

# The Good Word

February, 2012

## Observing Lent at the Madison Christian Community

In 2011 we worked together as a community to develop an Umbrella Strategy. This year, our task is to find ways to live out this Umbrella Strategy, which not only describes who we already are but also calls us to be attentive to how God is calling us to be in the future. The Leadership Team is considering a variety of ways of helping the community become familiar with the Umbrella Strategy including using it as a focus for devotions at the opening of every committee, board or task force meeting. If you would like a copy of the devotional guide to use for your group, please contact Tisha and she will get it to you. Another way of getting to know our Umbrella Strategy so that we can really use it to guide and shape our life together will take place on Wednesday evenings during Lent.

One important element of the MCC Umbrella Strategy is the Guiding Principles. Our Guiding Principles are:

Nurture deep spirituality and generosity

Work in environmentally responsible ways

Cultivate hospitality and meaningful connections

Engage one another, neighbors, and the wider world in action to improve people's lives

Inspire gratitude, creativity, and joy

Beginning Wednesday, February 29, and ending on Wednesday, March 28, we will gather at the MCC between 5:45 and 6:00 for soup supper and conversation about the Guiding Principles in our Umbrella Strategy. This year we will be purchasing soup and bread from Willy Street Coop. Each week there will be vegetarian and gluten-free options available. Suggested donation per person for soup is \$5.00. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Shalom Room for folks to help with set-up and clean-up.

At 7:00 we will join together in a simple service of word, song and prayer. Each week a different member of the MCC will offer a meditation on the same guiding principle discussed over dinner. This will be a wonderful opportunity for each of us to reflect on these principles and also to hear reflections on them from other members of our community. Jeff and I are looking forward to these Wednesday evenings in Lent and hope you will plan to join in these conversations and in worship.

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## MCC News

### To All Who Enjoy the MCC Youth:

Do you like to cook? Are you good at delegating or organizing? Do you like to be a part of something exciting? Do you like to have fun? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then please consider volunteering for some youth events this winter and spring. We especially need help in February while Jen is on maternity leave. Volunteers needed to: help to prepare soup & set up on February 5 before church, supervise serving & cleaning up on February 5 after church, prepare cookies for mailing on February 8 at 8p, & toboggan on February 26 after church. Please contact Karen Kuhn if you would be willing to help out.

### JAVA for JUSTICE, Susan Gruber

Place your January coffee order by **Feb 5th** ready for pick-up on **Feb 12<sup>th</sup>**. Coffee can be purchased in 12 oz. (\$10) or 4 lbs. (\$45) bags; regular or decaf; bean, drip or perk. Make your checks out to MT. MERU COFFEE PROJECT and place them in the envelope by the sign-up sheet in the Shalom Room on the Coffee Table. Your support remains the sustaining force in the lives of many coffee-farming families in Tanzania, a partnership program with the ELCA synod in Milwaukee and the ELCA Meru diocese. School fees can be paid so children of farmers can return to school. Medical bills can be paid in a timely way. Purchasing Mt. Meru coffee brings economic and social justice to the small coffee farmers. Thanks for your support.

### Food Drive for Food Pantry—Sunday, February 19

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

### Girl Scout Cookies are in the mail.

Brad Spencer reports that he divided the cookies between three AnySoldier Wisconsin contacts in Afghanistan.

**Middle High says *thank you*** to all those who participated in and supported the Middle School Youth's Candy Sale. We raised nearly \$400 for the Lussier Center Food Pantry!

### Thank you MCC Families

*I want to thank you for the response you made for a needy child for clothing. I was happy and she was delighted with all the clothing and books. We really appreciate it. You have no idea how helpful you are. Thank you so much. Kathy & Jarmin*

### DROP-IN SHELTER

The date is Thursday, February 2. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Shalom Room. Four people are needed from 7:30 - 9:30 p. and two people are needed from 5:00 - 8:00 a.

If you have any questions, please call Ken Streit.

### Madison Christian Community Room Use

Joyfully, our building is being used by a number of community groups including Alcoholics Anonymous, yoga instructors, a dance group, and numerous piano teachers for recitals, not to mention our own very active community! Occasionally, there are conflicts that arise when multiple groups want to use the building at the same time. This is a friendly reminder to check with Sonja in the office (836-1455) to make sure the room you hope to use is available when you are hoping to be here.

It is also extremely important that each group leaves the space they use as they found it, or in better condition than they found it. This makes for happiness all around.

### Guiding Principle:

Nurture deep spirituality and generosity...

## MCC Fellowship Groups & Activities

### Meditation Monday for MCC Friends

Begin your week with balance and peace of mind. We are beginning a meditation group and welcome all who'd like to join us in the Covenant Room, 5:30-6:45 p. each Monday. We begin by listening to a brief "dharma talk" that explores different aspects of a meditation practice, and sit in mindfulness for about 20 minutes. Afterwards we may talk about our experiences (or not). Wear comfortable clothes and bring a pillow(s) or blanket. Namaste! Mary Schmelzer and Bob Sessions.

### Daytime Prayer Shawl Knitting Group February 21 at 10a. in the Shalom Rm

The daytime prayer shawl knitters will be gathering on Tues. morning at 10:00, on Feb. 16. Don't forget, this is our new time! We are thrilled to be able to have an old member back with this time change. We will be taking pictures to add to the MCC Photo Log. Maybe this time will work for a new member....we could certainly use you if you are thinking about taking up knitting. Peace, Winifred Brown

### MCC COMMUNITY GROUP—

**Sunday, February 12**, after services will be the potluck/planning meeting of those interested in MCC Community Group. Bring your own tableware as well as a dish to pass and ideas for spring/summer activities. Newcomers are always welcome!

**Tuesday, February 21** is an interesting "History Sandwiched In" talk at the Wisconsin Historical Museum at 12:15 p.m. David Mickelson will speak about the geology of the Ice Age Trail — those who wish could go out for lunch afterwards.

### MCC Men's Retreat Feb. 3rd - 5th,

The location is again at Mt. Morris ([www.mt-morris.org](http://www.mt-morris.org)) in Wautoma.

You will need a sleeping bag, pillow and towel. You may also want to pack boots and outdoor attire if you want to enjoy the 200 acres of woodland and prairie. We traditionally play disc golf on Saturday and have also taken walks at night. I want to emphasize that you can participate in whatever you choose. The one event we usually all do together is meals. It's a pretty laid back weekend. If you cannot attend the whole time, please come for either night. Email or call John Szalkowski with questions .

### God is Not a Christian and Other Provocations by Desmond Tutu **Wednesday, February 15, 7 p.m., MCC downstairs**

The Theological Discussion Group begins discussion of this collection of Tutu's writings and speeches. Tutu's message of truth is clear whether exploring democracy in Africa, the genocide in Rwanda, black theology, inclusion of gays and lesbians in the church, or the plight of Palestinians. Will you agree with him or be provoked?

Come and join in the conversation. The South Central Library System has 5 copies.

### MCC Film Group—February 17

We will be viewing *The Help* on Friday, February 17 at Hildy McGown's home at 7:00 p. Let Hildy know if you will be coming.

Please bring suggestions for future films. Note also the Wisconsin Film Festival is April 20, our usual film night. Convenient!

### Guiding Principle:

Work in environmentally responsible ways...

## MCC News - Adult Forum in the Covenant Room

### Guiding Principle:

Cultivate hospitality and meaningful connections...

### Parker Palmer and His Legacy

Many of us know Parker Palmer through the books he has written, some of us know him personally and the Bradt family can boast that they are Parker and Sharon Palmer's next door neighbors. Parker's books have sold more than a half million copies, and his book, **A Hidden Wholeness**, was nominated for a 2005 Pulitzer Prize in the category "distinguished works of nonfiction." In 1998, the Leadership Project, a national survey of ten thousand administrators and faculty, named Parker J. Palmer on of the thirty "most influential senior leaders" in higher education and one of the ten key "agenda setters" of the decade, noting that "he has inspired a generation of teachers and reformers with evocative visions of community, knowing, and spiritual wholeness."

The life and works of Parker Palmer will be explored during the adult forum the first three Sundays of February.

**Sunday, February 5: Key Themes Coursing Through Parker's life and work.** "This Live Encounter" focuses on the quest for true self and explores the nature and contours of the inner life. "Moving the Heart to the Center" offers visions and designs for creating communities of learning in which we can explore the inner landscapes of our lives. "True Self Unleashed" describes the social and institutional transformations possible when individuals decide to live and lead from a place of identity, integrity, and wholeness. This session will be led by Jeff Wild

### Sunday, February 12: Courage to Teach:

One of Parker's gifts is the ability to put "wheels on ideas." After writing the *Courage To Teach*, Parker formed the Center for Teacher Formation. The Center has an office at Edgewood College and is staffed by Barbara Hummel and Bonnie Trudell. Barb and Bonnie will share more about the work of the center and introduce us to the *Courage to Teach* retreats that are led around the country.

### Sunday, February 19: Healing the Heart of Democracy: The Courage to Create a Politics Worthy of the Human Spirit:

In his most recent book Palmer looks with realism and hope at how to deal with our political tensions for the sake of the common good. *Healing the Heart of Democracy* names the "habits of the heart" we need to revitalize our politics and shows how they can be formed in the everyday venues of our lives. Palmer proposes a practical and hopeful method to hold the tensions of our differences in a manner that can help us restore a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people." This session will be led by Pastoral Intern Wendy Cooper who has great experience of working in the arena of community organizing.

### February 26: ROB BELL: Provocative creator of the NOOMA Series videos and the controversial and polarizing book "LOVE WINS."

Bell has a gift for getting to the heart of matters in a concise style. We will view nine NOOMA DVDs in groupings of three each Sunday, beginning Feb. 26th.

The theme for the first three is "FOLLOWING:" (DUST) Learn why the early disciples were willing to drop everything to follow Jesus. How do we respond to His claims on us? (RHYTHM) How can we wake up to the presence of God's grace around us? (BREATHE) Our physical breath is a window to our spiritual reality. Learn how Bell defines this to be true.

The March 4th theme will be "TRUST" and the March 11th theme, "MOVING FORWARD." Each will feature three more of the NOOMA DVDs.

Discussion guides are Ted Kalkwarf and Arden Malhberg

## MCC News

### Guiding Principle:

Engage one another, neighbors, and the wider world in action to improve people's lives...

### Coming Events

February 5	Souper Bowl of Caring after worship
February 8	Indoor Labyrinth is open, 9:00 a. to 5:00 p.
February 12	Indoor Labyrinth is open 1:00-2:30 p.
February 22	Ash Wednesday, 7:00 p.
February 29-March 28	Lenten Service, 7:00 p.
March 18	Following services a potluck and showing of the film <b>Food Fight</b> , sponsored by <i>Harvest of Hope</i>
March 20	Spring Equinox Labyrinth Walk, 6:00-8:00 p.
April 17	MCC Women's Salad Supper

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

- *Read or Listen* to Pastor Jeff, Pastor Tisha's or Intern Wendy's **Sunday sermons!**
- **Sunday texts** are on the monthly calendar.
- **COH and Advent** members find **Worship Assistant's Schedule**
- **Weekly Announcements**
- **Good Word 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

### Calling All MCC Music Lovers - **SECOND SUNDAYS!**

**Sunday, February 12, from 6:30-8p.** We open with an all-request Evensong Jam from 6:30-7p for a time of sacred fellowship through music and then break out into specific rehearsal groups based on upcoming services. We are looking at another Bluegrass service in February, so we will definitely have a bluegrass group rehearsing from 7-8p. We may also offer some time for choir sectionals or for the youth-led Chicago Folk service. We will send out an email with more specific details as the dates draw nearer.

Come just for the Evensong or come for it all. This is a special time for us to share our gifts of music with each other for the glory of God. We have had a wide range of ages and musical abilities - all are welcome! It seems as though folks are leaving feeling refreshed and energized for the upcoming week, which is a pretty neat perk. :-)

Contact Tisha Brown with questions.

### Voter Registration Information Table in Shalom Room

A voter registration information table has been set up in the Shalom Room with materials published by Dane County United. Feel free to take any of the brochures and hand-outs that explain the recent changes to the Wisconsin election laws.

### Food Fight: The movie

Weren't able to attend adult education on Jan. 8 when portions of this documentary were shown? Or, did you see the segments and want to see more? Maybe you're the parent of a teenager and would like to expose your child to some food for thought about the origins of his or her favorite junk food?

For any of those reasons—and others we didn't think of—join members of the Harvest of Hope committee for a potluck lunch and viewing of this thought-provoking documentary after worship on March 18. We will eat first and start the film at noon in the Covenant Room.

"Food Fight" features interviews with such food experts as Michael Pollan, Will Allen of Growing Power in Milwaukee, and Rep. Ron Kind of Wisconsin. Through historical footage, animation, and some really bad TV commercials from the 1950s, the evolution of the U.S. food industry is explained, including the effects of both World War II and the Vietnam War on how Americans eat today. Youth with any interest in U.S. history—or who eat—should find something to enjoy about this film, so bring the whole family. Questions? Contact Debra Greene.

### Haiti Allies -- An Invitation to Join a Great Ministry!

Haiti Allies, an MCC outreach ministry focused mainly in Port au Prince, invites people interested in learning more about our work in Haiti to join us at our monthly meetings, held the first Tuesday of each month at MCC -- February 7 will be our next meeting. Our primary focus is to help Haitians change the course of their lives through education. Feel free to come and see if this type of work calls you. We are a warm and welcoming group.

### Guiding Principle:

Inspire gratitude, creativity, and joy

### The Good Word

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Newsletter Mailing Ready: Eileen Bolstad and Doris Roberts

**Strategic****Directive:**

Deepen people's  
connections to God...

## MCC News

### A Renewable Church

The Madison Christian Community is now a member of A Renewable Enterprise's renewable learning communities. As part of our membership, we receive monthly newsletter articles to encourage us in our efforts to live by our new Umbrella Strategy and also to respond to what God is doing in the world all around us. These articles will now be a regular feature of our MCC newsletter. I hope you enjoy them. Tisha

### A "NEW" APPROACH TO EVANGELISM

Maybe you're a great fisherman or fisherwoman, or maybe you've just been to a fish fry or two. Either way, you know what happens to a fish once it's caught. You clean it, dip it in some batter, fry it, and serve it up with a side of potatoes. In other words, you *consume* it. No wonder folks out there aren't jumping into our nets.

A lot of us have been taught to be "fishers of men." But when you think about it from the point of view of the "fish," this is a very unattractive image. Besides, Jesus never said evangelism is like fishing. He never told us to "go fishing" at all. Go ahead, read the story again (Matthew 4:18-22).

Jesus told a crowd full of moms and dads, teachers and lawyers, carpenters and house cleaners that they are "the light of the world." Same deal when he said, "you are the salt of the earth." But when he said, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people," Jesus wasn't talking to you or me. He was talking to a couple of *fishermen*. What do you think Jesus would have said if he had been talking to a couple of *knitters* that day? Maybe something like, "Follow me...and I will teach you how to knit people together!" The point is that when Jesus called those fishermen to follow him he was asking them to do the same thing he is asking you: Be who you are, see what you have and do what you know how to do in a way that makes a difference to God and your neighbor.

### JUST TELL 'EM WHAT YOU SEE!

It's time to ditch the tired old consumable model that urges us to "go fishing" for people. Some of us suspect this model was mostly about getting "butts and bucks" in the door, anyway. The instruction Jesus actually gave was this: "Be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8). In other words, tell people what you've seen and, maybe even more importantly, what you see.

Jesus said the kingdom is among us (Luke 17:21)! Can you taste it in the meals served by your grandmother? Do you see it in the way your coworkers support and encourage one another? Can you feel it in the air during holiday times when strangers seem just a little bit kinder toward one another? Well, then, what are you waiting for? Say something like:

*"Hey! I know this might sound weird, but your cooking...your encouragement...your kindness...has been a real blessing to me today. I have felt God's love through you!"*

God is on the loose in this world - at your workplace, at your school, in your own backyard. Keep your eyes open! Be on the lookout for God's activity. When you see it, dare to name it. Join in and be a part of it. Share the Good News with people that Jesus is right now, right here, bringing healing, justice, reconciliation, forgiveness, and love. Help *them* see it. Invite *them* to join in and be a part of it. That is evangelism, dear Christian. No potatoes required.

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[www.RenewableChurch.com](http://www.RenewableChurch.com)*

from Tisha

**Strategic****Directive:**

Foster an open and welcoming environment

## MCC Youth News

### Sunday, February 5 **MS/HS Souper Bowl of Caring**

All hands on deck!! High Schoolers prepare soup before church and Middle Schoolers serve & clean-up after church. In the midst of all the glitz and glam of Super Bowl Sunday, we are selling soup to raise money to fight hunger in the US.

### Wednesday, February 8 **MS/HS Valentine Cookie Packaging, 8-9pm**

All Middle and High School youth are invited to package up the cookies (baked and frozen in January) and prepare them for mailing to MCC's college students for Valentine's Day.

### Sunday, February 26 **MS/HS Tobogganing at Lutherdale**, after church until 5pm

Lutherdale Camp (where we held the Confirmation Retreat this year) has 2 amazing tobogganing runs. We'll leave ASAP after church and eat pizza when we get there. Hot cocoa will be available in the afternoon to warm-up. Cost: \$5

Looking ahead...

**Thursday, March 1** BWCA & Middle School Mission Trip Deposits Due - \$50 to "MCC Youth"

**Sunday afternoon, March \_\_\_\_** (TBD) All families of youth, Confirmation students, & mentors are encouraged to attend the lunch & viewing of "Food Fight" after church.

**Sunday eve, March or April** (TBD) Talent Show

**Sunday, April 8** Easter Breakfast

**Sunday, April 22** Amazing G-Race, 1-5:30pm

**HS BWCA Trip:** June 13-19

**MS Mission Trip to Minneapolis:** June 27-30

- Extensions and scholarships are always available. Please contact Jen.

## Advent News

### OPALS Book Discussion Group

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

Our book is *Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain. You've heard of this one but have you read it recently?

### Judith Circle

The next meeting of the Judith Circle will be on **February 14 at 9:30 a.** Virginia Stumbo is the host and we will meet at MCC. Rebecca Weise is the study leader. All are welcome for fellowship and study. If you need a ride or have any questions please call Ellen Roberts or Hildy McGown.

### Highlights from Advent Council Meeting November 22, 2011

Members were contacted by the council re: Renewal of Membership Sunday. It was a very positive experience.

Pr. Jeff reported that the confirmation retreat at Lutherdale went well. Work on packaging worm castings has begun. The money earned from selling the castings will go to the Lutheran Campus Ministry.

The Kitchen Cabinet is in place, and has begun reorganizing the kitchen.

Four contributions to the Mission Endowment Fund have been received to date.

The Council went over a draft of the MCC policy manual. Work continues in the effort to complete the manual.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2012.

### Advent Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle will meet on **Thursday, February 9, 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.

### Advent Women Thursday Breakfast

Advent women are invited for coffee each Thursday at 7 a. at **Panera Bread at 3461 University Ave.** 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!

### G.E.M.S. (Grumpy Elderly Men)

GEMS will discuss Parker Palmer's Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation starting in January. We continue meeting every Tuesday morning at 10:30. If you think you might qualify as a Grumpy Elderly Man, try us out. We have stimulating discussions each week and great goodies.

### Strategic

#### Directive:

Care for creation and help others to do so as well...

## Advent News

**Because we have the duty and delight to help those who live among us, the following financial resources are available at Advent Lutheran.**

1) **Treasury of Love:** This fund is contributed to by members of Advent for the purpose of helping those beyond our congregation who find themselves financially unable to meet some basic needs, such as aiding against the threat of eviction, preventing electricity from being turned off in homes (or restoring it), basic car repairs so that people are able to get to their places of employment. Each Sunday there is a basket on the altar in the Blessing Room for donations to this important benevolence. Sonja Keesey-Berg administrates this fund.

2) **Advent Special Fund:** This fund was established eight years ago and provides monetary resources to members of Advent. The annual budget for Advent sets \$2000 aside for the purpose of giving financial aid to struggling families/individuals within our congregation. Parishioners can contact Pastor Wild with their individual concerns.

3) **Insurance Assistance Fund:** This is a newly formed monetary resource for Advent members who are public service employees (school teachers, state employees, and UW employees) affected by the recent budgetary changes in our state. Money for this fund comes from both the Advent Mission Investment Fund and individuals who would like to donate to help assist fellow members in their adjustment to reduced net earnings due to increased pension and health care expenditures. Parishioners can contact Pastor Wild with their individual concerns or regarding donations to this fund.

### Advent Giving Goal

This giving goal is based upon the proposed Spending Plan for Mission for 2012. The spending plan of \$385,950 is an \$8,460 increase over the 2011 Spending Plan for Mission. The giving goal for January is .09% the average percentage given in January 2009-2011. The giving goal for January 2012 is \$34,700. Members of Advent have generously given \$27,560 with January 29 outstanding. We'll be close!

### Treasury of Love 2012

Beg. Balance	<b>70.00</b>
Love Offerings	<u>501.00</u>
	<b>571.00</b>
Rent & Eviction Prevention	477.00
Utility Assistance	0.00
Prescriptions	23.00
Mailings to Soldiers	<u>70.00</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>\$570.00</b>
<b>Balance as of 1/23/2012</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>

### Strategic

#### Directive:

Focus on meaningful partnerships that work for justice...

## Community of Hope News

### Sunday morning Worship During Lent

Wendy Cooper and Tisha Brown along with the Hope Worship Team have been brainstorming a Lenten worship and sermon series that we are both really excited about. We are planning to play with the idea that Jesus was a radical who called people to live in the world in a substantially different and radical way in his time. What would it look like if we were to make commitments today to being radical in the way Jesus introduced over 2000 years ago?

**February 26 – Being radical in openness and vulnerability.** This week will be an introduction to the series as well as an invitation to be open and vulnerable during Lent. We will also touch on being open to being in relationship with people we might not normally choose – the poor, people of color, people with disabilities, Republicans etc. Jesus calls us to table fellowship with people from all walks of life – how do we respond?

**March 4 – Being radical in devotion.** Jesus teaches his disciples to pray and is often seen praying himself in the gospels. This week we will be invited to consider adopting a regular prayer practice. Muslims pray 5 times per day no matter where they are or what they are doing. What if we committed to praying 5 times per day no matter where we were? How would that alter our identity, sense of ourselves in the world, sense of connection to God?

**March 11 – Being radical in setting boundaries.** What are some of the things you use or do to distract yourself? Do technology, television or other things distract you from real live relationships, from living your life fully? Do you struggle to figure out what to do with yourself when unscheduled hours or days approach? When was the last time you had a blank afternoon with nothing much to do? How can we set boundaries in our lives that help us engage with the real people around us and that open quiet spaces for God to speak in our lives?

### March 18 – Being a radical creator.

What is the alternative to constant consumption? We think it's creation. People do not create the things we need for daily life as much as they used to. We spend a lot of time consuming things made by machines. What would it look like to practice creating the things we need or creating beauty in our lives? Our God is the great creator and we are called to a creative relationship with this creator. How do we live into that creative relationship with more creativity?

**March 25 – Being a radical in engaging the world.** Whether we like to admit it or not, the systems in which we live and move are not going to radically change in our lifetimes but we have the power to BE different, to function differently within these systems. God calls us to be different in the world, to live a life focused not on what we need to change but on God and one another. This is also about really living a rich, full, engaged life in whatever way you define that for yourself.

See you in Church during Lent!

### Guiding Principle:

Nurture deep spirituality and generosity...

## Community of Hope News

### CoH Women's Breakfast Group

#### **Solve the World's Problems With Us—One Cup of Coffee at a Time.**

The Community of Hope's Women's Breakfast Group meets the first and third Wednesday of every month starting at 7:00 a. We have no agenda except to listen, learn and laugh with each other at the Hubbard Avenue Diner, 7445 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton, 831-6800. All are welcome. Email or call 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.

### Praying through the Community of Hope Directory

Community of Hope is committed to nurturing deep spirituality and generosity, cultivating meaningful connections and inspiring gratitude, creativity and joy. One of the ways we approach these commitments is through prayer. We believe a regular prayer practice deepens people's connections to God, feeds our spirits and equips us for our life journeys. This ministry of prayer also strengthens and builds relationships within our community. This month we pray for the following people and their families in our ongoing effort to pray for our entire congregation throughout each year.

#### **Jan. 31- Feb. 7**

Sandie Esrael & Peter Williams;  
Warren & Susan Exo

#### **Feb. 7-14**

Freddie Feeny; Donna Fisker

#### **Feb. 14-21**

Mark & Luke Geistlinger, Kristen, Zoe & Liza Meyer; Theresa & Steve Haffner-Stearns; Tricia Hagen

#### **Feb. 21-28**

Christine Hartelt; Margaret Helming;  
Mary Hitchcock & Michelle Sawyer

#### **Feb. 28-Mar. 6**

Julie James; Keith Johnson & Julie Hunter

#### **Guiding Principle:**

Work in  
environmentally  
responsible ways...

# Community of Hope News

## Woman's Prayer and Reflection Grp

All women are welcome to join our Women's Prayer and Reflection Group. We meet twice a month on the first and third Tuesdays at 6:30—8:00 p. in the Covenant Room. Come, join other women for a reflective, soul-nourishing experience.

For more information or questions call Becky Rice or Pat Eddings.

## Dinner with Tisha & Cindy in 2012

One of the Strategic Directions in the MCC's Umbrella Strategy is to "strengthen and build relationships within MCC, and foster an open and welcoming environment." As a way of focusing on this strategic direction in 2012, Tisha and Cindy are hoping to have as many Hope members as possible to their house for dinner in small groups of 6 to 8 people. We will host one group per month and are looking forward to having you in our home and sharing a meal together in 2012

## Important Dates to Remember!



### Birthdays

Kevin Clark	2/04
Lois Komai	2/11
Bonnie Spindler	2/11
Nathan Powell	2/13
Betty Custer	2/15
Stephanie Williams	2/15
Rajai Atalla	2/21
Tina Eder	2/21
Howard Kanetzke	2/25
Nick Hartelt	2/28

### Anniversaries

Art & Mary Nack	2/18
Bill Rettig	2/25

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

### Guiding Principle:

Work in environmentally responsible ways...

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## Larger Community

### Winter Fun Days at Sugar Creek Bible Camp

February 12 and February 26, 1-5 p. Cost for the day is \$4 per person.

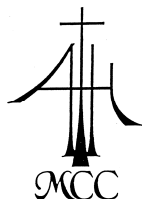
Enjoy downhill tubing (tubes provided) and ice skating (bring your own skates). Complete with hot dogs, chili, hot chocolate, etc. Bring your family, friends youth group, etc. Lunch served about 2:30-4:30 p.

### Sugar Creek Summer Camp Information

**Guiding Principle:**

Work in  
environmentally  
responsible ways...

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



**Non-Profit Org.**  
**US POSTAGE PAID**  
**Madison, WI**  
**Permit #1928**

**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.

**ADDRESS 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*

**Staff:**  
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Leona Peck  
Community Support Network Clients

**Community of Hope Steering Committee**  
Mary Schmelzer  
Evelyn Mazack  
Jan Manser  
Pat Eddings  
Peter Williams,  
MCC Chair

**Advent Council**  
Dean Ryerson  
Tom Hietpas, President  
Kevin Hoag  
Winifred Brown  
Linda Pettersen  
David Dahl

**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.

**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:**  
Peter Williams, Chair  
Tom Hietpas  
Tisha Brown  
Jeff Wild