



The Good Word

From Jeff Wild

I will attempt in this newsletter article to craft a pastoral response to the current economic crisis from a Biblical perspective. Perhaps I am looking in the wrong places, but I haven't seen much written by theologians and preachers along these lines. Because theology, like our life of faith, is never a finished proposition, I regard this article as a work in progress and therefore welcome your insights, comments and feedback.

The news reports we were hearing a few months ago quoted public officials who were saying that Dane County is recession-proof. This assessment was based on the fact that many people in Madison work for the university system or in state government. We now know that Dane County is not recession-proof, it just took longer for the recession to show up in our workplaces, and in our families, neighborhoods and communities. I am increasingly aware of the effects this recession is having upon members of MCC. Some of us do not appear to be greatly impacted and we continue to enjoy a comfortable lifestyle. Many of us are tightening our belts and becoming more careful and intentional about our spending, saving and sharing habits. Most of us have seen a decline in personal wealth, especially in our pension accounts and stock portfolios. Retirement plans are being slashed, furloughs issued, hours reduced, and layoffs announced. Whew! I'll take economic prosperity to a recession any day!

As a pastor I take the threats and effects of this recession with great seriousness. I didn't grow up during the Depression and have not experienced the struggles of un-

employment. Yet, I am aware of the impact unemployment can have upon individuals, families and communities. I presided at the funeral of a man and who was an executive for a company and soon after he was laid off took his own life. I was serving a congregation down the street from Parker Pen when the company went out of business. We invited employees to meet in a safe environment where they could process their shock, anger and sorrow of being without a job after many years of dedicated service. I am mindful that a recession is not only a threat to our present and future economic security; it also affects us spiritually.

To this end, I have been sorting through my memory of Scripture and thinking about the pros and cons of various passages and their application to economic life. Actually, Scripture has a lot to say, but I will only mention a few relevant passages.

From the 18th chapter of the Gospel of Luke: A rich young man asked Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus told him to go and sell all he had and then follow him. He went away very sad because he was very rich. Personally, this is not a passage that I don't want to take literally. Fundamentalists don't either! However, the passage does challenge us to wrestle with the degree to which our plans for the future are tied to our wealth. Personally, the decline in my pension account helps to realize how much my plans for retirement are shaped by expected income. Like the author, Annie LaMott, we need a Plan B.

I like the passage from Matthew 6 where

Summer 2009

Of Special Interest:

- MCC Moves; Attention Adults, Senior Recognition Sunday is June 14—p. 2
- Recycle Electronis at MCC; MUM Dialogue; MCC Adult Canoe Trip -p.4
- Team-Teach Sunday School; Parking Lot TF; Power Point Projector- p.5
- DCU Update; JAVA for Justice; Lussier Community Education Ctr—p.6
- Habitat for Humanity- p.7
- Opening the Book of Faith; For Sale— p.-8
- Calendar— June p.19, July & August on the Insert

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MCC News

Jesus tells us not to be anxious about tomorrow and redirects our attention to the care God provides for the sparrows of the air and the lilies of the field. God provides for our daily needs. God is trustworthy. "Let today's trouble be sufficient for today." This reference to sufficiency reminds me of a verse from Paul where God tells him, "My grace is sufficient...." This is true. God's grace is sufficient. At the same time we need to keep in mind that Jesus' counsel, "Do not be anxious about tomorrow," is not a demand that we live in a state of denial by thinking positive thoughts and keeping our chin up. A decline in income and unemployment is a legitimate and real worry. Yet, God's promise of care and provision has the power to generate trust in God that overrides anxiety.

A theological note grounded in Romans 8: Recently, a friend called to inform me that he was laid off from his job. He said, "My severance package is lousy because the company doesn't have any money." It occurs to me that God doesn't provide us with a severance package either. But it's not because God doesn't have the resources to bless us abundantly and extravagantly. Rather, there is no severance package because there is no severance from our relationship with God. Nothing in this world; not job loss, plunging pension accounts, rising gas prices, swine flu, terrorist threats or death itself will sever our relationship with God to whom we are eternally bound.

Finally, we are a community of faith where we support one another in a variety of ways. We make ourselves available to listen, encourage, counsel, network and pray. If needed, we will provide emergency financial assistance. Perhaps those of us who are still prospering will be ready to respond generously to such requests. We remind one another that our true worth is determined by God, not by our employment or income status. God's love for us is worth more than all the gold in the world. Loss of

job does not mean loss of status in the body of Christ and this community of faith. We also direct our attention outward to people who are facing homelessness, poverty and hunger. We will deepen our resolve to support all our benevolence commitments that serve these interests. This is a good time to be in community with each other, under the canopy of God's blessings.

Thank you for taking the time to read through these musings. I appreciate the opportunity to think through this and formulate these remarks.

God be with you,
Jeff

MCC Moves!

All ages and all abilities are invited to walk or run together on Wednesday nights throughout the summer from 5:30 – 6:30p. We will meet at the lower entrance at 5:30p and break into groups with similar interests. Come whenever your schedule allows. We will be working toward an MCC Moves Fun Run/Walk on Saturday morning, August 8.

Attention All Adults: Senior Recognition Sunday is coming up soon!

Sunday, June 14. We need you to write notes of inspiration, appreciation, and guidance for our High School seniors: Joe Ahrens, Brittany Eggert, Bemis Gorvego, Colin Jarvis, Detric McCain, Alex Psota, Adam Schneider, Jake Schneider, and Andrew Zutz. We know from previous MCC grads that these notes are treasured for many years to come and have traveled around the world. Please take a few minutes to jot down a note or more and email to mccyouth@tds.net or mail to the MCC to Dan & Jen's attention by Friday, June 12.

Congratulations to Kevin Rezabeck who graduates from Neenah High School. His party is June 20, Noon to 4:00 p. at the Memorial Park Shelter off Apple Blossom Dr.

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Fellowship Groups & Activities

Theological Discussion Group

The Theological Discussion Group will meet on June 17, 7:00 p. at MCC (the third Wednesday). At the time of printing this issue of The Good Word, the group is in the process of selecting a book for discussion. Look for the book announcement in the church bulletin or contact Fran Grugel. The Group will not meet during July and August.

MCC Film Group

For Film Night on June 19 we are going to select a film playing at the "cheap theater", Market Square, showing around 6:30-7:30 pm (we'll select one closer to the time) and go for coffee/dessert afterwards. Set the date aside.

MCC Women's Lunch Bunch

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

MCC Moves Fun Run/Walk: Saturday, August 8, 9a

Save the date on your calendar now & watch for details. Come if you enjoy running or walking or if you just need an excuse to get moving! Let's see how many MCCers can get together and move.

Mississippi Car Wash Fundraiser: Sunday, June 21, 8:30a - 12p

The Mississippi Group, and any others who enjoy dousing cars and getting wet, will be operating a car wash during and after church. Bring your dirty car to the lower lot by 9:15 on Sunday and leave church with a squeaky clean car! Suggested donation: \$5 for wash or vacuum, \$10 for wash *and* vacuum.

MaD KüT! (pronounced: mad cute!) Mommies And Daddies, Kids Under Three are playing the first Sundays of the month from 3 - 4:30pm 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 6/7. Contact Jen Streit with questions or comments:

ACTIVITIES FOR MCC COMMUNITY GROUP - All are welcome!

Wednesday, June 17 - Middleton Historical Society Ice Cream Social at Lakeview Park (off Allen Blvd.). Meet at 6 p.m. to hear the band while enjoying pie & ice cream.

Thursday, June 25 - Tour of Epic

We will meet at church at 9:30 to car pool. The tour will begin at 10:00. After the tour we will have an early lunch in the Epic cafeteria. Please see Jean Loichinger to sign up. There is no charge but they would like to know how many people will be in our group. Two of our own-Sue Krezschmar and Natalie Hellmer- will be giving the tour so we know it will be very interesting.

Wednesday, July 1 - Meet at 5:30 p.m. for a potluck picnic at the Concert on the Square. Watch bulletin for details!

Thursday, July 9 - Trip to Brewers game with St. Louis (if you got tickets from Mary Maxwell).

Wednesday, July 22 - American Players Theatre (if you got tickets from Kathy Johnson).

Wednesday, August 5(?) - Concert/fireworks at Gialamas C. on Excelsior Dr. in Middleton (Details later).

August(?) - MSCR pontoon boat ride to

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MCC News

**Save the environment—Save on taxes.
Help the MCC Youth: Donate your
used consumer electronics for recycling!**

HERE'S How

Protect the environment by donating your used cell phones, inkjets, laptop / notebook computers, iPods, digital cameras, & digital video cameras - working or broken. The EcoPhones company will be recycled in accordance with EPA regulations or refurbished and sold. 100% of the proceeds will help fund the MCC Youth. Your used item (s) may also be tax deductible. Please place your items in box labeled "EcoPhones" in the Shalom Room. Donation receipts will be available in a folder on the side of the box.

MUM Dialogue – June 9th

The next MUM Dialogue is on June 9th. The theme is "Beyond Dialogue: How to work Meaningfully Beyond the Boundaries of Faith". This Dialogue helps us celebrate our Annual Meeting. Our presenter will be Nancy Kirk from the Tri Faith Initiative of Omaha, Nebraska.

The Tri Faith Initiative is a collaborative effort between Temple Israel, The Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska and the American Institute of Islamic Studies and Culture. In a bold move they have purchased land and are building an interfaith campus to promote a better understanding of their various faith traditions and to work for peace in the Middle West. Each faith community will have their own house of worship and there will be a 4th building for combined events.

Nancy will talk "nuts and bolts" about working together with other faith traditions so each faith has expression rather than settling for the lowest common denominator. In the tradition of dialogue, there will

be an opportunity for participants to share as well.

Program and Meal: \$20

This event will take place at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 326 S. Segoe Rd., Madison. For more information or to register, contact MUM at (608)256-0906 or lori@emum.org.

There is still room for YOU on the MCC adult canoe trips!

These trips offer the opportunity to relax and get to know other MCC members and enjoy the wilderness. First time campers and canoeists are welcome on both trips. 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. In 2009, the trips are:

A Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA, Minnesota) 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 (Ontario) trip along the Canadian/US border and back through the main chain of lakes. This will be a moderate trip with only one layover day. The trip dates are August 16-24. People considering this trip need to commit by early July in order to get forms from Canadian customs. It takes about 4 weeks to get the forms. Contact BarbBickford for more information.

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MCC News

Glitter, music, baking, angel wings, sharing God's love with kids....

Spring feels like it is here to stay and summer is on the way, but we would like you to think about fall, and the opportunity to team-teach Sunday School for our youth for the 2009-2010 school year. It can be a wonderful way to be connected to the MCC community by getting to know the wonderful kids that we have here, sharing together stories and lessons on our faith journey.

We aim at having four teachers per classroom for the year, so that we can have two teachers in the room per week, and people are not committed to more than two Sundays per month of teaching (one Sunday you would lead the group, the other Sunday you would support the leader). We have curriculum and other teaching resources available, so you don't need more than your enthusiasm, imagination and readiness to learn as much from the kids as they may learn from you.

If you are interested, you can contact Heather Putnam, John Brugge or Micki Bradt. We, and the kids, would love to have you.

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.

Parking Lot Task Force

The MCC Leadership Team is in the early stages of forming a parking lot task force. The purpose of this task force will be to assess the condition of the parking lot, explore the need for additional parking, feasibility of alternatives to adding environmentally friendly parking spaces, and exploring alternatives for having to add parking. If you have an interest in serving on this task force please contact a member of the MCC Leadership Team before May 15.

Power Point Projector

We are pleased that the new power point projector is serving our purpose very well and being used regularly. A sign up sheet is now available to reserve the use of the projector and is available to use on a first come, first serve basis. The projector is stored in the Shalom Room closet closest to the elevator and the sign-up sheet is attached to the projector cart. We will want to take good care of this projector by handling it with care, returning it to a secure place and using it in the building for only MCC purposes.

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, across from Westgate.

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MCC News

Dane County United Update

- DCU held two assemblies this spring. The first, on March 3, provided members of DCU institutions with information about two issues we have devoted much effort to: four-year-old kindergarten and culturally relevant education. On April 2, we shared our success on the former issue and sought the commitment of Madison Metropolitan School District Board members on the latter. (Thank you to the 25 members of the MCC who attended one or both of these assemblies)
- The Madison School Board has endorsed a collaborative approach to planning and implementing play-based, age-appropriate 4K. DCU and one of its members, the Madison Area Accredited Early Childhood Association, are actively involved in the planning process.
- We remain optimistic that the school board will fund instructional resources for culturally relevant education for the 2009-2010 school year – BUT MUCH WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE. The board has put off its decision until the district's strategic plan is delivered on June 15. We may ask members of our institutions to make phone calls, send emails and attend the June 15 board meeting to continue to push for this program.
- DCU is forming a team on a new issue area: **the environment**. An initial meeting was held May 7, and the discussion on current efforts and potential issues will continue on Thursday, June 4, 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. at the First Unitarian Society. All are invited.
- DCU continues to coordinate work with Common Ground of Southeast Wisconsin (our sister organization in the Milwaukee Metro Area) including facilitating contacts with state legislators and sharing training resources. DCU is working toward hiring a Lead Organizer (who will be shared with Common Ground) this year. To this end the DCU steering team has kicked off its Friends of

Dane County United fundraising appeal, seeking pledges totaling \$195,000 over the next three years. Please contact Tisha if you would like to make a contribution toward this appeal.

JAVA FOR JUSTICE: Order your Mt Meru Coffee on Sunday, June 7 (also July 5 and August 2)

Did you know: The Mt. Meru Coffee Project is helping to furnish schools? The 2008/2009 sales have generated \$5,000 of profit to be used for social justice programs in the farmers' communities. After asking the farmers what type of program(s) they wished to implement with profit, the plan is for the Project to fund the purchase of desks for schools so that more children can attend.

Father's day is near! Order extra coffee for that special father or person in your life. Don't forget to purchase a bag of drip coffee for the soldiers in Iraq. Place your order for coffee by June 7, ready for pick-up on June 14. Coffee is available in regular or decaf, 12 oz (\$9) or 4 pound (\$40) bags: bean, drip or perk. Your purchase helps the Tanzania coffee farmers send their children to school and to get health care for their family. Justice never tasted so good.

Lussier Community Education Center (LCEC)

The new Lussier Community Education Center is definitely a success!!! During the first three months of 2009, twice as many children and adults participated in programs at LCEC as the year before—and 200% more adults participated in programs at the center!! This year there were over 2,000 hours of programming that same time period. To check a list of programs and schedules at the center, go to www.LCECmadison.org.

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Coming Events

June 12-14	MCC Camping Weekend at Bethel Horizons
June 14	Senior Recognition Sunday
June 15-22	SH Boundary Waters Canoe Trip
June 21	Middle School Car Wash – 8:30 a.– Noon
June 21	Summer Solstice Labyrinth Walk, 6:00-8:00p.
June 27	Middle School Lock-In, 7:00 p. through 9:30 a. June 28
July 5-11	MH Mississippi Middle High Mission Trip
August 8	MCC Moves Fun Run/Walk, 9:00 a.
August 16	MCC Worship is a Hymn Sing

Habitat for Humanity – Volunteers Needed

Been *thinking* about helping Habitat for Humanity build a house this summer? Well, it is time to act! Check out the Habitat for Humanity display in the Shalom Room and sign up. Talk to a few friends and make a day of it! The building sites for this year are in McFarland and on Madison's Northport Drive. The days available are Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday each week. Last year, 36 MCC members and some of their friends worked on Habitat houses in groups on ten different days. These volunteers did every thing

from raising truss rafters to painting and cleaning – but most of all – they enjoyed working together to provide a worthy family a new home.

The Habitat for Humanity website <http://habitatdane.org/home.cfm> is an excellent source of information on the the work of Habitat for Humanity in Dane County and it also provides background stories on the families that will be soon become first-time homeowners.

If you have questions please call me.
Thanks! John Rowe

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

Opening the Book of Faith with Mark Allan Powell, Professor of New Testament, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio.

Sunday, July 12 (1:30-6:00 p.) and Monday, July 13 (8:30 a–3:30 p.) at Christ Lutheran Church, Stoughton, WI

This event is designed to invite us to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of scripture.

Mark Allan Powell, one of the most sought-after teachers of the Bible in the ELCA will engage us with thoughtful, dynamic and inspiring presentations on insights for reading the Bible, meaningful devotional uses of Scripture, and on how people hear Scripture differently. He addresses a wide range of listeners with information that is useful and relevant to our lives of faith. Both lay persons and clergy are encouraged to attend.

You may register for one or both days. Dinner will be included on Sunday, and lunch will be included on Monday. **Please contact Jeff if you are interested.**

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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.

FOR SALE

This End Up Furniture <http://www.thisendup.com/>

Item	Price (new)
• Classic Ladder End Bunk Bed <i>(can also be converted to two twin beds)</i>	\$425
• Bunkie Boards <i>(platform that supports the mattress)</i>	\$52 (each) X 2 = \$104
• Classic Bunk Drawer Unit	\$236
<i>*3 items above are currently not at this address, but are in similar condition</i>	
• Classic 5-Drawer Bureau	\$510
• Classic Student Desk <i>(new style pictured below doesn't have a solid back to knee space)</i>	\$412
• Classic Dining/Study Arm Chair	\$159
Total for new	\$1846

We will sell the entire set at 1/3 the cost new = \$615 for everything. We don't want to sell items individually – only the entire set.



Also for sale:
 The mahogany spindle headboard in the west bedroom has a matching footboard.
 The set: \$20, including the brackets to attach to a bed frame. (frame not included)

It's FINALLY Time to Garden!

By Heather Putnam, Children's Ministry

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MCC Youth News

MCC Moves! All ages and all abilities are invited to walk or run together on Wednesday nights throughout the summer from 5:30 - 6:30p. We will meet at the lower entrance at 5:30p and break into groups with similar interests. Come whenever your schedule allows. We will be working toward an MCC Moves Fun Run/Walk on Saturday morning, August 8.

Car Wash Fundraiser: Sunday, June 21, 8:30a - 12p

The Mississippi Group, and any others who enjoy dousing cars and getting wet, will be operating a car wash during and after church. People will bring their dirty cars to the lower lot by 9:15a on Sunday and leave church with a squeaky clean car! If you can't be involved with the actual wash, Jen will find another way for you to participate.

Middle School Lock-In: Saturday, June 27, 7p - Sunday, June 28, 9:30a

We've heard your ideas (let us know if you think of more) - ranging from UltraZone to an outdoor movie to a walk at midnight to capture the flag to tie dying to junk food to pancakes and cinnamon rolls. We'll organize what we can into one awesome evening that ends with wearing our PJs and bedheads to church! Bring \$15 and a drink or munchie to share.

High School Outdoor Movie Night: Tuesday, July 14 9:00p - Midnight

Bring all your friends to this awesome event!! We will project a just-for-fun movie, like *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* (or something else, per your suggestions) outside onto the church wall. If it rains, we'll watch in one of the sanctuaries. Bring your sleeping bags and a drink or munchie to share. We'll provide citronella candles and the movie.

Middle School Service Project: weekday in August, TBA

This is for all youth ENTERING 5 - 8 grade in the fall.

Habitat for Humanity work day - weekday in August, TBA

Volunteer to help build a house with low income Dane County families in need of a simple, decent, affordable place to live. You will receive the added bonus of learning more about how a house is built and gaining some construction skills. You must be 16 years old to volunteer on a Habitat site. Those who are under 16 will meet at MCC at 10:00 on the work day to make and deliver lunch to the volunteers and homebuyer families. The date will be announced when is received from HFH.

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Advent News

Heads-Up, Women of Advent!

Because we changed our time for the start of each year, Rita Olson, our outgoing president, graciously stayed on for an extra half year. We thank her for her leadership; she served us well.

Now we look forward to a new season, which will begin in September. It will be another year of opportunity to participate in the activities available to us: Elizabeth and Judith Circles, OPALS, MCC Quilting, the AM Breakfast Group, and the Wednesday MCC Lunch Group. Let's enjoy it.

The Lutheran Study Bible

I am moving ahead and ordering ten copies of the recently published, Lutheran Study Bible to receive a 30% discount because enough people have indicated a desire to purchase a copy. Unfortunately, I can only remember the names of three people who told me they wanted a copy. If you want to reserve a copy please send me an email or give me a phone call so I can add your name to the list. Thanks. Jeff Wild

Advent Giving Goal

The giving goal for May of \$23,800 was exceeded by \$11,000 and supported the mission of Advent and MCC by giving \$34,800. There are several possible reasons for this great report. First, May consisted of five Sundays with the fifth Sunday being May 31. For this reason we may see a decline from the usual strong first Sunday offering in June. Second, we did fall short of our giving goal in April, and it appears that May was a time for many of us to bring our current giving up to date. Third, and most importantly, members of Advent give consistently and generously. Thank you!

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.

Oakwood Village East Retirement Community needs volunteers

to assist their resident Handyman's Club with underground parking garage cleaning in the independent living apartment buildings. Individuals or groups are needed to help on Saturdays, June 6, 13, 20 and 27 at 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. each day. Volunteers will use power washers, water hoses, brooms and shovels for the cleaning. For more information and to sign up, please contact Oakwood Village Volunteer Services Coordinator Kim Viney at 230-4238 or kim.viney@oakwoodvillage.net.

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Advent News Continued

Advent Elizabeth Circle

The Elizabeth Circle will meet on June 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 with questions.

Treasury of Love 2009

Beg. Bal & Love Offerings	\$4,254.89
Rent & Eviction Prevention	2,724.00
Utility Assistance	325.00
Security Deposit	550.00
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	200.00
Lussier Food Pantry	126.00
LSS Washer & Dryer	10.00

Expenditure \$4,254.89

Balance as of 06/04/2009 \$0.00

Thank You from Lussier Community Education Center

*Dear Friends at Advent,
Thank you for your ongoing support & caring. You have been great friends to our agency and we are grateful. We wish your congregation a lovely spring.
Jill Pfeiffer*

OPALS Book Discussion Group

OPALS meetings are held once a month in the afternoon at MCC. On Tuesday, June 23, we will meet at 1:30 p.

The book is *Reviving Ophelia – Saving the Lives of Adolescent Girls* by Mary Pipher.

No meeting in July or August—Keep Reading!

Call Mary Maxwell if you have questions or need a ride. New members always welcome.

Judith Circle

The Judith Circle will picnic at Tiedeman's Pond (the park is on Voss Parkway) in Middleton on Tuesday, June 9, 9:30 a. This will be a good place for us to enjoy nature, each other, our study and a few treats. Please bring either coffee, juice, muffins or fruit to share. All are welcome for fellowship and study. The study leader is Jean Loichinger. If there is rain we will meet at church.

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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Serve at MCC & Beyond



Community of Hope News

Pastor Tisha's Summer Schedule

Pastor Tisha will be away at these times during the summer months:

June 12-13 – Attending the Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting in Green Lake

June 25-30 – Attending General Synod as a delegate from the Wisconsin Conference

July 5-11 – Chaperoning the MCC Middle School Mission Trip with Jeff Wild

August 3-17 – On Vacation

Please contact Sonja or Tom in the church office or Jeff Wild in the case of pastoral emergencies.

Thank you from Madison-Area Urban Ministry

“Thank you for your recent contribution to Madison-area Urban Ministry and for your ongoing support. We are grateful for your generosity.

On Tuesday, June 9th we will be celebrating our Annual Meeting. Thirty-six years of service to the Madison community on issues of social justice! Our speakers this year are from the Tri-Faith Initiative of Omaha, Nebraska. This group, representing people of faith from Jewish, Christian and Muslim backgrounds will lead us in a training session titled “Beyond Dialogue: Working Together in Community.”

Volunteers are needed for our Mentoring Connections program – providing adult mentors for children with an incarcerated parent. Mentors need to be willing to spend at least one hour a week with their mentee and commit to the relationship for a year.

Volunteers are also needed for Circles of Support. Our five volunteers encircle a core member (someone who has recently been released from prison) for support, encouragement and accountability.

Thanks you for all you do.

Lori Powell, Congregation Liaison

Community of Hope Summer Worship

The Worship Team for Community of Hope had a lot of fun at its last meeting planning for a wide variety of thematic worship services for the summer. Opportunities abound for creative and thought-provoking worship throughout the summer months. Check out these services:

June

Sunday, June 7 – Ever More Caring Community

Sunday, June 14 – Another look at Pentecost with Cindy Thiesenhusen preaching

Sunday, June 21 – Baptism of Finnoulay Leudtke; recognition of Colin Jarvis' high school graduation

Sunday, June 28 – Preacher Needed (contact Tisha if you're interested in preaching)

July

Sunday, July 5 – **MCC Worship Service** (Tisha and Jeff both on the Mission Trip)

Sunday, July 12 – Exploring Abundance in the Midst of Scarcity

Sunday, July 19 – Exploring faith and stewardship

Sunday, July 26 – Annual Labyrinth worship (including drumming!)

August

Sunday, August 2 – Taize Worship with Communion

Sunday, August 9 – Exploring Creation

Sunday, August 16 – **MCC Worship and Hymn Sing**

Sunday, August 23 – Making the Sermon in Community – 1 Thessalonians, Part 1

Sunday, August 30 – Making the Sermon in Community – 1 Thessalonians, Part 2

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General What?*

It's coming up soon!

What: General Synod 27

When: June 26-30, 2009

Where: Grand Rapids, Michigan

Every two years, the governing body of the UCC meets to celebrate the life of the denomination through worship, workshops, and dialogues focusing on topics important in the life of the church. Each of the 38 UCC Conferences sends delegates to General Synod. I will be one of the delegates representing the Wisconsin Conference UCC in Grand Rapids. This year's theme is "Immerse Yourself!"

A few of the things that I am looking forward to at General Synod include:

- River City Saturday- Wow! The possibilities are endless! River City Saturday will be a day of worship, workshops, music, and inspirational speakers (Eugene Robinson from the Washington Post, Ray Suarez from PBS' The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, Barbara Brown Taylor, author of "Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith", and many more). I am excited!

Resolutions- I am quite curious to hear the debates. The resolutions that have been submitted for General Synod 27 include topics such as global food concerns, the prevention of HIV, climate change, and physician assisted dying. As a delegate, I will not know which resolution I will be assigned until I reach Grand Rapids. I will read through each of the proposed resolutions before my trip in anticipation of the discussions.

Want to learn more about General Synod? Check out the UCC's website at <http://www.ucc.org/synod/>.

*Written by Kristin Gorton, Pastoral intern at Memorial UCC in Fitchburg and edited by Tisha Brown. Both will be delegates at General Synod this June.

Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting - June 12 - 14

The theme this year is: "Creation and the Environment" with the title of "Living Gracefully." During the Conference you will have the opportunity to hear such folks as: Jean Feraca, host of Wisconsin Public Radio's program, "Here on Earth;" representatives from our two Wisconsin UCC colleges, Northland and Lakeland; Rev. Mario Navarro, pastor of La Viña del Señor our newest church; and entertainer extraordinaire, musician and songwriter, Ken Medema, whose special musical gift is the creation of songs that respond to the topics of the programs where he performs.

During the three days we will be together, there will be times of worship, fellowship, and an opportunity to attend a Faith Formation session of interest. There will also be time to visit the exhibits and bookstore and enjoy the Center's beautiful natural setting on the shores of Green Lake.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Tisha for Registration information.

Thank you from CUE (Chicago, United, Eden) Seminaries of the UCC

"Dear Tisha and Members of Community of Hope, UCC:

Thank you for your support for theological education in 2008. ... In 2008, approximately 3.95% of your OCWM support was forwarded on by the Wisconsin Conference to CUE seminaries. ...

Your church's total support in 2008 was \$569.04. ...

As the work on our seminary campuses continues on behalf of all of our churches, please hold their students, faculty and staff in your prayers."

In Faith and Hope,
Ann S. Moyer, Executive Director

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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.

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

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| May 26-June 2 | Petra Streiff/Larry Stuessy;
Jan Summers; Bonnie Trudell |
| June 2-9 | Mary Beth/Steve Udvari;
Steve/Aly Van Der Weide;
Julia Weaver |
| June 9-16 | Roger/Kristi Williams;
Nancy Zabel |
| June 16-23 | Kathy/Robin Alexander;
Rajai/Chickee Atalla |
| June 23-30 | Barb Bickford; Phill/Candi Bloedow |
| June 30-July 7 | Mary Bowman; Diane Bougie |
| July 7-14 | Dorothy Brar; Lynn Breedlove/Evelyn Mazack |
| July 14-21 | Tisha Brown/Cindy Thiesenhussen; Roger Buffett; Kevin Clark/Joanne Kirkland |
| July 21-28 | Betty/Corkey Custer; Arthur/Marie Dodd |
| July 28-Aug. 4 | Barbara/David Dueholm; Tina Eder; Pat Eddings |
| Aug. 4-11 | Avis Elson; Michelle Erschen/Nancy Greenwald; Sandie Esrael/Peter Williams |
| Aug. 11-18 | Warren/Susan Exo; Thomas Ferguson; Freddie Feeny |
| Aug. 18-25 | Harry/Donna Fisker; Mark Geistlinger/Kristin Meyer |
| Aug. 25-Sept. 1 | Theresa/Steve Haffner-Stearns; Christine Hartelt/Dan Luch |

Tisha's Observations and Reflections on the Ever More Caring Community House Meetings May 20, 2009

Our Ever More Caring Community House Meetings were a huge success. Everyone who participated was engaged, enthusiastic, and hopeful. People shared touching, personal, intimate stories about the ways in which their lives have been touched by caring through Community of Hope. A few doable and helpful suggestions were made for how to be ever more caring.

Observations from the Stories (what we do well and want to keep doing):

- Caring happens widely and broadly within Community of Hope
 - Members expressed feelings of being embraced, seen, lifted up, cared for within the congregation
 - Clearly most if not all members feel responsible for being caring toward others.
 - Caring in this community depends on information (knowing what is happening in people's lives) and communication (being told how to be caring in any given situation and offering the gift of what one is able to do in response).
- There is a need to be respectful of people's privacy, their right to choose whether or not to share personal information within the congregation and the various styles and comfort zones with which people approach caring for others and being cared for themselves. It has to be o.k. for folks to keep their stories to themselves; to respectfully decline offers of help; to be "caring" in a wide variety of ways. Those who are expressing caring need to be mindful of boundaries and not be offended when offers of caring are declined.

Some specific stories of caring that were mentioned often:

- Laying on of hands
- The Importance of Small groups (i.e. Women's prayer group, Men's breakfast, canoe trips, dream group, mission efforts)

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- Care for children and families (children are enfolded within the congregation)
- Initial welcome as first-time visitor
- Genuine spirit of Community of Hope and the MCC
- Prayer and worship are caring expressions of the community
- Community extends beyond Sunday morning
- The Importance of sponsors for new members
- Generosity of time, thoughtfulness and money
- Hymn Sings

Suggestions for being Ever More Caring:

- Send the prayer emails to the entire congregation (folks could opt off the list if they don't want to receive the weekly emails)
- Develop more opportunities for small group gatherings to facilitate relationship building, which is the key to caring (we care for people when we know them, and when we know what's happening in their lives). These could be social/fellowship gatherings, prayer groups, potluck groups, retreats, service etc.
- More frequent Passages services and/or testimonies or stories from various members of the congregation in worship and in other forums. We like to hear from one another and learn about one another's lives and faith in worship – participatory worship!
- Continue with sponsors for new members
- Continue enfolded children and families in worship and in other aspects of community life. (Worship buddies for children of all ages?)
- Develop some sort of structure to facilitate caring (see more on structure below)
- Focus on relationships as the source for caring

- Listen to the yearning for deeper connection, more meaningful relationships with God, the faith and others through worship but in every aspect of life.
- MCC Connection is vital and must also be nurtured
- Keep it simple!
Trust the Spirit

Reflections on Structure:

- Consider two kinds of structure
 - o Formal: Safety net (logistical, organizational, crisis oriented, information sharing)
 - ✦ could be folks identified through time and talents who are gifted at organizing responses to crisis situations i.e. meals, rides, prayer etc.; these folks are mobilized by the pastor when need arises
 - ✦ could also be various uses of technology for sharing information (facebook, website, blogs, Yahoo Groups etc.)
 - ✦ Informal: Relationships
 - ✦ Could be facilitated through small groups, in worship, service and fellowship
Could also be facilitated through technology as above

The Steering Team and Pastor Parish Relations Committee Response

The Community of Hope Steering Team met with members from the Pastor Parish Relations Committee on Wednesday, May 20 to review the notes from the Ever More Caring Community House Meetings and to make a plan of action. We will be moving forward in the following ways and developing goals and objectives for some of these areas as needed.

1. Tisha will begin sharing the weekly prayer emails with the entire congregation in June. Those who do not want to receive these emails will be asked to opt out. Members will be reminded that their prayer concerns are now being disseminated to the wider community versus to the prayer team only.
2. The Steering Team will develop a sur-

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vey to get more information from the congregation about: best ways to communicate information; what gifts/talents folks are willing to offer as needed; etc.

3. The Steering Team and/or Pastor Parish Relations Committee will facilitate at least one more opportunity for small group fellowship in people's homes by the end of the year and make this an ongoing priority

Tisha will provide this feedback to the congregation in the newsletter and in worship on Sunday, June 7.

Anniversaries

Dorothy Brar	6/06
Bonnie & Gene Spindler	6/10
Harry & Donna Fisker	6/13
David Manion & Jan Manser	6/14
Lauren Stuessy & Petra Streiff	6/17
Arthur & Marie Dodd	6/19
Kristi & Roger Williams	6/22
Erika & Ken Ono	6/23
Bill Grout & Mary Schmelzer	7/04
Roger Buffett & Deborah Holbrook	7/11
Tisha Brown & Cindy Thiesenhusen	7/28
Chickee & Raj Atalla	8/04
Mark Geistlinger & Kristin Meyer	8/07
Lynn Breedlove & Evelyn Mazack	8/11
Sandra Esrael & Peter Williams	8/14
Hirochika & Lois Komai	8/23

Good food, fun and fellowship at the Capital Brewery

Let's gather again for fellowship, food and fun at the Capital Brewery and Beer Garden, 7734 Terrace Ave., Middleton. Mark your calendars for the following Thursdays beginning at 5:30 p.m. - June 18, July 2 & 16 and August 6 & 20. The Brewery does not serve food so please bring food if you choose to have your dinner there. If it's raining on any of these dates, we will meet at the Roman Candle Pizzeria, 1920 Parmenter St. in Middleton instead of at the Brewery.

Important Dates to Remember!



Birthdays

Jan Summers	6/03
Harry Fisker	6/04
Leonhard Eder	6/04
Rolf Killingstad	6/05
Keith Johnson	6/06
Ian Jarvis	6/08
Nancy Greenwald	6/10
Corkey Custer	6/12
Cindy Thiesenhusen	6/15
Ann Bolger	6/16
Hirochika Komai	6/17
Peter Wootton	6/18
Aspen Ono	6/21
Hannah Johnson	6/23
Marcella Van Kan	7/01
Kathy Alexander	7/09
Steve Haffner-Stearns	7/09
Art Nack	7/14
Brenna Clark	7/17
Kristi Williams	7/17
Candi Bloedow	7/20
Jackson Murphy	7/20
Bill Grout	7/24
Joan Matthews	7/26
Jamie Custer	7/29
Sarah Johnson	7/31
Gus Rudiger	7/31
Freddie Feeny	8/03
Avis Elson	8/06
Tom Matthews	8/20
Evelyn Mazack	8/22
David Dueholm	8/23
Julie Hunter	8/29
Jeremy Ryan	8/29
Laura Komai	8/30

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

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Thank you from The Crossing

"The students and staff of The Crossing send a huge thank you to Community of Hope, UCC for serving a meal to us on April 26, 2009.

We especially thank your cooks and servers. Those we know of are Sef Van Kan, Corkey Custer, Aspen Ono, Luke Geistlinger, Tisha Brown and Nick Grout.

In the midst of your busy lives, we are grateful to you for remembering us! Food is always way into the heart of a student!

Thank You!

The United Church of Christ says Thank You

To the members of Community of Hope, UCC for your 2008 contribution of \$14,400 for basic support of Our Church's Wider Mission.

From John H. Thomas, General Minister and President, UCC and David Moyer, Wisconsin Conference Minister

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.

Invitation to Wedding Reception

Christine Hartelt and Dan Luch invite Hope members and regular visitors who would like to attend their wedding reception at Hoyt Park at 3902 Regent Street on Sunday, June 28, from noon to 5 p.m.

Tisha married Christine and Dan in a small, beautiful ceremony on Friday February 27. Although Christine was an English major, the reasons for dividing the wedding celebrations into three acts have to do with Christine's MS and with the need to juggle commitments to a large blended family (including five teenagers) and an even larger extended family. Dan is one of eight children, and Christine is one of six.

The small February 27 wedding will be followed by the second and third acts in June when the weather will hopefully be nicer. On Saturday June 27 the couple will renew their vows before their natal families and the couple's children. The following day, Sunday June 28, the extended family, friends, and colleagues are invited to a wedding reception at Hoyt Park.

Christine and Dan have reserved the large park shelter. The couple will be combining two households, so "no gifts" are requested. (Three toasters are not needed but your prayers are!) Rather than bring a gift, please bring a dish to pass. The wedding reception will be a potluck with wedding cake provided by the couple. You will be able to spot Christine and Dan by looking for their white t-shirts emblazoned with "Just Married."

For those unfamiliar with Hoyt Park, there are bathrooms, a small playground for young children, a basketball court, and hiking trails. Christine and Dan will set up badminton and frisbee in the open grassy area for anyone so inclined. The motto for their celebration is, "Keep it simple but fun." They hope anyone who would like to participate can come at some point during that afternoon.

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June Calendar

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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Bill Long
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Roger Williams

Advent Council

Bob Schneider
Julie M. Walsh,
President
Brian Kuhn
Edd Hellmer
John Malecki
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Gretchen Wahl

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