

The Good Word

April 2009

ROD, REEL AND RESURRECTION

On a Saturday afternoon ten years ago, the day before Palm, Andrew and his friend Mike hoisted our red canoe on the roof of the car and drove to Kiwanis Pond about a mile from our home. They caught wind of a rumor that on Friday the pond was freshly stocked with rainbow trout.. Andrew and I shared a tackle box and fish net, but for a reason I no longer remember, he borrowed my most cherished rod and reel. Slightly jealous, I waved good bye as they pulled out of the driveway.

About an hour later I asked Nan if she wanted to take a walk down to Kiwanis Pond and see if the boys were catching any fish. Imagine our surprise when we arrived at Kiwanis Pond and found Andrew and Mike soaking wet and shivering to beat the band. “What happened?” I asked. Andrew answered, “The canoe tipped over.” “How did that happen?” Andrew turned to Mike and said, “You tell him.” “I’m really sorry, Mr. Wild, I had to go to the bathroom and the canoe tipped over while I was relieving myself.” “What happened to all of our fishing tackle and my rod and reel?” “I’m sorry, Dad, we lost it. I’ll replace everything.” I don’t remember saying, “It’s okay, the fishing equipment is just stuff. I’m just glad that you didn’t drown.”

Lee Snyder was at worship on Sunday morning. I knew that Lee taught scuba diving for many years. I asked him, “Lee, Andrew and his buddy were fishing at Kiwanis Pond yesterday. The canoe capsized and they lost all of our equipment. Do you think it is possible to find a diver to search for our treasures?” Lee answered, “Sure, my son and I can dive for it this afternoon. Tell Andrew we will be at the pond by 1:00 pm and he can show us where they

fell in.”

Andrew, Mike and I watched Lee and his son from the shoreline and they recovered everything, including my favorite rod and reel, before they ran out of oxygen. The three of us were grateful, the boys were relieved, and my sorrow was turned to joy. The best part of this story is that I managed to weave this account of loss and recovery, sorrow and joy into my Easter sermon. At just the right moment, I pulled my rod and reel out from behind the huge pulpit and proclaimed, “Thy rod and thy reel, they comfort me!” If you think I’m corny now, you should have known me then! Anyway, the congregation took the bait.

We stand at the threshold of the most dramatic season on the church year and my little story pales in comparison to the one we hear in the course of a week. It is called Holy Week and we need four separate days of worship to absorb the meaning of Christ’s passion. We gather on Palm Sunday, April 5, to wave palm branches, sing hosanna and process into the Blessing Room. We recall Jesus’ last hours with his disciples, his anguished prayer and betrayal in the garden and his arrest. Most importantly, we remember the origins of the last meal Jesus ate with his disciples and honor his command to “do this in remembrance of me.” It’s not an easy story to hear, but we gather again at noon on Good Friday to recall Christ’s crucifixion and death. We return on Sunday to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection from the dead. Again this year, an Easter vigil will begin in pre-dawn around the flames of a fire in the memorial garden and followed by sunrise worship at 7:00 a.m. Easter worship will also be at the usual time, 10:15 in the morning.

Of Special Interest:

- MCC 40th Anniversary; Women’s Salad Supper; & Earth Day at MCC—p.2
- Easter Breakfast; Thank you from the McGowns & McGinleys-; Community Group Activity/Reservations Needed- p.4
- Adult Canoe Trip(s)— p.-5
- Thank You to Lenten Service Preachers; Father Dom’s Duck Doo; Lenten Soup Suppers—p. 6
- MCC Adult Education; JAVA for Justice; Art of Parables —p.7
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MCC News

Help Celebrate the MCC's 40th Birthday With An Interactive Timeline

You can help to celebrate the MCC's 40th birthday by sharing your own recollections of important events in the life of the Madison Christian Community. Beginning on Wednesday, April 1 (our final Lenten Soup Supper evening) there will be sheets of paper on the walls in the Shalom Room. There will be sheets for every decade in our first 40 years. Various-sized sticky notes will be available for you to record personal/family information (when you joined the MCC, the births of children, anniversaries etc.), as well as to note the events in our 40-year history that were of special importance to you. Labeled photos are also welcome on the timeline. This interactive timeline will remain up throughout the month of April as we bring our 40th anniversary celebration to its completion and continue into the next decade of our life together.

Happy Anniversary MCC! Worship Celebration and Luncheon Sunday, April 26, 2009

For the past 6 months we've been doing a variety of things to honor and celebrate our first 40 years as the Madison Christian Community. Many stories about important events in our history to date have been shared in the newsletter, in a booklet that will be printed in April, through the Lenten Soup Suppers and hopefully also in casual conversation. This time of celebration will culminate at the end of April in a special worship service and luncheon on Sunday, April 26, 2009. Please save the date and plan to be in worship for this special celebration of our first 40 years and stick around afterward for food and fellowship at our "Taste of MCC" luncheon. More details to follow as the date approaches.

Women of the MCC

The annual Women of Advent Salad Supper will be held on April 22nd beginning at 6 PM. All women of the MCC are invited to attend and your female guests are also welcome. Our program will be Dr. Linnea Smith, medical director of the Yanamono Medical Clinic in the remote Amazon basin of Peru. Dr Smith is the author of *La Doctora* - available from the Dane County Library Service. You may also want to visit the Amazon Medical Project website at <http://www.amazonmedical.org>. An offering will be taken to support Dr. Smith's work in this medical project. There is a sign-up poster in the Shalom Room for this potluck event. Please join us for an interesting evening!

April Earth Day Activity

We will have our annual Earth Day intergenerational cleanup activity on Sunday, April 19 during the Sunday School time. Dress for some outside work, bring work gloves if you would like, and help spruce up the grounds around the church. Meet in the Sunday School area downstairs at 9:00, and we will have a list of needed work to choose from. Bring a snack to share at the end (last names A-H juice, I-P bagels/muffins, Q-Z fruit).

If the weather forces us inside, we'll have games and activities to fill the hour.

Pray Daily

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Fellowship Groups & Activities

Eckhart Tolle's latest book, *A New Earth*, excited over 2 million readers with the Oprah Book Club. His work prompted Oprah to host a 10-week on-line course conducted by Tolle. So, what's the buzz all about?

The Theological Discussion Group will read this book for the March and April discussions, the first half for March and the second half for the April conversation. This selection provides almost endless discussion for the Group regarding Tolle's critiques and Christian convictions.

What is it about this book that so many bloggers warn readers about Tolle's claim that he is not promoting a "belief system"?

"He argues that there is no ultimate distinction between humans and God since all is one. From this monistic perspective, Tolle scorns common Western usage of the term God: 'There can be no subject-object relationship here, no duality, no you and God.'" (James A. Beverly)

The Madison Public Library has 98 copies of this book. Place a hold on it and check it out. There is no "membership" in this reading group. Read, then come and join the conversation.

The Theological Discussion Group meets the third Wednesday of each month. The April 15 discussion will be at 7 p.m.

MCC Film Group—April 3

Wisconsin Film Festival — The film we will attend is Pachamama on Friday, April 3, at 6:45 p. at the Union Theater.

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

MaD Küt! (pronounced: mad cute!) Mommies And Daddies, Kids Under Three are playing the first Sunday of the month from 3 :00-4:30p. downstairs in the nursery. If you also have older children, they are welcome to come and play together in the Youth Room. Hope to see you on April 5, May 3 & June 7. Contact Jen Streit with questions or comments.

ACTIVITIES FOR MCC COMMUNITY GROUP

Thursday, April 23, there is a free concert at the Overture Center, featuring "Mark Twain Era" music. Community Group will meet by the "altar" on the main floor at 9 a.m. for coffee and free goodies. Call Myrna McNatt(831-5759) if you have questions or want to carpool. We will probably have lunch together afterwards and some wanted to tour the Capitol.

MCC Women's Lunch Bunch

Every Wednesday at 11:30 a. at the Prairie Cafe in Middleton, across from Copps Grocery Store. Good fellowship and no agenda.

MCC TALENT SHOW Sun, 4/19

6:30 - 7:30p Get your act together be it silly or serious! This show is a fantastic mix of talent and un-talent, so lets have fun and put on a show. If you don't want to be on stage, there are still fun ways to be involved: Be an audience member or dessert donor!

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MCC News

EASTER BREAKFAST

Go out for breakfast at the MCC on Easter morning between 8-10am. The youth will be serving breakfast and a free-will offering will be collected to benefit youth activities. Come enjoy tasty food and fun fellowship. Please sign up in the Shalom Room if you are interested in donating food for this event.

Community Group has three activities which require reservations SOON:

Monday, April 27 - Trip to the "Titanic" exhibit at the Milwaukee Public Museum. Reservations are \$20.15 and must be PAID TO JAN ROBERTSON [833-6312) BY SUNDAY, APRIL 19. We will carpool from MCC and stop at The Machine Shed restaurant for lunch on the way.

Saturday, May 8 - Trip to Horicon Marsh Bird Festival—many different activities. The video/pontoon boat tour costs \$10 and requires a reservation. CALL MYRNA MCNATT [831-5759] BY SUNDAY, APRIL 26. We will carpool from MCC at 9 a.m.

Thursday, July 9 - Trip to the Brewers game with St. Louis—tickets for seniors that day are \$18 (half-price!). Make your RESERVATIONS BY EASTER SUNDAY WITH MARY MAXWELL. Carpool details later.

THANKS FROM THE MCGOWN and MCGINLEY FAMILIES

Members of Advent and Hope have been a tremendous source of comfort and support to all of us since we lost our wonderful husband/father/grandfather, Wayne McGown, on February 10. Thank you for the hugs, the soup, the cookies, the prayers, the cards, the calls, the memorials and just your presence with us. You have been a bigger help to us than you will ever know. Hildy McGown; Carrie, Kristi & Jackie McGinley; Ron, Randee, Kate & Carly McGown; Dan, Cindy & Tyler McGown

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.

Re: Recycling

The "Send It Now" store on the west side also takes styrofoam (blocks and 'peanuts'), bubblewrap, etc. for reuse as packaging. It's at 630 S. Whitney Way, in Whitney Square near the Half-price Book Store, a7cross from Westgate.

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The Good Word

Published Monthly by the Madison Christian Community

Church Phone: (608) 836-1455

Next Issue: May 2009

Articles Due: April 20 to the church office

Newsletter Preparer: Sonja Keesey-Berg

Newsletter Proofing: Karen Schwarz

Newsletter Collators: Brad Spencer, Doug Johnson and David Keesey-Berg

Newsletter Mailing Ready: Eileen Bolstad, Doris Roberts

MCC News

MCC Adult Canoe Trips offer the opportunity to relax and get to know other MCC members in the wilderness of Canada or Minnesota. Check out the photos on the Art Wall, and join us for beautiful scenery, great swimming, camaraderie, cozy campfires and peaceful moonrises. In 2009, the trips are:

- A Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) trip starting at Brule Lake with relatively easy portages up to Cherokee Lake (and perhaps beyond) and back to Brule. The trip will include several layover days, for fishing or day trips. The trip dates are August 23-31. Contact Candi Bloedow for more information.
- A Quetico trip along the Canadian/US border and back through the Man chain of lakes. This will be a moderate (not

easy, not hard) trip with only one layover day. The trip dates are August 16-24.

- The number of people interested is growing and there may be a possibility of a third trip with other dates.

Contact Barb Bickford for more information.

First time campers and canoeists are welcome on either trip! We have equipment to share. Barb has developed an interactive website (“wiki”) to help the groups plan the trips.

Contact her to find out how to join the wiki.

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Coming Events

April 1	Lenten Soup Suppers and 40th Anniversary Conversations
April 2	MCC Volunteers at the Drop-In Shelter
April 3	MCC Film Group at the Union Theater— <i>Pachamama</i>
April 5	Palm Sunday - No Sunday School
April 5	MaD KÜT! Play Group, 3:00-4:30 p.
April 8	Indoor Labyrinth is open to the public 9a-6p.
April 9	Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 p.
April 10	Good Friday Service at Noon
April 12	Easter Sunday 7:00 a. MCC Sunrise, 8:00 a. Easter Breakfast and 10:15 a. Advent Worship in the Blessing Room & Community of Hope Worship in the Covenant Room
April 12-19	IHN Week – Sign up is in the Shalom Room
April 16	MCC Executive Committee, 7:00 p.
April 19	Food, Faith and Earth Day
April 19	MCC Talent Show, 6:30 p.
April 22	MCC Women’s Salad Supper, 6:00 p.
April 26	40th Anniversary Workshop and Lunch
April 30-May 2	2009 MCC Pictorial Picture Directory – Sign up will begin on Sunday, March 29

MCC News

THANK YOU

This Lenten season has been rich in meaning. About thirty people gathered on Wednesday evenings for a light and tasty soup supper. The meals were followed with presentations by many members about MCC's history of education and youth ministry, social justice, resettlement and sanctuary, and the environment. Indeed God's Spirit has guided and blessed this community of faith through the years. The trend of declining worship attendance was reversed as members of the congregation filled the Covenant Room for worship and heartily participated in the Holden Vesper Service. The members who preached on the petitions of Jesus' prayer share meditations that reflected great thoughtfulness. Thank you to all of you who planned, cooked, cleaned up, slurped soup, presented, preached and sang for a deeply meaningful time.

Lenten Soup Suppers and 40th Anniversary Conversations

April 1 will be our last in the series of conversations about various topics from our 40 years of life together as the Madison Christian Community. Supper and conversation begins at 5:30 and worship follows at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 1 – Stewardship of our Land and the Environment is the theme.

EARTH DAY SPECIAL – Spring is on the way!

Ready to compost and mulch your garden and flower patches? Consider purchasing **Father Dom's Duck's Doo Compost**.

This award-winning soil conditioner is organic, recycled, weed/seed free and odorless! It is a natural blend of cranberry pulp, duck doo and leaf compost (to improve moisture retention) which helps increase both nutrients and beneficial

microbes. The product is wonderful for all of your gardening, mulching and planting needs. This organic compost breaks up clay and adds nutrients to the soil.

To reserve bags, sign up before April 22nd. We have ordered 4 pallets (360 bags) ready for pick-up at MCC on April 22th or after....until all the bags have disappeared and are enriching the earth. To guarantee your order, sign up on the sheet on the coffee order table and place your check in the envelope provided. Check should be made out to **MCC-Duck's Doo**.

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

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

(When applying Father Dom's Duck's Doo Compost as mulch to eliminate the need to weed, 2-3 inches of compost is suggested.)

Order some for your indoor plants as well to mix with your potting soil or to place in the holes when planting new plants.

Price per bag is \$7 for one or 3 for \$20.

All profits go to charity both at MCC (summer garden and other environmental projects) and for the company (after taxes and expenses, all profits go to benefit peoples of all races, religions, nationalities, lifestyles and creeds across America, through God's Good Earth Foundation, Inc., especially people with disabilities and children with cancer).

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

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

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ADULT EDUCATION HOUR

Sunday, April 5 From Jesus to Christ. This will be the fourth in the excellent series from PBS. Sunday, April 12, come and enjoy the Easter breakfast. Sunday, April 19, John Iderd, the keynote speaker for this year's Food and Faith Event will join us during the education hour and lead a discussion based upon his research in sustainable economics.

Sunday, April 26, to be determined after April 5. Either we will finish up with the series from Jesus to Christ or begin a short series based upon *The Shack*, a recent bestseller.

Time for APT

We need to order tickets by April 5th in order to get our best seats and a family price. Please contact Kathy Johnson, no later than April 4th .

The two plays this year would be *The Philanderer* by GB Shaw on Wednesday July 22 and/or *Hay Fever* by Noel Coward on August 19th. She needs to know which play and how many tickets. You can pay her later. We will car pool from MCC and plan a picnic before each show.

JAVA FOR JUSTICE:

April is here so order your personal order PLUS the extra, a coffee needed for Easter celebrations. Order decaf or regular; bean, drip or perk; 12 oz (\$9.00) or 4 pound (\$40) bags. Make your check out to *Mt. Meru Coffee Project*. Place order by April 5 and it will ready for pick up on Easter Sunday, April 12. Justice never tasted so good.....and thanks for helping the coffee farmers in Tanzania become sustainable.

The Art of Parables

Saturday, April 18, 2009 – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

First Congregational, UCC, in Watertown

Dr. Charles McCollough has written a striking new book on *The Art of Parables: Reinterpreting the Teaching Stories of Jesus in Word and Sculpture*. Drawing from scripture, Dr. McCollough has sculpted a group of works depicting the parables from Matthew, Mark and Luke which Jesus taught, providing commentary and dialogue questions.

This will be a full day of exploration and inspiration coordinated by the Arts Committee of the Wisconsin Conference, UCC, and the Wisconsin Council of Churches. For more information and a registration form, go to www.wcucc.org

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.

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MCC News

FOOD, FAITH AND EARTH DAY APRIL 19

John Ikerd, a widely celebrated economist, teacher, author and public advocate for sustainability, will be the keynote speaker at a special ecumenical Earth Day event planned for Sunday, April 19, in Madison. He will talk about how the local food movement reconnects us physically with the earth, socially with each other, and spiritually with our role as stewards of the earth. Faith, Food and Earth Day 2009 will also feature workshops that highlight ways to pursue environmental stewardship, from gardening to eating locally grown food. Local farmers along with food and faith groups will have exhibits. Two community meals featuring local foods and prepared by area chefs will be served. The afternoon event will be held at First United Methodist Church at 203 Wisconsin Avenue in downtown Madison. Admission is free. Meal cost is \$8 with advance reservation by April 12 and \$12 at the door; reservations are advised. For more information go to www.FoodFaithEarthDay.org or call 608-256-9061.

Ikerd, professor emeritus at the University of Missouri, is the author of several books including *Small Farms Are Real Farms: Sustaining People through Agriculture* and *Sustainable Capitalism, A Return to Common Sense*. Besides the keynote presentation, he will host one of the workshop sessions. For more about John Ikerd go to <http://web.missouri.edu/~ikerdj/>

Faith, Food and Earth Day 2009 is planned by an interdenominational group of ministers and lay leaders as well as people representing various community, environmental and farm-related groups.

Haiti Art

This month's display consists of 17 paintings purchased by Bryan Sirchio, Tisha Brown and Roger Williams on their recent trip to Haiti. The MCC Haiti Partners ministry will sell most of the paintings by silent auction and keep a few for display. Approximately half of the paintings in the display are by one artist, James Benoit. He took a bus 12 miles and hiked up a mountain several more miles carrying the paintings to sell them to the group. The rest of the paintings are from various artists selling collectively on an art wall in Port au Prince, Haiti. From one art wall to another!

Sign Up Your Phones for Wisconsin Do Not Call List.

Wisconsin residents need to sign up every two years to keep their enlistment in the Wisconsin Do Not Call List valid.

In addition Senate Bill 99 in the budget adjustment bill, now includes cellular phones.

Sign up online: <https://nocall.wisconsin.gov/web/home.asp> or call 1-866-966-2255 toll free in Wisconsin.

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.

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Lenten Conversations Stories

By Heather Putnam, Children's Ministry

I have been receiving very positive feedback about the *Lenten Conversations* booklet. Here are some stories people have shared with me.

"We can't always make it to church. *Lenten Conversations* provides a good way for us to still be able to observe Lent at home."

"I missed Sunday School one week. We did something out of *Lenten Conversations* instead."

"I really like the format. Each item is a manageable chunk – meaningful but not too time consuming."

"I like the variety of the topics – a nice mix of history, faith lessons, stories, projects, quick activities, discussion questions."

"I had never heard of purple potatoes before."

"We ate purple cauliflower this week. The part that was in the water turned blue and the rest stayed purple."

"I really liked looking for the hidden books of the Bible. I found them all except for Titus."

Have you been using the *Lenten Conversations* booklet? I would love to hear your stories about your experiences.

A Family Activity Bringing the Bible to Life: Holy Land Images

By Heather Putnam, Children's Ministry

What images do you have in your head about Bible stories? What does the Mount of Olives look like? What would it be like to travel in and out of Bethlehem? What was the Temple in Jerusalem like?

Heather and Heidi Putnam travelled to Israel in November, 2008. Come see their pictures and hear their stories.

Sunday, April 19
After church
Covenant room

Questions? Contact Heather Putnam.

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Nursery Staff Change

Thank You Joanna & Welcome Julie

On Sunday, April 5, we will say a heartfelt thank you to Joanna McDonald who has been our Nursery Coordinator for the past three years. This position was created to assist the nursery staff & volunteers; parents and MCC staff. Joanna volunteered to be the first person to fill this

position and she has done it very well. On April 5, we welcome Julie Krbec to this position and look forward to working with her. Julie will probably be assisted by her 10 month old son Jubal! You will find Julie, husband Justin, and son Jubal in the Advent congregation on Sunday morning.

MCC Youth News

Every Wednesday at 6:30p. Guitar Club

Every Wednesday at 7p. Confirmation beginning April 15

Sunday, April 12: MS/HS EASTER BREAKFAST The tradition continues! We need people to set up (7 - 8a), serve (8 - 10a), and clean up (9 - 10a & 11:30 - 12:30p). Choose a shift (or two!). We can definitely use your help!

Sunday, April 19: MS/HS 6:30p TALENT SHOW Get your act together be it silly or serious! This show is a fantastic mix of talent and untalent, so lets have fun and put on a show. If you don't want to be on stage, we need your help setting up, serving dessert, and cleaning up.

May 1 - 3: MS/HS - URBAN IMMERSION SERVICE RETREAT, Minneapolis, MN. The Greater Council of Churches in Minneapolis has an excellent Urban Immersion program that some of our high schoolers attended and really enjoyed last year. It involves volunteering in the city and learning about what you can do to combat urban poverty. We may even eat pizza at Andrew Zutz's favorite pizza place - Davanni's. Cost: \$90 (scholarships available)

Looking ahead: HS BWCA Trip Tues, June 16 - Mon, June 22

HS Wyoming Trip Sun, July 26—Sat, August 8

MS Mississippi Mission Trip Sun, July 5 - Sat, July 11

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Advent News

LSS Refugee Resettlement

LSS of Wisconsin will begin to resettle refugees in the Madison area through a satellite office, and they are in need of storage space to store furniture and other items donated for refugees. Ideally, the storage would be:

- 1) Free, a donation to the ministry of LSS and refugee resettlement.
- 2) Relatively accessible from the Beltline or the Interstate
- 3) Moderately temperature controlled with a clean floor and free of critters
- 4) Large enough to store furniture donations for arriving refugee families (2000 to 3000 square feet would be ideal)
- 5) Regularly accessible as donations come in or items go out to stock the apartments of newly arriving refugees

If you own this kind of space, or know someone who rents space like this that we could use, please contact Reverend Clint Schnekloth, 608-423-3017, pastor@bminet.com

Treasury of Love 2009

Beg. Bal & Love Offerings	\$2,280.87
Rent & Eviction Prevention	1,556.00
Utility Assistance	100.00
Security Deposit	200.00
Postage-Box for Soldiers	31.05
Items for Boxes for Soldiers	20.97
Greyhound Bus Tickets	167.00
Gas Voucher	20.01
Clothing	80.86
Auto Repair	50.00
Lussier Food Pantry	50.00
Expenditure	\$1,078.87
Balance as of 03/23/2009	\$4.98

Guidelines for Announcements at Advent

Advent’s Mission Statement and the Word About our Partnership statement found in our newsletter and in our bulletin reminds us that we are a sanctuary for all. Be mindful not to offend anyone present or not present.

Be respectful of time considerations by keeping announcements specific and brief.

Where appropriate, utilize the printed means available for making announcements through the Bulletin or Newsletter. Attempt not to be overly repetitive in terms of the numbers of weeks an announcement is made.

Announcements of a partisan political or “for profit” business nature are not appropriate for our worship setting.

Members listening to announcements are asked to do so with patient respect of the speaker, putting the best possible construction on the motives of the speaker, as Martin Luther advises us.

Anyone with concerns about announcements is encouraged to visit with our church council president or with Pastor Jeff.

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Advent News continued

Advent Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle will meet on April 9. The time and place will be announced.

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.

GEMS – The Grumpy Elderly Men!

The G.E.M.S group (Grumpy Elderly Men) continues to meet on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 at the church. They are currently listening lecture series by Dr. Terrance Fretheim, an Old Testament scholar from Luther Seminary, on the Book of Job. In the following weeks we will discuss the book NO GOD BUT GOD: THE ORIGINS, EVOLUTION AND FUTURE OF ISLAM by Reza Aslan. We are open to all men who are interested in lively conversation, fellowship, and goodies.

Advent Giving Goal

The giving goal for March, a five Sunday month is \$29,000. Advent members gave \$27,563 the first four Sundays of the month. We can be optimistic and expect to meet the giving goal for the month. Thank you for your faithful support of the Advent and MCC mission.

OPALS Book Discussion Group

OPALS meetings are held once a month in the afternoon at MCC. On Tuesday, April 28, we will meet at 1:30 p.

The book is *When Jesus Came to Harvard* by Harvey Cox.. The discussion leader is Georgia Grahn.

Call Mary Maxwell if you have questions or need a ride.

New members always welcome.

Judith Circle

Judith Circle will meet on Tuesday, April 14, 9:30 a. at Myrna McNatt's. Gretchen Wahl will be the study leader. All are welcome for fellowship and study.

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

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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Beyond



Community of Hope News

Southwest Association Spring Meeting Featuring Dr. Calvin DeWitt

Theme: Living in God's Creation: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
Saturday, May 2, 2009

The Southwest Association of the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ gathers on Saturday, May 2, 2009, at St. John's UCC in Monroe. We will hear a presentation from Dr. Calvin DeWitt titled "Care of the Creation and a presentation on Wisconsin's Inconvenient Truth from Ryan Schryver. We will also learn from three congregations in the association that have made significant efforts to "green" their building. **Our very own Tom Matthews will be present to share the environmental stewardship efforts of the Madison Christian Community.**

Back Bay Mission: A Ministry Reborn

Sunday, April 19, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Memorial, UCC

5705 Lacy Road, Fitchburg

You are invited to hear an up-date on the recovery and expanded ministries of Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS, from Rev. Shari Prestemon, Executive Director. Learn how the support of the wider United Church of Christ, including churches of the Wisconsin Conference, has helped re-birth this historic ministry in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Please bring a dish to share for the pot-luck dinner.

An Invitation from The Crossing

Don't miss The Crossing's Spring Gala on April 24th at the Concourse Hotel in Madison from 6-9 p.m.

- Hear inspiring student testimonials
- Enjoy a variety of student-led entertainment
- Socialize with friends (old and new) over an elegant dinner

Tickets are \$50.00 and your gift includes ongoing Crossing support. You may also purchase a complimentary meal to honor a student leader.

If you're interested in attending this event, contact Tisha. Maybe we can get a table from Hope for a nice evening out and to support a vital and important ministry to UW-Madison students.

Pray Daily

Worship Regularly

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Respond as Stewards

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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, and Ardie Manser
- 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, Quinn Clark, Josh Ryan; Tristan Breedlove (graduate studies); Sarah Hunter-Johnson (graduate studies).
- These people and their families as we pray our way through the church directory:

March 31-April 7

Jan Manser/Dave Manion;
Tom/Joan Matthews

April 7-14

Martha McCurdy; Letitia Moore;
Marcus/Dianna Murphy

April 14-21

Art/Mary Nack; Ken/Erika Ono;

April 21-28

Chuck/Jean Pfeifer; Lori Powell;

April 28-May 5

Bill Putnam; Bill Rettig/Jean Gilbertson

Important Dates to Remember!



Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

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

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 was easier to start in the summer, when it was already light by 6:30 a. Now 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.

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Calendar Page

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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*

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:
sonja@madisonchristiancommunity.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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, Secre-
tarial Assistant AND
MCC Maintenance
mcctom@tds.net

Beth Wild and
Jean Oliveren
MCC Custodians

Community of Hope
Steering Committee
Diane Bougie
Bill Long
Donna Leet, Moderator
Betty Custer
Sandie Esrael
Roger Williams

Advent Council
Bob Schneider
Julie M. Walsh,
President
Brian Kuhn
Edd Hellmer
John Malecki
Marilyn Crews-Nelson
Gretchen Wahl

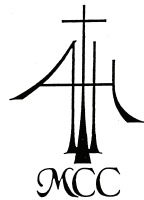
Office Hours:
Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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, Chair
Donna Leet
Roger Williams,
Chair Elect
Julie M. Walsh
Tisha Brown
Jeff Wild



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