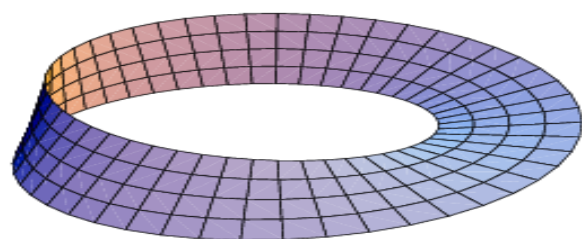


### Boydseye View

Last Sunday's text from Isaiah 60 is a familiar and catchy invitation to "Arise, let your light shine." Through some simple textual study, I offered a slightly longer translation to be, "Give light, for the light of God shining through you has come, and is promised to come into the future."

We repeat this promise year in and year out because it is a reminder of the promise of God to us, that we too will be light for the world. The challenge for us is to see how we "shine" or "give light" when it is so easy to feel discouraged, disheartened, distracted or tired. The challenge is to connect this promise to our spiritual lives in concrete, tangible ways.

In my sermon, I offered a visual image of a "mobius strip" to help us consider one way to understand how we understand and then share the light of God.



I would invite us to think about our spiritual lives as "life on a mobius strip." Imagine one side represent our outer or "on stage" life. The words that apply here are image, persona, roles, responsibilities – in short, how other people see us. The other side can represent our inner or backstage life. The words that apply here are things like values, beliefs, ideas, hopes, fears – the parts of things that aren't as visible to others.

Author and educator Parker Palmer suggests that the mobius strip reminds us that is "no inner and outer. All is one and the two "apparent" sides keep co-creating each other. What is inside us continually flows out to help form, or deform, the outer world. What is outside us continually flows in to help form, or deform, our inner lives." (*A Hidden Wholeness*, by Parker Palmer, 2004).

Last July our Next Generation Initiative Mission Team set out to help us think more clearly about our programming and building and staffing needs – while keeping in mind our guiding vision – "spiritually alive, joyfully inclusive, committed to justice."

What became obvious very quickly is that programming addressing all three phrases in our vision statement has both inner and outer dimensions. There is no inward spirituality without outward justice work. Joyful inclusivity has deep resonances personally and socially. How we treat ourselves impacts how we interact with the outside world....The list could go on. For us as a congregation then, thinking about "letting our light shine" into the next generation – using a mobius style image is useful and valuable.

I hope 2008 is a year for Orchard Ridge to continue to "arise" and let the light of God shine through us. I hope that we can consider our personal lives, using the image of a mobius strip, to see how our inner and outer lives, values and roles, backstage and onstage lives work together to communicate the love of God to others.

At the same time, I hope we as a church can understand more deeply the "inner" and "outer" dimensions of our ministry of Light. I hope through hearty discussion, prayer, worship, fellowship and an appreciation of deep mystery – we can strengthen our understanding of what it means to share a holistic and well rounded ministry to ourselves and the world outside our congregation.



JANUARY, 2008 ISSUE 1

# Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ COMMUNION

**"Spiritually Alive, Joyfully Inclusive, Committed to Justice."**

#### Sunday Morning

#### January 13

9 am Education  
10 am Worship, Winton Boyd preaching Handbells

#### January 20

9 am Education  
10 am Worship, Winton Boyd preaching Senior Choir

#### January 27

9 am Education  
10 am Worship, Ree Hale preaching Senior Choir

#### Newsletters

January 23-Note date change  
February 6 and 20

Information to be included in the newsletters are due the Monday before by 9:00 a.m. Email items to office@orucc.org, or drop them off at the office.

#### Church Emails

Debbie Bauerkemper office@orucc.org  
Rev. Ree Hale rhale@orucc.org  
Rev. Tammy Martens tmartens@orucc.org  
Winton Boyd winton@orucc.org

### Annual Meeting to be Held on January 20<sup>th</sup>

In addition to the important annual work of the meeting (approving budget, election of officers, recognition of volunteers, receiving of annual reports and trying to occasionally decipher Robert's Rules of Order) this year we will be asked to receive the report of the **Next Generation Initiative Mission Team and endorse the formation of four "Explorer Teams."**

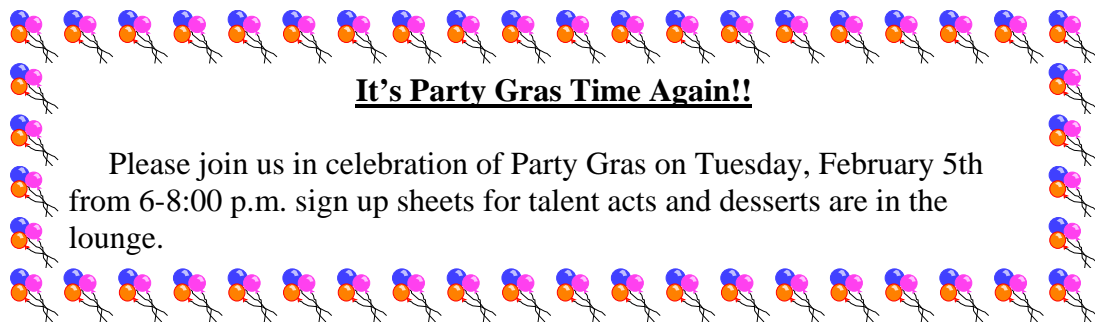
**These teams will be short term teams designed to offer recommendations on programming and facility needs.** (See [www.orucc.org](http://www.orucc.org) for the full report of the team, or its executive summary). The focus areas of these teams will be:

- Music
- Spirituality
- Children, Youth and Families
- Faith in Action

We will be looking for individuals who have a deep interest in one of these areas to join in the exploration! Because these are short term groups, it is possible for someone to be on a Ministry as well as an Explorer team if they wish.

#### Important Dates:

- January 13<sup>th</sup> – Copy 2007 Annual report and 2008 proposed budget available in narthex or on line ([www.orucc.org](http://www.orucc.org))
- January 20<sup>th</sup> – Annual Meeting after worship
- February 8<sup>th</sup> – Friday evening Leadership Team retreat – place tba
- February 9<sup>th</sup> – All Leaders retreat (Saturday morning) – place tba



### It's Party Gras Time Again!!

Please join us in celebration of Party Gras on Tuesday, February 5th from 6-8:00 p.m. sign up sheets for talent acts and desserts are in the lounge.

### IHN Comes to ORUCC January 13-20, Only a Few Opportunities Remain

This is a wonderful mission that demonstrates our commitment to assist those folks with significant needs. We only need a few more eager volunteers to fill our obligations for hosting our IHN families.

- Both Sundays, 1/13 at 11 a.m. help with set-up, on 1/20 at 7:15 a.m., help with clean-up, 4-5 more volunteers needed.
- Tuesday, 1/15, 6:30-8:30, help with activities, 3-4 volunteers needed
- Thursday, 1/17, 6:30-8:30, help with activities, 3-4 volunteers needed.

If you can help out please contact Steve Sheets, 845-5667, or im1042@charter.net.

**Tree of Life****Please pray:**

- For Deanna Blanchard and her family, as her mom continues to recover from a stroke recently.
- For Lori Miller, recovering from being hospitalized with pneumonia.
- For Alice Jones, rehabilitating at Oakwood after knee replacement surgery.
- For Gordon Garnett and Len Rush, undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Ann Turner, recovering from knee surgery.

If one member suffers, all suffer together, if one member rejoices, all rejoice together" (The apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians)

**Family Prayer Cycle**

It is important to pray for one another in times of special need or joy, and also in the "regular" times. We invite you to pray for these families. We invite you to make praying for one another a regular feature of your own prayer life.

- Dianne, Paul & Heather Stevens
- Meg & John Stevens
- Richard & Barbara Stinson

**Compassion Offering**

Each month our Sunday cash offerings (change and bills) will be designated to a worthy mission cause. Each month a different cause or ministry will be highlighted. This is a voluntary contribution. If you would like credit on your church statement, you may also write a check with the cause listed in the memo line. While this will not count toward your annual pledge, we will acknowledge the contribution on your statement.

**The Compassion offering for January will be the UCC Peace Campaign.**

We urgently need "\$100,000 for Peace" to provide much-needed food, water, health care and education for war-affected Iraqi families displaced in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. More than 4 million people – 15 percent of Iraq's population – have been forced from their homes because of war and bloodshed. Act now, in the name of peace.

A gift of \$40 can feed a family of four for two weeks. \$85 can provide warm coats and hats for 5 children. \$100 can provide medicine and testing for the chronically ill.

**Custodian has resigned**

We will be advertising for a new custodian. If you know of someone who might be interested in a part-time position, please have them contact the office (271-7212 or office@orucc.org) for more details.

**Sunday Mornings at 9:00 a.m.****Java and Jesus** (January 13, 20, 27)

We will try something new called NOOMA. NOOMA is a set of short films that try to communicate faith issues in story form. Designed and produced by the Mars Hill Church in Grand Rapids, MI, these high quality DVD's are designed to provoke discussion and thoughtful reflection. Here is what the producers say, "We can get anything we want, from anywhere in the world, whenever we want it. That's how it is and that's how we want it to be. Still, our lives aren't any different than other generations before us. Our time is. We want spiritual direction, but it has to be real for us and available when we need it. We want a new format for getting Christian perspectives. Each NOOMA touches on issues that we care about, that we want to talk about..."

**Heart & Soul**

**January 13 Heart & Soul:** Joe Farkas will speak to us about his church, Christian Science.

**January 20 Heart & Soul:** J.Denny Weaver will talk with us about Mennonites. Denny was a professor of religion for 32 years at Bluffton University (a Mennonite university in Ohio). He has written numerous books of topics including Anabaptism and Nonviolent Atonement. He and his wife now live in Madison.

**January 27 Heart & Soul:** Sister Lynne Smith, an ordained Presbyterian minister, and a member of the Benedictine Women of Madison at Holy Wisdom Monastery (formerly St. Benedict Center) for the past seven and half year, will share her spiritual journey and her path to Holy Wisdom Monastery as well as background about the Benedictine tradition.

**Save the date and hop on the bus!**

Do you wonder about the places where our Compassion Offerings and mission dollars are used? Then join us on the family-friendly bus tour to a few of the sites ORUCC supports. Put Sunday, February 17, on your calendar. We'll provide a light lunch right after church and then board the bus. We'll be back by 2:30.

Details will follow.

**End of year Contribution Statements**

Year-end contribution statements for 2007 will be available on the table in the lounge starting Sunday, January 20th.

**Elder's of the month**

Dorothy and Byron Peterson's early years could be a profile of rural life in Wisconsin. Yet each of them has a distinctive life story which also includes ORUCC's history as a congregation.

Dorothy Schiesser Peterson's parents owned a dairy farm located between Belleville and New Glarus. She spoke Swiss at home until she went to the same one-room school her mother and grandmother had attended. Dorothy is a New Glarus H.S. graduate. Because she took high school typing and shorthand courses, Dorothy secured a job with the State Board of Health. She saved earnings and attended UW for a year, after which she returned to her career. She greatly enjoyed secretarial administration responsibilities and is especially proud of being responsible for the verbatim recordings of monthly board meetings for the State Department of Health officer.

Byron grew up on a dairy farm near Dodgeville. Unlike Dorothy, an "only child," Byron was the youngest of eight, a "preemie" whose parents were instructed to "take him home, because he won't live." Family lore asserts that Byron's first bed was a shoebox on top of the kitchen's wood stove warming oven! He rode a pony during good weather one way and uphill to the one-room school he attended. (Ask him what the one-way pony did after that.) After he graduated from Dodgeville H.S., college was out of the question due to the Depression. He got a job milking seven cows three times a day for a farmer near Watertown. He took UW short-course and landed a county job testing milk for butter fat in Racine and Kenosha Counties. Later he worked for neighbors of Dorothy's parents. That's when Byron and Dorothy met.

In 1951 Byron and Dorothy married and moved to Madison where they lived for six years in a Monroe Street two-story flat on property where the public library is now located. For the next 13 years Byron worked in sales for Armour Meat Packing, after which he worked between 1964 and 1989 for Hoffman Chemical, where he became manager. While living in Madison, Byron and Dorothy went to every UW home football game.

In 1958 the Petersons moved to a home they built on Tolman Terrace, and that's where they lived for 45 years until they moved to their condo four years ago. They have two grown children, Michael and Kathie and two grandchildren who are Kathie's daughters: Kari, a West H.S. freshman, and Amy a Hamilton sixth grader. While Michael and Kathie were young, the family traveled to every state in the nation, usually camping and visiting national parks. Dorothy and Byron continue to enjoy traveling, especially to Europe. They like to read and go to movies. They spent the last five years doing the demanding work of cleaning up and renovating the Peterson Family Farm.

Byron and Dorothy have strong personal ties to our denomination and congregation. His family belonged to the Congregational Church in Dodgeville. Her home church was the Belleville Evangelical and Reformed congregation where Ruth Ley's husband once was pastor. They belonged to First Congregational Church while living in Madison. They have countless ties to ORUCC which they call "home." Although Dorothy and Byron carefully point out that they are not charter members of this congregation, joining Orchard Ridge in October, 1958, after attending services in Gordon and Jeanne Garnett's home. Dorothy taught Sunday School, and one of the classes used to meet in the basement of their home. They were among the pairs of couples who used to take turns cleaning the church building on Saturdays, and they were nearby neighbors of the clergy families who lived in the former church parsonage. Dorothy served as Church Secretary for two years beginning in September, 1969, working four-hour days on Monday through Friday and less during the summer. She named our newsletter "The Communion." At home she also worked for neighbor UW Professor Jon Udell. At one time Dorothy served as Clerk for our congregation, and she was also a delegate to the Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Conference. Byron served on the Board of Property Management for four years; he reports improvements to the building including air conditioning, remodeling the bathrooms and bringing them up to code, adding the island and installing a dishwasher in the kitchen, and extensive rewiring.

Byron and Dorothy value ORUCC's "loving, warm congregation," the "fantastic" music, and they claim that "Over-55 is just the greatest group of people." Their sister-in-law Mary Lou Peterson is also an ORUCC member. Dorothy enjoys the Quilting Group and the Women's Bible Study.

"The community of the church just feels right," according to the Petersons. And they should know!



### The Big Secret!

The Big Secret is continuing to become much less of a secret. Many of you are discovering that it truly does feel wonderful to give. To date, our members have submitted pledges totaling \$312,421 for the year 2008. Thank you for your generosity!

If you have not yet submitted your 2008 pledge, we encourage you to prayerfully consider a generous pledge to support the missions of ORUCC in 2008, and to send your pledge card to the church office this week.

The Stewardship Mission Team

## **YOUTH NEWS**

### Second/Third Graders to Receive Bibles

We will be giving Bibles to the 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> graders on Sunday, January 13 in worship. We would also like to give Bibles to any of the children who are older but who may not have received their very own Bible. Please let me know if your child needs a Bible. In addition with giving this gift, we will be also offering a class "Making Friends with the Bible" for the 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders starting January 20 and running through the entire semester. This class will take place during the worship hour (10:20ish-11:00ish). We have a wonderful kid friendly curriculum that will help children learn about the Bible and how to use their Bible.

### The Way of the Child January Sunday School: Acts of Love

*You are the healing, the loving, the touching. You are the laughing, You are the dancing. Jesus, Verb of God. You are the moving—move in me.* (Marilee Zdenek, *God is a Verb*)

The 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School classes began a new module last Sunday entitled "Acts of Love." The spiritual journey is an inward/outward growth process. As we seek to draw closer to God in quiet prayer, meditation, and reflection, we are drawn to express that closeness in word and deed. The sessions in this module give children an experience of becoming more aware of needs around them and in our world, using their imagination to develop empathy and compassion, listening to scripture, learning about organization and persons who serve others, becoming aware of their own opportunities for service, and seeing all of this as grounded in God's abundant love shown in Jesus.

We will spend **the entire month of January involved in a service project.** We will be working with Interfaith Hospitality Network as they house families here at Orchard Ridge the week of January 13. During the entire month, the children will learn about homelessness and the issues that surround homelessness. The children will bake goodies, help take down the rooms and prepare them for the IHN families, collect items for IHN families, and be in prayer for this ministry and the families who will be staying at Orchard Ridge.

Children will collect the following items for IHN families:

**Toiletries including:** toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, deodorant, (standard size, please), African-American hair grease (found at Walgreens)

**Cleaning supplies:** laundry detergent, toilet paper, paper towels, dish soap, Bathroom cleaner, wipes, sponges, dish cloths.

### Youth Mission Trip

We will travel to Bay St. Louis, Mississippi to work with hurricane relief projects. We will stay right on the Gulf of Mexico! Our trip is planned for July 26-August 2, 2008. **Definite commitment and deposit (\$50.00) deadline is 1/21/08.**

### Coming in 2008 to the Youth (7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) Sunday School

**January 13:** Meg Stevens, Caregiver, shares about her vocation and faith.

**January 20:** Tammy Martens will lead the youth in an activity to help us understand ourselves better as we try and relate to God and God's Spirit.

**January 27:** Alan Harris, Principal at East High School will share about his vocation and faith.

We will hear from a few more adults as they share their Vocation Stories. Alan Harris, East High Principal, and Meg Stevens, Caregiver, will be sharing. Tammy Martens will wrap up the unit with some activities.

Paul Hedges will lead a Sunday School unit on Film and Faith starting sometime in February.



**Living the Call: Prisoners and Society**  
*Thursday, Jan. 17, 7 p.m.*  
*First Congregational UCC, 1609 University Ave., Madison*



UCC congregations in our area have put a particular focus of late on what is happening to prisoners in our state. Rev. Jerry Hancock of the UCC Prison Ministry works inside the walls with prisoners and tries to find ways to change systems so they are more just. Linda Ketcham of Madison-area Urban Ministry leads an effort to help former prisoners get a good start as they re-enter society. They will present this session on what churches are doing to help recognize the human needs of prisoners and the needs of society for safety.

### DANE COUNTY UNITED

*Citizens and organizations uniting to work together across our differences to create a better life and a more just and inclusive community for all people of Dane County*  
**SAVE THE DATE, Thursday, January 31st, 7-8:30 p.m. at SS Morris AME Church, 3511 Milwaukee Ave.**

### Action to Support Youth and Schools

**Who Should come?** All those interested in supporting youth and schools. We encourage delegations of leaders from faith, community, education and business institutions to attend together.

### Why come?

**To** learn more about the Volunteer African American Mentoring Program,/African Centered Pedagogy Project: why it is needed and its impact on students, teachers and the community.

**To** show broad community support for this specific program/approach to supporting our most vulnerable youth.

**To** take specific concrete steps towards reinstating this program in the Madison Metropolitan School District.

**To** learn about and get involved in DCU's emerging K thru 12 School Campaign.

Questions? Contact Matt Moreland-Gross at 843-6470 or organizer@danecountyunited.org

### Harvest of Hope Winter Farmers Market and Brunch

Madison Christian Community, 7118 Old Sauk Rd., Madison, Saturday, January 19: 10 AM—2 PM



Winter Farmers Market will include grass-fed meat, farm fresh eggs, several varieties of cheese, honey, sorghum, maple syrup, farmstead goat milk soap, wool and wool products. All grown or produced on family farms or cooperatives in Wisconsin.

Brunch will be served from 11 a.m.—1 p.m. using farm products purchased directly from participating farmers.

Tickets are available before January 19 or at the door: Adults \$6, Kids 3-10, \$3, <3, Free.

### Harvest of Hope Winter Farmers Markets Promote:

Economic Justice supporting family farmers and rural communities; Earth Stewardship by buying locally from sustainable farmers; Community & Spirituality connecting farmers & consumers, urban & rural.

Foods and gifts you buy this winter will help Wisconsin farm families. **10% of all sale proceeds are donated to the Harvest of Hope Fund**, a farm emergency fund helping Wisconsin farm families in crisis: 1271 gifts totaling \$752,280 since 1986. Each purchase helps two farmers: the farmer selling the product and the farmer receiving a Harvest of Hope gift!

Co Sponsors: Churches Center for Land and People & the Harvest of Hope Fund. For tickets or details, contact: Roger Williams, 608-839-4758 or rtwillia@wisc.edu.

### Seasonal Half Day Retreat Series to begin in January

ORUCC and Madison Mennonite will be offering a series of 4 half-day spiritual seasonal retreats over the next year. Each retreat will be held during a different season of the year (beginning with winter, then spring, summer and fall). We will root our work in a small book, *Seasons*, by Parker Palmer. Using this book, as well as Scripture, poetry, journaling, solitude time and discussion we will reflect on the work of the Spirit in our lives and the ongoing questions and dynamics of our faith. While each retreat is open to anyone, we are hoping to have a core of people willing to attend all four. These retreats will be co-led by Winton Boyd and Tammy Boyd (ORUCC) and Tonya Wenger (MMC). To register, please send a check to the church for \$15.00. If you have questions, please contact Winton at winton@orucc.org. or 271-7212. We are hoping to provide childcare. Please let us know if this would be helpful in making the retreat possible for you.

**The first retreat (WINTER) will be held on Saturday, January 12th from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Hospice Center on East Cheryl Parkway.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
January		
Saturday 12	8:30 a.m.	Seasonal Retreat at Hospice Center
Sunday 13	9:00 a.m.	Education for all
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
		Host IHN Families through the 20th
Wednesday 16	9:30 a.m.	Quilting Group
	12:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
	5:45 p.m.	Resource Ministry
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday 20	9:00 a.m.	Education for all
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	11:30 a.m.	ORUCC Annual Meeting
Monday 21	6:45 p.m.	Handbell Rehearsal
Tuesday 22	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Mentor Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation
Wednesday 23	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal

**COMMUNION**

**Ushers—Need 3 each Sunday unless specified**

<b>Jan 13</b>	Laurie Irwin, LuAnn Greiner <b>NEED 1 VOLUNTEER</b>
<b>Jan. 20</b>	Phil & Judy Winkel, Kathy Paulson
<b>Jan. 27</b>	Kathy Paulson, <b>NEED 2 VOLUNTEERS</b>

**Welcomers**

<b>January 13</b>	Amy Fewel, Ellen Fluck, Jean Rush
<b>January 20</b>	Rachael & Brian Lacor, Jan Christian
<b>January 27</b>	Helen Atz, Ellen Fluck, Gail Ansheles
<b>February need volunteers</b>	

DATE	Sound schedule	Assisting Scott & Lori	Schedule for Coffee
<b>January 13</b>	John Gilbert	Pam Oliver & John Lemke	Linda Hitchman
<b>January 20</b>	Paul Hedges	<b>NEED VOLUNTEER</b>	Dorothy & Byron Peterson
<b>January 27</b>	Ken Psyck	Lynn Roethe	Tom Furan
<b>February 3</b>	J. McLellan	<b>NEED VOLUNTEER</b>	Doug Hendrix
<b>February 10</b>	Helen Horn	<b>NEED VOLUNTEER</b>	Jan Glaze
<b>February 17</b>	Mike Walsh	<b>NEED VOLUNTEER</b>	Leah Narans

**Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ**

1501 Gilbert Road  
Madison, WI 53711  
www.orucc.org  
office@orucc.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Madison, WI  
Permit No. 1396

Are you still interested in receiving our newsletter? If not, please mail the back (which includes your name and address), call the church office at (608) 271-7212, or contact office@orucc.org requesting us to remove you from our mailing list.

OUR CHURCH IS OPEN AND AFFIRMING OF ALL PEOPLE REGARDLESS OF AGE, RACE, CULTURE, SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND ECONOMIC STATUS.  
OUR CHURCH IS A SAFE SANCTUARY FOR ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH.

**Women's Breakfast Group**

The Women's Breakfast Group meets the first Friday of every month at 8:30 a.m. at Copper Top. The informal group is open to all women who enjoy conversation and connecting on many topics.

**Movie Group January 11th**

On the second Friday of each month the Movie Group of ORUCC gathers after viewing a film of each person's choice. Many interesting conversations occur over dessert. The group will convene at Karen Falkner's home after the movies, 80 Oak Creek Trail, Madison. No e-mail reminders will be sent! Singles, of course, are welcome! Please let Karen know, 833-9730, or kfalkner@tds.net if you are able to join in the fun.

**SAFE Dinner and Program**

The SAFE dinner & program will be hosted by Leslie Linsler and LuAnn Greiner on Monday, January 14th from 6:30 to 8:30pm., at 218 Shepard Ter., in Madison. RSVP to 233-6051 if you need directions. Please bring your favorite casserole dish, salad, or dessert to pass; beverages will be provided.

SAFE gatherings are open to all ORUCC members and friends of ORUCC. SAFE is an ORUCC social group for Christian lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-gendered individuals, families and friends - gay and straight. If you'd like to receive occasional e-mail announcements about future programs, projects and meetings, send your e-mail address to winton@orucc.org indicating that you want to be on the SAFE e-mail list.

**Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group**

The Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group will meet on January 15th from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in room 12. We will study First Chronicles, chapters 10-16. We read aloud together the assigned reading at the start of each meeting.

**NOTE:** We will not meet on February 5<sup>th</sup> because of our Party Gras celebration. We will meet on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

This group meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month. This is an information discussion group open to anyone interested in learning more about the Bible. We welcome and encourage new members. Please call Sandra Dyer (271-2409) or Judy Winkel (271-0481) for more information.

**Quilting Group**

The quilting group will meet on Wednesday, January 16th from 9:30 a.m. until noon in the Friendship Hall. The group meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. Newcomers are invited to join in this special creative and fun activity, as well as the wonderful fellowship. For questions, please call Dorothy Peterson at 845-8412.

**Women's Bible Study**

The Women's Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, January 16th at 12:30 p.m. in room 13. The discussion will be led by Fern Hernandez on Chapter 5, "When You've Been Given a Bad Name".

We meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. We welcome new members. If you have any questions call Mary Lou Peterson at 238-2380.

**The Knit & Crochet groups**

The daytime group will meet on Monday, February 4th from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the lounge (first Monday of each month). The evening group will meet on Tuesday, February 5th from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the lounge (first Tuesday of each month). All are welcome to join either group. Instruction for knitting and crocheting will be offered at each group and supplies. Bring whatever you are working on.

**Rev. Benson Kishovian**

We recently received the following note from the Rev. Benson Kishoyian, a Presbyterian pastor in Kenya, who we have supported since his visit to us in the fall of 2001. Each year the Ministry of Christian Witness and Service authorizes gifts to various ministries. In 2007 we gave Benson and his ministry \$600. We also sold crafts from members of his churches at our Fair Trade Sale in November totaling \$380, as well as several donations from ORUCC members totaling \$300. Many thanks to Bernie Treichel, who facilitates our communication with Benson and who helps transfer the funds.

I salute you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Me and my family are fine, hoping you too are fine. I... have been praying for you and Orchard Ridge Church. The funds I received (will help us... buy arm chairs for the church and part of the money (will) pay school fees for high school for two girls from poor families. May our great God bless you and Orchard Ridge Church.

Happy and prosperous New YEAR!

**Mitten Tree a Huge Success**

There were nearly 175 items donated to the mitten tree this year. About two thirds of them are being donated to Orchard Ridge, Huegel, and Falk elementary schools and the Southwest Resource Center of Joining Forces for Families. The other third went the Allied Drive neighborhood to be used as gifts for the kids at a Christmas party. Thanks to everyone for their generosity.—Bruce and Cherie Olsen