



The Good Word

Stewards of the Feast at God's Banquet Table is this year's Stewardship Theme. Throughout the month of October we will prayerfully consider the joyful responsibility we bear as Stewards of the Feast God has prepared with us and through us at the Madison Christian Community.

Our stewardship season will begin on Sunday, October 5 with a special display of God's Banquet Table in the Shalom Room. This display will highlight the abundant ministries of the Madison Christian Community. Also on this Sunday we will celebrate World Communion Sunday and participate in a special MCC combined service highlighting spirituality and prayer and inviting us to consider how we might deepen our individual and corporate prayer lives. I hope you will plan to be in worship on Sunday, October 5.

In the story of the Wedding at Cana (John 2:1-12) we meet the chief steward of that feast. He is the first to taste the wine Jesus has just turned to wine. Upon tasting the wine, the steward calls the bridegroom and says to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." (John 2:10b-11) With these words the chief steward, the one whose job it is to make sure the guests have what they need and that there is always plenty of food and drink, compliments the bridegroom for the generosity and hospitality he has offered his guests.

As stewards of the feast at God's banquet table we are blessed by an abundance of meaningful and life-transforming ministries as members and friends of the MCC. Our building, our pastors and staff, all of the many outreach and justice ministries we

support with our time, talent and treasure are all courses in the feast laid out for us and for our community at God's banquet table. Whenever you write your pledge check, serve a meal at the men's homeless shelter, teach Sunday School, chaperone a youth group event, educate the community about environmental sustainability, help to tend our land by gardening or burning one of our prairies or maintaining the spirit woods, engage social justice through The Road Home, Dane County United or Madison Area Urban Ministry, Harvest of Hope or Haiti Partners, support our emergency assistance efforts through the Special Fund or the Treasury of Love or engage in a myriad of other meaningful ministries, you are engaged as a steward of the feast at God's banquet table.

God's banquet table is filled with only the best for all of God's children and as God's stewards we are called to live an abundant life marked by God's generosity and hospitality toward us and toward all of creation. We can trust God's generosity and God's yearning to provide for us as we turn ourselves, our time, talent and treasure, over to God.

In the coming weeks you are invited to prayerfully consider your response to God's abundance, to the feast laid out for you at God's banquet table. In what ways are you being called to respond with greater generosity, to give more fully of the abundance you enjoy to serve God and your neighbor by supporting and furthering the ministries of the Madison Christian Community?

It is a pleasure to serve with you as Stewards of the feast at God's banquet table. I can't wait to see what amazing ministries of generosity and hospitality unfold in 2009.

Tisha

October 2008

Of Special Interest:

- Adult Education; Congratulations Betty Custer—p.2
- Holden Village 2009; Children's Christmas Program Date; Drop-In Shelter; Thanks from Natasha - p.4
- Java for Justice; — p.5
- Haiti News; Congratulations Annie Grugel; Need Help Raking Your Leaves?; —p. 6
- CROP Walk with Bucky; Writing the Sacred Workshop; —p.8
- Dane County United; Care Notes —p.9
- Calendar—p.10
- Drumming Workshop—p.12
- Quilts & Camels—p. 13
- Next Med Drop—p18
- Larger Community—p.19-19

Inside this issue:

Fellowship Activities	3
Coming Events	5
MCC News	2, 4-9,13
Youth News	11
Advent News	14-15
Hope News	16-17

MCC News

Sunday Morning Adult Education October–November 2

Sunday, October 5, Psalms of New Orientation. This is the fourth session in the series of Psalms. Don't let spotty attendance be the reason for not participating in this session because each class includes a review of past weeks and is designed to stand alone. The Psalms of new orientation regularly bear witness to the surprising gift of new life just when none had been expected. "Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing; Thou hast loosed my sackcloth and gifted me with gladness, that my soul may praise thee and not be silent. O my God, I will give thanks to thee for ever." Psalm 30:11

Religious Perspectives and the Presidential Election: October 12, 19, 26 and November 2

Sunday, October 12 The similarities and differences between Biblical hope and political hope. Did you know that the "Audacity of Hope," was actually the theme of a preacher's sermon? Jeff Wild will lead this session.

Sunday, October 19 Political Perspectives of the 2008 Presidential Election. This session will be led by David Canon, member of Madison Christian Community and distinguished professor of political science.

Sunday October 26 and November 2 The religious right isn't what it used to be. Who are the new faces among the Evangelicals and what is their role in the 2008 election? These discussions will be led by Ken Streit.

Special Services to focus on Spirituality and Prayer

Because a number of people have expressed an interest in deepening their spirituality and prayer life, a committee of people from Advent and Hope was formed which will be presenting a series of special services, starting with the joint service on October 5th. In that service, we'll be exploring ways that we can create a peace and stillness in our minds and hearts.

By creating an "inner silence" it becomes easier to offer up our true selves when we pray and may even help change our prayers from monologues to conversations.

Our Congratulations to Betty Custer

COH member Betty Harris Custer has been chosen as this year's Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year by the local chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) for her successful work chairing the Capital Campaign for the Lussier Community Education Center. Betty will be honored at AFP's Philanthropy Days Awards luncheon on Friday, November 7, at the Overture Center. The luncheon is open to the public and costs \$28. If you would like to attend, please contact AFP chapter administrator Sonja Patterson at (608) 204-6077 or via email at madisonafp@yahoo.com.

Betty's leadership on behalf of the Lussier Community Education Center won her recognition as one of three nationwide semi-finalists in *Investment News* magazine's "Invest in Others" awards ceremony in New York City on September 9. *Investment News* honored Betty's work by contributing \$2,500 to the Center.

Pray Daily

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

Fellowship Groups & Activities

MCC Film Group

Oct. 17 *Nashville*

Host: Myrna and Dobin McNatt

Nov. 21 *La Vie en Rose*

Host: Donna Leet

Dec. 19 *Ladies in Lavender*

Host: Freddie Feeny

Jan. 16 *Bicycle Thieves*

Youth Room at Church

Make note of these on your calendar.
Hope you can join us.

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

FALL ACTIVITIES FOR MCC COMMUNITY GROUP

Sunday, Oct. 5 - "Talking Spirits" tour at Forest Hill Cemetery on Speedway Rd. Meet for lunch after services at Panera Bread on Mineral Pt. Rd., then carpool from there.

Saturday, Oct. 18 - "Eco-Tour" boat ride on the Mississippi River from Prairie du Chien. Cost is \$19.95, carpool from the MCC at 9 a.m. Call Donna Fisker(238-1785) to reserve your place.

Saturday, Nov. 1 - Lutefisk dinner at Barneveld, cost is \$15; we will carpool from the MCC. Call Kathy Johnson(238-1785) about a reservation.

Theological Discussion Group reads and travels with author Joyce Rupp in her 2005 book *Walk in a Relaxed Manner: Life Lessons from the Camino*.

Imagine walking on a path where millions of feet from other lands and cultures have previously walked, feet that have trod hundreds of miles to reach a sacred site. Think of what it would be like to have that same path and those same stones beneath your feet as you, too, walk for many weeks to reach the same destination. This is what it is like to be on the Camino de Santiago de Compostela...This particular Camino is a revered walk to the cathedral of St. James in the city of Santiago in northern Spain where, according to legend, the bones of St. James the apostle were brought to rest. This pilgrimage is ancient. Some sources say it developed in the ninth century. Currently, as many as 1,000 set out each day during the busy summer months. (book quote)

At age 60, Joyce Rupp did not know what she was getting into when she began a 37-day pilgrimage along the Camino de Santiago in northern Spain. Joined by her walking friend Tom, a retired pastor, Joyce learned lessons that can help all of us travel on life's up-and-down journey with more grace and lightness. (from the back book cover)

Come and travel vicariously on the Camino path with the Theological Discussion Group on Wednesday, October 15, MCC at 7 P.M.

Pray Daily

Worship Regularly

Study God's Word

Respond as Stewards

Cultivate Spiritual

Friendship

Serve at MCC &

Beyond

MCC News -

Is Anyone Interested in spending a week at Holden Village in the Cascade Mountains with others from MCC during the summer of 2009?

Holden Village is a center for renewal, welcoming all people into the wilderness to be called, equipped and sent by God.

Please give Sonja a call or send her an email (mcc@chorus.net) if you are interested. Those interested will put their calendars together and see if we can find some common weeks to choose from. So far there are twelve people interested.

Holden Village does have a group program. To participate in the group program we register on January 1st, 2009, a group of 15 to 55 for a minimal deposit of \$250. Then by March 1st, we would need a firm number of guests and balance of the deposit, the cost of the first night's lodgings. They also require that a group arrive and depart on the same day. Groups may register as individuals or families using the on-line system and noting that they are part of a specific group. The reservations for individuals/families also opens January 1st, 2009.

Typically the theme for the coming summer is determined in the late fall or early winter .

Children's Christmas Program is December 14

As you will soon be making plans for the holidays, please note that the Children's Christmas Program is on December 14 and not December 21.

DROP-IN SHELTER DATES

The date is Thursday, October 2. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Shalom Room. Four people are needed from 7:30 - 9:30 p. and two people are needed from 5:00 a. - 8:00 a. If you have any questions, please call Ken Johnson.

Thank You for Saving Aluminum Cans for Natashaia

Thank you to all MCC members that have contributed cans for our grand daughter's trip to Denmark. Her trip has been canceled. Fred has so easily made almost one hundred dollars that he would like to donate to The Treasury of Love. It has been so painless that he could keep on collecting and the money could go to the T of L. If you would like to continue to bring your aluminum cans to Fred for Treasury of Love, please contact him directly.

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

The Good Word

Published Monthly by the Madison Christian Community

Church Phone: (608) 836-1455
Next Issue: October 2008
Articles Due: October 20 to the church office
Newsletter Preparer: Sonja Keesey-Berg
Newsletter Proofing: Lucetta Kanetzke and Karen Schwarz
Newsletter Collators: Doug Johnson and Brad Spencer
Newsletter Mailing Ready: Eileen Bolstad and Jan Robertson

MCC News

JAVA FOR JUSTICE –

In May of this year Walt Chossek (father of Advent member, Kristin Malecki and director of the Milwaukee Synod (ELCA) coffee partnership) traveled to Tanzania to work with the Mt. Meru Coffee Project farmers. American Ambassador Mark Green joined him to visit the coffee farmers, tour the coffee processing centre and meet with the executive committee of the Mt. Meru Specialty Growers Association.

The Mt. Meru Coffee Project creates a direct connection between Tanzanian farmers and American consumers. Coffee grown on the slopes of Mt. Meru is purchased directly from the small farmers through local co-operatives and then shipped to Milwaukee. From there, the coffee is roasted to order and distributed to consumers through “ambassadors” in more than 60 congregations throughout the United States.

The Project objective is to bring economic and social justice to the small farmers and people of the Mt. Meru region in Tanzania.

For a pound of coffee, \$2.10 is paid to the farmer (which is above Fair Trade Coffee price). This fair price for the quality coffee supplied by the farmers provides them with a sustainable living and the ability to support their families. Social justice is fostered when approximately \$3.15 per pound of coffee sold to consumers is set aside to support programs of education and health care for the people in the Diocese of Meru.

Place your order on the form in the Shalom Room. The order is faxed to Milwaukee on the first Sunday of every month and will be ready for pick-up on the coffee cart by the second Sunday of every month. You can order 12oz bags (\$9.00) or 4# bags (\$40) in regular or decaf, bean, drip or perk.

This is the first price increase since the beginning of the project in 2002. Again, thank you for bringing economic and social justice to the coffee growers of the Meru Region of Tanzania.

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

Coming Events

- Oct 5 World Communion Sunday—MCC Worship Service
- Oct 5 3rd Annual NAMI Walk – contact Linda Pettersen
- Oct 12 34th Annual CROP Walk
- Oct 12 MCC Quilt Sunday
- Oct 18 Farmers Market Pick-up for food pantries
- Oct 21 Journaling, Psalm-writing and Poem-making Workshop,
6:30-9:00 p. with Ray McGinnis, poet and psalm enthusiast.
- Oct 21 MCC Executive Committee, 7:00 p.
- Oct 24 Wisconsin Council of Churches Workshop at MCC
- Oct 26 Reformation Sunday
- Oct 26 Community of Hope Stewardship Sunday
- Oct 30-31 COH Confirmation Retreat at Pilgrim Center
- Nov 1 Drumming Workshop at MCC, 9:00 a.-11:30 a.
- Nov 2 Advent Commitment Sunday
- Future IHN Week for 2008: December 21-28, 2008.

MCC News —

Greetings Haiti Partners friends,

I wanted to let you all know that I have spoken with friends in Haiti, and that all of our contacts have weathered the recent hurricanes pretty well, although the storms have caused an amazing amount of damage and set many things back considerably. The school year throughout the country for example has been postponed and will not start until October. I trust that most of you have received updates on e-mail from Guy Morelus in Haiti. If you are not on his list and would like to be, please let me know and I'll be sure that he adds you so that you'll receive his periodic updates.

According to our regular "first Tuesday of the month schedule," the next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 7th, at 7 pm at MCC.

Blessings, Bryan Sirchio

Congratulations Annie Grugel

Annie Grugel has employed her gifts serving in the garden ministry for the past four years and her efforts are bearing fruit in her professional life. Annie is a doctoral student in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. Research for her dissertation involves exploring the intersections between environmental literacy, eco-justice, and eco-identity development in elementary-aged children. We are pleased to announce that a six thousand word article "Learning Landscapes," will be published at the end of October in a Canadian Journal. The article can be accessed online at: <http://www.learnquebec.ca/en/content/learninglandscapes/index.html>

Congratulations Annie, we are both pleased by this accomplishment and proud of your accomplishment.

Need some help with your leaves this year?

The youth are looking to donate their time and energy to better your yard. Please contact Dan or Jen Streit.

Can I really Say That? Preaching the Text as Testimony—A Workshop with Anna Carter Florence Friday, October 24 at Madison Christian Community, 8:00 a.- 1:00 p.

Anna Carter Florence is Associate Professor of Preaching at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. This workshop will closely follow the theme of her publication, *Preaching as Testimony* (John Knox Press, 2007). She will seek to establish the historical and contemporary validity of women's preaching and to introduce testimony to a new generation of preachers and teachers.

After reflecting upon the more contemporary work of thinkers like Paul Ricoeur and Walter Brueggemann, Rebecca Chopp, and Mary McClintock Fulkerson, Carter Florence examines biblical and theological perspectives on testimony.

Finally, she explores how testimony plays out in a preacher's life, offering constructive proposals for preaching as well as helpful guidelines, direction and exercises.

Register online and pay by credit card or check: www.wichurches.org under "Events"

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

MCC NEWS

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 first Sunday of the month. We will meet on October 5.

For more information contact Michelle Erschen or Nancy Greenwald .

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.

Packages for Iraq (from Brad Spencer):

This is a useful and important ministry and MCC members have been very responsive. Members can take action entirely on their own by using the web to access AnySoldier.com, finding a request, and filling it. We could still use standard items like personal cosmetics for both men and women, and retail-sized rather than motel-sized items appear to be better choices; microwave popcorn, coffee, candy, jerky, beef sticks (Old Wisconsin brand would be very suitable) and the like. These are dense enough to make use of the flat-rate Priority Mail boxes sensibly and economically. We don't have, at present, any contacts who request magazines, and for items like ramen soups the economics of shipping charges are such that we should either send a large quantity or (generally) none at all. (These are bad items for flat-rate boxes, as they are large and light.) Please hold off on ramen soups for now.

Sending to the troops in Iraq is an MCC ministry. I welcome and solicit ideas from all at MCC for what we should be doing and how we should do it. Please let me know what you think. What can be added to this announcement to make it better represent the MCC? I can be reached as brad.madison@tds.net.

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

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

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

MCC News

34th Annual Madison Area CROP Hunger Walk/Rock Event

This is an interfaith and community-wide event. It will be Sunday, October 12. You will have an opportunity to make a donation on Sundays Oct 5 and 12. Our youth will be participating and delivering your donations.

Bucky Badger has agreed to join the Walk and carry a sign for CROP. Tell your congregations if Bucky can clear his calendar for this - surely they can. And some of you may know **Marques Bovre**, if not, he is a local musician who will be our guest after the Walk. People can come back to the host church for refreshments, music and fellowship.

For more on donating food and helping "the least of these", see p.19.

Writing the Sacred

Ray McGinnis, poet and psalm enthusiast, will be leading a "Journaling Psalm-writing and Poem-making Workshop," at Madison Christian Community on Tuesday, October 21, 2008, from 6:30-9:00 p.m. Ray McGinnis has written in journals all his life. He has taught over 6000 people how to write prayers, poetry, and autobiographies, all the while guiding them to bring their whole heart, mind and spirit to the process. He is author of *Writing the Sacred: A Psalm-Inspired Path to Appreciating and Writing Sacred Poetry*.

The cost to participate in the workshop is \$10.00. Please register for the class by signing up on the sheet in the Shalom Room. Feel free to contact Bill Shepard or Jeff Wild with questions.

Pray Daily

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

Our Website: 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 and Advent 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.

MCC News

Dane County United Update

SAVE THE DATE: October 16, 2008, 7:00 p.m. Delegate's Assembly, location to be determined

In this interim period without an organizer, Dane County United continues to move forward with building organizational strength and working on issues. Our newest member is Dale Heights Presbyterian Church and we expect one or two more new members by the end of this year.

In May, 2008, DCU established the Member Council which meets monthly. Bill Rettig and Tisha Brown are the MCC representatives. Tisha Brown also serves on the Steering Team, which meets weekly.

The Member Council is focused on communication between the Steering Team and the member organizations, building skill and understanding about our approach to community organizing, and discussion of our current issues and upcoming actions. In the future, we expect that the Member Council will be the place within DCU where we decide what issues to work on and how.

We also continue to move forward with our current issues which all focus on the needs of children and youth in our community.

In July, members of the Steering Team met with new Madison School Superintendent, Dan Nerad, School Board President, Arlene Silveira, and Special Assistant to the Superintendent, Lisa Black, at First Baptist Church. The meeting was organized by us as an initial meeting, a time for us to get to know each other and to create a foundation for an ongoing relationship. We have another meeting scheduled with Superintendent Nerad on Tuesday, September 30, to talk in more

depth about the specific needs of African American Students. We are also monitoring the Superintendent's and the School Board's discussions on how to bring 4k to Madison.

Here at the MCC, Tisha Brown and Bill Rettig are working on developing our Core Team. The Core Team is a network of individuals within the Madison Christian Community who are interested in the work Dane County United is doing, and who would like to learn more about the skills and tools of broad-based organizing in order to engage more fully in public life and to build community within our congregations.

If you are interested in learning more about Dane County United or about how you might get more involved, please feel free to contact either Bill Rettig or Tisha Brown.

New Care Notes in the Shalom Room

Check out these new titles in the brochure rack near the bulletin boards in the Shalom Room:

For kids

God is my Friend: A Kid's Guide to God

For Teens:

Peer Pressure: Making Good Choices in Tough Situations

Bad Things: Wanting to Know Why They Happen

For Adults:

Talking About End-of-Life Decisions With Your Parent

Henri Nouwen: Trusting God to Heal Our Wounds

Julian of Norwich: "All Will Be Well" Despite Our Suffering

Going on an Advent Prayer Journey

Pray Daily

Worship Regularly

Study God's Word

Respond as Stewards

Cultivate Spiritual

Friendship

Serve at MCC &

Beyond

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

Calendar

MCC YOUTH ADVENTURES

Every Wednesday at 6:30pm - Guitar Club
Every Wednesday at 7pm – Advent Confirmation

Sunday, 10/5 – 5 - 8 pm SH International Progressive Dinner on State Street: Nepali, Greek, East African, Japanese, and more...State Street has TONS of choices for international fare! Cast your vote with your RSVP, and we'll visit the winners for an international progressive dinner. Please bring \$10.

Sunday, 10/12 – SH – Make & Sell Rolls during Sunday School Time

Sunday, 10/12 – 1:30 pm MH/SH Families – CROP Walk:

"We walk, because they walk." Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty What is the CROP walk about? It is neighbors walking together to take a stand against hunger in our world. Together, we raise awareness and funds for domestic and international poverty-reducing efforts. Collections will be taken in church a few Sundays before the event. The 1.5 or 3.5 mile WALK through Tenny, Burrows and Johnson Parks will begin and end at Christ Presbyterian Church at 944 East Gorham Street. Those unable to walk can join a group of rockers in rocking chairs at the church during the time of the event. Meet up at Christ Presbyterian.

Monday, 10/13 – 6pm – Middleton High School Ecology Club Organic Dinner: Come enjoy a DELICIOUS organic dinner catered by Roman Candle at Middleton High School. Adam Schneider is the president of the MHS ecology club, which, among other things, supports Pheasant Branch Conservancy, a favorite place of many at MCC. Cost: \$8 for students

Saturday, 10/18 – MH Farmer's Market Pickup:

Muscles of all shapes and sizes needed! In June, we picked up surplus produce, meat, pies, and plants at the downtown farmer's market; the produce that we collected was distributed to local food pantries. We are doing it again and this time we expect to see a lot of squash (this is where the muscles come in), potatoes, and other fall veggies. Don't forget the schmooties afterwards (bring a few bucks if you want one)! Meet at MCC at 11:00; we'll be back by 2:00

Sunday, 10/19 – 11:30 am – 1:30 pm – Hope Confirmation

Sunday, 10/26 – 8am – 5pm – SH Bethel Horizons Adventure Retreat: Ropes course. Rock climbing. Rappelling. Bungee jumping (jk). Adventures on a beautiful fall day (trust us). Cost is \$30.

Sunday, 10/26 – MH – Trip to SS Morris - see your Sunday School teachers for more details

October 30-31 – Hope Confirmation Retreat @ Pilgrim Center

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

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

MCC News

QUILTS QUILTS QUILTS

Please be here on Sunday, October 12, to see the quilts your fabric donations made possible and leave with one or more of our CAMELS. Thank you for your support!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

This is the day that we deck the halls at MCC with the sum total of the Quilters' output for the past 12 months. On the following Saturday Lutheran World Relief will send 3 boxcars to a Madison rail yard to gather in the thousands of quilts made by all the church basement ladies from all the towns and cities in Southern Wisconsin. But, before we pack them for shipping halfway around the world, we use them to decorate our worship spaces and to thank all you wonderful donors who gave us your castoffs so we Quilters could continue our 13-year mission of quilt making for LWR.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

Quilters' kick off our Christmas ornament sale!

Each year Quilter-Artist Beverly Brekke Bailey creates a new handmade ornament — this year it's a CAMEL. The suggested donation is \$8. Proceeds provide our only source of funds to pay shipping costs and to purchase fluffy batting. Thrivent Financial generously supports our project, matching fifty cents on the dollar.

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

Advent News

Lay School of Ministry Discernment Day, Saturday, October 4 St. James-Verona

The South-Central Synod of Wisconsin Lay School of Ministry is offering a Pre-Lay School Discernment Event on Saturday, October 4, 2008 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon at St. James Lutheran Church (427 S. Main Street) in Verona. This day is designed to introduce interested persons to the Lay School as well as allow reflection upon the work of serving by the sharing of gifts for ministry through the church. For more information contact Jeff Wild.

Advent Giving Goal

The giving goal is a monthly report of the current year's monthly giving compared with the giving during the same month for the past three years. This is the first report since May due to the fact that the newsletter was not published during the summer months. This month's report will bring us up to speed through the summer months.

Due to the consistency with which members of Advent maintain their financial pledge, the congregation's mission is fully funded through the summer months. Advent is exceptional in this regard because most congregations experience a financial shortfall during the summer. This June, July and August members of Advent generously gave \$79,494.00. This is only \$500.00 less than 25% of the 2008 Spending Plan for Mission. Thank you for your constant and generous support during a time when financial anxiety in the country is near an all time high.

Advent Third Quarter Statements Will Be Late

Due to my absence over the first part of October, Advent member's 3rd quarter giving statements will be late. I expect to have them ready for distribution starting October 19.

Lanny Smith, Financial Secretary

Walk with Jesus

Every day is a walk with Jesus. We Christians believe life is spent in the presence of our Lord. Therefore, we can talk about every day as a day during which we walk with Jesus. Some days we feel Jesus' presence. Some days we feel quite a distance from Jesus. We boldly proclaim that, regardless of how we feel, Jesus is there. Jesus walks with us every day.

As we who *are* Advent Lutheran Church consider our renewal of membership over the next few weeks. This includes our commitment of time, talents and treasures as a part of our walk with Jesus. We believe that everything we have is a trust from God, given to us to care for and manage. What we do with our money is very much a part of our relationship with our Lord. This will be our focus in the coming weeks.

For three consecutive Sundays we will read a bulletin insert and hear a talk during worship. All of these will focus on our walk with Jesus, and how our lives as stewards are an important part of this walk. Then, on Sunday, November 2, each member of Advent will have the opportunity to renew membership and make our commitments of time, talent and treasures for 2009. This will not only be a plan for giving to Advent Lutheran Church, it will also be a plan for how we will walk with Jesus in the coming year.

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

Advent News continued

Advent Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle will meet on October 14 at 9:30 a. at MCC. They will join the Advent Judith Circle for study and fellowship.

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 Phyllis Ermer with questions.

Judith Circle

Judith Circle will meet on Tuesday, October 14, 9:30 a. at MCC. This month they will be joined by the Elizabeth Circle. All are welcome for fellowship and study.

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

OPALS Book Discussion Group

OPALS book discussion group is going to continue to meet at members' homes. Our meetings will now be held in afternoons. Our October 28 meeting will be at 1:30 p. at MCC. We will be choosing books for 2009. Call Mary Maxwell if you have questions or need a ride. New members always welcome.

GEMS: – The Grumpy Elderly Men

We meet weekly at 10:30 for fellowship, food and fun discussing a book. The book chosen for the fall is Christianity for the Rest of Us by Diana Butler Bass. Contact Stan Klyve for more information.

Treasury of Love 2008

Beg. Bal & Love Offerings	8,603.93
Rent & Eviction Prevention	3,366.00
Utility Payment	1,548.67
Security Deposit	1,510.00
Prescription	267.58
Iraq Postage	125.20
Iraq Food Purchased	11.88
Scholarship	85.00
Auto Repair	455.00
Haiti Partners	20.00
Crossways—Aids Benefit	552.00
Bus Pass	47.00
Overdraft charge	14.75
Repay Advent	114.75
Auto Registration	30.00
Storage Fee	50.00
Wexford Food Pantry	25.00
Moving Expenses	175.00
Wexford Backpacks	55.00
IDs x two	48.00
Groceries & Gas	<u>100.00</u>
Expenditure	\$8,600.83
Balance as of 09/26/2008	\$3.10
Iraq postage—\$3.10	

Advent Women Thursday Breakfast Gathering

Advent women are invited for coffee each Thursday at 7 AM at PASQUAL'S in Hilldale Shopping Center, directly across from Metcalfe's Sentry. 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 when your schedule allows!



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

Community of Hope News

Praying for our Community

Please pray for the people and situations listed below as well as our entire community in the coming month. If you have prayer requests you'd like to be included in 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, Ardie Manser and Wilma Sanks
- All military personnel and their families all over the world but especially those in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Our college students – Jamie Custer, Ian Jarvis, Hannah Hunter-Johnson, Rose Gear, Josh Ryan; Tristan Breedlove (graduate studies); Sarah Hunter-Johnson (graduate studies)
- Joanne Kirkland, Kevin Clark and family as they grieve the death of Joanne's father
- Freddie Feeny and family on the one-year anniversary of Bill's death

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

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Sept. 30-Oct. 7 | Jan Manser, Dave Manion;
Tom/Joan Matthews |
| Oct. 7-14 | Martha McCurdy;
Letitia Moore,
Marcus/Dianna Murphy |
| Oct. 14-21 | Art/Mary Nack;
Ken/Erika Ono;
Rebecca Payne |
| Oct. 21-28 | Chuck/Jean Pfeifer;
Lori Powell/Lynn Miller |
| Oct. 28-Nov. 4 | Bill Putnam; Bill Rettig,
Jean Gilbertson |

Important Dates to Remember!



Birthdays

Martha McCurdy	10/12
Heidi Putnam	10/12
Sef Van Kan	10/22
Jan Manser	10/24
Olivia Grout	10/26
Diane Bougie	10/27

Anniversaries

Sachi Komai	10/07
Julie Hunter & Keith Johnson	10/09
Diane Bougie	10/11
Bob Sessions	10/24

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

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 –

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

Community of Hope News

Check out the United Church of Christ on a TV Near You!

Beginning Monday, September 29 and continuing through Sunday, October 12, the United Church of Christ will bring its message of extravagant welcome, unity and hope to millions of people by airing our beloved "Steeple" commercial on CNN, Bravo, BET and TV One.

Be sure to tune in then to see your church on TV! Want to learn more about the ad run? Check out www.ucc.org

Hope Men: Pancakes, Puns, Proverbs and Politics - those are just a few of the things you will miss if you don't get to the Hope men's breakfast at the Original Pancake House on University Avenue, at 6:30 a. on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month. You have promised yourself for a long time now. Mark your calendar; set your alarm, and make it! This is a practice. It is easier to start in the summer, when it is already light by 6:30 a. By next winter, you will say, "I don't care how deep the snow will be, I'm going!"

The group is called "Hope Men, " but we welcome visitors. Just ask Tisha.

Baraboo to Host Association Fall Meeting on October 12, 2008, 1:30 p. – 7:00 p.

The theme of our meeting is "Living My Faith in Public Life." Speakers will be Alan Green, Kerri Parker, Linda Ketcham, Phil Haslanger and Paul Higgenbotham. In addition to hearing testimony on the theme from these fine speakers we will pass the budget for 2009, introduce new clergy to the Association, hear updates on our partnerships, have dinner together and conclude with evening prayers. Please contact Tisha by Sunday, October 5 if you are interested in attending.

Thank you from Madison Area Urban Ministry:

Thank you for your continued support of Madison Area Urban Ministry. Your commitment to furthering the work of this organization is very important to us. Where would we be without all the good people from COH?

Upcoming MUM events can always be accessed by checking out our website www.emum.org.

From Lori Powell
Congregation Liaison

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

MCC Environmental Task Force News

From the MCC Environmental Task Force

Next MedDrop date is announced: Saturday, October 18th from 9am-1pm

Stop by 121 E. Olin to drop off your unused and expired prescription and over-the-counter medicines.

1658 pounds of medications were dropped off at the MedDrop collection held on June 7th. Can we beat this total on October 18th?

Dig through those medicine cabinets and help spread the word!

MedDrop is a free, drive-thru service organized by a public/private partnership and this time paid for with a grant from the Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection. Everyone is welcome!

As always, more information is available at www.MedDropDane.org and you can email me at [kjacobson@madisonpatientsafety.org](mailto:kjacobsen@madisonpatientsafety.org)

Register for Email Alerts by going to www.meddropdane.org

Kendra Jacobsen
Madison Patient Safety Collaborative

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

Larger Community News

Free Philanthropy!
Use your computer (30 seconds daily) to click on [the-hungersite.com](http://thehungersite.com) where we can contribute with no cost to us. (Sponsors contribute it.) Then go to freerice.com to enrich your vocabulary while prompting sponsors to contribute this staple of food for a majority of earth's people.

Lucetta **Y**

Phantom Load from Chuck Pils

For those of you who are interested in knowing more about the "phantom load" your consumer electronics are drawing, this is a great website.

<http://www.aceee.org/consumerguide/electronics.htm>

Note that many devices which have the Energy Star label now have a standby power load of 1 watts or less. Also look at how much electricity a plasma TV uses!! And if you're thinking of getting a new computer, consider a laptop rather than a desktop.

Wisconsin UCC 'Gospellers' Choir Concert at MCC

By Bonnie Spindler

The congregations in Eberswalde and the Church of Berlin-Brandenburg extended an invitation to the Wisconsin Conference for a gospel choir to travel and perform in Germany, June 17th – July 1st, 2008. This invitation was in reciprocity 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. Bonnie Spindler, Hope UCC, traveled with the 35-member Gospeller singers, doing many performances in churches and touring in the East Germany area.

With many requests to do some follow-up concerts, there are scheduled six different locations in Wisconsin to sing the many songs we sang in Germany and show some of the pictures that were taken. We have the honor of having Madison Christian Community selected as one of the six churches for a performance at: 4 P. on Sunday, November 23rd. The pictures will also be shown and there will be 'light refreshments' after the concert. It would be great if you and your family can come and hear some wonderful spiritual and gospel music. Hope to see you there.

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

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

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

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

MCC Logo Design by
Lucetta Kanetzke

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

Beth Wild and
Jean Oliversen
MCC Custodians

Community of Hope
Steering Committee

Diane Bougie
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:

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.

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

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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