

# The Good Word

May, 2010

What is a Biblically grounded understanding of a community of believers? I began my sermon on Sunday, April 18 asking this question and explained the reasons why I have been mulling it over in recent months. This year's emphasis on St. Paul, whose letters shaped the earliest Christian communities and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Advent, prods me to dig for a deeper understanding of community. I asserted in the sermon that God's community is a confessing community and stressed that confession is more than a sense of regret for our sinfulness. I referred to Augustine's definition that unites at least three distinct concerns. Confession is at once the proclamation of faith, acknowledgment of sin, and the praise of God.

God's community is a confessing community. I resonate with this understanding. However, I didn't mention in my sermon that I think our search for deeper understanding for community must begin with God, specifically, with a Trinitarian understanding of God. As I reflect on my approaching ten years of tenure as pastor at MCC, I am very much aware of a growing resonance with the Trinitarian nature of God. My exposure to the teachings of Christianity has placed the accent on Christ, the second member of the Trinity for some very good reasons. But the centrality and emphasis on Christ has pushed the other members of the godhead to the margins. What has changed in my understanding about God is that at the core, God is a community. God is the perfect community and God

always has and always will act as community. Barbara Brown Zikmund writes, "Trinitarian theology asserts that relationship is fundamental to God and that community is the foundation of God's interaction with the world. Instead of an unmoved mover, God as community calls us to share responsibility."

A Biblically-grounded understanding of community, thus, does not begin with Paul's letters or anyone else who thinks they have all the answers, but with God. God's Spirit draws us to Christ and into community with God. I find it remarkable and amazing that the Spirit draws you and me into community with God and moves us to participate in this divine community. I marvel to think that we actually live in community with God through our relationships with one another and within creation's confines. I think one can make an argument that you can be spiritual but not religious, but can one make the argument that you can be Christian without community?

I hope that the months ahead will allow me more time to read books, study Scripture and reflect upon a biblical and theological understanding of community. I pray that the Spirit will help me connect a few more dots between understanding and implications for this body of believers. I am grateful to be in community with God and with you. Jeff

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## MCC News

### Food Drive for Food Pantry—Sunday, May 16

Please remember to make a special effort to bring food for the Lussier Food Pantry. 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

### Garden Ministry and Garden News

It is that time of the year! Mulch for paths has been delivered, students from Oakhill Correctional will spread the mulch, pound in stakes and put up fencing, and members of MCC will begin to garden with the elementary age children attending the after-school program at the Lussier Community Education Center each Monday, beginning on April 26, until school is out, from 2:45-4:45 pm. Our eight-week summer gardening session will be on Tuesday and Thursday mornings beginning on Tuesday, June 22, from 10:00-11:30 a.m. We have a dedicated cadre of adults and youth gardeners, and certainly welcome newcomers. It's understood that none of us can garden every Tuesday and Thursday for eight straight weeks.

### Interfaith Hospitality Network / The Road Home: May 24, 26 and 28.

We are seeking volunteers to help cook and serve meals, host activities and spend the night with homeless parents and kids at Orchard Ridge UCC on May 24, 26 and 28. This is a great way to get to know folks at MCC and provide a real service to families in need. A signup board is in the Shalom Room or you may contact Beth Campbell or Aaron Anding with any questions.

### Our Salad Supper

Women of the MCC gathered at the church on Tuesday, April 20, to enjoy a salad supper and a speaker. The speaker was Pati Kachel, an inspirational speaker and Nan Wild's sister. Pati's presentation informed us about three spiritual women: Katerina Von Bora, a former nun who because Martin Luther's wife, Lucy Maude Montgomery, author of Ann of Green Gables series, and Corrie ten Boom, a Dutch Holocaust survivor.

Pati, like the women of her program, has overcome obstacles — a severe health challenge, in her case — and lives with a deep love of God and a good sense of humor.

### Pennies for Peace

Keep those pennies coming! The total in the Pennies for Peace Account is \$466.64. Please do not put damaged coins or non-coins in the jar as the bank's coin counting equipment will jam.

### Father Dom's Ducks Doo! Once again this year!!!

Spring is here! We have 360 bags ordered. Think about how many bags you might need. Think spring, mulch/compost, organic, recycled. Your flower beds and gardens will thank you. The Ducks' Doo will be here the week of April 19<sup>th</sup>, ready for pick-up by Earth Day. Price will be \$8 per bag or 6 bags for \$45. No ordering necessary. First come, first served until all of the bags disappear from the entrance way to MCC. Compost you can't afford to pass by. All proceeds go to support the Children's Garden program. (We will help you load bags after church on Sundays or you can pick it up and leave a check in the envelope located on the coffee table in the Shalom Room. Please put the number of bags taken in the Memo blank. Checks can be made out to MCC-Ducks Doo.)

### Pray Daily

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

## Fellowship Groups & Activities

### MCC COMMUNITY GROUP

**Saturday, May 15**, hiking at Mt Horeb's Donald Park & potluck lunch at Maxwell's, 3264 Hwy JG North. Visitors are always welcome! Carpool from the MCC at 9:30 a.

### DROP-IN SHELTER—June 3

The date is Thursday, June 3. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Shalom Room. Four people are needed from 7:30 - 9:30 p. and two people are needed from 5:00 - 8:00 a. If you have any questions, please call Ken Johnson.

### MCC Prayer Shawl Knitters

MCC prayer shawl knitters will gather at the MCC for social knitting on the first Tuesday, May 4, from 7 to 8:30 pm.

### Save the Date!!

**What:** The Annual MCC Camping Weekend at Bethel Horizens

**When:** August 20-22 (Note DATE CHANGE from previous years)

**Where:** Bethel Horizens Campground  
This is an invitation for EVERYONE - young, old, in-between, single, married, families - to join together for a weekend of camping, camp fires, singing, eating, swimming, hiking, canoeing, fellowship. Join the group for 1 or 2 nights of camping, and/or the day Saturday (we spend the afternoon at Governor Dodge State Park at a beach and potluck Saturday night back at the campground!). Any questions contact Karen Kuhn.

### MCC Women's Lunch Bunch

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

### Theological Discussion Group

Wednesday May 19 7 p.m. MCC Discussion: The First Paul: Reclaiming the Radical Visionary behind the Church's Conservative Icon by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan.

Wednesday, **May 19**, 7 p., MCC Chapter 7, 'Life Together in Christ'

Wednesday, **June 16**, 7 p., MCC Final discussion of The First Paul

The Madison Library System has seven copies of this book. Pick one up and join the discussion. Learn more about the Apostle Paul during our Year of Paul. For further information, contact Fran Grugel.

### Young Adult Happy Hour

For all who consider themselves young - with or without kids & with or without a partner. Please join us on **Sunday, June 6 from 4-6pm at Wingra Park** on Monroe Street in Madison. Bring a blanket/chairs & picnic food. We will bring our canoe & life jackets to share and welcome others to do the same. Also, canoes, kayaks, sunfish, and paddleboats are available to rent. Michael's Frozen Custard, kickball, playground, so many options for fun. Once again, the kids can play together while the adults talk and play together. Contact Jen Streit for more info.

### MCC FILM GROUP – 2010

#### Lois Komai, coordinator

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

#### DATE

**Friday, May 21** Movie in a theater and out for dinner.

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## MCC News

**Betty Harris Custer** has been chosen as one of this year's YWCA Women of Distinction honorees, awarded annually by Madison's YWCA to recognize women for their community service, professional achievement, integrity, leadership, dedication to the lives of others and to the quality of life for all, as reflected by the YWCA's historic mission and socially progressive agenda. Nominees were solicited from area civic clubs, community groups, YWCA members, and past Women of Distinction honorees, and selected by a committee of YWCA board members and community leaders. **The awards luncheon is Thursday, May 27, at the Madison Concourse Hotel.** If interested in attending, contact the YWCA's Kristy Lust at 257-1436, go to <http://www.ywca.org/site/lookup.asp?c=IkJZjd04F&b=2576423> to register online, or contact Margaret McEntire at Custer Financial Services, [Marga-ret.McEntire@lfg.com](mailto:Marga-ret.McEntire@lfg.com) or 238-8388 x 174, who's organizing tables on Betty's behalf.

### Dane County United Update –

**DCU's Spring Listening Campaign:** Forty-eight people turned out to be trained by Mark Fraley, Lead Organizer of Common Ground in Milwaukee, on how to organize and lead listening sessions. Many of these individuals signed up to host or lead listening sessions or to bring people to listening sessions in their institutions. Since February, DCU has held nearly 25 such conversations. We are hearing many painful stories about how the current economic downturn is impacting families at all socio-economic levels – everything from difficulty managing credit card debt, to facing foreclosure on homes, to persistent unemployment, to parents helping their adult children cover day care costs or health care or even pay mortgages. It is clear that the state of our economy is creating hardship for many, many families. The question remains how we will respond to what we are hearing in concrete action to create greater justice for those who are struggling.

**Wanted: Walk-behind lawn mower, running or not, for Boakai family. Thanks, Jim Muehl, phone 231 2927**

### Grant Awarded

Community Action Coalition awarded a grant of \$750 to upgrade the irrigation system. The four cubical containers have been removed from the site and soon we will be receiving a 2,500 gallon tank. The larger tank will collect rainwater from the roofs of both sanctuaries and it is estimated that one inch of rain will provide 2,500 gallons of water. An additional water line will be run to the lower gardens used by community gardeners. With good water conservation and the increased capacity we hope to minimize our use of city water. The grant requires us to donate a portion of the produce to a local food pantry and we will be pleased to oblige.

### Adult Forum in May

**Sunday, May 2** Andrew & Patti Rogness, 35 Years of Ministry (video from the Palm Sunday program at Prince of Peace.

**Sunday, May 9:** Ulrich Rosenhagen, associate director of the Lubar Institute of Abrahamic Religions and member of MCC will lead a session on interfaith relationships.

**Sunday, May 16:** The Wisconsin Council of Churches is asking 300 congregations in the state to participate in the national Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT). A newly developed resource helps congregations discuss the issue of torture in the context of their faith. With polls indicating that increasing numbers of Americans (including people of faith) believe that torture is often or sometimes justified, this is a critical time for faith communities to engage in this dialogue. This session will be led by Peter Bakken.

**Sunday, May 23 To be determined**

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# MCC News

## Update from the Chicken Task Force

Our appreciation is extended to all the people who bought Easter egg ornaments that were decorated by high school youth and processed by Beverly Brekke-Bailey. The proceeds on the sale will go a long way in funding the start up costs to provide a comfortable home and safe environment for about half a dozen chickens.

Lucas Schneider is going to work with follow scouts to build the chicken coop for his Eagle Project. Lucas is waiting to receive approval from the decision makers in the district office and hopes to get the eggs rolling before the end of May. The projected completion date for the coop is June 12. This project has also been presented and been approved by people in city planning, the MCC land use umbrella task force, and the MCC leadership team. Alder Paul Skidmore is recommending a meeting to inform neighbors on the parameters of the property to inform them of our plans and answer any questions they might have.

“Will you have any roosters?” No!  
“Will I see the coop and chickens out my backyard window when I am having breakfast?” No, unless you stand on the roof of your house and use binoculars. The coop will be located inside the fence of the pre-school playground. And speak-

ing of breakfast, we will be happy to provide you with farm fresh eggs.”

The chicken project will have a chicken care coordinator (CCC) who organizes and delegates feeding, watering, cleaning and other tasks. The CCC will be knowledgeable about chicken care needs. S/he will work with church members and others to provide a safe and healthy environment for the birds as well as educate people on their care. Lisa Bauer will be MCC’s first CCC.

Upon hearing about the potential of a chicken coop and laying hens on the MCC property, one 6-year-old girl exclaimed, “When can we feed the chickens and collect eggs?!” We’re confident that, as with all other environmental/agricultural pursuits of this community, members will embrace and learn from the chicken project. We hope you share



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## The Good Word

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# MCC News

## Coming Events

- May 2 CoH Confirmation Sunday
- May 4 MCC Prayer Shawl Knitters, 7:00 p.
- May 8 10a-4p Middle High hike & play at Devil's Lake
- May 16 Advent Confirmation Sunday
- May 21 High School outdoor movie night
- May 23 Last Sunday of Sunday School – Teacher Appreciation Sunday
- May 24, 26 & 28 MCC staffs The Road Home/IHN Family Shelter
- May 25 Advent Council
- May 26 CoH Steering Committee
- June 5 MedDrop (3 locations)**
  - Madison: LaFollette High School, 702 Pflaum Rd
  - Middleton: High School parking lot, 2100 Bristol St
  - Sun Prairie: Recycling Center, 1798 S. Bird St

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### Sunday Gardening With MCC Youth

The mission of this ministry is to provide a garden setting where children and youth connect with a nurturing God and God's call to nurture the earth.

Wild if you are interested in sharing the leadership for some aspect of this blooming ministry with our youth.

The 2010 Sunday Gardening Task Force is planning to meet on Wednesday 6:30 p.m. to determine the scope and shape of gardening with children in the congregation following worship on Sunday mornings during the summer months. This will be the third summer of gardening with MCC youth. Please contact Jeff

### Our Website: [www.madisonchristiancommunity.org](http://www.madisonchristiancommunity.org).

- *Read or Listen* to Pastor Jeff and Pastor Tisha's **Sunday sermons** on the web!
- **Sunday texts** are on the monthly calendar.
- **COH and Advent** members find **Worship Assistant's Schedule** and Task Descriptions.



On the Home Page find **Weekly Announcements** and **the Newsletter**. If you decide that you no longer need the newsletter delivered in the mail, please call the church office to let us know.

## MCC News

### JAVA FOR JUSTICE MT MERU COFFEE PROJECT CELEBRATING OUR 10<sup>th</sup> YEAR

The Mt Meru Coffee Project has been helping to bring economic and social justice to the families of the small coffee farmers of the Meru Diocese in Tanzania. Purchasing select coffee from these farmers at a price that is higher than international "Fair Trade" standards is helping to increase the standard of living in the diocese. The additional income this has brought to these families allows more of their children to attend school and allows more families to address their health care needs. Most of these families live on plots of land that are only 3-5 acres. Most of the crops grown on these sustenance farms are for their own sustenance and it is important that the income derived from growing coffee is sufficient to fund their other needs. The Mt Meru Coffee Project Story is told on the back label of each Mt Meru Coffee package.

Purchasing packages of Mt Meru Coffee allows the Mt Meru Coffee Project to import more coffee from the coffee farmers of the Meru Diocese. This *person to person* project allows us to have a relationship with the growers of the coffee we drink while helping to support their families.

**Please help us to celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> year by buying a package of Mt Meru Coffee. Order by May 2<sup>nd</sup> and it will be ready for pick-up on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Price is \$9/12 oz and \$40/4# bag. Make checks out to "Mt. Meru Coffee Project".**

Thanks for your on-going support.

**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.

### Gospel Tour

There is a Gospel Choir Tour planned for this coming September. The Westend Gospel Singers from Eberswalde, Germany will be in Wisconsin to join with the Gospellers for the tour. (The Gospellers went to Germany in 2008 to sing with the Westend Singers). If there are any choir members or friends that simply love to sing, they can spend a day with Robert Robinson at a workshop and sing with the Westend Gospel Singers. The workshop will be held on September 17 - 18 at Our Saviour's UCC, Ripon, Wisconsin, near the Pilgrim Center. The itinerary has been established for the various concerts across Wisconsin, starting on September 19. There will be more information and a flyer available at the Southwest Association Meeting on Saturday, April 24th. You can also contact, Bonnie Spindler, one of the Gospeller's, who will be planning on joining the singers for the workshop and most of the concerts. Contact Bonnie Spindler.

### President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships

This study, initiated by President Obama, consists of a number of chapters relating to faithbased initiatives. One of the chapters is on the environment and, surprisingly, includes an article about MCC's partnership with the inmates in the horticulture program at Oakhill Correctional. This recognition stems from the National Council of Churches award to MCC as a "Great Green Congregation" in 2008. The article in the report is the same one that was on the MCC website. You may access the report online at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ofbnp-council-final-report.pdf>. The reference to MCC is on page 76. We are expecting to hear from Michelle or Barak any day now.

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## MCC Youth News

Sunday, May 2 - **Community of Hope Confirmation Service**

Saturday, May 8 - **Hike & Play at Devil's Lake - MS 10a - 4p**

Bring a bag lunch with plenty of water & be ready for fun adventures at Devil's Lake! We will hike (and stay faaaar away from the edges) and play on the beach and rocks - maybe even swim if we're daring enough to brave the chilly water! Adult drivers needed.

Sunday, May 16 - **Advent Confirmation Service**

Friday, May 21 - **Outdoor Movie - HS 8-11p**

Bring your sleeping bags, your friends, and a munchie or drink to share. We'll watch a movie outside on the big screen - projected on the outside of the church.

Looking ahead...

**BWCA Trip - HS - June 14 -21**

**Rafting Trip - MS - June 24-27**

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### Habitat for Humanity News and Opportunities

Good News! The Boakai Family moved into their new home on February 17! With the help of mentors, Jackie and Jim Muehl, they are settling in very nicely. The next step is to establish a garden, sow grass seed and landscape. Habitat for Humanity has a volunteer landscaper who will work with the Boakai's and their two new neighbors in designing their plantings and a "Green Team" of volunteers to plant the shrubs and sow the grass.

Jean Loichinger suggested we ask the green-thumbed folks of the MCC to share perennial plantings from their yards and gardens with the Boakai's and their neighbors. Jean has volunteered to be the coordinator for collecting plants for the 3 families. If you have plants to share, or would like to help with organizing and planting, please talk to Jean. The Boakai's have a good size lot with areas of sun and shade. This project activity is not an official Habitat building project, so there is no age restriction on involving younger children. It seems like this may be a fun activity for families of all ages! Call Jean at 836-1791!

The 2010 Thrivent Build kick off will be on Saturday, May 15. The MCC has been asked to supply a crew of eight people for a day of wall raising. The building site is at Habitat's Northport site - not too far from the Boakai's - beginning at 8am and working until 3pm. Please give John Rowe a call if you will help. Thanks!

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## Advent News

April 12, 2010

Sisters & Brothers of Advent Lutheran Church:

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" and she told them that he had said these things to her. John 20:18*

During the Easter season we are reminded that we rise with Christ into newness of life and become the channels through which life flows into the world. It is your financial generosity to the mission of the Church through this synod that makes our ministry together in the ELCA possible. As partners in this ministry we are telling and showing others that "we have seen the risen Lord!"

We are so thankful for this partnership that we share in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Advent Lutheran Church is among the most generous congregations in the South Central Synod of Wisconsin in the total dollars given in 2009.

Like Mary, we are witnesses to the living Christ. Thank you for being faithful and generous stewards of this message of hope to the world. Our prayer for you is that all the people of Advent Lutheran Church will be blessed and will know the blessing you are to others in your giving!

In His Risen Name,  
Bishop Bruce Burnside

Rev. Sara Yotter  
Synod Stewardship Specialist.

### Thank You Advent from Harvest of Hope

Advent has pledged to Harvest of Hope \$250 each quarter and each quarter we receive a note with the message that our support is very much appreciated!

### Guidelines for Announcements at Advent

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## Advent News

### Advent Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle will meet on Thursday, May 13 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 Margaret Smith for directions.

### OPALS Book Discussion Group

OPALS meetings are held once a month in the afternoon at MCC. On Tuesday, May 25, we will meet at 1:30 p. to discuss the book, *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Shaffin and Barrows. Letters from an author and a man on the island.

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

### Treasury of Love 2010

Beg. Bal & Love Offerings	<b>5,260.70</b>
Rent & Eviction Prevention	2,047.00
Utility Assistance	1,029.05
Haiti Relief/Thrivent Matching	1310.00
Postages for pkgs. to soldiers	83.65
ELCA Disaster Relief	250.00
Security Deposit	250.00
Moving Expense	75.00
Haiti Partners/Relief	15.00
Prescriptions	35.00
Auto Repair	100.00
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>\$5,194.70</b>
<b>Balance as of 4/26/2010</b>	<b>\$66.00</b>

### Advent Giving Goal

The giving goal for the month of April was \$30,624. Advent members generously supported the congregation's mission by giving \$34,1666. Thank you for your generosity and constant faithfulness.

### G.E.M.S.

GEMS continues to meet at the church on Tuesday mornings from 10:30 to noon. GEMS welcomes men who are retired, about to be retired, or who wish they were retired and who are looking for stimulating conversation and friendship. Our current book is *Broken: My Story of Addiction and Redemption*, by William Kopp Moyers. The book is a memoir about a terrible disease and one man's journey through it. If you have any questions, call Al Heggen.

### Judith Circle

Judith Circle will meet on Tuesday, May 11, 9:30 a. at MCC. Dotty Brugge is the hostess. All are welcome for fellowship and study. If you need a ride or have any questions please call Jean Loichinger.

### Advent Women Thursday Breakfast

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!

### Advent's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The Advent Council wants to get the ball rolling to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the congregation. You are invited to be involved in two ways: First, if you have any ideas as to how we best commemorate the anniversary, please share them with a council member. Second, if you would like to serve on the anniversary task force to plan a celebration please contact a council member or Jeff Wild. The council hopes to recruit a task force of members that represents each decade.

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## Advent News Continued

Dear Pastor Wild & the Advent community,

This Easter Sunday, April 4, is made even more special for us because it is the 95th birthday of my mother, Hildegard Scheibe. She is still living happily in her home, thanks to her strong spirit and the generous help from many people at Advent. As you probably know, her short-term memory has greatly diminished, her eyesight is very poor, and she's quite feeble on her feet. But she's still happy and cheerful, and her sharp wit and sense of humor remain healthy despite the loss of so many faculties.

For the past six years, Michele Heyman has assisted us in making it possible for my mother to live out her wish of staying at home for as long as possible. And Susan Rutter, who also provides care on a part-time basis, has been a wonderful help as well. But there are also many people at Advent who have participated in my mother's support in very significant ways, and I would like to thank all of them for the care and love they have provided. From stopover communions by you, to valentines made by the Sunday School children, to leaf raking in the fall to Christmas carols in December, all these

nice gestures have been very appreciated by my mother, by her family, and by her caregivers. Unfortunately, my mother isn't capable of "remembering" these gestures anymore; to her, they bring her happiness "in the moment." But we, her family, do remember these gestures, and want to express our gratitude for all that the Advent community has done and continues to do.

I particularly want to thank all the church ladies who, for the past year, have made regular, weekly, stopovers to visit with my mother for an hour or two and "spell off" Michele so she can take a breather. I know that these times are very valuable to Michele, because they allow her to stay balanced, and they also provide my mother with happy conversation and good mental stimulation. She's always been one who loves to visit!

On behalf of the Scheibe family, please join me in celebrating Easter, my mother's 95th birthday, and the great spirit and generosity of the Advent community.

Sincerely, Rob Scheibe, Redmond, WA

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### Cultivate Spiritual

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## Community of Hope News

### SAVE THE DATES: October 15-17— Community of Hope Congregational Retreat

Plans are underway for this family-friendly and fun time together at Pilgrim Center. Beginning Friday evening, we'll explore the "Big Rocks" of our faith that form the foundation of what we believe. On Saturday we'll build on the "Stepping Stones" of our spiritual journeys as introduced in our May 16 worship. We'll also have time to explore the beautiful natural setting of Pilgrim Center, including some planned nature-focused options for children as well as an opportunity for unstructured time—walking the Labyrinth and being in silence. Music, as written and performed by Bryan Sirchio and sung/played by us, will be a feature of our time

together.

Overall, the retreat is being designed to help grown-ups and kids deepen our faith and community connections while having fun together, to share our experiences during Tisha's summer sabbatical, and to consider a future vision for our community. Members of Advent and interested others are welcome to join us.

Contact any member of the planning committee (Lois Komai, Mary Schmelzer, Bryan Sirchio, Bonnie Trudell) for further information or to offer suggestions. **Registration will happen in September, but please SAVE THE DATES!**

## Community of Hope News

### Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting June 11-13, 2010 Green Lake Conference Center

All are invited to join in the fellowship of the wider church at the 48<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Wisconsin Conference, UCC. The theme this year is "For our temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb" based on Revelation 21:22 with the title of "New Occasions Teach New Duties."

The focus is twofold: personal spiritual growth and corporate rebirth as church becomes again a counter-cultural expression. Our keynote addresses will be presented by Lillian Daniel and Martin Copenhaver, co-authors of *This Odd and Wonderful Calling: The Public and Private Lives of Two Ministers*. Daniel and Copenhaver will talk about how we can become comfortable talking about our faith and how church decision making can become a faithful process. Jim Griffith, church transformation and new church start coach, will talk about how we can build bridges to communities around our church.

There is also a wonderful line-up of workshops focused on this theme. Saturday evening entertainment will be provided by Comedy Sportz of Milwaukee.

An important item on the business agenda includes the Wisconsin Conference restructuring plan. There will be ample time for discussion and consideration of this plan.

If you are interested in participating in this year's Annual Meeting, please let Tisha know as soon as possible.

### Strengthen the Church Offering Sunday, May 16, 2010

*Strengthen the Church*, one of four special mission offerings within the United Church of Christ, grows the UCC's future by:

1. Funding [new church](#) starts and invigorating existing congregations
2. Nurturing lay and pastoral leadership
3. Building [youth](#) and [young adult](#) ministries
4. Supporting the [God is Still Speaking Ministry](#) and its extravagant welcome for all within the United Church of Christ.

All gifts given by churches in Wisconsin are directed to activities and programs of the Wisconsin Conference, as well as the [UCC's national ministries](#). Please prayerfully consider a generous gift to *Strengthen the Church*.

### Sabbatical Preparation and Update

The time for us all to embark upon this sabbatical journey is quickly approaching. Recently, I've begun thinking about this time of sabbatical as a pilgrimage – a sacred journey that I am undertaking to visit holy sites and that we are undertaking together as a community in our ongoing relationship. While I visit 5 very different congregations spread over 4 states I will be searching for God's presence and God's wisdom, hoping to touch and be touched by the divine in each place I go. It is so very clear that God is speaking to me and to us through this experience and opening opportunities and possibilities at every turn. I'm looking forward to reveling in each moment and hope and pray that you also will enjoy the various sojourns of the summer months.

I have written more about some of the questions I hope to ask and a deeper reflection about the idea of pilgrimage on my blog, <http://dancingrev-thoughtsandreflections.blogspot.com> if you're interested.

### Pray Daily

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

## Community of Hope News

### Praying for our Community

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

- The people of Haiti as they continue to recover and all the people in the world who are responding with compassion and caring.
- Sef VanKan, Luke Geistlinger and Aspen Ono as they are confirmed and assume their role as adult members of Community of Hope, UCC and the Madison Christian Community
- Julie James' mother, Barbara
- Lucetta Kanetzke and Chuck Pfeifer who both had surgery in March
- Howard Kantezke and Jean Pfeifer as they care for spouses who recently had surgery
- 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. Especially those in Iraq, and Afghanistan
- Everyone who's lost a job, is struggling to find work, has lost a home or is in foreclosure, or who has inadequate health care coverage.
- College students from our community – Jamie Custer, Rose Gear, Hannah Hunter-Johnson, Quinn Kirkland-Clark, Sarah Hunter-Johnson (graduate studies)  
These people and their families as we pray our way through the church directory:  
**April 27-May 4** Bill, Heidi & Josephine Putnam; Bill Rettig & Jean Gilbertson  
**May 4-11** Heather, Heidi & Josephine Putnam; Hollis & Gus Rudiger; Jeremy & Damien Ryan  
**May 11-18** the Schmelzer/Grout family; Bob & Chris Sessions; Josh Ryan  
**May 18-25** Beth Simmons; Bryan Sirchio; Bonnie & Gene Spindler  
**May 25-June 1** Petra Streiff & Larry Stuessy; Jan Summers; Bonnie Trudell

### Important Dates to Remember!



#### Birthdays

Aly Van Der Weide	5/12
Barb Bickford	5/13
Twyla Clark	5/16
Bryan Sirchio	5/18
Michelle Erschen	5/22
Katelyn Grout	5/25
Steve Van der Weide	5/27
Donna Fisker	5/28
Mary Bowman	5/30

#### Anniversaries

Steve & Theresa Haffner-Stearns	5/31
Betty & Corkey Custer	5/31

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

#### CoH Women's Breakfast Group

Meets at 7:00 am on the first and third Wednesday of every month. We meet at the Hubbard Avenue Diner in Middleton. Come join us for coffee and conversation. Please contact Sandra Esrael if you have questions.

#### 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month. You have promised yourself for a long time now. Mark your calendar, set your alarm, and make it!

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

#### Pray Daily

Worship Regularly  
Study God's Word  
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## Lussier Community Education Center

### From Jill Pfeiffer, Development Director at LCEC

As we breathe a collective sigh of relief with the coming of spring, it's time to get some dates on the books. I hope that you can join us and get involved in the following events.

- 1. LCEC Annual Development Meeting - April 29th, 8:00 - 9:30 a. at the LCEC**  
Drink some coffee. Eat a scone. Share your ideas!
- 2. The Annual Children's Plant Sale - Friday, May 7th (2-6p.) and Saturday, May 8th (9-2p.)**  
Donate some plants. Buy some plants. Make your mother happy on Sunday!
- 3. The JMM Spartan Youth Service JOOI Team Better Life Walkathon - Saturday May 15th.**  
Grab your shoes. Bring three friends. Come join us for the walk and a day of family fun! Learn more at [www.spartanservice.org/better5k](http://www.spartanservice.org/better5k)

### **Better Life Walk-A-Thon** **Saturday, May 15, 2010** **Mansfield Stadium, Memorial High School**

The Spartan Youth Service JOOI (Junior Optimist octagon International) Team are sponsoring the **Better Life Walk-A-Thon** on Saturday, May 15, 2010 to benefit the After School and Summer programs at the Lussier Community Education Center. In the LCEC's Youth Programs, kids receive tutoring after school, take trips, experience the arts, volunteer with younger children, plan projects, and connect with caring adults. Your participation in this family-oriented, neighborhood event will make a difference in the lives of hundreds of area children. **The Better Life Walk-A-Thon** starts at 9:00 a.m. (on-site registration begins at 7:45 a.m.). The Walk-A-Thon route is a loop starting in Mansfield Stadium and going into the neighborhood adjacent to Memorial High School. You can choose the distance you will walk. There will also be a bake sale, face painting and games for kids of all ages before and after the walk. For more details go to [www.spartanservice.org/better5k](http://www.spartanservice.org/better5k). If you cannot attend, consider sponsoring someone else to walk in your place. And, of course, donations are always welcome.

### **2010 Washington Island Forum** **June 21-25**

#### **"Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers is Telling the American Church"**

Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean, Associate Professor of Youth, Church and Culture at Princeton Theological Seminary.

#### **Daily Topics:**

"Somebody Save Me!: Youth & the Quest for a Passionate Church", "Youth & the Church of 'Benign Whatever-ism'", "Going Viral for Jesus", "Recovering a Missional Imagination: Why Generational OMG is the Theological Stimulus Package We Need" AND "Generation OMG and the Currency of Hope"

#### **NEW CSA – Campo di Bella**

Their flyer is on the bulletin board. The CSA is a small family-owned farm located in Mount Horeb dedicated to providing local, fresh seasonal vegetables, fruits and herbs to our customers.

They have pick up locations in Madison. They have openings for four more members. The deadline for summer 2010 is May 15.

Pray Daily

**Worship Regularly**

Study God's Word

Respond as Stewards

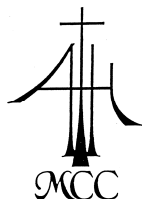
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**Madison Christian Community**  
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**Madison WI 53717-1099**



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**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.

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**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:**

Donna Leet  
Roger Williams, Chair  
Gretchen Wahl

Tisha Brown  
Jeff Wild