



# The Good Word

March 2008

Dear friends,

We've barely disposed of our Christmas trees, eaten all the cookies and candy canes and packed away our Christmas decorations and already we're in the season of Lent. With a world that is snow-covered and frozen it's hard to believe in the new life of Easter and yet we know in our hearts that just as the days are growing longer, they will also get warmer. The grass will appear from underneath the snow and tiny signs of new and renewed life will emerge.

I must admit this winter has been one of my favorites of the last few years. I've enjoyed the beauty of the snow, the opportunities to play outside with Ethan and the relatively more restful time inside that comes with cold weather. It is my job in our household to shovel snow and although I have permanent aches in both shoulders, I treasure those times to be out early in the morning or late at night following a snow fall when the world is quiet and peaceful and the snow clean and fresh. I also treasure quiet days at home snuggled in my reading chair sipping tea under a quilt and reading a good book. I find I need this restful time of winter to build resources for the energy and enthusiasm of spring and summer.

This is how it is along our journeys of faith. There are times when we are called to greater contemplation and reflection and the season of Lent is one of those times. Here in Wisconsin, that time of reflection is supported by the reality of our winter weather. Because of the cold we spend more time indoors, and are often limited in our movement by the forces of nature. This is a gift we are given both by

the rhythms of the church year as well as by the seasons of the natural world in which we live. I've come to see our winter season and the season of Lent as times when I gather insight and energy for the onslaught of Spring and the joyful celebration of Christ's resurrection and new life. Both events burst forth exuberantly and grab a hold of our imaginations and our hearts inviting us into new activities and an outpouring of energy as we take up Christ's mission to spread the good news. May the remaining days of winter and of Lent be a source of rest and reflection in your life. May you find peace, insight and wisdom in times of being indoors, in times of introspection. May you gather strength to face the joy of Easter and the exuberance of Spring. May your journey of faith be ever richer for having come through a time of wilderness into a time of new and renewed life. Amen.

## Holy Week at the Madison Christian Community

I encourage you to participate in the drama of Holy Week by attending worship at 10:15 a.m. on Palm Sunday, March 16, Maundy Thursday at 7:00 p.m. on March 20; Good Friday at 12:30 p.m. on March 21; Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil at 7:15 p.m. on March 22; and Easter Sunday at 7:00 a.m. or 10:15 a.m.

## The Easter Vigil

This year we will add an Easter Vigil Worship service and an all-night prayer vigil to our Holy Week observances. Our Easter Vigil will begin with worship at 7:15 p.m. on Saturday, March 22. Following worship, those who choose are invited to participate in a prayer vigil throughout the  
Continues on the next page.

## Of Special Interest:

- Growing in Sanctuary Pledges are Due; Contemplative Taize Worship; Adult Education; Thank You; Save your handled shopping bags—p.2
- MCC Leadership Team News; Food Drive for Wexford Food Pantry — p.4
- Iraq Update from Brad—p. 5
- Adult Education; JAVA for Justice—p.6
- Father Dom's Duck Doo; MCC's 40th Birthday—p.7
- Food, Faith & Earth Day; Special MCC Meeting; Lenten Worship—p.8
- Faith at Home p.-9-10
- Letter to MCC p. 10-11
- Dane County United; Community Supported Agriculture —p.12

February Calendar—INSERT

## Inside this issue:

Fellowship Activities	3
Afternoon of Art & Soul	
Coming Events	5
MCC News	2, 4-12
Youth News	13
Larger Community	14
Advent News	15-16
Hope News	17-18

## MCC News

night. We will have 30 minute shifts during which we hope to have at least two people at the church in prayer and meditation from the time our worship ends until the time of our sunrise service on Easter morning. All who are interested in coming to the MCC to pray overnight between the hours of 8:30 p.m. on March 22 and 7:00 a.m. on March 23 are invited to sign up in the Shalom Room to keep vigil as we wait for Christ to once again emerge from the empty tomb.

### Easter Fire

In honor of Katrin and because it was a great way to begin our Easter celebration, we will once again light an Easter Fire at 6:00 a.m. on Sunday morning, March 23. You can come anytime between 6 a.m. and 7 a.m. to watch the sunrise and enjoy a time of prayer, meditation, hymns and more around the fire. Coffee and hot cider will be provided.

### Save those handled shopping bags!

Those are nice bags, aren't they? useful a second, third or fourth time? but perhaps your closets are overflowing? Now you can give those paper handled bags a second life besides the recycling bin. Sachi and Laura Komai are finally opening their store on State Street, selling art supplies and works by local artists and craftspeople, as well as hosting various craft workshops. After almost 10 years in retail, we've seen the quantity of packaging that retail creates and would like to do our part to minimize that. So, if you have clean, handled, paper shopping bags (all sizes welcome, just not grocery bags) please give them to a Komai on Sunday morning, or stop by the store!

For more information, contact Laura Komai.

### Growing in Sanctuary - Pledges Due

The three-year MCC Building Fund campaign to finance the renovation of the original sanctuary, 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.

### Contemplative Taize Worship During Lent on Sundays, March 2-March 16 at 5:00 p.m.

Contemplative Taize Worship services at the Madison Christian Community continue in March. We gather at the MCC in the Covenant Room on Sunday evenings, March 2, 9 and 16 from 5:00 to 5:30 p.m. This worship time will feature songs from Taize, scripture reading, contemplative silence and prayer. All are welcome.

**A SUPER big THANK YOU** to all those who helped make our SOUPer Bowl of Caring lunch a success! It was amazing how many people pitched in to help cook, set up, serve, eat, and clean up. We made enough soup for about 80 - 100 people and ran out, leaving many people with empty bowls. Next year, we promise to make more! We raised \$459 to donate to The River Food Pantry!! For those big football fans out there, the Giants won our Souper Bowl, too. Thank you!

**NATIVE PLANT SALE – Friends of the Arboretum.** Check the website ([www.uwarboretum.org/foa](http://www.uwarboretum.org/foa)) or call 608-263-7760 for information on the plants available through this sale. Orders are due by March 17<sup>th</sup> available for pickup prior to the on-site sale, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Native shrubs, trees and vines along with native savanna and prairie garden and rain garden plants are available. Proceeds go to the Arboretum....a fabulous resource in the Madison area.

### Pray Daily

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## Fellowship Groups & Activities

### ART AND SOUL –

Reclaiming your creativity  
Sat. Mar. 15 1-4 p.m.

This afternoon of creative expression is for anyone who wants to let go of typical assumptions about art-making and just enjoy the process. What would happen if we let go of our judgments and did it just for fun? You will have a choice of simple art materials (oil pastels, pastels, tempera paint etc.) to use in being present to what you feel at the moment. In a welcoming atmosphere where no comparison or criticism is allowed, we will listen for your own insights and discoveries.

The facilitator, John Mix, has been teaching the Atira Process for 13 years. He currently leads expressive art sessions at Tellurian, an addiction treatment center in Madison. He is also interim chaplain at the Dane County jail. "The gift of not taking Drawing 101 until I was 35 is that I have a passion for helping others to discover and embrace the creativity that is in every person."

Cost for the afternoon is a \$10 materials fee. Contact John.

Come to the Free Community Hymn Sings in Overture Hall at 11:00 a. on these dates: March 29, and April 26. It is a really nice opportunity to hear the lovely organ and sing favorite hymns.

### MCC Community Group

Sunday, March 2 - Have lunch after church at the China Wok Cafe on University Ave. in Middleton, then go to a matinee movie (to be chosen).

Sunday, April 6 - Potluck downstairs after church. Bring ideas for spring/summer/fall activities.

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 meet on March 14 at Myrna & Dobbin McNatt's. Please call them if you need directions. The movie is *Freedom Writers*. This is a true story of a teacher who inspired teenagers after the LA riots.

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

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Newsletter Preparer: Sonja Keesey-Berg  
Newsletter Proofing: Lucetta Kanetzke and Karen Schwarz  
Newsletter Collators: Brad Spencer and David Keesey-Berg  
Newsletter Mailing Ready: Eileen Bolstad and Doris Roberts

## MCC News - Leadership Team News

### MCC Leadership Team News

The MCC Leadership Team includes the members of the Advent Council and the Hope Steering Committee (names on the back page). Officially named the MCC Board of Directors, the Leadership Team (LT) manages the business and affairs of the Corporation. There is a Constitution and accompanying By-Laws, the latter being revised as of January, 1996.

The Advent and Hope Pastors participate in the LT meetings which in 2008 are held quarterly. In other months the Executive Committee meets, that group comprising the LT chair (Bill Long, Hope) and vice chair/chair-elect (Brian Kuhn, Advent), the Advent Council president (Joanna McDonald), the Hope Steering Committee moderator (Corkey Custer), and the pastors, Jeff Wild (Advent) and Tisha Brown (Hope).

One of the two pastors is designated Administrative Pastor and has oversight of administrative activities of the MCC. (The word oversight is perhaps not appropriate. It is more accurate to say that the pastors provide administrative coordination in alternating years.) For 2008 that person will be Tisha Brown.

The LT now has two functioning committees, the Finance Committee (John Rowe, Advent, chair) and the Personnel Committee (Doug Johnson, Advent, chair). There are Advent and Hope members on each committee, Sonja Keesey-Berg is ex-officio member of the Personnel Committee. Other task forces are created and disbanded as the occasion demands.

Minutes of all meetings of the LT, Executive Committee, Advent Council, and Hope Steering Committee are available in the Shalom Room in a black notebook on the library counter. (Please be courteous of those lined up ahead of you reading the minutes.) All meetings are open and announced in the newsletter. Your attendance is welcome.

It is our intent to foster an environment of open communication within the MCC. You are encouraged to contact any of us on the LT if you have questions and concerns. We look forward to our 40th year in this unique ecumenical venture.

Bill Long

### Food Drive for Wexford Ridge Food Pantry—Sunday, March 16

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 March. 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

### Thank You MCC

*Thank you so much for the use of the building for our pre-adoption parent training. We appreciate your graciousness and hospitality. Please know that you play an important role in finding homes for children in need.*

*Thank you and God Bless,  
Martha Nack on behalf of Lutheran  
Social Services Adoption Staff*

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## MCC News—

### Iraq Update from Brad Spencer

We've been sending low-density items to Iraq for some months and it's time for a change back to denser/higher-value things that go well in flat-rate boxes. I suggest good (for that age group) CDs, DVDs, beef sticks, cheeses that will travel well (until late spring, when it may be too warm), Mt. Meru coffee (drip grind) and anything else of a compact, dense nature you see requested on AnySoldier.com (even if we send it to someone other than the one requesting it.) Keep in mind that simply contacting soldiers can be a big morale boost: it isn't essential that you send some item to show your appreciation and concern. Also, anyone who wishes can go to AnySoldier.com and send items directly to the contacts listed there (along with their requests) rather than going through MCC (either way it's a good action.) Don't forget that there are female troops in Iraq who would welcome attention from back home.

On the postal front there's very good news: starting in March, the USPS will have a new, larger (by 50%) flat-rate Priority mail box and will have special discounted rate (\$10.95) for such boxes sent to APO/FPO addresses. These new boxes can be ordered starting late this month and we will try to get some. This means that for just \$2 more we will be able to send 50% more in a flat-rate box.

This is an ongoing opportunity for generosity from MCC members. The need is far bigger than MCC alone can ever satisfy but it is certain that the recipients of whatever is sent (items or letters) will be grateful for being remembered and being cared about. MCC members have been very generous to the troops for several years now and it surely has made a difference.

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### Coming Events

- March 4                   MCC Executive Committee, 7:00 p
- March 8-9                Middle High Lock-In
- March 9                   Labyrinth is Open to the public, 1:00-2:30 p
- March 9, 16              Contemplative Lenten Service, 5:00 p
- March 12                 Labyrinth is open to the public, 9:00 a. – 6:00 p.
- March 16                 Palm Sunday, no Sunday School
- March 18                 Advent Council at Wild's, 7:00 p.
- March 20                 Spring Equinox Labyrinth Walk, 6:00-8:00 p.
- March 20                 Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 p.
- March 20                 Newsletter Items are Due
- March 21                 Good Friday Service at 12:30 p.
- March 22                 Easter Vigil Service at 7:15 p.
- Easter Vigil, 8:15 p. until 7:00 a
- March 23                 Easter Sunday  
                               Sunrise Service at 7:00 a. Easter Worship at 10:15a.  
                               Youth prepare Easter Breakfast, no Sunday School

Future IHN Weeks for 2008: April 13-20 and December 21-28, 2008.

## MCC News —

Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;  
then it was said among the nations,  
The Lord has done great things for them.  
—Psalm 126:2

### Come share in the fun and fellowship of *Laughter Yoga!*

Laughter Yoga is a wellness ministry that combines laughter and yoga breathing exercises. Some benefits of Laughter Yoga reported by medical experts are: It helps to reduce high blood pressure, stress, anxiety, and depression. It also helps to strengthen the immune system, increase blood circulation, and oxygen levels. The amazing benefits are too many to list. Come experience the benefits for yourself and enjoy the fun and fellowship created through the gift of laughter!

We will meet in the Covenant Room right after our morning church services on the following Sundays: March 30<sup>th</sup>, April 27<sup>th</sup>, May 25<sup>th</sup> and June 29<sup>th</sup>.

For more information contact Michelle Erschen or Nancy Greenwald.

More information about Laughter Yoga can be found at: [www.laughinglutherans.com](http://www.laughinglutherans.com), [www.laughteryoga.org](http://www.laughteryoga.org) and [www.laughangeles.com](http://www.laughangeles.com).

**TDS is NOT emailing you asking you to confirm your email password!**

If you receive an email purporting to be from TDS asking you to verify your email password, delete the message. I fell for it because I'd been working with passwords, setting up Heather's and Harvest of Hope's new emails. I changed my password immediately, hopefully in time to avoid any mischief. TDS confirms it is bogus, an attempt to gain personal password info. Tom

### JAVA FOR JUSTICE –

March is here so order your personal order PLUS the extra, a coffee needed for St. Patrick's Day celebrations and gifts. Order decaf or regular; bean, drip or perk; 12 oz (\$8.00) or 4 pound (\$38) bags. Make your check out to *Mt. Meru Coffee Project*. Place order by March 2<sup>nd</sup> ready for pick up on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Justice never tasted so good.....and thanks for helping the coffee farmers in Tanzania become sustainable.

### Sunday Morning Adult Education Hour

#### Sunday, March 2

*Creativity and Spirituality* led by John Mix. Through his work as a chaplain artist and teacher, John has seen the power of the creative process. In addition, John will be offering a workshop on Saturday, March 15.

#### Sunday, March 9

Congregational meeting of the Madison Christian Community (see page 8).

#### Sunday, March 16

Carolyn Hahn will lead the third and final session on *Prayer and Contemplation*.

#### Sunday, March 23

Easter Sunday, no adult education

#### Sunday, March 30 *Biology and Belief:*

*Conversations in Faith and Science*. This is the first of a five week series and more information will be forthcoming.

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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! 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 before April 20<sup>th</sup>. We have ordered 6 pallets (540 bags) ready for pick-up at MCC on April 20<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, 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). 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 me 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!"

### Madison CROP Hunger Walk Local Allocation Report

A total of \$82,883.15 was raised on October 14, 2007. The twenty-five percent local allocation that our community receives for programs that benefit hungry people totals \$20,720.79. Sun Prairie Food Pantry will receive \$1,127.21, Independent Living Holiday Meals on Wheels will receive \$1,000, and Second Harvest Food Bank will receive \$19,667.53 to distribute to the other Dane County Food Pantries. Food can be purchased for \$.14 per pound so every dollar spent equals \$7 in food purchases.

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Friendship

## MCC News Continued

### Food, Faith and Earth Day

The Winter Farmer's Market and Organic Breakfast hosted by MCC members connected with Harvest of Hope was a wonderful and well-attended event. A similar event is being planned by a group of ecumenical leaders in the community. Last year the event was on Earth Day and held at Lake Edge Lutheran in Monona. It will be our privilege to host this event on **Sunday, April 13, from 3:00-7:00 pm**. Christian environmentalist, Dr. Cal DeWitt will give the keynote address at 3:00 pm. Local food & faith exhibits will open before and after Dr. DeWitt's address, and participants will have the opportunity to attend one of several workshops. This *free* event is followed by a special local food dinner prepared by Barbara Wright of the *Dardanelles*. Dinner seating is limited; \$8 for advance reservations, \$12 at the door. To make dinner reservations email [harvestof-hope@tds.net](mailto:harvestof-hope@tds.net) or call 608-824-1761.

We hope that many members of MCC will take advantage of this event and plan to attend. In addition, help will be needed to set-up, work in the kitchen, and with clean-up following the event. Please contact Jeff Wild if you are willing to serve in some capacity.

### Report on Bill Feeny Memorial Fund

Last year many MCC members donated to a memorial fund in fond memory of Bill Feeny. In the 2007 Annual Report, the balance of that fund was incorrectly reported.

To set the record straight, a total of \$1,835.00 was donated to The Bill Feeny Memorial Fund.

In 2007 the fund contributed \$200 to the UCC's "\$100,000 For Peace" mission (humanitarian aid to Iraq).

The balance in the fund stands at \$1,635.00.

Tom Matthews

### Special Meeting of the Madison Christian Community

The Leadership Team has scheduled a special meeting of Madison Christian Community for **Sunday, March 9, 2008**. MCC Chair, Bill Long will call the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. in the Covenant Room and present a resolution to sell a small parcel of land to the owner of the duplex at 7030 Old Sauk Road. This action is being recommended because a parking pad and shrubbery infringe on MCC property. As landowner we have the choice of demanding the removal of the parking pad and shrubs; losing the property by allowing the owner to continue using our property; or selling this parcel. The resolution and announcement of the meeting will be sent in a separate mailing to each household.

### Lenten Worship

#### Personal Perspectives of the Cross

Lent did not begin as it traditionally does because a blizzard caused the cancellation of Ash Wednesday. However, it is not too late to enter into the rhythms of Lent by participating in worship on Wednesday evenings and listening to thoughtful meditations of "Personal Perspectives on the Cross," shared by MCC member pastors. Pastor Ted Kalkwarf will preach on February 27, John Mix on March 5, and Stan Klyve on March 12. Confirmation students are expected to worship and meet for a fifteen-minute roundtable discussion following worship.

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Serve at MCC &

Beyond

Cultivate Spiritual

Friendship

## Faith at Home: Connecting Lenten Stories to Daily Life

By Heather Putnam, Director of Children's Ministry

Here are some resources to help you talk to your kids about this year's Lenten bible stories and make their messages relevant to daily life.

### Lenten Stories Primer

The stories from this Lenten season explore reaching out to, helping and being comfortable interacting with those who are very different from oneself.

- **Temptation of Christ (Matthew 4:1-11)** - Jesus is so firmly rooted in knowing himself that he is comfortable talking with Satan and is not persuaded by Satan's temptations.
- **Nicodemus Visits Jesus (John 3:1-17)** – Nicodemus asks Jesus what does it mean to have God in your life and does it matter. Jesus tells Nicodemus that God helps us to make good choices. One of those good choices that God helps us to make is to reach out to everyone in loving ways no matter who they are.
- **Jesus and the Woman at the Well (John 4: 5-42)** – Jesus was a Jew. The woman at the well was a Samaritan. According to cultural expectations Jews didn't ordinarily talk to Samaritans. But Jesus is guided by God, not cultural expectations, so he reaches out and talks to her anyway.
- **Jesus Heals a Blind Man (John 9: 1-41)** – In Jesus' time, society didn't have much compassion for people with disabilities, so the blind man was not accepted and was condemned to be a beggar. Jesus rejected this expectation, reached out to the blind man in a loving way, and was able to heal him.
- **Death and Resurrection of Lazarus (John 11: 1-45)** – This story contains the shortest verse in the Bible – "Jesus cried" (John 11:35). These two simple words show Jesus' compassion for Mary, Martha and the other Jews who were sad about losing their friend.
- **Last Supper (Matthew 26: 14-27)** – Jesus gathers with his friends to celebrate the Passover. He knows one of his friends will betray him, but he still chooses to ac-

cept his friends, faults and all, and celebrate with them anyway.

### Table Talk

Here are some questions to stimulate discussion around the issues raised in these bible stories.

- How can we be different from others? On the outside – like the blind man? On the inside – like the woman at the well?
- What are some ways that you stand apart from or are different from other people?
- Who are some kids at school who are different from you? How?
- Do these differences create boundaries between you?
- How do these differences impact how you interact with these kids?

What are some ways that you can (or already do) reach out and cross these boundaries as Jesus did?

### Activity

We can't see what others are thinking. This is the root of many similarities and differences between people. Sometimes being similar to or different from someone is as simple as thinking of the same or different number as someone else. Here's a fun and quick game to explore this idea (from *More New Games!* – a Dolphin book by Doubleday).

Pick a number – one, two, or three – but don't tell anybody your number. Next, without talking, shake hands with the others in the room. If your number is one, shake my hand just once; if it's two, shake twice; and if it's three, shake three times. If we have different numbers, there is an unmistakable moment of tension as one of us tries to stop the shake while the other continues. But if we have the same number, we stop at the same time and we know we have the same number.

Continues in the first column on the next page.

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Serve at MCC &

Beyond

Cultivate Spiritual

Friendship

## MCC News Continued

See if you can break the secret code and figure out who has the same number as you without talking.

### Prayer

Loving God,

Thank you for Bible stories.

Thank you for the lessons they teach me about reaching out to and helping people who are very different from myself.

Help me to remember Jesus and the lessons he teaches me when I make choices about how I interact with others.

Amen.

### Dear members of the MCC:

I write to you as a long-time member of the Youth Education committee, a one-time Sunday School teacher, and as a child of the MCC (which is what I consider myself). I was not present at the annual meeting but did want to speak to some of the matters that were raised in regards to the position currently held by Heather Putnam. Most importantly, the Youth Education Committee is happy to welcome Heather to her work with the committee and the youth of the MCC.

I truly appreciate that my value and opinion is acknowledged and solicited when it comes to matters of Sunday School, but, be assured, it has been all along. Over the course of my years on the Youth Education committee I have been asked to report (presumably in their role on the Leadership Team) to Fran Grugel, Martha McCurdy, Doug Johnson, and Petra Streif, as well as making a few presentations to the Leadership Team as a whole.

I've kind of lost track, but I think it might be 8 years on this committee so even though I haven't been as active lately I do feel I can speak to the history a little bit. Let me first reflect back on when I joined the committee. At the time, it was made up of two people and they expressed frustration at how difficult it was to get people involved; they felt the curriculum might need to be changed, they had trouble recruiting people to teach. They

were clearly burnt out and I naively assumed that we just needed more people for the committee and jumped right in. Now I find myself in much the same position, even though the committee membership was increased. To some extent, it feels as if nothing has changed in 8 years, and that alone is not without frustration.

As a long time MCC member since childhood, I feel the MCC is committed to its children, it loves them, it cherishes them, it nurtures them. But as a committee member, I came to feel that the MCC was not backing up its words with its actions. The creation of the position currently held by Heather Putnam was a great thrill to me and a big step towards strengthening the program for the younger children, just as the paid position for the middle and senior high supports those ages.

I know that people seem to be surprised about this supposedly "new" position, but from my perspective, this position has been something we as a committee have been requesting for several years. Issues for a long time (since before I even started) include questions of curriculum, desires for greater child/family/community involvement, easier teacher recruitment. How can we go over 8 years and not fully address these questions? As a committee, we are not unaware that there are larger issues, but we have our hands full with the day-to-day. We witnessed with Katrin the potential for greater connection to the larger church community, for easier recruitment, for support for teachers, and this, I believe, deserves and demands a position, and not just a handful of volunteers.

It is not just about teachers, but about families as well. Most teachers have a long list of possible students and about half of those attend; a stronger Sunday School would also draw a larger pool of families into the active life of the MCC.

Continues on the next page

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Beyond

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## MCC News Continued

In my time of working with the Sunday school program, I have seen a small core group of people who dedicate much of their time to this program; and while I greatly appreciate their efforts, I feel those people are stretched thin beyond reason and I am also greatly frustrated that more people can't contribute even a fraction of this time. I am also frustrated because the power and energy of young people is an amazing thing and I feel that we as a church could really benefit from it if only we could get our act together. We only got a little taste of what was possible in the short time that Katrin was appointed to the position, but it is enough for me to believe that this is a step in the positive direction. I believe strongly that our children deserve the attention of a paid position and that it would add continuity to the program, and as well, help to build the program and to address some of the bigger questions. These are tasks that take time and, I believe, are best served in a paid position rather than an intern or volunteer capacity.

As for some of the more specific matters raised during the annual meeting: I agree that we have many talented people to deliver children's sermons. From my perspective, the task of the children's sermon is not important in and of itself; its importance is for that person to spend more time with the children in a worship setting, to strengthen their connection to the children.

I welcome the concern for the children and the process, but I have to reiterate that our opinions were consulted and valued. When asked, I said "Hooray! Of course! What took you so long?" The committee worked with others to create a job description based on those areas of need with which we've been asking for help (for years!). This job was not created just to give Katrin more hours -- this need existed before, and exists after her departure.

That hasn't changed since the job description was first generated. As a committee we looked at what we would really like to be doing, what we dream of, and what we don't have time for -- these are the things that form the basis for the job description.

There are times of the year that are more intense than others, but I consider this a year-round job mostly because the overarching task is to connect the youth to this church community and vice versa.

It is a constant job to be connecting with people, finding their talents and interests, and seeing how they might work with the youth.

To my mind, that is something that deserves a devoted position, not an intern who will change every semester, because its success rests upon time to build connections within the community. Then there is the support of teachers during the school year, troubleshooting, "tweaking", researching possible resources, getting children to come and keep coming to Sunday school. We have discussed the possibilities of looking outside the church for teachers (maybe some college students?), but that, too, requires someone to coordinate and manage.

I do believe the MCC's commitment to children, and the children themselves, warrant a paid position.

This is a need identified by the committee charged to support and coordinate the Youth Education program, and it is a need that has been so for several years. As a committee, we appreciate the response of the Leadership team, and the continued support to this paid position.

Laura T. Komai

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## MCC News Continued

### Report from Dane County United

**Youth Action Assembly:** On Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, on a cold and snowy night, over 150 community members (including 13 people from the MCC) turned out at SS Morris Community AME Church to learn about African-Centered Pedagogy and its promise for helping African American youth in Madison and Dane County. Over 100 individuals, including three principals, made specific commitments to work with DCU in reinstating a successful African-Centered Pedagogy Class that was discontinued last year. You can read more about the January 31<sup>st</sup> action on the front page of the February 8 edition of The Madison Times posted on a bulletin board in the Shalom Room.

**Dane County United Delegate's Assembly—Thursday, March 6 at 7:00 p. at Covenant Presbyterian Church.** Report and follow up on our successful January 31<sup>st</sup> Youth Action Assembly [and more](#).

### Community Supported Agriculture at Scotch Hill Farm

Dave and Sonja have been trying to make a good decision about whether to continue to do most of the shopping at Farmer's Markets (summer and winter) or to purchase a CSA share. So Sonja contacted Tony and Dela Ends at Scotch Hill Farm with their questions after reading the article in the February *Good Word*.

*Q: Several years ago we bought a share and found we received things we didn't know how to prepare.*

A: We have an excellent cook book that our growers coalition put together with recipes from our families for the vegetables we grow. We've been using it for about ten years. It really helps to get

the most out of the fresh vegetables if you read it and use it. If you sign up for our produce, you get it for a \$7 discount. We also give everyone a recipe with the newsletter and list of vegetables each week.

*Q: Where in Madison do you deliver?*

A: We deliver to the wine boutique between Middleton and Madison near the corner of University and County Q. If 20 households were to sign up at MCC we would deliver to the church probably Thursday evenings or afternoon. We also deliver to the Fitchburg Farmers Markets on Thursdays.

*Q: We buy locally as much as possible and enjoy the farmer's markets all year-round.*

A: It is very very difficult for farmers to make a living at Farmer's markets because there are so many variables and inconsistencies. The vendors on the square who have been there a very long time do well. There is a 10-year waiting list for vendors at the market on the square. Other markets are smaller.

*Q: We are in the "gathering information" stage and trying to make a good decision.*

A: Growing vegetables for people, tending soil with organic practices, providing for animals in a humane way and caring for old buildings and machinery is a huge commitment. Buying vegetables from a local farm family in a relationship requires another huge commitment. We appreciate that. We need to add 60 subscribers to our farm service this year. We need to buy land and build new hoop houses, cold frames and establish irrigation. We have a 5-year lease on 27 acres, and own 5 acres and buildings. There are 38 acres for sale near us, and we're trying to raise money to buy this land. This is what your community supported agriculture purchases pay for. It turns land that is being sprayed with herbicides and pesticides back to organic practices. It takes years to rebuild the soil with organic matter. We are committed to doing that.

*Tony and Dela Ends at Scotch Hill Farm*

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## MCC YOUTH NEWS

### Middle High

**Saturday, March 8 – 9 – *Lock-in*** – Bowling, games, movies, discussions, and maybe even a little sleep...meet at MCC at 7:30 pm and stay through church on Sunday morning. Bring \$ for bowling and pizza. *Adult chaperones/drivers needed*

**Sunday, March 23 – *Easter Breakfast*** – Prepare and serve breakfast between the Sunrise service and the regular service as a fundraiser for summer canoe and rafting trips.

**April 4-6 or 11-13 – *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*

### Senior High

**Sunday, March 2 – *Breakfast during Sunday School*** – Watch the bulletin for more Details.

**Wednesday, March 12 – *Senior High Hangout*** 7:00 – 8:30 @ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Host needed!)

**Sunday, March 23 – *Easter Breakfast*** – Prepare and serve breakfast between the sunrise service (it's not *that* early...) and the regular service as a fundraiser for summer canoe and rafting trips.

**April 4-6 or 11-13 – *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*

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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).

## Larger Community News

Friday, March 7, 2008 World Day of Prayer at Bethel Lutheran Church 9:30 a. is coffee fellowship and 10:00 a. worship. It is a beautifully-written worship service created by the women of Guyana, from South America, and we are excited to share it with you. The theme challenges us to explore the mystery of God's wisdom as we are called to search for new understandings in the struggles of our daily life. We are reminded that God is the source of all wisdom and that His wisdom will inform and guide us in all our relationships! We encourage you come and invite you to bring others. Carpooling is suggested since parking is limited.

### 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/>

Come dance in a candlelit sanctuary at the full moon and let your spirit soar!

We dance in bare feet, and skirts or flowing clothes to help to inspire the sacred feminine within. Please bring a water bottle and a blanket to lie down/wrap up in.

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.

### Festival Choir of Madison:

Next concert is Saturday, March 1 at Asbury United Methodist (6101 University Avenue). Second annual "American Voices" - a celebration of America's musical traditions. Settings of poetry by Robert Frost, Walt Whitman, Langston Hughes and others. Tickets from Candi & Phill Bloedow or [www.festivalchoir.org](http://www.festivalchoir.org). (Look for the poster in the Shalom Room.)

### Beat the Winter Blues & All That Jazz, Thursday, March 6, 4:30 to 7:30 pm Inn on the Park

Join us for MUM's annual musical fundraiser at the Inn on the Park. An evening of music featuring Bobby Bryan & the Original Downtown Players and Jan Wheaton with Matan Rubenstein. Silent auction -- Hors d'oeuvres --Desserts -- Cash bar. Tickets: \$25 per person. Ticket outlets: Budget Signs, 2825 University Avenue or A Greater Gift, 2701 Monroe Street. Sponsors and auction items are needed for this event. For information or to donate items: 256-0906. Support MUM!

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 McMahan, [heartlandphoto@tds.net](mailto:heartlandphoto@tds.net), 233-1997 or John Fournelle [johnf@geology.wisc.edu](mailto:johnf@geology.wisc.edu), cell 438-7480.

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# Advent News

## Advent Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle will meet on March 13 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	2,764.22
Rent & Eviction Prevention	1879.00
Security Deposit	650.00
Utility Payment	50.00
Iraq Purchases & Postage	52.85
Iraq Food Purchased	11.88
Scholarship	85.00
Prescription	<u>25.49</u>
Expenditure	\$2297.67
Balance as of 02/15/2008	\$10.00

No offering on February 17 due to ice & snow storm.

## 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, March 11. Joanne Heggen will be our hostess. All our welcome for fellowship and study.

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

## OPALS Book Discussion Group

OPALS will meet on March 27 at 1:30 p. at Hildy McGown's. New members are welcome. The book we are discussing is *Blood Done Sign My Name* by Timothy Tyson. This is the story of a Methodist Minister in North Carolina in the Civil Rights era. New women are encouraged to attend. Call Mary Maxwell if you have questions or need a ride.

## NEW LOCATION for Advent Women Thursday Coffee

Beginning on Thursday March 6th, 7 AM, Advent women will meet 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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## Advent News continued

### 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.

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

### Advent Giving Goal

The February giving goal is not being calculated this month for two reasons. First, the newsletter deadline is before the offering from the fourth Sunday in February is received. Second, the offering from Sunday, February 17 (blizzard day) was a total of \$3.00! The loss of one Sunday's offering could have year-long ramifications. Hopefully, we will weather this storm, too!

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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 Catlett-Sirchio, Rose Gear, Tristan Breedlove (graduate studies)
- Bonnie Trudell's father, recovering from gall bladder surgery.
- Michelle Erschen's family grieving the death of a family friend caused by a boating accident.

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

Feb. 26-Mar. 4 Theresa/Steve Haffner Stearns; Christine Hartelt; Margaret Helming

Mar 4-11 Keith Johnson/Julie Hunter; Bruce/Alison Jarvis

Mar. 11-18 Howard/Lucetta Kanetzke; Rolf Killingstad

Mar. 18-25 Lois/Hirochika Komai; Laura Komai, Sachi Komai

Mar. 25-April 1 Donna Leet; Bill Long

### Thank you for your Gifts to 'Our Church's Wider Mission'

The following is excerpted from a letter from Rev. David S. Moyer, Conference Minister

*Dear Friends and Partners in Ministry:*

*Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity in giving to OCWM through the Wisconsin Conference. You were extraordinarily generous in mission giving in 2007. OCWM giving by Conference churches was the highest total in the past 4 years. Your generosity allowed the Conference to distribute additional gifts to its mission partners and return funds to reserves, including those that provide gifts to flood relief and in support of a new prison ministry.*

### Thank you from the UCC

*Dear Friends in Christ:*

*Greetings from the United Church of Christ national setting. Thank you for your gift of \$200.00 in support of the UCC Iraq Humanitarian Appeal. Your generous gift, combined with those of thousands of others who join in the 100,000 for peace campaign, helped us exceed our goal and raise over \$150,000. These gifts are now being shared with our ACT (Action by Churches Together) partners to further assistance to displaced Iraqis.*

Thank you from Porchlight, Inc.

The following is excerpted from a letter from Steven J. Schooler, Executive Director

*On behalf of Porchlight, Inc. I wish to thank you for your contribution of \$700.00. This will be used for our DIGS emergency Assistance program to prevent evictions.*

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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

## 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.

## *Important Dates to Remember!*



### Birthdays

Roger Williams	3/3
Chuck Pfeifer	3/4
Josephine Putnam	3/4
Tisha Brown	3/6
Theresa Haffner-Stearns	3/8
Dorothy Brar	3/8
Nancy Zabel	3/12
Heather Putnam	3/13
Ken Ono	3/20
Eliza Meyer	3/20
Lucetta Kanetzke	3/23

### Anniversaries

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

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

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## ***FRIENDS VS Minnesota (or Wisconsin) FRIENDS***

***FRIENDS: Never ask for food.***

***Minnesota FRIENDS: Always bring the food.***

***FRIENDS: Will say "hello".***

***Minnesota FRIENDS: Will give you a big hug.***

***FRIENDS: Call your parents Mr. and Mrs.***

***Minnesota FRIENDS: Call your parents Mom and Dad***

***FRIENDS: Have never seen you cry.***

***Minnesota FRIENDS: Cry with you.***

***FRIENDS: Will eat at your dinner table and leave.***

***Minnesota FRIENDS: Will spend hours there, talking, laughing, and just being together.***

***FRIENDS: Know a few things about you.***

***Minnesota FRIENDS: Could write a book with direct quotes from you.***

***FRIENDS: Will leave you behind if that's what the crowd is doing.***

***Minnesota FRIENDS: Will kick the whole crowd's butt that left you.***

***FRIENDS: Would knock on your door.***

***Minnesota FRIENDS: Walk right in and say, "Anyone home?"***

***FRIENDS: Are for a while.***

***Minnesota FRIENDS: Are for life.***

***FRIENDS: Might ignore this.***

***Minnesota FRIENDS: Will forward this to other Minnesota friends.***

***From Jean Pfeifer***

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

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

## The Good Word

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

Staff:  
Tisha Brown, Pastor  
Community of Hope,  
UCC  
hope@madisonchristiancommunity.org

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

Dan & Jen Streit,  
Youth Ministry  
[mccyouth@tds.net](mailto:mccyouth@tds.net)

Heather Putnam,  
Children's Ministry  
mcc.children@madisonchristiancommunity.org

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

MCC Logo Design by  
Lucetta Kanetzke

Tom Matthews, Secretarial Assistant AND  
MCC Maintenance  
[mcctom@tds.net](mailto:mcctom@tds.net)

Bruce Burns and  
Jean Oliverson  
MCC Custodians

Community of Hope  
Steering Committee

Ann Bolger  
Corkey Custer,  
Moderator

Kristi Williams  
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:  
Doug Johnson  
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.

Madison Christian Community  
7118 Old Sauk Road  
Madison WI 53717-1099

Phone: 608-836-1455  
Fax: 608-836-7658  
Email:  
[office@madisonchristiancommunity.org](mailto:office@madisonchristiancommunity.org)

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Special Meeting of the Madison Christian Community  
on Sunday March 9 at 9:00 a. in the Covenant Room.  
Details of the meeting are on page 8.