



FEBRUARY, 2010 ISSUE 2

Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ COMMUNION

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

Sunday Morning

February 21

9 am Education for all
10 am Worship, Rev.
Winton Boyd preaching
Senior Choir

February 28

9 am Education for all
10 am Worship, Rev.
Winton Boyd preaching
TRU Function

March 7

9 am Education for all
10 am Worship, Rev.
Winton Boyd preaching
Senior Choir

Upcoming Newsletters

March 3

March 24 (note 4th Wed.)

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

www.orucc.org

LENT 2010

Sunday worship: Testimonies of Faith

Testimony: To give witness and to remind

Through stories from Scripture (the witness of God’s people) and our own lives and, we will acknowledge and remind one another how we experience God. We’re hoping that Lent be a “holy interruption” in our lives to take time to listen deeply to our own lives and the lives of others - in order to strengthen our faith and deepen our awareness of divine grace and justice.

February 21 Listening to our lives (John 1:35-42)

February 28: Bearing witness with our gratitude (Luke 17:11-19)

March 7: Bearing witness in the face of misunderstanding (Luke 13:10-14)

March 14: Balancing belief and unbelief, faith and doubt (Mark 9: 14-24)

March 21: Bearing witness through the work of our hands & bodies
(John 12:1-8)

March 28 (Palm Sunday):

Creation joins us in giving praise (Luke 19:28-40)

April 4 – (Easter)

Giving voice even when we are afraid (John 20:1-18)

Additional Lenten opportunities

- Friday, April 2, 7:00 p.m. **Good Friday Tenebrae service**
- Sunday, April 4 **Sunrise service at 6:30 a.m.**
- **(at the farm of John and Lee Pray**
- **Easter worship at 10 a.m.**
- **Original devotionals** tied to our theme (created by Barb Hummel)



Seeds for the Next Generation: Honor our Past, Plant our Future

We are delighted to announce that **Bob Ansheles, Mary Bucknell, Paul Hedges, Helene Nelson, and Meg Stevens** have agreed to be our Campaign Congregational Chairpersons. We are grateful for their leadership and faithfulness which will continue our campaign momentum. They are currently busy enlisting volunteers to serve as Team Members for our campaign. When asked to be a part of Orchard Ridge UCC’s future, we urge you to prayerfully consider saying “yes!”

Those who have said, “YES!” to being on our Campaign Steering Committee are: Bob Ansheles, Mary Bucknell, Rev. Winton Boyd, LuAnn Greiner, Paul Hedges, Deborah Holbrook, Helene Nelson, Doug Piper, Meg Stevens, and Bernie Treichel.

In addition, Vicki Nonn has said, “YES!” to being on our Campaign Coordinator; Lori Miller-Campaign Treasurer; Jane Ilgen-Campaign Auditor; Paul Evans and Steve Sheets-Awareness/Education Speakers; and Maryann Bast and John Olsen-Planned Giving Committee. **Thank you to all of these individuals for taking on a leadership role in our Campaign!**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Vicki Nonn, our Campaign Coordinator at: 608-798-4165 or email her at : campaign@orucc.org.

Tree of Life



Prayers:

- For Calvin Hoensch, 3 month old son of Robin and Andy, hospitalized at UW Children's hospital with lung problems.
- For the family of Bill Ackerman, longtime member and friend of many in the church, who passed away on Feb. 11. A memorial service for Bill will be held at 5 p.m. on February 19 at Oakwood Village West in the chapel. When he was active in the church, Bill was a moderator and chair of the fund raising campaign for our education wing.
- Ellen Maurer brought this note of gratitude back from her recent journey to Nicaragua with the Wisconsin Nicaragua Partnership. We support this partnership with our birthday offerings on the second Sunday of each month.

Warm greetings to the people of ORUCC. Thank you for the wonderful donation of \$600 worth of books for our Learning Center library. They will be very useful as we do not have textbooks in our schools. As always, we are deeply grateful to you.

May God be with you. Daisy Sevilla Pavon (librarian)



Wider Church 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.

- Ruthanne Landsness
- Joan Leannah-Brumm
- John Lemke & Pam Oliver

Growing Food and Community in the City

In the early 1990s, Allen envisioned a farm using low-input, sustainable practices and staffed by area teens needing a place to work. Through the years, this community partnership has grown to include the young, the elderly, farmers, producers and other professionals ranging from USDA personnel to urban planners. Today, Growing Power raises 159 varieties of food, including fruits, vegetables, animal forages, goats, ducks, bees, turkeys and — in an aquaponic system designed and built by Allen — tilapia and Great Lakes perch.

In 2008, Will was awarded the MacArthur Foundation "Genius Grant" for his efforts to promote sustainable farming methods in low-income neighborhoods. He is driven by a desire to make quality fresh fruit and vegetables accessible to underserved inner-city populations. He targets "food deserts," communities that rely on corner markets which load their shelves with junk food and liquor, and rarely stock quality produce.

Tuesday, March 9, 7:00 p.m., Atrium Auditorium, \$5 donation at the door, 900 University Bay Drive, Madison WI 53705

SUNDAYS

Java and Jesus-9:00 Room 13

"Listening to Your Life"

We'll use excerpts from this collection of writings by author and ordained minister Frederick Buechner. Buechner is the author of more than twenty novels and nonfiction works.

The excerpts will be sent out each week via email. If you would like to receive weekly Java and Jesus via email, please contact winton@orucc.org.

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 Compassion offering for February will be 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.

Many Thanks for Many Helping Hands

After last Sunday's worship, we received a wonderful response to the request by Steve Sheets for volunteers for IHN tasks for the week of February 28th through March 7th. Nearly all of the open tasks were filled immediately! Once again we see that ORUCC members and friends "step-up" for this very important mission to help homeless families.

We are still in need of Overnight Hosts (8:30 p.m.—7:30 a.m.) and Activity leaders (6:30—8:30 p.m.) for Thursday, March 4th, and a Church Host for Saturday, March 6th (5:15—8:30 p.m.). If you can help please contact Steve Sheets at im1042@tds.net or 845-5667.

Church Directory Updates

Change email address for **J. McLellan** to: jmmc50@yahoo.com

Ken's Pennings

How do you feel about the Bible? Good? Bad? Indifferent? That is where we'll start with a two-week class called, "The Bible for Beginners," on March 7th and 14th, 2010, 9:00-9:50 am, at in Room 14.

I've loved the Bible all my life. My parents taught me the names of all the books of the Bible through singing; read Bible stories to me at bedtime; helped me memorize hundreds of Bible verses; educated me in the Bible through Sunday School and Worship; and supported me in my vocational goals of educating other people in the beauty and mystery of the Bible. Certainly, no other collection of books has impacted my life more than the Bible. And to this day, I'd rather discuss the Bible with a group of people than any other collection of books.

But I've changed my mind about the Bible. I've given up my pre-critical naiveté about the literal "plain sense" of the Bible and have begun to listen to the Bible in new ways. I now embrace the Bible as a collection of books which points, witnesses or testifies *to* the truth, but is not ITSELF *the* truth.

Will you join me on March 7th and 14th for this class? We'll talk about why the Bible is important and relevant for us today, ways you can access and use the Bible easily, some of the important themes of the Bible, and how the Bible interacts with itself and with the people who read and appreciate it. Hope to see you on March 7th!

Ken Pennings

Relief Kits for Haiti—Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)

Madison Mennonite Church invites us to participate in a collection of relief kits, comforters, and sheets that we are organizing on behalf of Mennonite Central Committee's (MCC) relief work in Haiti, where they have workers and long term connections. MCC's work in Haiti over the past years has focused on reforestation and environmental education, human rights and advocacy for food security. In response to the current crisis MCC is asking for 20,000 relief kits, 25,000 heavy comforters and 10,000 flat sheets. We have become (thanks to ORUCC's willingness to provide space) a temporary drop off site for the MCC Great Lakes office and will be collecting these items in bins near the coat room between now and* Thursday Feb 25*. Please contact Tonya Ramer Wenger (pastor@madison-mennonite.org or 276-7680) with any questions. If you would like to learn more about the work MCC does, you can go to www.mcc.org.

*Relief Kit Contents (NEW items only) *

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| * 4 large bars bath soap (leave in wrapping) | * 4 adult-size toothbrushes (leave in packaging) |
| * 1 plastic bottle shampoo (380-710ml / 13-24oz; place bottle in a re-sealable plastic bag) | * 1 package sanitary pads (18-24 thin maxi) |
| * 4 large bars of laundry soap (Some stores carry Fels Naptha, Sunlight or Zote brands. Supermercado Gonzales on 2034 Fish Hatchery Rd carries them.) | * 1 fingernail clipper |
| * 1 squeeze-tube toothpaste (minimum 130ml / 6oz; leave in box) | * 1 box adhesive bandages (minimum 40, assorted) |
| | * 2 wide-tooth combs (6 to 8in/15 to 20 cm) |
| | * 4 new bath towels (medium weight, dark or bright colors) |

Place contents in a box or bag and bring to church by Thursday Feb 25.

*Comforter specifications *

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| * Use new or nearly new material | *Winter weight are requested for the Haiti earthquake response (please use quilt batting) Knotted with crochet cotton (not more than 10-15 cm/4-8 apart) |
| * Single/twin-size preferred (approx. 152cm x 203 cm / 60in x 80in) Double/full-size accepted (approx. 208cm x 228cm / 82in x 90in) | |

Sheets

- * *NEW* flat sheets *(For Haiti, please use double, queen or king-size sheets in light colors. Sheets will also be used as mosquito netting and light colors are less attractive to mosquitoes.)*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
February		
Sunday 21	9:00 a.m.	Education
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Monday 22	6:45 p.m.	Handbell Choir
	7:15 p.m.	ORUCC Men's Group
Tuesday 23	6:00 p.m.	Soup Supper and Programming
	6:30 p.m.	Part 1 Depression and Treatment
Wednesday 24	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 25	6:30 p.m.	Pastoral Partners
	7:00 p.m.	Green Team
Sunday 28	9:00 a.m.	Education
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	11:15 a.m.	EnAct Group
		Hosting Interfaith Families
March		
Monday 1	1:30 p.m.	Knitting Group
Tuesday 2	6:00 p.m.	Soup Supper and Programming
	7:30 p.m.	Tuesday Night Bible Study
Wednesday 3	9:30 a.m.	Quilting Group
	12:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday 7	9:00 a.m.	Education
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Monday 8	6:45 p.m.	Handbell Choir
	7:15 p.m.	ORUCC Men's Group
Tuesday 9	11:30 a.m.	OVER 55
	6:30 p.m.	Campaign Steering Committee
Wednesday 10	7:00 p.m.	Christian Witness & Service
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal

Ushers—Need 3 each Sunday unless specified

Feb 21 Pat Hale, Paul Hedges, Joyce Binder
Feb 28 Laurie Irwin & Linda Jones, Kathy Paulson, Steve Sheets
Mar 7 Carolyn Carlson ©, Jack Christian, Pat Fellows
Mar 14 Jerry Nelson, Barb Wolter, Jack Christian
Mar 21 Bernie & Jim Treichel, Rosemary Stare
Mar 28 Dick & Lois Rossmiller, Pat Hale

Welcomers

Feb 21 Nancy Cox, Linda Hitchman, Jan Christian
Feb 28 Jean Rush, Helen Atz, Marilyn Arnold
Mar 7 Rosemary Stare, Heather & Dianne Stevens
Mar 14 Nancy Cox, Helen Horn, Steve Sheets
Mar 21 Jan Christian, Heather & Dianne Stevens
Mar 28 Jack Schairer, Ruthanne Landsness, Richard Rossmiller

Sound

Coffee

Feb 21 Fred Fisher	Tom Klossner
Feb 28 John Gilbert	Linda Hitchman
Mar 7 Paul Hedges	Jane Glaze
Mar 14 Ken Psyck	Bob Ansheles
Mar 21 Fred Fisher	Annette Porter
Mar 28 John Gilbert	Paul Hedges

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.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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 office@orucc.org
 Orchard Ridge United
 Church of Christ

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YOUTH NEWS

For information, contact Rev. Tammy Martens at tmartens@orucc.org or 271-7212

Needed: Adult volunteers for Craft/Play time are needed throughout the next few months. A lot of folks have signed up but there are still a few more openings. Sign-up sheet is on the door of Room 11.

We are learning about the Bible. Would you like to help?

The second and third graders have received Bibles from ORUCC and in 9:00 Sunday School time are learning how to use their Bibles. The class is led by J. and Jeanne McLellan. But it's really helpful if we have two or three more adults in the classroom for extra assistance. You can help just for one Sunday or more. Talk with Tammy if you have questions or interest.

Would you like to learn more about the Children and Youth Programs?

We will be hosting a time for families who are interested in learning more about ORUCC on Sunday, February 21 at 9:00 a.m. We will share some introductions, have an opportunity to hear from ORUCC parents and learn more about the programs and experiences we offer for the spiritual formation and well-being of our children, youth and families.

We will meet in Friendship Hall. Coffee/beverages and treats will be served. Please RSVP to Tammy Martens at tmartens@orucc.org if you would like to attend.

Youth Mission Trip—Needed One More Adult Male Chaperone

We have a wonderful mission trip planned for this summer to the beautiful state of Colorado. Please see Tammy if you would like to be a chaperone for this trip.

Next High School Youth Group Gathering—February 28

We will have our next youth group gathering on **Sunday, February 28**. Our Church hosts Interfaith Hospitality Network families starting that day so we will start our time by helping to convert the Sunday School rooms into bedrooms. We will start doing this immediately after worship is over—around 11:15. After we are done, we will have a super, duper lunch and have some guided activities. We will end by 12:30ish.

ORUCC Youth Fundraiser 2010 Mission Trip Pizza Sales

\$6.00 for each pizza, \$20.00 for 4 pizzas (Pizzas will be ready for pick up after church March 14th)

- Fresh, handmade, 12 inch Pizzas ready for the oven
- Choose from cheese or pepperoni
- Pizza's will be wrapped so, order extra for your freezer
- Order 4 Pizzas for \$20.00
- Limited number of Pizzas will be available for sale on Sunday March 14th
- You can have your order delivered to your home for an additional cost of \$2.00 (Madison residents only please)

Check out the new Children's Instruments!—Julie Mazar

Since the new year, Children's Music has allowed time for the children in 2nd-7th grade time to explore Orchard Ridge's collection of African drums. Using recommendations from the book, "African Rhythms and Beats" by Calla Issak, the children have learned rhythm patterns to accompany traditional African songs, American folk songs, and our own creations. Families, ask your children if they can teach you how to play the rhythms "Walk," "Running," "Clap" and "Shave and a Haircut" using "Boom" and "La" strikes (the children created their own descriptive words for the Bass and Tone sounds on the drums) on a drum or other hard surface.

The younger children have used their segment of time to play rhythmic passing games, participate in traditional circle dances and learn and explore poetry and songs.

Orchard Ridge was fortunate to purchase 5 Orff instruments (xylophone, metallophone, and glockenspiel) for our personal collection. Please feel welcome to stop by the music room before or after church to see the new instruments.

One-a-Week Club News

Thanks to following members who donated blood during January: Meg Stevens, Dave Myers, Ralph Petersen (apheresis). An apheresis donation separates out certain components of the blood, returning the rest of the blood to the donor.

OUR COMMON LIFE TOGETHER

Tuesday Evening February 23rd

6:00 p.m. Soup supper

6:30 p.m. Youth Group for elementary/middle school

Depression Class Rescheduled February 23rd, Second date to be determined by group

Did you know that one in five Americans will experience depression during their lifetime? Chances are you have friends, family members, or co workers who have experienced or are experiencing some form of depression.

Vicki May, LCSW, a psychotherapist and a member of ORUCC, will lead this discussion. All are welcome.

Tuesday Night Bible Study

The next Bible Study will be on **March 2nd** in room 16 from 7:30-9:00 pm. The chapters will be assigned at a later date. This group uses a relaxed and friendly approach in our study of the Bible. We will read page 49 to 67 from the book "The Message of The Psalms". We read aloud together the assigned verses at the start of the meeting and then take turns commenting on the reading. We feel it is important to respect each others ideas. No one is an expert. Please join us and learn more about this group. If you have questions call Sandra Dyar (271-2409) or Judy Winkel (271-0481).

Women's Breakfast Group

The Women's Breakfast Group will meet **March 5th**. They meet the first Friday of every month at 8:30 a.m. at Copper Top in February. The informal group is open to all women who enjoy conversation and connecting on many topics.

Knitting Group

The Knitting Group will meet on **March 1st** at 1:30 p.m. in the lounge. The group welcomes anyone who would like to do handwork of any sort while participating in pleasant conversation. Bring whatever you are working on. If you have any questions please contact Sandra Dyar at 271-2409 or Karen Falkner at 833-9730.

Quilting Group

The Quilting Group will meet on Wednesday, **March 3rd**. The group will meet on the first and third Wednesday from 9:30 to 12 Noon in the Friendship Hall. New members are welcome to join. For more information, please contact Dorothy Peterson at 845-8412.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, **March 3rd** at 12:30 p.m. in room 13. The discussion will be "The Mystery Urges" Mark 13:1-37. The discussion will be led by Lynn Chorlton. We welcome new members. If you have any questions call Mary Lou Peterson at 238-2380.

OVER 55

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, **March 9th**. We will continue with a music theme. The program will feature two of ORUCC's own--John Kruse and Vicki Nonn. John will discuss Easter music by providing background stories about Easter hymns and carols. He'll also comment on the interrelationships of some of our Easter music. Vicki Nonn will accompany our singing.

We will gather at 11:30 and eat by noon. Salads will be provided by Meg Stevens, Sandra Dyar, Judy Winkel, Rose Pate, and Karen Falkner. **We need 2 more salads.** Desserts will be provided by Sheri Mauerma, Marsha Sheets and Sara Roberts. **We need 3 more desserts.** If you can bring one, please call Carolyn Carlson at 273-1114.

New attendees are always welcome and encouraged to come. Please let Carolyn Carlson know if you are bringing a guest, so that we will have enough tables and chairs set up in advance.



Heather Stevens

Introduction to Heather Stevens:

One of our most regular attendees of worship is Heather Stevens, daughter of Paul and Dianne Stevens. Many of us know Heather only as someone who arrives in a wheel chair, attended to by caregivers and her mother. Heather wasn't always in a wheelchair. While many in the church know some of Heather's story, even more of us do not. We invited Dianne to share some thoughts so we might know and understand Heather in the fullest possible way.

WHAT HAPPENED TO HEATHER: Heather Stevens was an exceptional student and an accomplished musician. She was a young person of many interests and abilities, from scouting and square dancing to righting peoples' rubic cubes. Then one beautiful October evening 25 years ago in the blink of an eye everything changed. She suffered a profound brain injury in an auto accident on her first date. No, there was no drinking involved. They were on their way to the ice cream parlor. Six other people in the accident all recovered and went about normal lives. Heather was at University Hospital for eleven months, during which time many wonderful ORUCC members were incredibly helpful and supportive of Heather and her family.

WHAT IS HEATHER'S LIFE LIKE TODAY: Heather was left with multiple handicaps to deal with. She is considered quadriplegic though she has some use of her right hand and leg. She has super active muscle tone that pulls her body into an unnatural position. She can speak but with difficulty. She cannot swallow liquids. She has very poor short term memory. But what she has left is more amazing than what she has lost. Sometimes when you peel away all of a persons beautiful gifts and abilities you can see their soul more clearly. Heather has a beautiful soul. More than once she has expressed that she is the luckiest person alive because she feels so loved. Heather is 39 and lives at home with Mom and Dad. She has workers who come in every day to do personal cares. She has hours of therapy every day to keep her from becoming a human pretzel.

She works three days a week for the Department of Corrections. She has enough use of her right hand to do data entry. She has a great sense of humor and is very sociable. She loves to be where things are happening. In spite of the brain injury she still has normal intelligence. She understands everything, she just can't remember anything for two minutes. Besides work and exercises and personal care, when time permits Heather loves to play board games and card games, especially beating Jack Schairer at Uno. She likes watching old TV shows over and over. Her favorites are MASH, Star Trek, and Beverly Hillbillies. She loves to sing and knows all the words to every Beatles song ever written.

HOW CAN WE RELATE TO HEATHER MORE COMFORTABLY:

Heather loves to come to church and would enjoy it even more if more people felt comfortable talking to her. Heather can talk her speech is just slow, often only one word per breath, and very soft. She knows it's hard for people to understand her. She's very patient. She doesn't mind at all if she has to try six times to get her point across. Her speech has actually improved in the past several years. To understand her better, it helps to get down to her level. Pull up a chair. Watch her face and mouth. It also helps to talk and listen in a quieter area, perhaps in the Worship Hall after service.

She almost always has someone with her, lately a nice young woman also named Heather, who will gladly translate for you. Even if you can't take the time to understand everything she says, the most important thing to Heather is to be greeted and smiled at and for people to TRY to listen.

She likes to go up front for the

Children's story and I hope nobody minds that. She has been a greeter for the past several years and takes it as a challenge to see if people will notice her hand sticking out to shake. She has a little trouble letting go, it's that muscle tone thing, but be a little patient. It's important. Lately she has been going back with the children during story hour and that has been a positive experience for her. The pace is better for her back there and she doesn't have to be so quiet. Basically Heather just wants to be treated and related to like everyone else. She wants to find a place in the church where she is known and loved and accepted and can share her gifts with others. Isn't that what we all want?

I am more that happy to talk to anyone at any time about how they can relate better to my beautiful daughter.

Written by Dianne Stevens, Heather's mother

HONORING THE GIFTS OF PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

In our efforts to be a more inclusive congregation, profiles of persons with special needs are being shared by families and caretakers. We pray that this will help you appreciate the gifts these people bring, better understand the challenges they face, and feel more comfortable in your interactions with them.



Green Team Corner

Supporting a Clean Energy Economy

GREEN THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: “Wisconsin and the U.S. have an unprecedented opportunity to transition to a job-creating clean, sustainable energy economy – while also protecting creation from the threat of global warming.” (Dr. Peter Bakken, Public Policy Coordinator for the Wisconsin Council of Churches)

The Wisconsin Council of Churches has been actively working to support legislation that will increase energy efficiency, develop Wisconsin’s renewable energy resources, and reduce the amount of climate-changing carbon dioxide which our homes, churches, cars and industries release into the atmosphere. Global climate change and warming is acknowledged by a strong consensus of scientists around the world as a reality, caused primarily by human activity, especially the burning of fossil fuels. Climate change threatens not only the balance of nature but human health and well-being. "Our means of producing energy, food and other necessities must become more just and sustainable. Responsible economic development can meet human needs over the long term while maintaining ecological integrity." WCC Environmental Justice Statement, "Reconciled in Christ with Creator and Creation" (2006). For more information, see http://www.wichurches.org/commissions/care_for_creation.html

The good news is that we in Wisconsin can help move away from “dirty fuel sources” to more sustainable sources, and improve the efficiency of our energy use, helping take a place in the emerging new energy economy. A Clean Energy Economy bill has been proposed and is being considered by the Legislature this year. It is not uncontroversial, but information from the Wisconsin Council of Churches helps us understand better the benefits and practical advantages of the legislation for our state’s long term environmental and economic health.

GREEN ACTION IDEAS: We invite you as concerned Christians to consider active support for strong Clean Energy Economy legislation in Wisconsin. This reflects our shared concern for the integrity and well-being of creation, and particularly for the well-being of vulnerable poor people who have been a focus of church mission. On March 7 the Green Team will provide more information about the proposed legislation and the chance for you to pen letters to your legislators in support. In the meantime, if you have questions, please contact Sara Roberts or Carolyn Carlson at 273-1114.

Green Spirit Retreat Is April 10-11 at Pilgrim Center: A Time for Renewal

Winter snows will melt, and the earth will awaken to new life possibilities as spring comes. What needs to melt and flow gently into your past? What are the shoots of new green life that will grow in you if you tend them?

Pastor Winton Boyd and the Green Team cordially invite you to a weekend retreat at beautiful Pilgrim Center April 10-11. If you’re yearning for rest, renewal and re-creation, please join us for a time of spiritual refreshment. We will enjoy time alone and time together, with God and each other in a beautiful natural spot.

We will car-pool to Pilgrim Center on beautiful Green Lake on Saturday morning and return after lunch on Sunday afternoon. The cost per person is \$75 for meals and lodging. If you would like a scholarship feel free to ask Pastor Boyd and they will be available to anyone who asks.

Want to learn more? Ask any of us: Sara Brenner (sara@blueflax.org or 242-9029), Helene Nelson (helenenel@aol.com or 258-2546), Sara Roberts (sarie914@sbcglobal.net or 273-1114), or Pastor Winton Boyd (winton@orucc.org or call 271-7212)

Ready to sign up? Fill out a short registration form and provide a deposit of \$25 to let us know we should hold a place for you! Registration forms are available on the table in the lounge or by emailing the office or Sara Roberts.

Looking for a Quiet Space?

If you have not found the **MEDITATION ROOM** downstairs, check it out. It is open for your use when you would like a quiet place to think or pray. Come to the stairs near the Education wing.

Near the Sunday morning Coffee Cart you will now find a **Meditation Resources Cart**. You are welcome to use, borrow, keep until you are finished with, and bring any book of meditation pieces that you would offer for others to use.

Need a Little TLC?

Going through a tough time? Need a little help, support or encouragement? Perhaps you’d enjoy being linked with one of the Pastoral Partners of Orchard Ridge Church for a short while or longer. Simply contact Pastor Ken Pennings and share with him the kind of help you would appreciate. He will then link you with just the right person, a lay member of Orchard Ridge, who will seek you out as a friend and be available to offer you the kind of support you would most value. Contact Ken at ken@orucc.org, or 271-7212.