



# The Good Word

## THE SEPTEMBER SURGE

The September issue of The Good Word provides all the information you will need for the September surge of activities at Madison Christian Community. The big surge will begin on Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> as we return to the fall-winter-spring schedule for Sunday School and worship. Youth and adults will gather for the education hour beginning at 9:00 a.m. Both congregations will worship together at 10:15 a.m.

Several weeks ago a woman on her way out of worship commented, "I think worship attendance has been very good this summer." We don't take a head count on Sunday mornings, but I concur with her observation. Worship attendance was better this summer than in years past. But the noticeable absence of children and parents during the summer months raises questions. The question, where have all the children gone, is not the one that interests me the most. The more interesting and important question is, do parents place a higher premium on the religious nurture of their children by sending them to Sunday School than they do worshipping as a family on Sunday mornings?

If the answer to this question is yes, it not only explains the summer sag and September surge, it has very much to say about the importance of the youth education ministry of Madison Christian Community. I am grateful for all who will be serving in the education ministry during the coming year. Hopefully, the high priority that parents place upon the education hour will motivate you to prayerfully and diligently prepare for the class you will teach. Even if the road to worship passes through the school Sunday School hour, I thank God that I serve a congregation where most parents and children also worship together.

This past summer a group of us decided to counter the summer slump by inviting the children to garden following worship every Sunday morning for fourteen weeks. I was very surprised to have more than thirty kids show up to garden the two Sundays following the last day of Sunday School. And I was not surprised that the number dwindled to a half of dozen kids on Sunday, August 17. Jesus was facing a similar dilemma when he commented, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." I was delighted to hear a few parents report that their child couldn't wait to garden on Sunday mornings. I so enjoyed and appreciated sharing this time with the kids. Their enthusiasm, wonder, and delight made our time together more play than work. Thank you to all who participated in this venture of soil and soul.

I find it interesting that the most dedicated parents and children to the garden ministry are recent arrivals to Madison Christian Community in the past few years. It was a pleasure to see these people interact in such a down to earth way. The garden ministry has become an important draw for parents with children to MCC. Several weeks ago a woman visited worship. She returned the following week with her two young sons in tow, one six and the other three, and joined us in the garden after worship. After a time of harvesting squash, beans, Swiss chard, beets and basil I overheard six-year-old Eagan exclaim to his mother, "I am going to like this church!"

Eagan, I am confident that you will like this church. I want you to know that I like you, and more importantly, God loves you and always will. It will be good to see all of you children and parents during the September surge, through the school year, and maybe even next summer! Jeff

September 2008

## Of Special Interest:

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- Holden Village 2009; Duck Doo Final Report; Drop-In Shelter;—p.4
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## MCC News

### Adult Education Hour—Fall Preview

Adults are invited to a class of their own during the education hour, 9:00-10:00 a.m. on every Sunday morning. Members of the adult education have planned several timely and stimulating four-week mini-series sessions for the fall semester. The three mini-series sessions are a Bible study of the book of Psalms, issues of politics and religion as they relate to the 2008 presidential election, and a study of the Abrahamic Religions. The presenters and facilitators of the sessions will offer a preview of the session they will lead on Sunday, September 7. Please join us in the Covenant Room.

### MCC Women and Girls Event

Dear Women of MCC. Please join us for a wonderful evening among friends and to connect with the young women of our congregations. For all girls 6th grade and up.

Date: **Saturday, September 6**

Time: 6:00-9:00 PM

Topic: Spiritual Journeys

Location: MCC

Activities: sharing, crafts, snacks, and fun

Bring a snack or dessert and a free will offering.

Please RSVP to Beth Falkos (We need a count for supplies, so please respond if you plan to attend.)

Questions?

Contact Karen Kuhn, Tisha Brown, or Beth Falkos

### Thank you from Amy & Einar

Thank you so much to our Advent Lutheran family and the MCC. A lot of people helped to make our wedding day great! A special thanks to Jackie Muehl, Tom Matthews, Sonja and Dave Keeseberg, Yvonne Gern, Sarah Zutz, and Jen Streit and the youth. It simply wouldn't have been the same without your help!

Thanks,

Amy (Carlson) and Einar Floan

### MCC Painters

A big thank you to Joanna McDonald and Chris Young who painted one of our classrooms.

### PRAIRIE OPPORTUNITY

Help is needed on our wonderful MCC prairies and Pheasant Branch Conservancy (PBC) to keep invasive plants under control, collect seeds to continue to keep them healthy, and just general prairie management. As part of an on-going project, every first and second Monday evening, May – September, from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm, we will be helping to manage these two prairies. At Pheasant Branch we will be working with members of the Friends of Pheasant Branch who are part of the restoration team participating in the Adopt a Prairie. They will be training us to clear invasive plants, flag plants that need to be sprayed as well as teach us about prairies and the Conservancy.

Monday September 8 – PBC prairie

Here is your opportunity. Join us and let Lois Komai or Susan Gruber know your interest in helping with this adoption project.

### Pray Daily

Worship Regularly

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## Fellowship Groups & Activities

### MCC Film Group

The film is "No Reservations", recommended by Myra McNatt. It is the story of a single master chef who becomes the guardian of her 11-year-old niece. For "homework", check out the German film, "Mostly Martha" for comparison before we meet.

This sounds like it could be a family film, so let me know if you want to bring youth and children. If so, I will reserve the Youth Room at church for the evening.

Also, bring film suggestions for the fall and sign up to host. Our movie nights are: Oct. 17, Nov. 21, and Dec. 19. Please mark them on your calendars.

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

**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 Compos-

tela...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, September 17 and October 15, MCC at 7 P.M.

### MCC Community Group

#### Monday, Sept. 1 – Labor Day

Picnic and hiking at McNatt's cabin. Car-pool from MCC at 9:30 a. Please bring your own dinnerware – Drinks provided.

#### Sunday, Sept 21 – Potluck

Fall and winter planning after church. Bring your ideas, food to share and your own tableware.

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### The Good Word

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## 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 if you are interested. Those interested will put their calendars together and see if we can find a 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 each summer is determined in the late fall or early winter for the coming summer.

### 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.

### DUCKS DOO FINAL REPORT:

The church garden is flourishing as you may have noticed. We hope your yard is doing the same. Thanks to Father Dom's Ducks Doo, many of us have enriched our own soil/gardens using it as compost and others of us have used it as mulch to lessen the weed growth. Thanks to ALL of YOU who purchased the 540 bags that John Rowe and Susan Gruber delivered on a rainy day in April, fresh from being packed in Kenosha at the Achievement Center. The total income from the sales was \$3296. After expenses for the "doo" and a portion of the truck rental, the money was used for tilling the soil, seeds, mulch, hay and other supplies connected with the garden ministry for both Wexford Center gardeners and the Sunday morning MCC gardeners. The remainder of the money will be used for additional projects connected with the MCC property. Hopefully, by Earth Day next April there will be more yellow bags outside the church doors waiting anxiously to enrich your life and the lives of many others who profit from the garden ministry and the care of this "place" as well as across America through God's Good Earth Foundation, Inc.

### 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 Waukegan, Menards and Home Depot does it for FREE.

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## 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.

Fall is almost here. Time to stock up on your coffee before the cool weather arrives. Place your order on the form in the Shalom Room. The order is faxed to Milwaukee on the first Sunday of every month (September 7) and will be ready for pick-up on the coffee cart by the second Sunday of every month (September 14). You can order 12oz bags (\$8.00) or 4# bags (\$38) in regular or decaf, bean, drip or perk. Building relationships and sustainability is what this project is all about. Justice never tasted so good.

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### Coming Events

- Sept 9           GEMS, 10:30 a. at MCC
  - Sept 9           COH Steering Committee
  - Sept 10          Advent Confirmation 7:00 p.
  - Sept 16          Advent Council at JoAnne Streit's
  - Sept 17          MCC Theological Discussion Group
  - Sept 18          *Prayers for a Privileged People* by Walter Brueggemann, six session book discussion group, 7:00-8:20 p.
  - Sept 19          MCC Film Group at MCC to view *No Reservations*
  - Sept 20          October Newsletter items are due!
  - Sept 21          Wexford Food Pantry Donation Sunday
  - Sept 22          Fall Equinox Labyrinth Walk, 6:00-8:00 p.
  - Sept 23          MCC Leadership Team
  - Oct 5            3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Nami Walk – contact Linda Pettersen
  - 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.
- Future IHN Week for 2008: December 21-28, 2008.

## MCC News —

### A Report on Two Summer Continuing Education Events from Pastor Tisha:

The Washington Island Forum with Dianna Butler Bass, June 23-27, 2008  
 In recent years Dianna Butler Bass worked with the Lilly Endowment to conduct a study of thriving mainline Protestant Congregations. The purpose of the study was to determine what role Christian practices played in the lives of congregations that were doing well in this era of church decline. Almost without exception, this study confirmed that those congregations that were thriving had intentionally embraced at least one Christian practice (prayer, worship, hospitality, service etc.) and placed their focus on that practice at the core of their congregation's life. Members of the congregations in the study reported that their lives were transformed as a result of the participation in this practice and in the life of their community. Bass' book on the findings of this study [Christianity for the Rest of Us](#), gives much more detail about the congregations in the study and how Christian practices revitalized their congregational lives.

A second and unexpected finding of the study was the connection that congregations made between Christian Practice and Christian Tradition. In this case, tradition was defined as "A partnership between the living, the dead and the yet to be born." What researchers discovered was that the most vital congregations had made conscious connections between how they were practicing their faith today and how their Christian forbears practiced the faith. Their contemporary practice was rooted in life-giving tradition, which grounded them in something larger than themselves and propelled them out into the world.

"What's Past is Prologue" was the title of Bass' presentation to the Washington Island Forum. Throughout her lectures she focused on this second aspect of the

study – tradition. She shared excerpts from her soon to be published book, which highlighted Christian Spiritual and Ethical practices throughout Christian History and made connections between the historical context within which those practices were being used and our contemporary context. Her presentations were insightful, energizing and engaging. I can't wait to read her new book. I hope some of you might want to read it too so that we can discuss it together and explore further how to place Christian practice at the core of our own congregational life and root that practice in the rich and varied tapestry of more than 2000 years of Christian history.

### Industrial Areas Foundation's National Leadership Training, July 15-22, 2008

Dane County United, of which the Madison Christian community is a member, is our local affiliate of the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF). The IAF and Dane County United employ the tools and techniques of broad based organizing developed and honed first by Saul Alinsky and also by Ed Chambers over the past 50 years.

During the 8-day training that I attended in Mundelein, IL we were taught the tools, techniques and rationale behind broad-based organizing by current IAF organizers from all over the country. The most striking aspect of this event for me was how incredibly diverse the group of approximately 125 trainees was. There were Muslims, Jews, Christians and people without a religious affiliation. There were African-Americans, Caucasians, Hispanics, Asians, Russian immigrants, German citizens, Mexican and Central American immigrants and people from all over the country. There were people across the spectrum of ages and almost as

Continues on the top of the next page.

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## MCC NEWS

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many women as men. This was a stimulating environment in which to learn about how to do relational meetings, identify issues on which to take public action, develop leaders within communities and institutions, conduct power analyses, and most of all to work strategically and through the power of human relationships and engaged citizens to create change for the common good.

I am looking forward to putting into practice what I've learned at both of these continuing education events over the summer and thank all the members of the Madison Christian Community for the annual gift of time to be used to enrich and develop my skill and insights as one of your pastoral leaders.

### Food Drive for Wexford Ridge Food Pantry—Sunday, September 21

Again we are asking that members of Advent and Hope make a special effort to bring food for the pantry Sunday, September 21. 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

### 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](http://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? Please give me a call.

### 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.

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## MCC News

### MCC Financial Status

At the end of 2007 the MCC had a negative balance in the General Fund of \$5,021. Advent and Hope made supplemental contributions from their funds to cover this shortfall in order that 2008 could begin the year fiscally balanced.

In the first four months of 2008 we experienced unanticipated expenditures for snow removal and for gas/electric usage resulting in \$4,900 in overruns. We were running a significant budget deficit.

The Advent of warmer weather fulfilled our Hope (note the clever use of familiar MCC names) that the snow would stop falling and the temperatures and daylight would increase. This indeed has happened. As of the end of July we are in positive budget territory. Thanks are certainly due to the MCC members who faithfully keep current on their pledged (and unpledged) giving through the summer months.

The following excerpt from the July 31, 2008 Finance Committee report to the Executive Committee is noteworthy:  
*The Finance Committee wants to make it clear that it sees the current overruns as anomalies that should not impact MCC programs. All program leaders should be encouraged to use their budgeted funds efficiently and effectively.*

The Leadership Team wants to extend thanks to the Finance Committee (John Rowe, chair; JoAnna McDonald, Corkey Custer, Ken Johnson) for their ongoing oversight of our finances. They are currently working on a plan for the 2009 budget, which will be a major focus of the September Leadership Team meeting.

Bill Long  
Chair, Leadership Team

### 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 contact Jeff Wild or Bill Shephard if you plan to attend the workshop or want to order the book which costs \$18.95.

### Book Discussion Group

*Prayers for a Privileged People* by Walter Brueggemann  
Brueggemann writes, "Prayers 'for privileged people' isn't a new idea to me, primarily because I am inordinately privileged in every way...white, male, tenured, blessed with every gift our political economy could provide... It is inescapable that hard issues like privilege and entitlement, injustice and violence would be on the table.... Indeed, the six sections of this collection together trace in a direct way the contours of prayer that begin in self-awareness and end in glad yielding to the goodness of God."

I invite you to join with me to read, study, be stretched by and discuss *Prayers for a Privileged People*. This group will gather for six sessions from 7:00-8:20 p.m. with the first session on Thursday, September 18. The group will determine the best day of the week and how often it will meet, but the six sessions will be completed before Christmas. If you have an interest in joining the group please contact Jeff Wild no later than Sunday, September 7.

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## MCC Kids in the Garden: A Recipe for Success

By Heather Putnam, Children's Ministry

Success is, of course, a subjective word and what one person deems successful another may not. *Nurturing Soil & Soul: MCC Kids in the Garden* highlights speak for themselves. I am confident you will agree that there is little doubt that our first summer of Nurturing Soil & Soul was a definite recipe for success.

### **Great kids**

In our biggest week over 30 kids participated. There was never fewer than five. With summer vacation schedules, we fully expected fluctuations from one week to the next, and without fail, each week, we had an enthusiastic bunch of kids eager to garden.

### **Great Leadership**

Several volunteers committed significant, regular time to plan, organize and lead garden activities. These leaders include Jill McLeod, Lisa Bauer, Annie Grugel, and John Malecki. Jeff Wild and Heather Putnam were actively involved staff team members.

### **Great Parent Participation**

Every week we had several parent volunteers willing to make snacks and/or help out in the garden (some parents admitted they were learning lots too).

### **Great Programs**

We met each week after church for 14 weeks this summer. Each week our program included a garden-relevant Bible lesson, an activity, garden work and a snack from the garden. Kids learned that many gardening words such as tending, reaping, gleaning, seeds, companion plants, vines and feast are not only applicable to the garden, but also have related stories and verses in the Bible.

Some highlights from our activities, garden work and snacks included Lindy Wilson helping us make scarecrows, Noah



Hulsether-Brugge (and mom Sara) creating and serving an amazing pesto feast, and the kids filling the harvest basket so full we could barely lift it.

### **Great Music**

We had our very own theme song – an original, custom-composed song by Tom Hind. Tom even made a great recording of the song along with his grandson Ethan!

### **Great Home Connections**

For each week of the program, we created a Seeds of Faith Packet to send home with the kids. This packet emphasized ways for families to continue to explore the garden lessons at home together. The Growing Point included the Bible story and a reflection about it. The Soul Water sheet included a prayer for families to share to nurture their souls. Earth Explorations nurtured connections to the soil offering fun activities, websites to check out, or fun facts. Seeds for Thought included questions for families to ponder and discuss or other suggested activities to further nurture soil and soul. We are now working on making all these packets available on the MCC website. So, whether you participated in the program or not, whether you were there but missed several weeks or not, or whether or not you even have kids, you will find these materials a great resource for nurturing your connections to soil and soul.

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## Calling All MCC Kids

by Heather Putnam, Children's Ministry

### It's time for Sunday School!

Rally Day (the first day of Sunday School) is September 7. Sunday School meets from 9:00 to 10:00 each Sunday for everyone ages 3 through adult. Kids in grades 4/5 and older go directly to their Sunday school room at 9:00. Kids pre-school through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade first go to the Blessing room for music time and then their teachers will come get them to take them to their Sunday school class. No need to register. Just show up and have a good time.

We have a wonderful group of teachers for this year. Thank you for your commitment to MCC children! Preschool (Tina Eder, Julie Walsh, Sarah Zutz); K-1 (Mary Ellen Gabriel, Kirsten Malecki, Sarah Strong, Kris Todd); 2-3 (Micki Bradt, Beth Falkos, Lois Komai, Martha McCurdy); 4-5 (Scott and Ann Bush, Julie Hunter, Bill Putnam, Adam Schneider); Middle High (Doug Crews-Nelson, Ellen Lindgren, Dave and Kathy Mack); Senior High (Dan and Jen Streit); and Music (Mary Schmelzer).

How would you like a job

that requires

no planning,

no specific skills...

just a willingness to help?

We need you to be a  
Sunday School Shepherd

Please consider committing to coming once a month to be available to leap in as a supportive presence to help out one of our fabulous Sunday School teachers.

For more information or to volunteer contact:

John Brugge  
Mick Bradt  
Kris Todd  
Martha McCurdy  
Heather Putnam

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### 34th Annual Madison Area CROP Hunger Walk/Rock Event

This is an interfaith and community-wide event. It will be Sunday, October 12.

An MCC coordinator is need. If you would like to coordinate this event please call Sonja in the church office.

## MCC YOUTH NEWS

### Summer Youth Adventures...

Well, the MCC youth have been all around the world this summer! Katherine Canon, Hannah Gern, Amy Hoag, Katie Kretzschmar, Andrew Zutz, Adam Schneider, Alie Schneider, Jake Schneider, Kelly Todd, and Chris Young all attended the 10-day German Exchange Trip led by Jeff & Nan Wild. On August 12, we heard all about their adventures at GERMAN FEST – a thank you to the congregation for all of its support. There was a super turnout from members of the MCC – about 80 people! We ate German open-faced sandwiches and watched a slideshow of pictures narrated by the youth.

Sophie Canon, Joshua Falkos, Ogden Greene, Lillian Greene, Youngor Gorvego, Nick Grout, Kate Grout & friend Shannon, Jackie McGinley, Benjamin Young, and Matthew Young all spent the afternoon volunteering at THE RIVER FOOD PANTRY on August 14. We gave the place a very deep summer cleaning by scouring the floors, the shelves, and the cabinets. We set up for dinner, trayed up desserts, picked up trash, and washed the delivery truck. The youth worked incredibly hard and were very appreciated by the pantry staff.

### Upcoming Fall Events...

9/7 (Sunday) – 2nd Annual Kickball Kickoff – All youth grades 6 – 12 and their families are invited to our potluck picnic and kickball game at Bordner Park (off of Rosa Road) after church. Could there be a better way to kick off the year than with a kickin' game of kickball?

9/21 (Sunday) – Shindig at the McGinleys – All youth are invited to party it up after church until 4pm at the McGinleys' house. Bring a munchie, treat, or beverage to share and your swim suit, if the weather is nice. We will provide meat and "meat" to grill. Dan & Jen are happy to provide rides to anyone – just let us know.

Just a quick note...You are always welcome to bring a friend to any youth event!

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 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 Sonja in the church office.

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## Volunteer Opportunities Abound!

Please stop by the sign-up board in the Shalom Room. Volunteers and Coordinators are needed. (Coordinators find a date that works for everyone.)



### Weeding

Areas to be weeded and mulched are:

1. by the front entrance
2. along the end side of the building  
*Yvonne Gern and Jan Robertson*
3. around trees
4. around signs
5. around the mailboxes  
*Lucas Schneider*

### Removing the Black Locust Tree

Done— Thanks *John Rowe, Roger Williams and Jim Muehl*.

### Spirit Woods

The *Prayer Path* goes through the Spirit Woods. Some plants are finding their way into the path. There are also buckthorn, burdock and garlic mustard to be removed throughout the Spirit Woods.

*Lucas Schneider*

### Cleaning Heat Registers and Cool Air Returns



Thanks *Joanna McDonald and Chris Young* for painting a classroom!

### Window Washing Screen Cleaning



No volunteers –hired window washers for these windows.

However there are other windows that do not need a scaffolding!



### Sanding & Polyurethane Sills and Frames

### Parking Lot Crack Cleaning and Filling

### Transplanting Small Shrubs

*Lucas Schneider and Wayne Nelson* have volunteered for this. A couple more people would make easy work of this.

**Lawn Mowers**—Thank you to the Youngs. They are doing a great job of keeping the lawn looking good. Thank you to David Dueholm for lawn trimming.

**Rain Barrel Work**—Thank you to Jim Muehl for hours of labor with Tom on the rain barrel installation. It works great!

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## Advent News

### Oakwood Lutheran Homes Association, Inc. Information *Pertaining to the Month of Sep- tember, 2008*

Oakwood Village Volunteer Information  
Oakwood Village West needs Terrace  
Tea Room volunteers to serve residents  
a few times a month, Monday-Friday,  
10:15 a.m.-1:15 p.m. For more infor-  
mation contact Kim Viney at 230-4238  
or [kim.viney@oakwoodvillage.net](mailto:kim.viney@oakwoodvillage.net).

Oakwood Village East needs volunteers  
to assist residents once a week Satur-  
day mornings, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., to  
go to the Golden Shears Salon. For  
more information contact Kim Viney at  
230-4238 or  
[kim.viney@oakwoodvillage.net](mailto:kim.viney@oakwoodvillage.net).

Oakwood Resale Shop  
The Oakwood Resale Shop is open Sat-  
urday, September 27– 9:00 am – 4:00  
pm – Oakwood Village West, 6203 Min-  
eral Point Road, Madison. Great bar-  
gains on furniture for apartments, dorm  
rooms and your own home! Fall decora-  
tions, household items, books, linens,  
kitchen gadgets, tools and so much  
more. All proceeds assist residents of  
Oakwood who have exhausted their fi-  
nancial resources through no fault of  
their own.

Donations are accepted every Tuesday  
and Thursday morning from 9:00 –  
11:00 at the Resale Shop. We cannot  
accept clothing, sofa sleepers, exercise  
equipment, computer components and  
appliances. Call for more information at  
(608) 230-4264.

### Advent Confirmation Class

Parents of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth are  
asked to attend the orientation session on  
Wednesday, September 3, from 7:00-7:45  
p.m. Jeff Wild will provide an overview of  
the curriculum and class schedule. Jen or  
Dan Streit will be present to share more  
about the middle school youth ministry.  
Parents will be invited to discuss and set  
a date for Confirmation Sunday.

### Treasury of Love 2008

Beg. Bal & Love Offerings	7778.93
Rent & Eviction Prevention	2969.00
Utility Payment	1448.67
Security Deposit	1255.00
Prescription	267.58
Iraq Postage	103.30
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
Wexford Backpacks	55.00
Moving Expenses	<u>175.00</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>\$7678.93</b>

Balance as of 08/25/2008 \$100.00  
Iraq postage—\$25 General-\$75

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## Advent News continued

### Advent Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle will meet on September 11 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 Phyllis Ermer for directions.

**GEMS:** – The Grumpy Elderly Men will begin again on Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. 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. Brad Spencer is getting the books for us. Contact Stan Klyve for more information.

### Judith Circle

Judith Circle will meet on Tuesday, September 9, 9:30 a. at Gretchen Wahl's. 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 September 23 meeting will be at 1:30 p. at Dolores Lillge's. We will discuss *Bess W. Truman* by Margaret Truman, an intimate biography of the First Lady by her daughter. Call Mary Maxwell if you have questions or need a ride. New members always welcome.

### 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!

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## Community of Hope News

### Praying for our Community

Please pray for the people and situations listed below as well as our entire community in the coming month. If you have prayer requests you'd like to be included in 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)
- Howard Kanetzke who is recovering from two summer stays in the hospital.
- Hollis Rudiger and Kathryn Swartz, new moms and Gus Rudiger born 7/31/08

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

September 2-9	Keith Johnson and Julie Hunter; Bruce/Alison Jarvis
Sept. 9-16	Howard/Lucetta Kanetzke; Rolf Killingstad
Sept. 16-23	Lois/Hirochika Komai; Laura Komai; Sachi Komai
Sept. 23-30	Donna Leet; Bill Long

### Important Dates to Remember!



#### Birthdays

Bill Rettig	09/01
Joanne Kirkland	09/03
Joshua Ryan	09/03
Luke Matthews	09/10
Peter Streiff-Stuessy	09/10
Donna Leet	09/11
Bob Sessions	09/11
Rebecca Payne	09/13
Lily Moriearty	09/18
Lynn Breedlove	09/18
Kathryn Murphy	09/21
Barbara Dueholm	09/24
Bonnie Trudell	09/24
Christine Hartelt	09/27

#### Anniversaries

Chuck & Jean Pfeifer	09/06
Phill & Candi Bloedow	09/07
Diana & Marcus Murphy	09/14
Howard & Lucetta Kanetzke	09/15

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 –

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## Community of Hope News

### Neighbors in Need – Another World is Possible – Offering Collected Sunday, September 28, 2008

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on September 28, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through UCC-TakeAction.org, Justice and Witness Ministries offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues.

Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, MN.

Neighbors in Need helps make another world possible. It needs your support. Please give generously. And remember, contributions can be made on-line at any time at: [www.ucc.org/nin](http://www.ucc.org/nin).

**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.m. on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### Thank you for School Supplies:

"Thank you for your generous support of this year's School Supplies for Kids project. Your entire gift was used to purchase school supplies for children in need.... Madison-area Urban Ministry received \$200.00 ... for the purchase of school supplies...."

Thanks to you, children in Dane County area will start the 2008-2009 school year equipped for success."

From David L. Vogel of Vogel Bros. Building Co. and Linda Ketcham, Executive Director of Madison-area Urban Ministry

### Making Items for a Giving Tree

People interested in making items for a Giving Tree at Christmas may contact Candi Bloedow for yarn and pattern suggestions. Last year's gifts were very much appreciated by the families hosted by IHN. If anyone knows of a need for scarves, hats and mittens, please also contact Candi Bloedow.

### My Last Middleton Poem

By Ann Bolger

Fireflies lift out of the grass.  
Yellow balloons escaped from a  
Negligent grasp.

Gracefully swaying/saying:  
"Here I am, Darling!  
Come and get me.  
I'm waiting just for you.  
Hubba. Hubba."

When we have an outside fire  
Sparks fly up like that, as a  
Loose and softly dying light  
Caught in the updraft of heat.

Like the firefly is caught  
In the updraft of Love.

It is magic.  
It is all magic.

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## From the MCC Environmental Task Force

### Take advantage of Madison's free Solar Consultant!

Thinking of installing solar electric or solar hot water but don't know how to proceed? Then take advantage of [MadiSUN](#), an initiative to double Madison's use of solar energy by 2010. It provides Madison residents with a free [solar consultant](#)! This program is made possible by a grant the City received from the U.S. Department of Energy through the [Solar America Cities Program](#).

The solar consultant will evaluate your home and guide you through the process of choosing, purchasing and installing your own solar system. To begin this exciting and energy saving process call (608) 243-0586 or e-mail [solar@cityofmadison.com](mailto:solar@cityofmadison.com). Once you have a PV solar system, you can become a [Clean Power Partner](#) and sell your unused energy back to MGE for \$0.25 per kWh.

City & MGE Solar Project Updates  
When you are riding the bus, biking or car-pooling around town take notice of all the different solar systems up and running! Click on these links to find out about the solar systems brought to you by the [City of Madison](#) and [MGE](#). Some of our favorites include:

All 11 fire stations in Madison are equipped with their own solar hot water system which will collectively reduce Madison's CO2 emissions by 18 tons annually.

The new bike path along Campus Drive is now equipped with 37 solar light fixtures to light the path at night .

Ten area [high schools](#) have solar electric installations, providing an opportunity for students to monitor and learn.

The solar shade structure at Goodman Pool showcases how the community can benefit from solar.

Remember the 6 Can-do's.

1. [Buy renewable energy](#)
2. [Improve energy efficiency](#)
3. [Install solar](#)
4. [Reduce car emissions](#)
5. [Plant trees](#)
6. [Conserve water](#)

Meet the M

Come and see the M in person and get info on how you can help achieve the 6 Can-do's. Look for the M in these locations:

Saturday mornings keep a look out for the M

[Dane County Farmers' Market on the Square](#)

(S. Hamilton St. @ S. Carol St.)

8.16.2008, 7 pm - midnight

[Madison's Favorite Block Party](#)

(100 block of East Main Street)

TBA

[Metcalf's Sentry](#)

(Hilldale)

9.20.2008, 8 am - 1:30 pm

[REAP Food For Thought Festival](#)

(Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, off the Capitol Square, Madison)

9.22.08

[World Car-Free Day](#)

10.10.08

[The Natural Step: Becoming a Green Organization](#)

(American Family Campus @ 6000 American Parkway)

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## Larger Community News Continued

### Thank you MCC from Wexford Ridge Neighborhood Center

Thank you for your generous contribution to the Lussier Community Education Center Capital Campaign of the Wexford Ridge Neighborhood Center. Our anticipation continues to grow as we see the new building get closer to completion. Your contribution of \$1,126.00 on June 18, 2008 brings us another step closer to realizing the dream of a place for all of us to grow and learn, give and receive on the west side of Madison.

As the Wexford Ridge Neighborhood Center becomes the Lussier Community Education Center, it will establish a dynamic community institution where people of all ages can learn and grow, people of all backgrounds can serve and lead, and the major institutions and organizations that impact our quality of life can work together in new and innovative ways.

We thank you for your support, which is allowing us to build community one person at a time. We look forward to sharing our accomplishments with you in the future. In the meantime, feel free to keep up with the Lussier Community Education Center by accessing our website, [www.LCECmadison.org](http://www.LCECmadison.org).

Jill W. Pfeiffer, Development Director

### Church Women United in Madison September 5, 2008 Justice For All?

Linda Ketcham and Jerry Hancock Speak about the barriers faced by prisoners returning to their communities.

5:30 p. Potluck Dinner  
6:30 p. Welcome, Prayer,  
Announcements  
7:00 p. Forum

First Baptist Church, 518 N. Franklin

### A Thank You from WIC

Thank you so much for your help and generosity in allowing us to have WIC Clinic in your building on Tuesday, June 3rd, with only a day's advance notice.

Your help allowed us to serve well over a hundred Madison/Dane County residents.

With sincere appreciation, Sue Marshall and staff of the Madison & Dane County WIC (Women, Infants and Children).

### June MedDrop a Success with another scheduled for October, 2008

Unwanted, unused prescriptions and over-the-counter medicines can be found in every household in the county. We know that it's not safe to keep unneeded medicines in the house—children and others can accidentally take them.

But you've also heard that you shouldn't flush medicines down the toilet or put them in the trash. We now know that these medicines are bad for our environment—our water, our lakes and the animals in them.

So...how should you get rid of your medicines?

Bring your unneeded medicine to MedDrop. This free service is available to all Wisconsin residents.

More than 800 Dane County residents, arriving by car, bikes and motorcycles, delivered over 1,600 pounds of medications to MedDrop2 held on June 7, 2008. These medications were taken to a hazardous waste facility that specializes in environmentally safe pharmaceutical waste disposal.

### MedDrop 3—Fall 2008—date TBA

Register for Email Alerts by going to [www.meddropdane.org](http://www.meddropdane.org)

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## Larger Community News Continued



*An interfaith social justice organization for the past 35 years!*

The Dialogue continues...

*"Race, Theology and Politics"  
A September 11<sup>th</sup> Observance*

Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008

St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
605 Spruce St.

5:30 to 6:15 Community Pot-luck  
Please bring "finger foods" only.

6:15 to 7:00 Multi-faith Observance.

7:00 to 8:00 Small-group facilitated Dia-  
logue. Teens will have their own group!

For more information or to register for  
the event, contact Madison-area Urban  
Ministry at(608)256-0906 or  
[lori@emum.org](mailto:lori@emum.org).

This is an ongoing dialogue series.  
Childcare is provided.

### 34th Annual Madison Area CROP Hunger Walk/Rock Event

This is an interfaith and community-  
wide event. It will be Sunday, October  
12.

An MCC coordinator is need. If you  
would like to coordinate this event  
please call Sonja in the church  
office.

The Wisconsin Council of Churches  
Presents:

"Visions from the End of the World:  
Ezekiel in Exile"

Friday, September 12, 2008 at  
Midvale Community Lutheran Church,  
4329 Tokay Blvd.

The Book of Ezekiel was crafted to in-  
volve its readers in questions of identity  
– national identity, religious identity,  
present identity, and future identity.  
Ezekiel accomplished this by raising is-  
sues of heritage, loyalty, and affiliation.  
He pushed his readers to embrace a  
radical vision for the future. The  
prophet offends and insults the people  
and their past, deliberately provokes  
resistance to his message, and dares  
them to find a way to retrace their steps,  
all the way back to Eden. Come and  
discover how Ezekiel's vision for Israel,  
with the help of imagination and meta-  
phor, can speak anew to the assump-  
tions and values of believing communi-  
ties in our time.

Presented by William Tooman Ph.D.,  
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies  
at Edgewood College.

Online registration at  
[www.wichurches.org](http://www.wichurches.org) under "Events"  
Cost: \$55 incl. Lunch by Sept. 1; \$65  
incl. Lunch after Sept. 1

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

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

## The Good Word

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

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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  
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Madison WI 53717-1099

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