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Parti Gras Pancake Supper: Please join us for a "Parti Gras Pancake Supper," on Tuesday, February 21, 2012, 6-8 pm, at ORUCC, in Friendship Hall. We'll don our beads, have plenty of pancakes, bacon and good coffee for supper, make masks with the kids, listen to the great music of "Tru Function" and "Tru Gumption." Matt Dumas will MC this night of fun for the whole church family. Of course, we'll sing the traditional "When the Saints Go Marching In," and conclude with a ritual prayer and burning of last year's palm branches. A night you won't want to miss!

Habitat for Humanity Event: The UW-Madison campus chapter of Habitat for Humanity will be having its largest fundraiser on Saturday, February 4th, 2012 from 2p.m.-8p.m. at Madison West High School (30 Ash Street). This fundraiser, called "Souper Bowl," raises \$25,000-\$30,000, all which will go to the 12th home funded completely by the student chapter. The event provides attendees with a variety of artistic, locally crafted ceramic bowls, a delicious meal of soup, salad and desserts, entertainment, Bucky, the UW-marching band, kid-friendly activities, a silent auction, local celebrities, and even more! Come join us in celebrating the good deeds of this Christian, non-profit organization. New this year will be a shuttle service to aid with parking! For more information go to uwhabitat.org/fundraise/souperbowl.html.

January Conference – Interfaith Dialogue on Sexuality: OutReach, Madison's LGBT Community Center, has partnered with a number of Madison-area churches to sponsor a conference on religion, spirituality, and diverse forms of sexuality and gender, called **Interfaith Dialogue on Sexuality**, Jan. 22nd, 2012, 1-5 pm, at the Pyle Center, in Madison. REGISTER online at: www.lgbtoutreach.org, email: interfaith@lgbtoutreach.org, or send your name and a \$10 registration fee to: OutReach LGBT Center, 600 Williamson St., Madison, WI 53703.

This conference will have 3 goals: 1) To give progressive LGBT friendly churches an opportunity to develop and build relationships and facilitate cooperation; 2) To connect LGBT friendly churches to OutReach and other LGBT organizations; and 3) To give LGBT people an opportunity to educate themselves on LGBT friendly churches in our area and what they offer.

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This class will begin on Sunday, January 22 at 9:00 a.m. All youth (7th through 12th grade) are invited to participate. We will meet every Sunday except for the 4th Sunday of the month.

Our facilitators for this class are Greg and Barb Loudon, Linda Hitchman and Tammy Martens.

Breakfast for Homeless Men at Grace Episcopal Church: ORUCC has continued to provide breakfast for homeless men six times a year at Grace Episcopal Church in downtown Madison. The food has been donated by 22 very supportive families from this church. We have been a part of this program since the summer of 2008.

We would welcome anyone who would like to be a part of this Porchlight project. Please contact Judy Winkel at jpwinkel@charter.net or 271-0481 if you are interested. You would be asked to contribute the food to Grace Episcopal Church.

We are looking for someone to coordinate this program, as Judy will be retiring in February. Please contact Judy if you would be interested in taking on this very worthwhile project.

Life Line Screening: Life Line Screening will once again be at Orchard Ridge on Friday, February 3rd, offering five low cost, non-invasive screenings using ultrasound technology:

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All 5 screenings are safe, pain free and affordable at \$149. Appointments begin at 9:00am. Please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners to schedule your appointment. **Flyers are on the table in The Crossing**



JANUARY, 2011 ISSUE 2

Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ

COMMUNION

“Spiritually Alive, Joyfully Inclusive, Committed to Justice.”

Sunday Morning

January 22

10 pm worship, Winton Boyd preaching Orchard Ridge Choir

January 29

10 am worship, Winton Boyd preaching TRU Gumption

February 5

10 am worship, Winton Boyd preaching Orchard Ridge Choir

Next Newsletters Published

February 1 & 15

Articles due:

Information to be included in the newsletter is due the Monday before the above dates 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
 Tammy Martens tmartens@orucc.org
 Ken Pennings ken@orucc.org
 Winton Boyd winton@orucc.org



Introduction to the 2012 Budget

Due to the generosity of our members and the hard work of a budget team, the Leadership Team will be presenting a budget to our annual meeting that allows our ministry to continue growing even amidst a tight economy.

Staffing: The Leadership Team recognizes the hard work and dedication of our entire staff. Each of them operates in a professional manner and contributes to a creative, caring, community. Several of them balance their part time work with many other important commitments in their lives. We also recognize the importance and gift of a stable pastoral staff. Winton Boyd is beginning his 14th year as our senior pastor, Tammy Martens her 6th year working as Associate Pastor for Children, Youth and Families, and Ken Pennings is well into his third year as Associate for Congregational Life. For a couple of years, the Leadership Team has recognized that Tammy has been working more hours than the half time salary we pay her. For over a year, the Leadership Team has had a goal of raising Tammy's compensation to match her time. This year's budget takes a beginning step with the plan to pay her for 2/3 time beginning in September 2012. While it does not represent a pay raise, it does represent a commitment to fairness and to supporting this growing program. Tammy Martens will also be taking a three month sabbatical during the months of May, June, and July. All of our pastors are granted the option of three month sabbatical every five years. Winton Boyd and Ken Pennings will work with each other and our lay leadership to ensure a smooth transition into and out of Tammy's sabbatical.

Programs: While our programs represent the core of our ministry to one another and to the wider community, we will be asking staff and Ministries to work with an across the board cut (approximately 10% in discretionary program budgets). While regretful, the Leadership Team felt this was necessary in order to maintain a full staff, a responsible commitment to our building and a dedication to mission outreach. Decisions about how the program budgets will be cut will be left to the Ministries.

Mission Outreach: Our overall commitment to mission outreach continues at a high level. In addition to our budgeted monies, the Ministry of Christian Witness will continue to facilitate our monthly compassion offerings, our occasional fundraiser for outreach, our Fair Trade Sale, and our in kind and hands on support throughout the community. In addition, 2012 will see the beginning of our Major Mission Gift initiative (if approved at the annual meeting), which will represent the single largest gift the church has ever given and will involve planning, collaboration with partners in the Commonwealth Initiative, and a growing commitment on the part of the congregation as the proposal is fully implemented.

Building and Long term financial stability: As we wrap up our Seeds of the Next Generation building project, more responsibility will be shifted back to the Ministry of Resources as we attend to issues not covered in our campaign and monitor new realities with the building. In addition, the Ministry of Resources has made a renewed commitment to strengthen our endowment and planned giving program, to update and clarify our use of memorial funds, and to seek additional lease income from our remodeled building.

It is with joy and hope that we look forward to 2012. The Leadership Team appreciates your continued support and is open to your questions. A full proposed budget will be available on Sunday, January 22, 2012.

Mary Bucknell, Moderator; Rich Hamann, Moderator Elect; Winton Boyd, Senior Pastor

Question and Answer Sessions Regarding our Major Mission Gift: Sunday, January 22nd at 9:00

Representatives from Joining Forces for Families, Dane County Public Health and Commonwealth, Inc. will be here to provide information and answer questions about the innovative proposal to hire a housing organizer for Southwest Madison. This proposal has been recommended by our Ministry of Christian Witness and Service and will be voted on at our Annual Meeting on January 29th.

Congregational Annual Meeting: Sunday, January 29 immediately following worship

SUNDAYS

Java and Jesus will return in January

Compassion Offering

Each month our Sunday cash offerings (change and bills) are designated to a worthy mission cause. Each month a different ministry is highlighted. This is a voluntary contribution. For credit on your church statement, on your check write the ministry in the memo line. While this will not count toward your annual pledge, we will acknowledge the contribution on your statement.

The January Compassion Offering is Porchlight, Inc.

Porchlight, Inc. is a not-for-profit volunteer agency that helps homeless individuals and families in Dane County cope with challenges such as inadequate job skills, mental illness, substance abuse, and the shortage of affordable housing.

Through a variety of programs, Prochlight provides emergency shelter, food, employment services, counseling, and affordable transitional and permanent housing. The goal of the program is to help people achieve independence and move into permanent housing and employment.

Spreading the Warmth in January: The Mitten Tree had another successful year with so many generous donations. The total of mittens, gloves, hats and scarves was 120 items! They will be distributed to our area elementary schools: Orchard Ridge, Falk and Huegel and to Toki Middle School. Items were also picked out by our Road Home guests that were living at the church over the holidays. Thanks so much to everyone who donated to the tree!

Greetings from Benson Kishovian: Please receive our greetings in the name of Christ. We thank God for the donation we received from Orchard Ridge Church. May our good God bless you all. We thank you for your support.

Benson was a visiting pastor from Kenya who spent a month with us in 2000. He serves a number of Presbyterian churches in rural Kenya. We support him and his ministry in various ways each year.

Tree of Life

Prayers of Concern:

- For all those suffering from depression in these winter months.



Prayers of Joy:

- Barb and John Olsen are the proud grandparents of Sadie Grace Schroeder, born on January 11 to their daughter Julie and her husband Matt.
Over 80 people attended our 3rd annual winter retreat at Pilgrim Center for a weekend of activities, relaxation, sledding, karaoke, worship and drumming.
Paul Patenaude travels to Guatamala for 5 weeks for intensive Spanish (nursing Spanish) and clinical work as a nurse.
Helene Nelson travels to Brazil for 6 weeks of teaching English.
Former member, Florence Kennedy, turned 100 on January 19th.
Ali Blanchard will be presenting a research paper on LGBT experiences at UW Whitewater to a national conference in Utah.



Wider Church Family

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.

- Lori Berquam
Joyce Binder
Jon & Deanna Blanchard



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New Events and Opportunities

New Adult Class Beginning January 22, 9 A.M.: Exploring Spirituality: How We Live And What We Do Led By John K. Leonard, Professor Of Religious Studies, Edgewood College,

While many people link spirituality with "religious practices" or "belief in a Higher Power," this 5-session exploration begins by broadening that description to include everything we do and why we do anything. In this sense, everyone has a spirituality—whether religious or not. Exploring the characteristics of a few "sample" spiritualities can afford each of us an opportunity to discover, describe and develop our own spiritualities in ways that are consistent with our deepest beliefs, values and dreams. To participate in this class, which will include lots of group interaction, please commit to attend at least three of the five sessions. Sign up in the Crossroads, and eventually online. Questions? Contact Ken Pennings at ken@orucc.org.

January 22 -- What is Spirituality?

January 29 -- Jesus' Spirituality of Radical Freedom.

February 5 -- Post-Modern Western Spirituality: "I Can't Get No Satisfaction"

February 12 -- What about My Own Spirituality?

February 19 -- Faith Community: Companions on the Spiritual Journey

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Ken's Pennings

This week we are celebrating the life and ministry of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who was born on January 15, 1929. I preached the following sermon at "a service of sermon and song" commemorating Dr. King last Sunday morning at ORUCC, a sermon titled "God's Justice Everywhere":

When my daughter Kitty was in kindergarten, her teacher, Karen Bates, read the class a storybook about the civil rights movement, and the courageous life and violent death of Martin Luther King Jr. What happened next, according to Ms. Bates, made my heart swell with pride in my little girl. Apparently, as the teacher closed the storybook, Kitty stood to her feet and exclaimed to the class, **"This is terrible. We need to pray."** She then urged all the children to stand in a circle holding hands, and then prayed aloud for an end to racism.

The little people get it. They always get it.

When we learn of populations in our cities, nation and world who *struggle day in and day out* for adequate housing, a living wage, a nutritious diet, reliable health care, access to good education, clean air and water, we exclaim, **"This is terrible! We need to pray!"** When we see what is really happening, with the gap between the haves and the have-nots widening, we shout, **"Wait a minute! We can't do this! Haven't we learned anything from Dr. King?!"**

On July 6, 1965, at the Fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, Martin Luther King addressed our denomination, saying: *"Although the Church has been called to combat social evils, it has often remained silent behind the anesthetizing security of stained-glass windows...How often the Church has been an echo rather than a voice, a tail-light behind the Supreme Court and other secular agencies, rather than a headlight guiding men and women progressively and decisively to higher levels of understanding."*

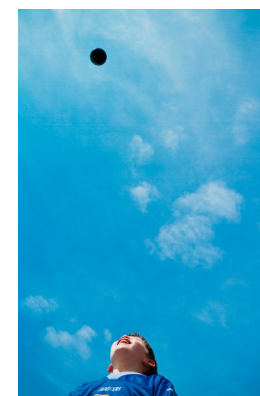
Isn't this what we want for ORUCC? To be a church that is committed to justice, committed to combating social evils? To step out from behind our stained glass windows to be a Voice in this community for justice, to be a Headlight guiding people progressively and decisively to higher levels of understanding, health, wholeness, and well-being?

We can always do more, but what we're doing is pretty amazing! We're moving into a partnership with other social service agencies to provide safe, affordable, accessible housing for low-income people right here in our own neighborhood. We're hosting people in need of emergency shelter in our own building through "Interfaith Hospitality Network." We're purchasing beautiful handmade greeting cards from Dianne Stevens with 100% of proceeds going to eviction-prevention. We're providing meals for the Men's Shelter, donating money for our partnerships with Haiti and Nicaragua, serving at soup kitchens, tutoring in elementary schools, protesting a state budget that many of us believed pulled the safety net out from under some of the most vulnerable in our communities, and on and on.

And most of our justice work goes on without public recognition. In small, but significant ways; in our homes, work places, schools, and civic organizations; by where we shop, what we buy, and how we use our time off from our jobs; we're letting our light shine for justice.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks writes, in his book *To Heal a Fractured World*, "To know that you made a difference, that in this all-too-brief span of years you lifted someone's spirits, relieved someone's poverty or loneliness, or brought a moment of grace or justice to the world that would not have happened had it not been for you: these are as close as we get to the meaningfulness of a life, and they are matters of everyday rather than heroic virtue."

Ken Pennings



Fast from taking yourself so seriously.

Feast on the spontaneous joy of life lived well.

The Joy in me greets the Joy in you.

Beginning February 22- A new Lenten devotional series titled **The Christ in Me Greets the Christ in You**. This meditation series is an offering of pictures and reflections for the season of Lent. The ancient Christian greeting is offered in fresh and provocative ways by the Revs. Jeff Crews and Winton Boyd. These are accompanied by stunning photos from Paul Hedges. Each day the picture and greeting will invite reflection on how we live as people of faith in the world, and how we embody God's love in real and tangible ways. This series is a joint project of Orchard Ridge UCC (Madison, WI) and Spring Glen UCC (Hamden, CT).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
January		
Sunday 22	9:00 a.m.	Adult and Youth Programming
	9:00 a.m.	Mission Gift question and answer session
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Monday 23	6:45 p.m.	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:15 p.m.	ORUCC Men's Group
Wednesday 25	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 26	8:30 a.m.	Meditation/Spirituality Discussion
	6:00 p.m.	TRU Gumption Rehearsal
Sunday 29	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	11:00 a.m.	TRU Function Rehearsal
	11:00 a.m.	Congregational Annual Meeting
Monday 30	6:45 p.m.	Handbell Rehearsal
February		
Wednesday 1	1:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 2	8:30 a.m.	Meditation/Spirituality Discussion
	6:00 p.m.	TRU Gumption Rehearsal
Friday 3	8:30 a.m.	Women's Breakfast at Copper Top
	7:00 p.m.	Leadership Team Retreat

Ushers—Need 3 each Sunday unless specified

Jan 22 Carolyn Carlson, Lois & Dick Rossmiller
Jan 29 Jerry Nelson, Steve Sheets, Rosemary Stare
Feb 5 Jack Christian, Bob Ansheles, Jon Blanchard
Feb 12 Carolyn Carlson, Bob & Carol Prugh
Feb 19 Chuck Kaspar, Marilyn Arnold, Pat Fellows
Feb 22-Ash Wed Steve Sheets, Jerry Nelson
Feb 26 Jim & Bernie Treichel, Bob Ansheles

Welcomers

Jan 22 John&Barb Olsen, Lynn Roethe (Linda Jones)
Jan 29 Nancy Cox, Helen Horn, Cherie Olsen
Feb 5 Joyce Pohl, Ruthanne Landsness, Barb Hummel
Feb 12 Rosemary Stare, Bobbi Sonntag, Charlene Gallagher
Feb 19 John & Barb Olsen, Jan Christian
Feb 26 Jean Fuszard, Kristi Waits, Marilyn Arnold

Sound

Coffee

Jan 22	Paul Hedges	Chuck Kaspar
Jan 29	Chuck Kaspar	Annette Porter
Feb 5	Ken Psyck	Jane Glaze
Feb 12	John Gilbert	Jennifer Dobbins
Feb 19	Paul Hedges	Tom Klossner
Feb 22 Ash Wed	Ken Psyck	_____
Feb 26	Chuck Kaspar	Linda Hitchman

Ongoing Groups and Opportunities

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New Events and Opportunities

New Adult Class Beginning January 22, 9 A.M.: Exploring Spirituality: How We Live And What We Do Led By John K. Leonard, Professor Of Religious Studies, Edgewood College,

While many people link spirituality with "religious practices" or "belief in a Higher Power," this 5-session exploration begins by broadening that description to include *everything* we do and *why* we do anything. In this sense, everyone has a spirituality—whether religious or not. Exploring the characteristics of a few "sample" spiritualities can afford each of us an opportunity to discover, describe and develop our own spiritualities in ways that are consistent with our deepest beliefs, values and dreams. To participate in this class, which will include lots of group interaction, please commit to attend at least three of the five sessions. Sign up in the Crossroads, and eventually online. Questions? Contact Ken Pennings at ken@orucc.org.

January 22 -- What is Spirituality?

January 29 -- Jesus' Spirituality of Radical Freedom.

February 5 -- Post-Modern Western Spirituality: "I Can't Get No Satisfaction"

February 12 -- What about My Own Spirituality?

February 19 -- Faith Community: Companions on the Spiritual Journey

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.

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.

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