25<sup>th</sup> for Ah Wilderness; August 12 for Widowers' Houses and/or The Belle's Stratagem on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Contact Kathy Johnson with the number of tickets you want and for which show or shows. If there is enough interest, we will get tickets for all three shows. Ah Wilderness advertizes itself as fit for the entire family, with kids over six welcome. These prices (\$19/ticket) are a bargain compared to \$36-46 of usual cost. Come join us!

### MCC Theological Discussion Group

April change of date from April 16 to April 23—we don't want to miss Ole and Sven from Stoughton on April 16!

Come to the Free Community Hymn Sings in Overture Hall at 11:00 a. on these dates: April 26. It is a really nice opportunity to hear the lovely organ and sing favorite hymns.

### Interested in getting to know more members of the MCC??

Come to the Community Group potluck after church on **Sunday, April 6**. You can leave after the meal if you wish, or stay to help plan activities for spring/summer/fall. Just bring food to share and your own plates and silverware---we guarantee great food and a good time!

**Monday, April 21** - Trip to Mitchell Park Conservatory in Milwaukee, admission is \$5.00. Carpool from MCC at 9 a.m.

### MCC Film Group

The film group will be selecting a film from the Wisconsin Film Festival.

May 16 is the next Film Group night at church. Film to be announced. It is Community of Hope Invite-Friends-to-Church night with a film in the Covenant Room.

Contact Lois Komai if you would like to be on the email reminder list for the Film Group.

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### The Good Word

*Published Monthly by the Madison Christian Community*

Church Phone: (608) 836-1455  
Next Issue: May 2008  
Articles Due: April 20 to the church office  
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## MCC News -

### What Will Make Your Heart Sing? The 2008 National Clergy Renewal Program

The *National Clergy Renewal Program* of the Lily Endowment aims to strengthen congregations by providing opportunities for pastors to engage in an extended period (3-4 months) of renewal and reflection away from parish life. The program encourages pastors to design a personal renewal program that will make that pastor's "heart sing," creating a time for "intentional exploration and reflection, for drinking again from God's life-giving waters, for regaining enthusiasm and creativity for ministry." The renewal program might include time for renewing or strengthening personal relationships, travel to new lands, and uninterrupted time for study and reflection. The program is not intended to support formal academic study or research that results in publications.

The clergy renewal program awards grants of up to \$45,000 to support the activities of the pastor and congregational expenses during the renewal program. Proposals are due on May 14, 2008.

More information about the National Clergy Renewal Program:  
[www.clergyrenewal.org](http://www.clergyrenewal.org)

The Steering Committee and the Pastoral Relations Committee of Community of Hope are excited that Tisha Brown is applying for a grant through this program for her sabbatical in 2009. Read further for more information about her plans.

### Balancing Contemplative Practice with Active Engagement

Balancing Contemplative Practice with Active Engagement is the theme of my

2009 sabbatical. During the sabbatical I will explore that theme by participating in spiritual direction and personal retreats and engaging in a prayer of Examen at the end of every day. Several travel opportunities will take me out of my day-to-day context and into a wide variety of different cultural contexts. I will take a 10-day pilgrimage to Haiti accompanied by Bryan Sirchio. During this time in Haiti I hope to meet some of our SPARE students and have an open heart and spirit to learn what the people of Haiti have to teach about balancing contemplative practice with active engagement. Cindy and I will travel to Germany for two to three weeks to visit the German friends we've made over the years and to tour the country. This will be our major vacation time together during the sabbatical. Following that trip, I will spend a week on retreat at the Iona Community, an intentional Christian Community on an island off the coast of Scotland. I also hope to spend two weeks in a beach home somewhere on the East coast and invite my family members and East coast friends to join me there for rest and relaxation. Last but not least, I will invite my women's spirituality group from seminary to join me on a 5-day retreat planned and led by Rev. Holly Whitcomb based on the theme of my sabbatical.

Community of Hope and I are applying to the Lilly Foundation's Clergy Renewal Program to fund my sabbatical. This program provides grants of up to \$45,000 to congregations and clergy to engage in creative endeavors aimed at rest and renewal for both the clergy person and her congregation. How that rest and renewal happens is open to the pastor and congregation to determine. The question we are asked to consider is "What would make your heart sing?"

The Clergy Renewal grant allows for  
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## MCC News—

some of the funds to be used to cover congregational expenses in the pastor's absence. Community of Hope will hire a full-time clergy person to fill in for me while I am on sabbatical. We will also host a catered send-off potluck for the entire MCC on my last Sunday before leaving on sabbatical. Upon my return, I will lead adult education sessions and other events through which I will share the experiences of the sabbatical with the MCC and Community of Hope members will be invited on a congregational retreat to share what we learned during the sabbatical time with one another.

I am very excited about the possibility of receiving this grant and spending 16 weeks (12 weeks of sabbatical, 2 weeks of vacation and 2 weeks of study leave) exploring the challenge of balancing contemplative practice with active engagement. I am also excited about sharing what I learn with all of you as we all struggle with this challenge in our lives. The proposal is due in May and awardees are notified in October. Thank you for giving this gift of time and stay tuned for further information in the coming months.

### Iraq Update from Brad Spencer

– we have an individual to send to.

Alice Ohlrogge has a neighbor with a family member in Iraq. The family member in Iraq particularly requests (in no particular order) Dentyne Ice chewing gum, Wintermint gum, packets (not cans) of StarKist tuna (the whole tuna seems far better than the chunk style these days), sugar wafer cookies, crackers, protein bars, and a toothbrush. As with most in Iraq anything is welcome (much of the benefit comes from the person in Iraq knowing someone cares.) If the recipient can't use an item then it's virtually certain that he will know someone who can use it. To that list I'd add DVD's, CDs of current music, Mt. Meru coffee (drip grind), microwave popcorn, disposable razors, beef jerky, and Old Wisconsin beef sausage links. For now I suggest holding off on the ramen soups: those were appropriate for large parcels of low-density material and right now we aren't sending that kind of box. (It's a matter of making best use of the postage: denser articles can be sent in the flat-rate boxes at a cost lower than regular parcel post. If we send low-density items we need to send a somewhat larger quantity of them to make efficient use of the postage.)

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## Coming Events

- April 3           MCC staffs the Drop-In Shelter—sign up on the bulletin board at MCC
- April 4-6        Middle High and Senior High at Urban Immersion Retreat in MPLS
- April 6           Order Mt Meru Coffee
- April 13         MCC Worship at 10:15 a.
- April 13         Faith, Food and Earth Day at MCC 3:00 p. -7:00 p.
- April 13         Last day to order Duck Doo
- April 13-20     MCC staff the IHN Family Shelter—remember to sign up at church
- April 20         Middle High and Senior High Earth Day Service Project
- April 20         Newsletter Items are Due
- April 22         MCC Executive Committee at 7:00 p. at MCC
- April 27         MCC Talent Show
- Future IHN Week for 2008: December 21-28, 2008.

## MCC News —

### House & Pet Sitter Needed

Once again, the Wahl's are looking for someone who would be willing to house and pet sit for 9 days in May. If you would be interested, please let us know as soon as possible! Believe it or not, May is just around the corner. Please call us if you are interested. Thanks!

Al and Gretchen

**Sunday, May 4 Nurturing A Spiritual and Eco-Identity Among Youth Through Gardening and Gardening With MCC Youth, led by Annie Grugel, Lisa Bauer, Heather Putnam and Jeff Wild.**

Annie Grugel will present her research about forming an eco-identity in children through gardening. Annie's research was done in conjunction with the MCC Garden Ministry last summer. Jeff's presentation will focus upon how the Biblical word is activated within us as we engage in gardening. Lisa and Heather will explore the possibility of gardening with children from MCC following Sunday worship through the summer months. This gardening time will include gardening, Bible reflection, songs and of course, the enjoyment of eating produce from the garden. Parents, please plan to attend this gathering!

### JAVA FOR JUSTICE –

Place your April order for Mt. Meru Coffee by **April 6th** and it can be picked up on April 13th. 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 drip coffee for Iraq as well.

**Celebrate May With "Sustainable Travel to Worship" Sunday, May 4, 2008 (Rain Date: May 25)**

Here is something we can do to reduce Global Warming. Since driving cars can cause more damage to the environment than any other consumer behavior, houses of faith throughout Wisconsin are honoring the Earth by participating in Sustainable Travel to Worship in May again this year. So, on **Sunday, May 4** you are encouraged to use a sustainable mode of travel such as walking, bicycling, using mass transit, car pooling or some other fuel-efficient means (hybrids are given partial credit since they burn less fuel per mile than regular automobiles) to come to church. Our rain date will be **Sunday, May 25**. When you arrive at church be sure to register your participation by stopping at a small table that will be set up in the Shalom room to sign the tally sheet. Groups only need sign once for everyone but be sure to mark down the number in your party. Get counted! This is a friendly competition with congregations across the state of Wisconsin with the congregation with the greatest participation receiving small awards of recognition.

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## MCC NEWS

### EARTH DAY SPECIAL – Spring is on the way!

Ready to compost and mulch your garden and flower patches? Consider purchasing Father Dom's Duck's Doo Compost. This award winning soil conditioner is organic, recycled, weed/seed free and odorless! It's 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.

To reserve bags, sign up by April 13<sup>th</sup>. We have ordered 6 pallets (540 bags) ready for pick-up at MCC on April 13<sup>th</sup> or after....until all the bags have disappeared and are enriching the earth. The signup sheet is on the coffee order table along with an envelop for your check made out to MCC-Duck's Doo.

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

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

(When applying Father Dom's Duck's Doo Compost as mulch to eliminate the need to weed, 2-3 inches of compost is suggested.) Order some for your indoor plants as well as to mix with your potting soil or to place in the holes when planting new plants.

Price per bag is \$7 for one, or 3 for \$18 (\$6/bag over 3 bags). All profits go to charity both at MCC (summer garden 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).

Continues top of next column

Thanks for caring about the planet, our lakes and water supply, MCC's garden project as well as helping people with special needs.

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

### MCC's 40th Birthday Celebration(s)

This year, 2008, is the year the MCC is 40 years old. We want to celebrate this birthday anniversary (let's face it, we only have one birthday, the rest are anniversaries of that natal date) in 2008 with special event(s).

If you are interested in working with the group of people planning for these event(s), please contact Ann Bolger. Once we have a core group of folks we will arrange our first party-planning brainstorming session.

Also, you can be involved in planning a whole year of events or planning just one event or you can just send your amazing celebration idea(s) to Ann and the group can follow up on the planning if they want to use your idea(s).

Celebrating this amazing entity named the MCC is the key here. Happy Birthday MCC!"

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## MCC News Continued

### AIDS Benefit Dinner, May 2, 7:00 PM

Come for traditional South African food, and learn about the ELCA's partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of South Africa, and a new camp and AIDS clinic. After a meal in which you can sample various southern African foods there will be a brief video presentation on the South African ministries. Bethany Hoag, daughter of Advent members Kevin & Chris, will then lead a program on her first-hand experience with AIDS education in South Africa. Bethany lived in South Africa and Swaziland for several years, and spent time with a community theater group doing AIDS education. A suggested donation of \$10 per adult and \$5 per child is encouraged.

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.

### Bring Your Recyclable Light Bulbs and Batteries to MCC

The place to deposit your recyclables is to the left of the library counter and Sonja's basket. There is a sign posted letting you know the cost of recycling the items. Please put your donation in the small container labeled *Donations*. There is a list of places in the Madison area that also accepts these items.

Chuck Pils reports that Ace Hardware in Waunakee, Menards and Home Depot does it for FREE.

### April workshop sponsored by The Wisconsin Council of Churches:

Transformational Leadership in the Missional Church, with Rev. Kevin Mundell, pastor of Bethany United Church of Christ, Oshkosh, WI.

April 16: Madison Christian Community (Advent Lutheran ELCA & Community of Hope United Church of Christ) 7118 Old Sauk Road, Madison

Rev. Mundell will address the following questions: How might we find a balance between Managerial and Transformational Leadership? Will programmatic change transform our churches or do we need a cultural change to bring about long-term solutions? Have we mistaken a Christian culture for a Christian faith? Is the Church's future one of technical change or adaptive change (change that allows the spirit of God to move freely in our midst)? How do we move faithfully in this rapidly changing world without losing our sense of whom God is calling us to be as the Church?

Kevin Mundell received his B.A. in Biblical and Theological Studies at Bethel University, and his M. Div. at Luther Seminary, Saint Paul, MN.

Since the MCC is hosting this event we will receive a special price for any members who want to attend this workshop. If you're interested in attending, please contact Tisha Brown (824-1762 or [hope@madisonchristiancommunity.org](mailto:hope@madisonchristiancommunity.org))

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## Faith at Home

By Heather Putnam, Director of Children's Ministry

### Spring is Here (Hopefully)

I have a literal river in front of my house as the ice melts away off the street. The cardinals are boldly proclaiming their spring song. I have even found a couple brave plants starting to sprout out of the ground in protected corners away from the snow. And the sun even feels warm upon my face as it shines.

My heart always feels lighter as these first signs of spring appear. I want to sing. I want to fly kites. I want to go searching for even more signs of spring. This month I offer several ways to nurture faith at home while celebrating the arrival of spring.

### Singing Prayers

In the exuberant energy of Spring I like to sing even when I pray. Consider singing the doxology when you sit down as a family to eat. Sing the traditional words, or try out the alternative words below.

Praise God with whom we eat and pray;  
Praise God with whom we work and play;  
With love and hope and happiness  
We eat our food with thankfulness.  
Amen

### Flying Kites

As a kid, I spent hours and hours at my neighborhood park flying my kite. I marveled at the challenge of keeping it up in the air, and I was fascinated by how different the wind patterns could be up where the kite was compared to where I was.

Kite flying can lead into talking with kids about believing in things that we cannot see. Even though we can't see the wind, we know that it is there and that it supports the kite in the sky. Likewise, even though we can't see God, we know that God is always present and ready to help us.

### Nature Scavenger Hunt

Spring is an awesome time to explore God's creation. Who can be the first in your family to find all of the following signs of spring? What other items can you think of to add to the list?

1. mud
2. plant sprouting
3. crocus blooming
4. rabbit or a chipmunk
5. robin
6. baby birds in a nest
7. butterfly

### Feedback

'Faith at Home' is being offered in each MCC newsletter to provide you with ideas for ways that you can nurture faith in your families at home. To best facilitate this process and meet your needs, I would like to hear from you. Are these articles useful? Do you have ideas for how they could be improved? Are there any topics you would like to see covered? Email ([mcc.children@madisonchristiancommunity.org](mailto:mcc.children@madisonchristiancommunity.org)), phone (824-1763), or find me before or after church.

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## MCC News Continued

### Medical Aid to the People of Iraq

It was less than a year ago that the Social Concerns Committee of the Southwest Association started dreaming of a special campaign to provide medical assistance to the people of Iraq who continue to suffer from the ravages of war.

On February 15<sup>th</sup> we wired \$39,970.00 to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland. Dr. Jacob Kellenberger, head of the ICRC, has acknowledged this significant contribution. I quote from his letter:

"I wish to express my most sincere thanks for the generous donation of USD 39,970... It is thanks to its donors and to their determination to translate compassion into concrete action that the ICRC is able to alleviate the suffering of many victims of armed conflict. The UCC Southwest Wisconsin Association's contribution is a source of encouragement for the ICRC in Geneva and its delegates in the field. ... I greatly appreciate your gesture of solidarity..."

On behalf of every healing recipient, we thank you! You have shown love and compassion in very real terms.

### The Lubar Institute for the Abrahamic Religions Conference in Madison

Dear friends of the Lubar Institute, faculty and students at UW-Madison, and members of the larger Madison community:

The Lubar Institute for the Abrahamic Religions is delighted to announce its third annual conference, "Perspectives on the Abrahamic Traditions: Leadership, Commonalities, and Critical Reflection." The conference takes place on May 8, 8:30-4:30, at the Pyle Center, 702 Langdon Street. For a full schedule, see: <http://lisar.lss.wisc.edu/events/Perspectives.html>

The conference includes public lectures in the chapel at Pres House, 731 State Street Mall, UW-Madison campus, by

Rabbi Bradley Hirschfield of CLAL, on May 7, 7:30, and

Ingrid Mattson on May 8, 7:30. Professor, Hartford Seminary; President, Islamic Society of North America.

The lectures are free and open to the public. Attendance at the conference is free but registration is necessary. Seating is limited, so please register promptly.

To register please click the following link: [http://www.ohrd.wisc.edu/reg/catalog\\_course.aspx?groupcoursekey=20279](http://www.ohrd.wisc.edu/reg/catalog_course.aspx?groupcoursekey=20279)

Please pass this message on to anyone who may be interested.

Thank you. We hope to see you at these events.

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## MCC News Continued

### ADULT EDUCATION

#### Sunday, April 6—Interfaith Hospitality Network: Housing and Hope

The Interfaith Hospitality Network is launching a capital campaign called "Housing and Hope." The goal of this campaign is to raise \$4,000,000 to purchase and renovate four exist eight-unit apartment buildings that would be renovated and rented to families. IHN will purchase and rehabilitate this housing with the help of Meridian Group, Inc. Meridian will manage the properties.

In addition, IHN intends to create an investment fund that will allow these apartments to be permanently affordable. This "Forever Fund," estimated at \$2,000,000 will be used to offset rents, assist with maintenance, and provide some case management services.

A representative from IHN will be presenting more information on this exciting initiative on Sunday, April 6 during the education hour. Following the presentation, the MCC will be asked to consider making a contribution in support of this campaign. Please plan to attend this informational session to learn more and help us decide how to support and participate in this campaign.

**Sunday, April 13 The Automobile and the Environment.** This session will be led by Advent member, Kevin Hoag. Kevin serves as Associate Director of the Engine Research Center at the University of Wisconsin. Kevin writes, There are many misconceptions concerning automobiles and the environment such as fuel economy, emissions, etc. With the best of intentions the media and environmentalists often reinforce bad information, making it hard to make informed choices.

#### Biology and Belief: Conversations in Faith and Science

This four week mini-series will examine modern issues that confront the realms of both science and faith. We will watch segments of a DVD by this same name. Members from the congregation who have backgrounds in science, theology and ethics will facilitate the discussions. Two of the four week sessions are planned for April and May, respectively, and are as follows:

**Sunday, April 20, God After Darwin: Evolution and Divine Providence.** This session will be facilitated by John Brugge and Al Heggen.

**Sunday, April 27, Brain, Consciousness and the Soul.** This session, led by Dean Krahn and Jeff Wild, will explore the concept of the soul in light of recent discoveries in the cognitive sciences.

**Sunday, May 11, The Ethics of Stem Cell Research.** What are the differing viewpoints about human life and personhood at the heart of many bioethical controversies?

**Sunday, May 18, Science vs. Belief? The Challenge of Naturalism.** Has science made religious faith not only obsolete, but logically impossible?

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## MCC News Continued

### Please mark your calendars for a Plant Sale and Resale

On May 9 and 10 (Friday, 8 am to 4 pm and Saturday, 8 am to noon), there will be a Plant Sale and a Resale at the MCC. The Plant Sale will feature a wide variety of perennials and garden plants and will be held outdoors, weather permitting, near the upper level main entrance. Proceeds will go toward the German exchange trip for MCC youth this summer.

The Resale will benefit MCC youth as well as the new community center serving the Wexford Ridge area, the Lussier Community Education Center. The resale is tentatively planned for the Shalom Room area.

Plant sale: As you plan for dividing your perennials in the weeks ahead, please set some aside for the sale. Also save/recycle cartons and cans to be used for donated plants.

Resale: The sale will be somewhat limited in scope: We will focus on:  
Books, CD's, videos, toys, and games for all ages.

Housewares, kitchen items,  
art/decorative items, bedding, and linens  
Jewelry, purses/totes

Sporting goods  
Children's clothing, baby  
items/accessories

Note: We will not be accepting donations of adult clothing, shoes, furniture, large appliances, or electronics, including TV's and computers. If you have single items in these categories you would like to donate, please take a photo of the item, write a description, and we will post the information on a bulletin board.

Continues top of the next column.

More information will be provided as plans progress. There will be many opportunities for your support and participation. Thank you for keeping these projects in mind as you begin your spring activities.

### Report from Dane County United March 6 Delegate's Assembly

Margaret Helming, Joe Powell, Bill Rettig and Tisha Brown represented the Madison Christian Community at Dane County United's March 6 Delegate's Assembly. In the coming months DCU will be organizing delegations to visit area high schools to follow up on our commitment to work with them to introduce African Centered Pedagogy into our schools as one strategy for narrowing the achievement gap between African American students and their white peers. If you are interested in participating in one of these delegations, please contact Tisha Brown.

The DCU Steering team announced that Matt Moorland Gross resigned his position as the full-time organizer. In the coming months a core group of leaders is committed to continuing to build on the successes of the past few months and working on the issues we've identified. To support the ongoing work of DCU, the Steering Team will be expanded to include representation from every member organization at a monthly meeting. A core group of leaders will continue meeting weekly to conduct the day-to-day business of DCU. As DCU moves forward it will be building a reserve fund, which will enable it to hire a full-time organizer again in early 2009. During this transition time it is crucial for membership organizations to pay their dues in a timely manner and remain engaged in the meaningful work of this broad-based organization.

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## MCC YOUTH NEWS

### Middle High

**April 4-6 – *Urban Immersion Retreat*** - Minneapolis – Leave in the early afternoon on Friday and spend two days in Minneapolis learning about the realities of urban poverty and helping to do something about it! Watch for more details to come. *Adult drivers needed*

**Sunday, April 20 – *Earth Day Service Project*** – Join forces after church to make the Madison area a more beautiful place. *Adult drivers needed*

**Sunday, April 27 – *Talent Show*** – Get your act together--be it serious or silly! We need as many people as possible to put this show together. Let's make it the best Talent Show EVER! If you don't feel comfortable on stage, we certainly can use you behind-the-scenes. Everyone together makes this great!

### Senior High

**April 4-6 – *Urban Immersion Retreat*** - Minneapolis – Leave in the early afternoon on Friday and spend two days in Minneapolis learning about the realities of urban poverty and helping to do something about it! Watch for more details to come. *Adult chaperones needed*

**Sunday, April 20 – *Earth Day Service Project*** – Join forces after church to make the Madison area a more beautiful place.

**Wednesday, April 23 – *Senior High Hangout*** 7:00 – 8:30 @ \_\_\_\_\_ (Host needed!)

**Sunday, April 27 – *Talent Show*** – Get your act together--be it serious or silly! We need as many people as possible to put this show together. Let's make it the best Talent Show EVER! If you don't feel comfortable on stage, we certainly can use you behind-the-scenes. Everyone together makes this great!

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

- Read or Listen to Pastor Jeff and Pastor Tisha's Sunday sermons on the web!
- Sunday texts are on the monthly calendar.
- COH members find Worship Assistant's Schedule and Task Descriptions.



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](mailto:office@madisonchristiancommunity.org).

## Advent News

### The ARC Sets Sail: Advent Relational Campaign Begins

The Advent Relational Campaign or ARC, began officially on Wednesday night, February 19th at an informal dinner meeting in the Shalom room. The meeting was begun by Jeff Wild who spoke of the biblical context of relationships, Matt Morland Gross discussed "How to Make a Relational Visit", the logistics part of these visits was presented by Linda Pils.

The goals of the Advent Relational Campaign are twofold. The first is creating a closer community.

Twelve members of the congregation will be meeting with 12 different families during the course of this year and ending by January 2009, spending time together in order to get to know one another better. This in itself is a worthy goal in a congregation that has had a 40% turnover since the year 2000. We still have the same numbers in our congregation, but there are lots of new names in our 2008 directories. We hope to learn some of the stories behind the names.

The other goal is to listen, listen to reflections on the involvement of members both old and new. What has that experience been like for each of our families? How are we intentional about creating those friendships, those connections towards common goals?

The members of the group who have so graciously donated their time for the coming year are:

Dave & Kathy Mack, Kathy & Doug Johnson, Fred Loichinger, Gretchen Wahl, Alice & Ted Kalkwarf, Myrna McNatt, Solveig Carlson, Steve Young, Julie Ambrecht, Joanne Streit, Linda Pils and Emily Wixson. Continues top of next column.

We hope that all of our members will be open for a visit, it could be at your home, at a coffee shop or at a nearby park. This is a time for sharing your valued ideas and insights and it is a time for us to listen.

Linda Pils, Coordinator

### Does Your Child Receive Mail from Advent?

Children love getting mail, and what better mail than a recognition of your child's baptism or dedication, to let them know that they are a cherished part of the MCC. The MCC sends out Baptismal/Dedication Birthday cards on the anniversary of these days to celebrate the spiritual lives of the MCC children who are in 5th grade or younger. We try to keep a current list of these "birthdays", but if your child wasn't baptized or dedicated at the MCC, we may not have the date.

We need your help to make sure that we have your child's baptismal or dedication day. If you've received cards in the past, you're all set. If your child has not received a baptismal/dedication card, then please call Sarah Zutz 836-6415, and provide your child's name and the relevant date, or send an email with this information to [smzutz16@charter.net](mailto:smzutz16@charter.net). Thanks!  
Sarah Zutz (for the Advent Women)

### Advent Giving Goal

The giving goal for March is \$28,500 and members generously gave \$25,478 through Easter Sunday. With one Sunday remaining, the giving goal is attainable. It's remarkable that in spite of the bad weather that our giving is right on track after the first quarter. Thank you for your constant support of the mission of our congregation.

South Central Wisconsin Synodical Women's Spring Retreat at Bishop O'Connor Center, May 16-17. AND  
Connecting with Younger Men: Changing Church Culture, April 25-26.

Details for these two events are on page 22.

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## Advent News continued

### Advent Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle will meet on April 10 at 7:00 p. in the Tower Apartments-Party/Meeting Room on the third floor at Oakwood west campus.

We are a group of women who meet two hours each month at Oakwood to read and discuss a Bible study, as well as exchange friendship and support one another. We meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p. You are very welcome to visit us. Call Margaret Smith for directions.

### Treasury of Love January 2008

Beg. Bal & Love Offerings	3704.22
Rent & Eviction Prevention	2529.00
Security Deposit	650.00
Utility Payment	200.00
Iraq Purchases & Postage	52.85
Iraq Food Purchased	11.88
Scholarship	85.00
Auto Repair	65.00
Prescription/Medical Equip	<u>100.49</u>
Expenditure	\$3694.22
Balance as of 03/25/2008	\$10.00

### GEMS – Grumpy Elderly Men!

The GEMS are studying a book called *Reading Paul* by Michael Gorman. The Grumpy Elderly Men meet at 10:30 a. on Tuesdays at Madison Christian Community.

They are anything but grumpy! All Grumpy Elderly Men are welcome!

### Judith Circle

Judith Circle will meet at 9:30 a. on Tuesday, April 8. All our welcome for fellowship and study.

If you need a ride or have any questions please call Jean Loichinger.

### Advent Special Meeting, Sunday, April 20

A special meeting will be convened following worship on Sunday, April 20. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the Advent Council's recommendation to provide a \$500.00 grant to each of the high school youth who will be traveling to Germany in July. The money for this grant will be taken from an unrestricted fund of money that is invested with the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. Advent presently has \$20,672.00 in this fund. As an expression of gratitude, each of the youth offer a minimum of thirty service hours in the garden ministry, with Habitat for Humanity, at Pheasant Branch Conservancy or caring for the land at MCC. Youth are also interested in serving in other ways as needed. Your presence at this special meeting will be greatly appreciated.

### OPALS Book Discussion Group

OPALS will meet on April 17 at 7:00 p. at Myrna McNatt's. New members are welcome. The book we are discussing is *Last Child in the Woods* by Richard Louv, saving our children from nature deficit disorder. New women are encouraged to attend. Call Mary Maxwell at 437-5695 if you have questions or need a ride.

### NEW LOCATION for Advent Women Thursday Coffee, 7:00 a.

Advent women are meeting at the new PASQUAL'S IN HILLDALE SHOPPING CENTER, directly across from Metcalfe's Sentry. Pasqual's is owned by Ben and Christy Roberts, members of Advent, and we are told that Christy bakes all the wonderful treats that we are looking forward to sampling. The only agenda is sharing friendship, and there is always laughter. We do service projects several times a year, pray for one another's concerns, and celebrate joys. If you can be an early bird at least once a week, please drop by!

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## Community of Hope

### Wisconsin UCC 'Gospellers' Choir Tour Update

By Bonnie Spindler, choir member

The congregations in Eberswalde and the Church of Berlin-Brandenburg extended an invitation to the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ for a gospel choir to travel and perform in Germany, June 17<sup>th</sup> – July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. This invitation was in reciprocation of the West End Gospel Singers, located in former East Germany, for the tour experiences they had previously. (*There are currently over 2000 gospel choirs in Germany alone.*) The reasons for the spread of this movement is to provide an acceptable way to bring rhythmic music into the churches, draw young people, and give Germans permission to sing emotive music.

I decided to join this group in the summer of 2007. I thought this would be a great opportunity to sing with other UCC musicians, learn the style and culture of the music tradition, perform at concerts and worship services with German gospel choirs, and tour eastern Germany. In receiving the roster of the 35 choir members, from all over Wisconsin planning on participating in this wonderful trip, I'm the only person from the 608 area code.

The choir was split into 2 choirs, practicing the same music in both West Bend and Menomonee the first Sunday of every month. There are overnight retreats for the entire group, which are scheduled at the Pilgrim Center (September 2007, April 2008, June 2008). There was also a get-together, for pictures and practice in Tomah in February 2008. With a lot of the challenging weather lately, some of the trips to West Bend and Tomah have been interesting, but well attended by very dedicated singers.

We started learning some music at a

'Gospel Music Workshop' in September 2007 at the Pilgrim Center. Robert Robinson and members of the Twin Cities Community Gospel Choir taught us songs that were taught to the West End Gospel Singers, from Eberswalde, on their tour. He complimented the Europeans' enthusiasm about the music of the black community and ready to learn the way Germans sang it. Two of these songs are: 'He Never Failed me Yet' and 'Ride on, King Jesus'. Some of the other songs that we've been practicing are: Some Sweet Day; Hem of Your Robe; Down to the River to Pray; Precious Lord, Take My Hand; I Will Look to the Hills; Get on Board, Little Children; Travelin Shoes; and Elijah Rock.

Pastor Hanns-Peter Giering from Germany, has scheduled us to sing at 2 worship services and 6 concerts. There are many rehearsals, most of them with the German gospel choirs, that are scheduled. We will be in Eberswalde, Berlin, Luckenwalde, Glienicke, Furstenwalde, and Nauen. During the tour we will live in the homes of the various congregation members in those areas. Our German friends are scheduling the performance locations and host families. Transportation between the cities around the Berlin area will be by train.

For the June Annual UCC Meeting, I'll be helping with putting together a PowerPoint presentation, which will be shown while the Gospellers perform. After returning from the trip, I'll also plan on having a PowerPoint presentation of the trip for Community of Hope. I would again like to thank the Steering Team for the donation of \$500 to help defray the cost of this trip. This will be a wonderful opportunity to sing, which I enjoy, and also to get back to my heritage and tour some of Germany with other UCC musicians.

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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 months. If you have prayer requests you'd like to be included in the next 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 all over the world but especially those in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Kurt, son-in-law of Harry and Donna Fisker, who is in Afghanistan
- Our college students – Jamie Custer, Ian Jarvis, Sarah Hunter-Johnson, Emma Cattlett-Sirchio, Rose Gear, Tristan Breedlove (graduate studies)
- Chuck Pfeifer who had a heart procedure in March
- Jeremy Ryan who was in the hospital in March

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

Mar. 25-April 1	Donna Leet; Bill Long
April 1-8	Jan Manser/Dave Manion; Tom/Joan Matthews
April 8-15	Martha McCurdy; Letitia Moore; Marcus/Dianna Murphy
April 15-22	Art/Mary Nack; Ken/Erika Ono; Rebecca Payne
April 22-29	Chuck/Jean Pfeifer; Lori Powell/Lynn Miller
April 29-May 6	Bill Putnam; Bill Rettig/Jean Gilbertson

### Thank you from Madison-Area Urban Ministry

"Dear Members of Community of Hope:

On behalf of Madison-area Urban Ministry I want to thank you for your continued support of MUM through your designated contributions. This unique method of including us in your outreach and mission budget is a wonderful way to keep our shared ministry visible within the congregation and we are deeply grateful for your support and your willingness to lift us up before your members.

The contributions we receive through Community of Hope are crucial to our ability to fund our social justice work. Community of Hope continues to be one of the largest congregational supporters of MUM. I mean that both in terms of your financial support and in terms of your members who volunteer with MUM and who actively attend and support our events. We are thankful for your commitment to social justice.

In faith and with thanks,  
Linda Ketcham, Director"

### Thank you from a Special Fund Recipient

"To the Generous community of Community of Hope Church,

Thank you so very much for your outreach and assistance in this stressful time. When my purse and belongings were stolen from my office, I felt so used and violated. ... Your check was financially helpful, as \$100 goes a long way. But it was also very uplifting to feel the support offered! Rest assured that your good deed will lovingly be paid forward."

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## Community of Hope News

### Community of Hope Anchors

The Anchors are a small group of Community of Hope members who are specifically entrusted with a ministry of Christian friendship and support for members and friends of Community of Hope. Anchors are available to listen, pray and provide support as needed and desired. Feel free to contact any of the Anchors listed here or Pastor Tisha at any time.

Avis Elson –  
Margaret Helming –  
Roger Buffett –  
Larry Stuessy –  
Bonnie Spindler –  
Roger Williams – 83

### Summer Camps at Pilgrim Center and Moon Beach

Brochures for this year's camping season at Pilgrim Center and Moon Beach camps are now available. This summer's camping season features camping opportunities for children, youth, adults and families of all ages. An early registration discount is available if your registration is postmarked by March 15. Talk to Tisha Brown, Howard or Lucetta Kanetzke or Barb Bickford if you have questions or would like a brochure.

### 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. at The Original Pancake House, 5518 University Ave. where we enjoy good food, good fellowship and good conversation.

### *Important Dates to Remember!*



#### Birthdays

Lori Powell	4/1
Beth Simmons	4/6
Peter Williams	4/7
Morgan Eder	4/7
Roger Buffett	4/13
Margaret Helming	4/18
Luke Geistlinger	4/20
Wilma Sanks	4/21
Sage Ono	4/23

#### Anniversaries

Please tell us your date(s) so we won't miss your special day.

### Spring Association Meeting to be Held at Monticello Zwingli

The Spring Meeting of the Southwest Association will be held on April 26 at Zwingli UCC in Monticello beginning with registration at 9 a.m. The theme of the day will be Congregational Renewal and Development with the keynote speaker being the Rev. Joanne Thomson, Associate Conference Minister for Mission, Stewardship and Renewal.

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An Introductory Workshop on  
**Centering Prayer**

Saturday, May 3, 2008

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

--With 6 follow-up prayer sessions on Mondays,  
 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., beginning May 5, 2008--

**Where:** Advent Lutheran Church, 7118 Old Sauk Road, Madison, WI 53717

**What:** An opportunity to learn about and experience a simple form of silent prayer which helps us to be aware of the presence of God. Open to newcomers and experienced Centering Prayers.

The workshop covers the basics of Centering Prayer. It is designed for anyone who senses a call to be with God in all dimensions of one's life. The workshop includes opportunities for Centering Prayer & presentations on:

- Prayer as Relationship
- Thoughts and Centering Prayer
- The Method of Centering Prayer
- Fruits of Centering Prayer and its Benefits in Daily Life

The six follow-up sessions support participants as they establish a daily commitment to the practice of Centering Prayer.

Cost: \$30 person, \$50 couple. Includes Monday night sessions. Scholarships available.

On Saturday, beverages, light breakfast, and simple lunch will be provided.

Complete this registration form and return it by April 19, 2008, with check payable to *Contemplative Outreach Madison*. Mail to Ellen Lindgren. Questions? Contact Ellen with your questions.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Check Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## Opportunities to discuss and understand the steps individuals can take to work toward sustainable solutions on the policy level.

EnAct is about taking steps toward sustainable living in our daily lives. While EnAct focuses upon our actions as individuals, we also understand the importance of taking action to work toward changes on the policy level. As members of Governor Doyle's Task Force on Global Warming prepare their final recommendations for the Governor, they will be taking public comments into consideration.

Below are a few great opportunities to discuss and understand the steps individuals can take to work toward sustainable solutions on the policy level. These discussions are hosted by Clean Wisconsin, one of our EnAct partner organizations. EnAct will be present at the April 8<sup>th</sup> event, so join us then to learn more about EnAct and how to start a team! Contact us at 204-2888 or [enact@madisonenvironmental.com](mailto:enact@madisonenvironmental.com) to learn more. See our upcoming spring email newsletter for additional events in our community.

### Wisconsin's Inconvenient Truth?

The scientific community has identified human-caused global warming as one of the most dangerous threats to our environment. Now it is time to talk about the solutions to global warming. Please join Clean Wisconsin to examine how proactive statewide actions can lead us towards a cleaner and more sustainable energy future.

Discussions will be led by either Ryan Schryver or Keith Reopelle of Clean Wisconsin. Discussions are open to the public.

- April 8th at 7:00 p. at the Downtown Public Library at 201 W. Mifflin Street
- April 15th at 6:30 p. Home Savings Bank Community Rm at 3762 E. Washington St.
- April 23rd at 6:30 p. at the Sequoia Branch Library at 513 S. Midvale Boulevard

### About the presenters:

Ryan Schryver was part of a select group of individuals who received training by former Vice President Al Gore and The Climate Project on the impacts of and solutions to global warming. In addition to his work on global warming, Ryan has been involved with statewide energy policies and several large-scale environmental campaigns. Keith Reopelle has twenty years of experience lobbying on a wide range of environmental issues critical to Wisconsin, including global warming. Keith was instrumental in working with Governor Doyle's office to begin to address Wisconsin's response to global warming. Keith is a member of Governor Doyle's Global Warming Task Force. For more information about these events contact Becky Weber, Membership & Development Manager of Clean Wisconsin, at 608-251-7020 ex. 17 or [becker@cleanwisconsin.org](mailto:becker@cleanwisconsin.org). To learn more about Clean Wisconsin, visit [www.cleanwisconsin.org](http://www.cleanwisconsin.org).

EnAct

Madison Environmental Group, Inc.  
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[www.enactwi.org](http://www.enactwi.org)

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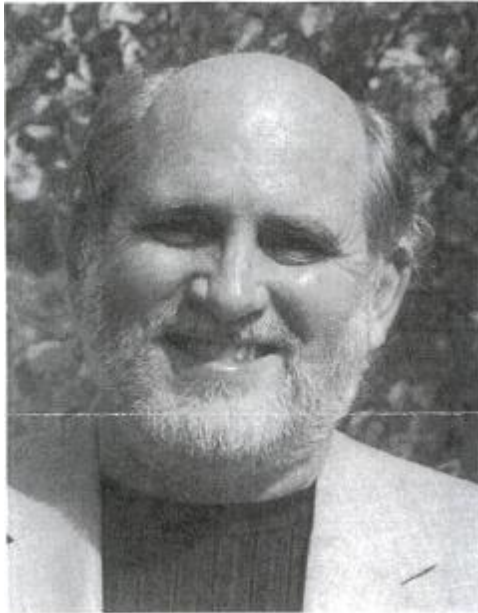
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## ***Marty Haugen***

### IN CONCERT

Friday, April 25, 2008  
7:30 PM

### LITURGY WORKSHOP

Saturday, April 26, 2008  
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

St. William Church  
456 N. Arch St.  
Janesville, WI  
(608) 755-5180

Marty Haugen was honored in 2007 as the "Pastoral Musician of the Year" by the National Association of Pastoral Musicians. He is the composer of a number of Mass settings for Roman Catholic communities, including *Mass of Creation*, and a number of Communion settings for Lutheran congregations, including *Unfailing Light* and *Now the Feast and Celebration*. Many of his Psalm settings (e.g., *Ps 91: Be With Me, Lord*, and *Ps 98: All the Ends of the Earth*) and hymns (e.g., *Gather Us In* and *We Remember*) are part of the standard repertoire for Christian worship worldwide.

On Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, Marty will present an evening of music and reflection, a sharing of song and story to lift up our spirits. The Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> workshop is open to all who want to learn more about bringing the power and grace of the liturgy to our daily lives.

For the past 25 years, Marty has presented hundreds of workshops and concerts across North and Central America, Europe, Asia and the Pacific Rim. His work includes more than 30 recordings and over 400 compositions in print. He also serves as composer-in-residence at Mayflower United Church of Christ in Minneapolis and as an adjunct professor at United Theological Seminary in New Brighton, Minnesota.

CONCERT TICKETS: \$10.00 in advance; \$12.00 at the door.  
WORKSHOP TICKETS: \$10.00 (lunch included).

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## More Advent and Larger Community News

South Central Wisconsin Synodical Women's Spring Retreat at Bishop O'Connor Center, May 16-17.

***Called to Obey God: It's not easy being Jonah*** probes the book of Jonah for help in learning how to discern our role in carrying out God's vision for the whole of creation. The facilitator is Joann Fabie.

This retreat is for spiritual growth and renewal and an opportunity to connect with other women of faith close to home.

To register, please send registration fee, payable to South Central Wisconsin Synodical Women's Organization, to:  
Donna Robey, Treasurer  
South Central Wisconsin Synodical Women's Organization  
3039 Nessling Street  
Madison WI 53719

The full retreat registration fee is \$50 and includes lodging (two to a room), meals and program.

Retreat registration begins on Friday, May 16 at 4:30 p. with dinner at 6:00 p. The retreat begins at 7:00 p. and concludes on Saturday, May 17 by 4:00 p.

There are some flyers on the bulletin board in the Shalom Room at MCC.

### Lyons Lectures by Dr. Marcus Borg First United Methodist Church

All are invited to join First United Methodist Church for a day of lectures by Dr. Marcus Borg on Saturday, April 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. The titles of the two lectures Dr. Borg will give are "Two Visions of Christianity Today" and "What Christianity is All About: Loving God and Changing the World." Cost of the event is \$50.00 per person and space is limited. If you are interested in attending these lectures, contact Tisha Brown for a registration form.

### Connecting with Younger Men: Changing Church Culture

April 26, 8:30 a.—3:45 p.

St Paul's Lutheran Church, 727  
Eighth Street, Baraboo, WI

This event is for men and women of all ages who are reaching out to younger men, ages 18-34, so they may have a closer relationship to Jesus Christ.

**Two Nationally Known Presenters from the Youth & Family Institute:**  
Doug Haugen, Lutheran Men in Mission, and Paul Hill from the Youth & Family Institute.

Informal gathering and fellowship time on Friday, April 25 at 7:30 p. Devil's Lake Resort, Baraboo.

Registration: Individual—\$45  
Seminarians and College Students - \$19  
Congregation Registration:  
1-2 attendees—\$45 each  
3 or more—\$39 each

Lodging: Limited, complimentary lodging is available at Devil's Lake Resort.

For lodging questions contact Lon Buss at [londebuss@charter.net](mailto:londebuss@charter.net) or 608-516-7875.

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## Larger Community News

### Women's Full Moon Dance

Dates: April 19, June 20, July 18 and August 16, 2008.

Venue: Madison Christian Community In the Labyrinth sanctuary. Suggested Donation \$15-\$25 (sliding scale).

This is a series of dance benefits for the women experiencing abuse and suffering all over the Earth. All proceeds will be sent to Women for Women International, a nonprofit charity with the highest ranking available. Check out the website: <http://www.womenforwomen.org/>

For more information, or questions, please email or phone Irene Spencer: [Irene@netconcepts.com](mailto:Irene@netconcepts.com) (608) 873-3536 or Dianne Brakarsh: [dbrakarsh@ameritech.net](mailto:dbrakarsh@ameritech.net) (608) 233-4391.

### National Women's Music Festival in Madison, June 19-22

Featuring four days of women's music, comedy, drag kings, a marketplace, and other special events, the 32nd annual National Women's Music Festival will be held at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, Wisconsin, on June 19-22. The longest-running women's music festival in the U.S., the NWMF welcomes people of all genders to celebrate the creative talents and technical skills of women in the visual, performing, and fine arts. Work-exchange and volunteer opportunities abound for those who need financial assistance to attend. Lodging is available at hotels next to the Center, or you can camp right on the Center's grounds, with showers and electric hookups available.

For more information, check out the festival's website at <http://wiaonline.org/home.htm>

### MEDICINE DROP-OFF IN MADISON!

The Madison Patient Safety Collaborative is sponsoring a drug disposal drop off day on June 7.

Bring your unwanted medications to the Madison Transfer Station, 121 E. Olin Ave. Organizers have not set a time for the collection. To learn more, visit [www.med-dropdane.org](http://www.med-dropdane.org).

(To date, I have not found a pharmacy that will take unused drugs so they don't go into the ground and water systems. Start gathering those outdated and unused medicines/prescriptions/drugs. Take advantage of this opportunity.)

**Madison Vets for Peace** will be recreating the Memorial Mile along Atwood Ave in Olbrich Park of 4500 white tombstones to mark the dead in the Iraq-Afghanistan wars, the week of Memorial Day (install May 25- remove May 31). We would like to invite your community to provide volunteers to help install the gravestones, but most importantly to staff 2 hour shifts day and night over the week the memorial will be up. We are planning 3 months in advance, so we have time to involve anyone who wishes to get involved. Contact Paul McMahon, [heartlandphoto@tds.net](mailto:heartlandphoto@tds.net), 233-1997 or John Fournelle, cell 438-7480 or [johnf@geology.wisc.edu](mailto:johnf@geology.wisc.edu).

### Madison Area Concert Handbells presents Clapper Classics

Sunday, April 19, 7:30 p. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 6101 University Avenue, Madison.

Sunday, April 27, 3:00 p. at St Stephen's Lutheran Church, 5700 Pheasant Hill Rd, Monona

**Advance Tickets:** \$12 for adults; \$9 for seniors & youth (16 and under)

**At the Door:** \$15 adults; \$10 seniors & youth (16 & under) Contact: 608-845-2476 or [www.madisonhandbells.org](http://www.madisonhandbells.org)

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

## A Word About Our Partnership— *Madison Christian Community*

Advent Lutheran (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and Community of Hope (United Church of Christ) are partners in Christ. Together we are the *Madison Christian Community* (MCC). We share education for all ages, youth activities, building space, fellowship groups and efforts to preserve the land. We worship together about 8–12 times a year. Community of Hope is an Open and Affirming congregation and Advent is a Reconciled in Christ congregation. We welcome people of all ages, denominational backgrounds, races, gender and sexual orientation. May our church be a sanctuary for all!

## The Good Word

Monthly Newsletter of the  
Madison Christian Community  
*An Ecumenical Partnership of  
Advent Lutheran Church – ELCA  
and Community of Hope – UCC*

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Bruce Jarvis  
Bill Long  
Donna Leet

Advent Council  
Bob Schneider  
Julie M. Walsh  
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:  
Brian Kuhn  
Bill Long, 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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Madison, WI  
Permit #1928

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