

The Good Word

The best litmus test about the effect something has upon us is not measured by what happens at the moment but from the reflection and response that follows. I know I have seen a good movie, read an engaging novel, heard a wonderful concert, and attended a meaningful adult education session when I find myself mulling it over or debriefing with my wife at the dinner table, or a friend while enjoying a cup of coffee. Perhaps we reflect and debrief about what is meaningful as a way to more deeply absorb it into our lives.

I am writing this column the day after David Gustafson led a provocative session on health care in the adult forum and I am mulling over the question of culture. David contrasted the care he received as a patient in two different hospitals that foster substantially different cultures of patient care. I am not equipped to talk about different cultures of patient care. Rather, I am led to reflect upon the culture that I have poured myself into as my life's calling, the culture of Christian community.

It is no small challenge to get our arms around all the factors, variables and circumstances that shape a congregation's culture. My sense is that there are enduring convictions about pastoral and lay leadership, a congregation's identity, the wider community, and perhaps most important and least talked about, the theology (grace or judgment oriented) that permeates and is embraced by the congregation as a whole. I hold my assessment of a congregation's culture less confidently than I used to.

When I announced my resignation to the congregation I previously served, I thought the congregation was on rock solid footing. My assessment was incorrect. The congregation has experienced a dramatic decline in membership, worship participation, staff-

ing, and benevolence support. I don't take the blame, but I can't help but wonder if my seventeen years of service amounts to anything more than a house of cards. I hope in the time I have to serve as a pastor that I will leave a more lasting legacy!

I believe that MCC is on solid footing, but am aware that a congregation can either quickly or gradually find itself on shaky footing. I cherish the healthy and vibrant culture that is fostered among the members of Madison Christian Community for many reasons. I am blessed to serve as your pastor. I hope that you also consider it a blessing to be a member of Madison Christian Community. It is important for all of us to keep in mind that each of us by virtue of being a member of MCC has a role in shaping the culture of the congregation. We shape the culture by our willing or grudging participation in worship, fellowship, learning and serving opportunities.

So, what kind of culture do we wish to foster at MCC? Personally, I want to foster a culture of hilarity. Hilarity is not the same as being humorous or happy. The root word for hilarity means deep gladness. This is the deep gladness that flows out of profound awareness of God's graciousness. In my own life it is this deep gladness that renews my energy and commitment to continue as a disciple and fellow member of the body of Christ. I am tempted like many pastors to hammer away about commitment, but I have a hunch that commitment without hilarity creates a culture of crabs. Why would we want to participate in a culture like this when there is more than enough crabbi-ness in the world?

Continues on the next page.

October, 2009

Of Special Interest:

- Harvest of Hope & Haiti Partners Event , MCC Habitat Work Day; Petersen's NAMI Walk –p. 2
- Adult Ed –p. 3
- Java for Justice; Trick or Treat for UNICEF; Jill Thanks You; Donate Yarn; MedDrop Oct 3 -p.4
- Dane County United –p.5
- Shalom Room Planning– MCC Visioning - p.6
- Kitchen Projects & Wish List – p. 7
- Quilts & Ornaments – p. 8
- Chicken TF; Food Pantry; Donate Yarn; Drop-In Shelter; Second Harvest –p.9
- Calendar– p. 17
- IRAQ News –p. 18-19

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MCC News

I haven't read too many church newsletters that prompt me to mull something over and I probably haven't written too many newsletters prompting something for you to mull over. Nevertheless, I hope that as we renew our commitments of membership in the weeks ahead that we realize we are not just filling out the paperwork again. We are declaring our intentions to foster a culture that sustains lives; our own, the lives of our fellow members and all those we reach out to serve.
Jeff Wild

Mark your Calendars!

Saturday, October 10 is the date for a chili supper and joint fundraising concert for the Harvest of Hope Fund and Haiti Partners. Come for the chili supper at 5:30 p.m. and stay on for the concert headlined by Brian Sirchio, whose songs for children, teens and adults will help "take you deeper in your own faith journey." Paul Schneider will kick-off the concert with "The Farm," a song inspired by Candace's family farming operation near Highland, WI.

Funds generated by this concert—and a silent auction—will be split evenly between two good causes: the Harvest of Hope Fund and Haiti Partners. Bring the whole family and your friends for an evening of great food and wonderful music!

Roger & Linda Pettersen Invite you to Walk with Them in the NAMI Walk

Roger and Linda are hoping to do the NAMI Walk for the Mind of America on Oct. 4th, first Sunday of that month, and would love to have some MCC persons join us. If not the walk, then a donation for this very good organization is welcome. All proceeds stay in Dane County and go for programs to help both clients and families. The walk starts about 12 noon on Oct. 4th with speeches and music, and takes maybe two hours in total. Please contact either Roger or Linda if you are interested. In past years it's been a lot of fun and we have raised considerable money from our two congregations.

Habitat for Humanity—Apostle's Build The MCC is scheduled to provide 10-12 volunteers on Saturday, October 24. If you are able to help, please sign up on the Habitat for Humanity bulletin board in the Shalom Room. Thanks!

Thank you to all of the members of MCC who have contributed \$10,013 toward our goal of raising \$10,000 as the lead congregation participating in the Habitat for Humanity Apostle's Build. Thanks to the efforts of volunteers and the many hours of work John and Aleta have devoted to their home, construction is right on schedule. The house is fully enclosed, interior walls are in, garage is poured and plumbing is being installed. Please feel free to write a check to MCC and note that it is a donation to Habitat for Humanity.

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Fellowship Groups & Activities

MCC COMMUNITY GROUP

Join the group on **October 9** for a train ride through Baraboo Hills to see the fall colors. The cost is \$10 per person. The train departs at 2:30 p. Meet at church at 12:45 p. It is approximately a one hour road trip to North Freedom.

October 10—Eco-Tour pontoon boat ride on the Mississippi River at Prairie du Chien. Watch for more details.

Sunday Morning Adult Education in the Covenant Room

We cover three very different topics in four Sundays: Health Care Reform, John Calvin and Church in the Developing World.

October 4 Peter Bakken will complete the three part series on *Health Care Reform* by talking about the theological and ethical perspectives of how our current system (doesn't) work. He will provide ideas for how our faith can inform the values and principles we bring to the health care debate.

October 11 *John Calvin* celebrated his 500th birthday this year. One of the most important theologians to help establish the Reformation in Europe. He's loved and/or strongly criticized, but his work endures. *Mark Yurs* of Salem UCC will be the speaker and will refer to one of the day's lectionary passages in discussing Calvin's scripture commentaries. (For Lutherans who may have been taught that Martin Luther was exclusively responsible for the Reformation, the posting of Luther's 95 Thesis was in 1517 and the writing of the Large and Small Catechism was in 1529. Calvin was based in Geneva Switzerland and was a prolific writer with his first major works beginning in the early 1530s. He wrote commentaries on all of the books of the New Testament (and many of the Old Testament) plus several major works about the organization of the church and many important works on the principles of the reformed understanding of God.)

October 18 *Scott Anderson* of the Wisconsin Council of Churches provides another look at *John Calvin*. He will talk about not only the effect of Calvin in the 16th Century, but how Calvin continues to influence American life and culture.

October 25 After looking at the development of the protestant church in Europe in the 16th Century, we will have a chance to learn about the *21st Century Church in the Developing World*. Bethany and Depapa Mulimbi (Daughter and Son-in-Law of Christine and Kevin Hoag) will talk about "*Conflict in Congo - Threads of Hope*." While the number of Christians in the Northern Hemisphere declines, there is tremendous growth in the Southern Hemisphere.

FILM GROUP — Fall 2009

Lois Komai, coordinator

We meet on the third Friday of the month at 7:00 pm. Let the host know if you are going to come/or can't come. Bring a treat to share and the host will provide the beverage.

DATE & MOVIE

HOSTS

Friday October 16	
<i>Amistad</i>	
Friday November 20	Feeny
<i>Movie ?</i>	
Friday December 18	
<i>Movie?</i>	

MCC Women's Lunch Bunch

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

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MCC News & Activities

JAVA FOR JUSTICE: Order your Mt Meru Coffee on Sunday, October 4.

Place your order on the form in the Shalom Room. The order is faxed to Milwaukee on the first Sunday of every month (October 5) and will be ready for pick-up on the coffee cart by the second Sunday of every month (October 11). You can order 12oz bags (\$9.00) or 4# bags (\$40) in regular or decaf, bean, drip or perk. Building relationships and sustainability is what this project is all about. Justice never tasted so good.

MEDDROP is Saturday, October 3

TWO LOCATIONS:

City Transfer Site—121 E. Olin Ave (next to Goodman Pool)

Middleton High School parking lot—2100 Bristol St., Middleton

MedDrop is a free, drive-thru service open to all households. We specialize in properly disposing of your unwanted over-the-counter and prescription medications.

We will accept prescription medicine (pills, liquids and creams), over-the-counter medicine (pills, liquids and creams), medications for pets, vitamins, nebulizer solution, medication samples, IV bags containing antibiotics or pain medication and inhalers. We will not accept needles/sharps, oxygen tanks, nebulizer machines and thermometers.

Thank YOU for Helping in the Garden

To the many hands and hearts that worked the gardens this summer with kids from MCC and Wexford Ridge, a gigantic thank you.

Garden Smiles & Blessings, Jill McLeod

Kids of all ages: Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF

Want to help kids in other parts of the world get the things they need to survive and grow? You've got the power to do it! This October, make Halloween count by Trick-or-Treating for UNICEF. Doing so will help us get things like water, education and medicine to the children who need it most. Your efforts will show that you believe ZERO children should be without the basic necessities that we often take for granted.

Getting involved is easy and fun! 1. Get a box from the MCC Welcome Table, Hilldale Mall, online, or create your own (see <http://youth.unicefusa.org/trickortreat/>) 2. While you are out Trick-or-Treating, ask everyone to help you raise money for all kids to have the basic necessities needed to survive & grow. 3. Once you've collected the money, send it to UNICEF to help save kids lives. 4. Celebrate your success!

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MCC News

Dane County United Update

On Tuesday, August 25 the Steering Team of Dane County United met with Jonathan Lange. Jonathan is a staff person for the Industrial Areas Foundation. He supervises IAF projects on the East Coast, in England, and now in Wisconsin. He is the supervisor for Common Ground in Milwaukee and as of August is now the supervisor of Dane County United. He is available to offer support and guidance to the Steering Team as we continue to build our organization.

Jonathan made a few suggestions to the Steering Team during our meeting that we have begun to follow-up on. First, he suggested that we pull our membership together soon to celebrate our accomplishments and to thank people who have been working really hard on 4 year-old kindergarten and Culturally Relevant Education over the past few years. We plan to hold a celebratory Delegate's Assembly in November to do just that.

Second, Jonathan suggested that we shift gears this coming winter and engage in a house meeting campaign to listen to people in our member institutions and throughout Dane County talk about their core issues. The question for these house meetings that we are considering is "How is the current economic situation affecting you and the people you love?" Our hope is that by listening to 500-600 people respond to this question we will identify additional issues that are of interest to our membership and on which we will begin working with our new organizer.

Jonathan assured us that we would be presented with a candidate for our Lead Organizer position in 2010, provided that we raise the money necessary to do so. We're well on our way to reaching our fundraising goal and look forward to working with our new organizer soon.

Dane County United Training with Mark Fraley from Common Ground in Milwaukee Saturday, October 10, 8:30 to 3:30 p.m. First Unitarian Society

All are welcome to participate in this training during which we will be asking and answering the following questions:

- What are the basic characteristics of a broad-based organization?
- Which of these characteristics does DCU share? How can we become even more broad-based?
- What is the cycle of organizing on issues? Where does DCU currently rest in that cycle? What are our next steps as we prepare for our new organizer?

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

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

Bring Your Recyclable Light Bulbs and Batteries to MCC

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

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MCC News

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Coming Events

Sun. Oct 4	Order Mt Meru Coffee
Sat. Oct 10	LWR Quilts will be loaded in boxcars, 7:00 a.—2:00 p.
Sat. Oct 10	Harvest of Hope and Haiti Partners Chili Supper & Concert, 5:30 p.
Sun. Oct 11	Advent Budget Summit, 5:00 p.
Thurs. Oct 15	Pheasant Branch Conservancy <i>Birds of Prey</i> Event at MCC, 7:00 p.
Sat. Oct 17	MCC volunteers for Farmers' Market Pick-Up
Sun. Oct. 18	CROP Walk

Shalom Room Planning — MCC Visioning

This is the first in a series of articles to be published in this newsletter to inform Madison Christian Community (MCC) members of work previously done by a Shalom Room Taskforce and of the need for visioning for future improvements to the MCC. Two meetings will be scheduled in early 2010 to discuss short-term improvements to the Shalom Room, as well as long-term planning and budgeting for future MCC structural improvements.

The MCC Leadership Team formed a Shalom Room Taskforce in early 2004 for the purpose of recommending creative solutions for making the Shalom Room more welcoming, creating more storage space and improving signage. Taskforce members were Candi Bloedow, Kristi Holden (Co-chairs), Fran Grugel, Tom Matthews, Bill Long, Carolyn Hahn, Donna Leet and Tisha Brown. Thanks to all for your work.

The Taskforce consulted with various user groups to determine what changes would be considered helpful and contracted with an outside professional. As this process evolved, suggestions for improvements to kitchen layout, sacristy room and the main entrance were considered. These latter suggestions involve structural changes that will require a long-term planning and budgeting process.

The 2009 Leadership Team has recommended moving forward with relatively low cost short-term improvements. Watch for future articles that will provide more detail regarding the Shalom Room and the dates/times of meetings you are all invited to attend in 2010. Your input will be helpful in visioning for the future of the MCC.

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.

MCC News

Kitchen Projects and a Wish List:

Thanks to the MCC High School Youth, the kitchen is better organized than ever. Last month, youth volunteers sorted, inventoried, and reorganized silverware, tablecloths, and various serving dishes and utensils. This task ordinarily takes a couple of days, but their teamwork and energy accomplished the work in less than 2 hours. Plus, their ideas and suggestions turned out to be a big bonus for the community:

While doing tablecloth inventory, the teens checked each cloth for size, stains, and general condition. Here are some helpful guidelines we formulated while we worked:

1. If you use church linens for an event, it is best to launder them as soon as possible after the event to prevent stains from setting.
2. If a table cloth has been on a table with food served on it, it should be laundered even if it appears superficially clean. We found bits of frosting and other food dried on a few of the cloths in the drawers. (Fortunately, no one was famished at the time, as we had eaten heartily at the Original Pancake House.)
3. Be sure that you allow damp or wet linens to air dry if there is any delay before you launder them. A number of cloths had mildew stains that required a hefty, prolonged dose of chlorine bleach to remove. The bleach is a last resort for synthetics and blends and we would also prefer to avoid using it because of environmental concerns.
4. Remove tablecloths from dryer as soon as dryer stops and fold carefully. Avoid letting the cloths cool in your dryer or in a pile, as this sets wrinkles.

5. Please return laundered tablecloths as soon as possible, preferably prior to or on the next weekend.

Our kitchen wish list:

Do you have used tablecloths, dish/hand towels, or other kitchen linens to spare? From time to time we can use a few more towels and dishcloths to keep the drawers well supplied with these necessities.

We would also welcome no-iron long rectangular tablecloths (preferably 3 yards long or slightly longer to fit our 8 foot tables) or round no-iron cloths 80-102+ inches in diameter to fit the 60 inch round tables without looking skimpy. Our round white leaf patterned polyester cloths are getting stained and worn out and are only slightly larger than the table tops.

Knives: When kitchen workers need to chop ingredients, a good sharp knife is what works best. If you have any you could donate, we'll keep them in good repair and appreciate the convenience and safety.

Shelves: The youth suggested that we add at least one (adjustable) wooden shelf to each of the wall mounted cabinets. This would increase storage efficiency and safety considerably, as items such as plates and bowls would not be stacked precariously. Do we have a motion for this investment? A volunteer carpenter/handy person?

Thank you again to the helpful crew of MCC youth. And thank you to all who help to keep our MCC kitchen and its contents available to our church family.

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QUILTS QUILTS QUILTS

Please be here on Sunday, October 4, to see the quilts your fabric donations made possible and leave with one or more of our LAMBS. Thank you for your support

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MCC News Continued

Chicken Task Force

This may sound like a half-cracked idea, but a chicken task force is being organized to peck away at the feasibility of raising some chickens at MCC. This group will yoke together with the Middleton Preschool and hatch a plan that addresses all the questions and concerns that will be raised by those whose cackles will be raised. Please drop Jeff Wild an email chirp if you are interested in joining this brood within the next week or two.

Food Drive for Food Pantry—Sunday, October 18

Please make a special effort to bring food for the Lussier Food Pantry on the 3rd Sunday of the month. 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 Lussier Community Education Center and designated for the pantry.
Dobbin McNatt, Coordinator

Re: Recycling

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

Volunteers Needed -- Daytime, week-day shifts are currently open!

Your help as a friendly, compassionate volunteer is needed now to make a difference for the working poor who need to boost their food budgets and stretch their incomes to cover other necessities. In this role, you will answer the Helpline at the offices of Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin on Madison's east side, prescreen callers for FoodShare eligibility, encourage them to apply for benefits, and refer them to sites for application help. Training is provided and FoodShare Outreach staff help answer in-depth FoodShare questions. Age 18 and older, please. For more information, go to <http://secondharvestmadison.org/FoodShareOutreachProgram.htm> Sign up today! Contact Tanya Payne at 608-223-9121 x114.

RSVP of Dane County is an organization with many volunteer efforts. One of their projects is to provide prayer shawls to hospitals (among many other sewing/knitting projects such as mittens, hats and scarves to hospitals, schools, neighborhood associations and charitable groups). **They are in need of yarn.** If you have leftover or extra knitting yarn, please feel free to drop it off at 517 N. Segoe Rd. Suite 300, Madison. For open office hours call 238-7787.

DROP-IN SHELTER

The date is Thursday, October 1. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Shalom Room. Four people are needed from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. and two people are needed from 5:00 - 8:00 a.m. If you have any questions, please call Ken Johnson.

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Passing On Our Faith

By Heather Putnam, Children's Ministry

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MCC Youth News

Wednesday nights: **Middle School Guitar Club** - 6:15 - 7pm
Advent Confirmation - 7pm

Friday, Oct. 2 **International Progressive Dinner on State Street** -
 HS 6p - 10p — Nepali, Greek, East African, Japanese, and more...
 State Street has TONS of choices for international fare! Cast
 your vote with your Evite RSVP, and we'll visit the winners for an
 amazing international progressive dinner. Please bring \$10.

Monday, October 5 **Confirmation Service Project #1** - Serve Dinner at Grace
 Episcopal — A different type of dinner party...Confirmation stu-
 dents from Advent & Community of Hope will be preparing, serving,
 &/or cleaning up dinner for the hungry downtown at Grace Episco-
 pal. There are two shifts: 5:30 - 7:30p and 7:30 - 9:15p. Please let
 Jen know which shift you prefer through Evite or email.

Saturday, October 10 **Chili Supper & Bryan Sirchio Fundraiser for Harvest of
 Hope & Haiti Partners** - Volunteer to help set up @ 3:30p or help
 serve @ 5:30p for this event and then enjoy the amazing musical
 stylin's of CoH's own Bryan Sirchio!

Sunday, October 18 **Hope Confirmation**

Friday, October 23 **Corn Maze** - MS/HS 6:30 - 10p Middle School vs. High
 School, Boys vs. Girls, mix-it-up, or one big group - how would you
 like it? The MCC Youth tradition continues at Treinen Farm! Bring
 a flashlight & \$10 for the maze and a Culver's stop afterwards.
 (Eat dinner first or bring a bag dinner to eat on the way.)

October 29 - 30 **Community of Hope Confirmation Retreat**

October 29 - November 1 **Lutheran College Tour** - Grades 10 - 12
 Hosted by the South-Central Synod, the tour will include: Augsburg College - Min-
 neapolis, MN, St. Olaf College - Northfield, MN, Luther College - Decorah, IA,
 (Gustavus Adolphus - St. Peter, MN), (Wartburg College - Waverly, IA), (Augustana
 College - Rock Island, IL) *Schools in parenthesis are tentative, but a minimum of
 four schools will be attended.

** Call or email Jen or Dan IMMEDIATELY if you are interested!!

Confirmation Service Projects - for BOTH Community of Hope and Advent Confir-
 mation students. Please save the following dates!

#1 Monday, October 5: 5:30 - 7:30p or 7:30 - 9:15p,

 serving dinner at Grace Episcopal, see Evite & email for details

#2 Sunday, February 14: 11:30 - 3:30p, Valentine's Project, TBD by YOU

#3 Saturday, April 24: 9a - noon, Earth Day Project

Note: Scholarships are always available, and friends are always welcome! Jen & Dan
 can help co-ordinate rides, too. Call or email if you need anything!

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Advent News

Advent Women Survey Responses

If you are a woman in the Advent congregation, you may recall being asked to participate in a survey this last spring. The results have been tabulated and will be used to help the Women of Advent Board plan future programs. It may also prompt you to start a new group. The interest is definitely there!!

We received 63 responses. Responses were almost equally divided on the subject of "active in an Advent women's group" with 33 responding yes and 30 responding no. The "yes" group tended to be in the 50 and over age group while the "no" group tended to be in the under 50 age group. Of note, the majority of the "no" group did respond that they felt connected to their church family in other ways and lack of time was the primary reason for not participating in a group.

Half of the respondents - equally divided between the "yes" and "no" subgroups were interested in a one day or one-time activity with a wide variety of suggestions for such a program. Many responses mentioned the annual salad supper as a positive experience that allowed all women a chance for time together. There were also some good suggestions for other groups to be formed and support for another "all women" activity.

If you are interested in more details of the survey and the responses, please see a member of the Women of Advent board (Yvonne Gern, Jean Loichinger, Carol Korf, Mary Maxwell, Julie Walsh, Phyllis Ermer, Hildy McGown, Helen Shearer or Rita Olson).

Advent Budget Summit: A Conversation About Simplicity and Generosity

The Advent council is inviting all members of the congregation to enjoy a meal and meeting on Sunday, October 18 at 5:00 – 6:30 pm. The menu for the meal is stewardship stew and salad that will be fresh from the MCC garden. The reason for this gathering is that just as we pay closer attention to the allocation of our personal resources during these uncertain economic times it is important that we also do this as a congregation as we begin to shape our spending plan for 2010. A presentation regarding the giving and spending trends and past practices of allocations will be shared. Participants will be asked to help prioritize our spending in order to guide the council as they prepare a spending plan for 2010. In addition there will be a presentation on this year's stewardship theme: Make it Simple. This theme focuses simplicity and generosity. Please sign up in the Blessing Room no later than Sunday, October 11 to help prepare for the event.

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Advent News continued

Communion Practices During the Flu Season

An email was sent to members before communion Sunday on September 20 and Carolyn Hahn, chair of the worship committee, reported on temporary changes in communion practices before worship. These changes were made after consulting with more than a dozen doctors and nurses in the congregation. We will not use the common cup during the flu season. Individual cups will be handed to every person receiving wine or grape juice by the person carrying the tray. All of the people assisting with the communion distribution and the pastor will use a hand sanitizer before handling the elements.

The Center for Disease Control reports that most flu is spread by droplets (sneezes or coughs) or less often physical contact (such as hands that have recently caught a sneeze). The CDC encourages us to take the following precautions. **Cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, cover coughs or sneezes using their elbow instead of their hand when a tissue is not available, wash your hands as often as necessary, stay home at least twenty-four hours after you no longer have a fever or signs of a fever (without the use of fever-reducing medicine).

A nurse with a background in parish nursing stressed the importance of self-care. As a community we will do our best to take precautions to provide a safe and healthy environment to come together for worship and fellowship. Let each of us do our part and take good care of ourselves.

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.

Advent Giving Goal

Advent members are responsive to the times! After missing the giving goal for June and July our spending plan for mission this year is getting back on track. The giving goal for August was \$27,200 and members contributed \$28,278. The first three weeks of September are a good indicator that we will also reach our giving goal for the month. We will make our quarterly benevolence payments in full! Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness.

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Advent News continued

Advent Elizabeth & Judith Circles

The Elizabeth Circle will host the Judith Circle at MCC on October 13, at 9:30 a. They are two groups who meet monthly to read and discuss a Bible study, as well as exchange friendship and support one another. You are very welcome to visit us. Call Phyllis Ermer or Jean Loichinger with questions. The Elizabeth Circle is an evening group and the Judith Circle is a morning group.

Treasury of Love 2009

Beg. Bal & Love Offerings	\$6,959.58
Rent & Eviction Prevention	4,077.00
Utility Assistance	777.00
Security Deposit	770.00
Postage-Box for Soldiers	138.69
Items for Boxes for Soldiers	20.97
Greyhound Bus Tickets	167.00
Gas Voucher	40.01
Clothing	80.86
Auto Repair	200.00
Lussier Food Pantry	151.00
Prescription	39.00
LSS Washer & Dryer	10.00
Badger Care Application	60.00
Registration Fee Trust	75.00
Haiti Partners	150.00
Soccer Balls	130.00
Expenditure	\$6,886.53
Balance as of 09/23/2009	\$73.05
<i>These funds are designated for postage.</i>	

OPALS Book Discussion Group

OPALS meetings are held once a month in the afternoon at MCC. On Tuesday, October 27, we will meet at 1:30 p.

This meeting will be choosing books for 2010. Call Mary Maxwell if you have questions or need a ride. New members always welcome.

New Member Sunday, October 25

Advent members can look forward to welcoming a group of people who desire to become members of the congregation on Sunday, October 25. These people will be introduced during the worship service with a reception to introduce yourselves to them following the service. Individuals interested in becoming members of Advent will meet for two orientation sessions. The first one will be held during the education hour on Sunday, October 18. The second session will include a brunch at 10:00 am on Saturday, October 24 at MCC..

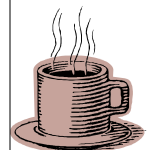
GEMS – The Grumpy Elderly Men!

GEMS meet on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. We are reading the REFORMATION FOR ARMCHAIR THEOLOGIANS. Books are available from Brad Spencer. Anyone who sees himself as a G.E.M (Grumpy Elderly Man) is welcome. If there are any questions, please call Al Heggen.

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
 Cultivate Spiritual
 Friendship
**Serve at MCC &
 Beyond**



Community of Hope News

Neighbors in Need Offering Sunday, October 4, 2009

Support the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the nation by giving to Neighbors In Need. Community of Hope will collect this offering on Sunday, October 4 but donations can be made any-time at www.ucc.org/nin. Won't you prayerfully consider a generous gift?

Holy Communion – Some Changes for the Flu Season

In light of concerns over transmission of the H1N1 flu virus the Worship Team and Steering Team of Community of Hope have agreed on the following change to how we will serve Holy Communion: Communion preparers will slice or tear the communion bread into pieces. During Communion, the server will hand you a piece of bread. We will continue to offer the common cup but will add an additional tray of individual cups so that those who would rather choose an individual cup have that option.

Please, if you or any member of your family is feeling ill or has the flu, remain at home.

Thank you for Help from the Special Fund

"Thank you so very much for your help with my electricity issues. It really meant a lot to me."

Thank You from Lussier!

"Thank you for supporting our summer camp program. We are grateful for your support." From volunteers and campers at the Lussier Community Education Center

Thank you for supporting Pacific School of Religion's Field Education Stipend Fund.

We sent a total of \$1,000 as a congregation in support of this fund which will provide students with the stipends necessary for their field education work as they learn to lead faith communities through difficult times and address important theological issues. I particularly appreciate the support you gave to this effort since I received one of these stipends when I was a student serving a small congregation in San Rafael. My field education experiences were crucial to my formation as a pastor. - Tisha

Creating the Sermon in Community

Back by popular demand! We had so much fun in August studying scripture together in preparation for worship on Sunday morning that we want to do it again. Mark your calendars and join Tisha for one or more of these sessions.

Tuesdays, October 20, November 3 and November 10 at 7:00 p.m.

– Meet in the basement at the MCC to study the text for the following Sunday morning. We will be reading the entire book of Philippians over the course of three weeks. Feel free to read ahead but it's not required. Tisha will send out additional material in the weeks leading up to our first gathering.

Sundays, October 25, November 8 and 15 – attend worship and be prepared to join all who are present as together we create a sermon in community.

Pray Daily

Worship Regularly
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Beyond

Community of Hope News

Praying for our Community

Community of Hope is an ever more caring community that values prayer as a way of connecting to God, growing in faith and caring for one another. This month we pray for the following people and their families.

- 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.
- College students in our community – Jamie Custer, Ian Jarvis, Rose Gear, Colin Jarvis, Hannah Hunter-Johnson, Quinn Kirkland-Clark, Sarah Hunter-Johnson (graduate studies) and Tristan Breedlove (graduate studies)
- Donna Fisker and Lucetta Kanetzke as they continue to recover from surgeries.
- Dave Manion and Jan Manser as they grieve Dave’s father, Emmett Manion who passed away recently.
- People we’re praying for this month: Jan Manser, Dave Manion, Tom & Joan Matthews, Martha McCurdy, Sef & Marcella Van Kan, Marcus, Dianna, Jackson & Katie Murphy, Art & Mary Nack, Ken, Erika, Aspen & Sage Ono, Chuck & Jean Pfeifer, Lori Powell, Lynn Miller, Tony and Isaac Powell, Bill, Heidi & Josephine Putnam, Bill Rettig and Jean Gilbertson.
- These people and their families as we pray our way through the church directory:
Sept. 29-Oct. 6 Jan Manser, Dave Manion, Tom & Joan Matthews
Oct. 6-13 Martha McCurdy, Sef & Marcella Van Kan, Marcus, Dianna, Jackson & Katie Murphy
Oct. 13-20 Art & Mary Nack, Ken, Erika, Aspen & Sage Ono
Oct. 20-27 Chuck & Jean Pfeifer, Lori Powell, Lynn Miller, Tony & Isaac Powell

Important Dates to Remember!



Birthdays

Martha McCurdy	10/12
Heidi Putnam	10/12
Jackson Van Der Weide	10/12
Henry Van Der Weide	10/18
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
Bob Sessions	10/24

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!

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

Pastor Tisha Gone – October 9-11, 2009

Tisha will be attending a conference titled Christianity21 in Edina, MN. This conference features 21 women speaking for 21 minutes each about their vision for the present and future of Christianity. Roger Buffett will be preaching on Sunday, October 11.

Pray Daily

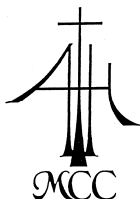
- Worship Regularly**
- Study God's Word
- Respond as Stewards
- Cultivate Spiritual Friendship
- Serve at MCC & Beyond

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

MCC Mission Statement

We affirm our unity through Christ and commit to share a journey grounded in faith practices and to serve as part of Christ's presence in our world.

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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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Office Hours:

Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Phone: 608-836-1455

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