



APRIL, 2008 ISSUE 2

Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ COMMUNION

Congregational Meeting continued from page 1...

The person called will focus on the following:

Coordination of volunteers and development of “member gifts”. Using organizational and programmatic methods, this position will help us deepen a sense of vocation in our daily lives, utilize our many gifts in service to the church more creatively, integrate and develop new member involvement. This position would become a hub for helping members/friends engage in ministry within and outside the congregation. This coordination will allow for the most effective and efficient use of our human resources.

Member care. This position would help us expand and organize our current member care (Pastoral Partners, Meal Ministry, Prayer Network, etc) and expand it all transitions and stages of life. This will be accomplished through small groups, fellowship opportunities, lay training, etc.

Creative adult faith formation (shared with Senior Pastor). This position will develop small group opportunities, and “multi-disciplinary” approaches to spiritual formation (service learning, environmental spirituality, inter-generational activities).

Music

Conversations throughout the Next Generation Initiative have confirmed the desire for increased staffing in music. The shape of that staffing is under consideration by the Music Explorer Team and the Leadership Team. At this time, we feel that it is important to identify this need, commit resources to it, and build on our rich musical history at ORUCC. As significant discussion and idea sharing continues through the spring and early summer, the Leadership Team will propose a continuing interim plan, a permanent plan, or some combination thereof.

Conversations throughout the Next Generation Initiative have confirmed the desire for increased staffing in music. Currently, we have three paid musicians (Vicki Nonn, Bruce Gladstone, Vance Nelson). The future shape of our staffing is under consideration by the Music Explorer Team and the Leadership Team. At this time, we feel that it is important to identify this need, commit resources to it, and build on our rich musical history at ORUCC. As significant discussion and idea sharing continues through the spring and early summer, the Leadership Team will propose a continuing interim plan, a permanent plan, or some combination thereof.

WHAT'S IN YOUR WALLET? A thought about the May tax rebate

Are you trying to simplify your life and have less *stuff* to deal with? Do you ever buy something because it is such a *good deal* but then realize you don't really need it? Will you soon receive a check from the government that you are *asked to spend* to try to stimulate the economy?

Then read this.

A few weeks ago, a group of members was discussing the benefits of simplifying our lives by having less *stuff*. (This was one of the Sunday 9 a.m. Heart and Soul programs called “Simply Enough” that was organized by the Ministry of Adult Faith Formation.) The group also realized that there are many social forces that encourage us to buy, buy, buy. One current example is the rebate that is scheduled to reach taxpayers beginning this May: the federal government is urging recipients to spend the money on American-made products, hoping to stimulate the U.S. economy. Since this seemed to run counter to a desire to live more simply, the group considered how one might meet a personal goal to *not buy more for ourselves* but nonetheless *help the local economy and help the less fortunate*.

They approached the Ministry of Christian Witness and Service for input and support. Here, CWS is excited to share this idea with the whole congregation. For those who do not have to meet needs with the rebate, we urge you to consider contributing to a great local organization that will spend the money locally to help the community. One, **Habitat for Humanity of Dane County**, is planning two local projects that they hope to begin this year--a new development on Madison's north side, and a “blitz build” in the Twin Oaks subdivision scheduled for this summer. The second organization is **Interfaith Hospitality Network**, which currently is conducting their *Housing for Hope* fund drive to rehab four apartment buildings for low-income housing—two each on the north and south sides of the city. They will include case management services at each location to help the residents succeed.

Therefore we invite all church members for whom it is possible to donate part (or all!) of your tax rebate to a group that will spend it locally to help the less fortunate. If you choose to make your contribution through the church, please write on the memo line of your personal check: “rebate” and the name of the organization you wish to benefit.

Thank you!

Participants in the “Simply Enough” discussion and The Ministry of Christian Witness and Service

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

Sunday Morning

April 20

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

April 27

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

May 4

9 am Education
10 am Worship, Winton Boyd preaching

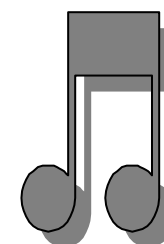
Newsletters

May 7 and 21

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



Items for the April 27th Congregational Meeting (after worship)

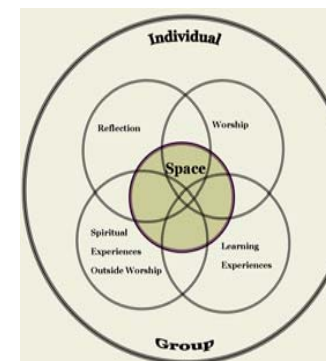
This meeting is for discussion and feedback. No definitive decisions will be made.

Music Explorer Team

Pastors, Music Directors, and people engaged with music in general in and around Madison and nationwide have responded to our e-mails with a wealth of information about their music programs, their underlying purpose, range of offerings, challenges and rewards. We see our purpose as exploring more avenues for everyone to experience God's grace through music. To this end, we look forward to feedback on our recommendation of a three-fold enhancement of our current music program. At this point, our recommendation is that ORUCC 1) launch a vibrant children's program; 2) support and grow our current program, and 3) more fully incorporate the musical talents, and those who would like to be involved musically, into creating music at ORUCC. We are beginning to define specific ways to do each of these things, and welcome the input of the ORUCC congregation in our discussions. (Karen Falkner, Ruthanne Landsness – co chairs)

Spirituality Explorer Team

The Spirituality Explorer Team is looking forward to having the chance to share its current thinking with the congregation on April 27. The graphic shows some of the complexity that we're trying to consider as we do our work:



that our recommendations need to hold promise for both individuals and groups, that we address areas that include worship, reflection, learning experiences, and spiritual experiences outside of worship, and that we actively factor in the impact that space -- both in and around our church building-- has on those experiences.

We have had three meetings, and each of our 10 members has been diligently exploring the different aspects we've identified. We'll be happy to share more when we gather on the 27th. (Rich Hamann, Barb Hummel –co chairs)

Leadership Team Staff Proposal

We will be presenting a two-fold proposal for permanent staffing for the congregation's input.

We call a ½ time Associate Pastor for Congregational Ministry (see below)

We commit to a ½ FTE in the area of music, the specifics to be determined.

This proposal does call for the equivalent of one full time position in addition to the current Senior and Associate Pastor positions. While it is an increase in staff time, it is not much more than our current staff size if all three paid musicians are included.

Proposed Associate Pastor for Congregational Ministry

Our strength – We attract people who see “loving our neighbor as ourselves” as the cornerstone of their personal faith. We have a strong, if informal, network of care.

Our need –this area of our church needs greater coordination in order to reach out beyond our current informal modes, and to address decreasing volunteer time on the part of members. We have a need to develop our ability to engage new and less active members in the life of the church – for their own faith development and sense of connection.

Tree of Life

Please pray:

- For Pat Fellows, recovering from gall bladder surgery.
- For neighborhood plans to develop a community garden at Meadowood Park.
- For continuing tensions and negotiations around the fate of Tibet as the Olympics approaches.

We give thanks to God:

- For the leadership of Lori Berquam (Dean of Students) and Mary Schauf (Madison Police Captain) in their challenging roles during the aftermath of the murder of a UW student recently.
- For the witness and leadership of LuAnn Greiner and Leslie Linsler, who presented ORUCC's local eating efforts at an Earth Day event last Sunday.
- For the successful ads placed in the New York Times and the USA Today by the national UCC, highlighting our denomination and inviting others to join in a 'sacred conversation' about race in this country.
- For a new job in high school music for Griffin James, son-in-law of Meg and John Stevens; wife of Katie Stevens James. Katie and Griffin will moving from Bakersfield, CA.



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.

- Steve & Becky Yeazel
- Ralph & Mabel Zimmerman
- Bill Ackermann

Do you remember when Elsie Carl gave thanks for our record snowfall during the Joys & Concerns on Sunday February 10th? Check our website for a reflection on that prayer by Bobbi Dumas, originally published in the Wisconsin State Journal.

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.

April offering will be the ministry of One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is an interdenominational appeal in which our congregation has a long history of participation. Contributions to OGHS are used internationally to help some of the world's poorest people.

Sundays at 9 a.m. for Adults

Java and Jesus (Room 13)

Looking for theological elbow room, a chance to explore questions, doubts and thoughts about the Christian faith? We will explore writings from Marcus Borg's book, *Jesus: Uncovering the Life, Teachings, and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary*. If you would like to receive the weekly email with the readings, please contact Winton at winton@orucc.org or ask the office to mail it to you directly.

HEART & SOUL—ROOM 12

TALKING ABOUT RACE

April 20

The news has been full of the word racism recently. Much of it in response to sound bites from Rev. Jeremiah Wright's sermons at Trinity UCC, Chicago. There are also conversations about racism in Madison, WI.

Pam Oliver, Sociology Professor at the UW, has studied racial disparities in the criminal justice system and has been a frequent resource in the wider community for conversations about race. Come hear her and bring your thoughts and questions.

April 27

ORUCC member and Educator and School Administrator, Vaunce Ashby.

A HEART & SOUL discussion open to everyone whether or not you have come to any of the previous, informal conversations in this series.

Heart & Soul Series May 2008 "Living with Illness"

May 4 Beginning the Journey: the news, Ann Haase Kehl

May 11 Plotting a Course: sharing the news when illness "shows" and when it doesn't. Dave Allen and Ann Haase Kehl

May 18 Packing (and repacking) for the trip: building a team, living mindfully, and bringing the distant near. Ann Haase Kehl and guest

May 25 Traveling partners: family, friends and advocates. Sally Allen, Mike Kehl (tentative date, may be changed to accommodate participants)

New Members/Seekers Class

You are invited to a new members/seekers class with Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ. There will be three sessions (please attend all three if possible). Childcare provided upon request. Please RSVP to office@orucc.org.

- Sunday, April 20: 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 30: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Sunday, May 4: 9:00-10:00 a.m. (Java and Jesus class)

Celebrating the Witness of Ralph and Ruth Ley

Pastoral Note: Since last fall, the Wisconsin Conference has been conducting a special gifts campaign to raise between \$750,000 and \$1,000,000 to honor the ministries of former conference ministers Fred Trost and Ralph Ley. The hope is to build a new, year round chapel at Pilgrim Center in Green Lake named for Ralph and Ruth Ley. We thought it would be a perfect time to tell a bit of the Ley story. If you have interest in this financial campaign, please contact the campaign office at 262-245-2680 or SGCam-paign@wcucc.org.

The UCC was formed by the joining of the Congregational Church and the Evangelical and Reformed Church (E&R) during an era of strong ecumenism. The Wisconsin Conference was only three years old when Ralph Ley became its leader in 1966. These were difficult times for the church as we reexamined our role in confronting the issues of the day. It took great skill, diplomacy, humility, and faith to guide the conference through that time.

A large part of Dr. Ley's success was due to steadfast support from his wife Ruth. Ruth had grown up in the E&R tradition with her father as pastor. Born in Kansas, early childhood in Louisville, she spent her teen years in Belleville where her father had the pastorship of three small mission churches. Ruth helped by teaching Sunday School, playing piano, and driving father to the various churches. In spite of all her contributions she decided at that time that when she grew up, she would definitely NOT marry a minister. This was mainly due to the financial deprivation her family experienced.

Ruth and Ralph met at Lakeland College in Sheboygan. At that point, Ralph did not know he was to become a minister. By the time he knew, it was too late, Ruth was totally committed to him. They married in 1939 and had 54 happy years together. Ruth says, "Ralph was a wonderful husband, optimistic, kind, and easy to live with."

Ralph's first church was a "Mission" church in Green Bay. He then served in Kohler, and then 17 years in Waukesha before being called to Peace Memorial Church in Chicago in 1962. His achievements in Chicago led to his call as conference Minister in Wisconsin in 1966.

Besides "minister's wife" which used to be a career in itself, Ruth taught school. After college, she taught at a one-room school in Fitchburg. However, she was not rehired because she got married! She resumed her teaching career as a substitute teacher in Waukesha and Chicago. In Madison she took a half-time position as a special education teacher with a class of emotionally disturbed adolescent boys at Lincoln School. She loved it!

Ruth says Madison was the first time she and Ralph chose a church. ORUCC was close, very small, new, and struggling. They felt they could make a difference here. Ruth served on boards, was a member and leader of both the women's fellowship and the afternoon Bible study, the quilting group, and Sunday school teacher. She and Ralph began the Over 55 group. Ralph was named Pastor Emeritus in recognition of his many services to ORUCC.

Ralph and Ruth had four children; Jim, Dick, Marge, and John. Marge (and Brad Wennen) is an ORUCC member. Ralph died suddenly at Thanksgiving time in 1993. Ruth lives in her home on Rushmore Lane with support from her family.

Ruth says while she was growing up she never expected to have the kind of life she has had, so full and interesting. She has probably been in every UCC church in Wisconsin at least once. At ninety, she is healthy and happy. Her message for us is, "Put first things first in your life - God and family. And stick to the basic Gospel."

Shall We Grow Bigger?

By Deb Holbrook, past moderator
The Leadership Team is taking its turn as part of the exploration of ORUCC's planning into the future. As the Explorer Teams come in with their research and their recommendations over the next year, the Leadership Team will be exploring the issue of growth. It is not out of the realm of possibility that what the Explorer Teams fall in love with will require more members, more staff, more space, and more \$\$ to create. Underlying whether these ideas are realistic or even desirable has to be an assumption about growth. Growth means many things, and in an effort to understand this "macro" issue, the Leadership Team is reading a book called *Raising the Roof* by Alice Mann, which analyzes why and how growth happens. It apparently doesn't happen without some intentionality. As usual, we welcome your input on this vital issue as we understand the implications of The Next Generation together.

YOUTH NEWS

Gulf Coast Youth Mission Trip Orientation: Starting Sunday, April 20

The youth (all 18 of you) will begin viewing some of the documentary *When the Levees Broke* by Spike Lee during Sunday School. However, **all** youth are invited to come and watch. We will also spend some time doing community building, and getting to know one another better during this time. We will spend **April 20, April 27, May 11, and June 8** during Sunday School preparing ourselves for our trip. And for those who are not able to participate in the trip, you will enjoy being a part of this as well. Chaperones are also invited to attend.

Families Getting Together Potluck Saturday, April 26, 5:30-8:00

Join us for a potluck and games. Childcare for children through 5th grade-ish will be available. After supper, Parents will gather for a time of community building and reflecting on the book *In the Midst of Chaos* (Looking at Editor's Forward, Preface, chapters 1 and 2). You don't have to have read the book to come and be a part of the discussion!

In the Midst of Chaos: Caring for Children as Spiritual Practice by Bonnie J. Miller-McLemore

The book is available from Tammy Martens for \$15.00. Fifteen books have been purchased. More are available.

"Letting go of children goes against the grain of human self-preservation. It is hard because we have to let go of part of ourselves—a very precious part of ourselves, at that—that we have incorporated into ourselves in loving the other. Letting go requires trust that we—and they—are preserved and upheld by a force greater than our own efforts.

The Christian tradition has long sought to sustain such trust. Children are gifts, given to us on loan by a gracious God as part of God's good creation. Perhaps the hardest spiritual lesson or the most difficult virtue to acquire in the care of children over the long run is returning oneself and those most loved to God's care and protection...It is only such trust that finally allows parents to stop short of using children to build up themselves, and love their children genuinely."



BRATFEST UPDATE!!

Thanks to all of you who signed up for Brat fest. We were able to fill all 40 shifts that Sentry has allotted us. After May 1, Sentry will send us shifts that are still available. We hope to fill 20 more shifts at that time.

Again For the First Time: Dr. Marcus J. Borg

First United Methodist Church (downtown)
Registration form is on the website

Join us on Saturday, April 26 for the annual Lyons Lecture. Doors will open at 9 a.m. and events begin with Dr. Borg's first lecture at 10 a.m.

With a title of "Two Visions of Christianity Today," Dr. Borg will discuss two contemporary and very different ways of seeing the Bible, the Christian tradition, the Christian life, and what it means to be Christian. In describing these two visions, he will clarify the differences and seek points of commonality.

Following lunch, there will be a second lecture at 1 p.m. on "What Christianity is All About: Loving God and Changing the World." A book signing will be at 2:45 p.m.

Marcus J. Borg, who holds the Hundere Chair in Religion and Culture in the Philosophy Department at Oregon State University, is the author of fourteen other books. The annual Lyons Lecture honors the memory and ministry of Rev. David Lyons, former pastor of First United Methodist Church.

Retreat for Men and Women

Conscious Aging and Fierce Grace: Embracing Spiritual Wisdom and Optimal health in the Last Half of Life....Friday, May 16th, 9:30-3:30 p.m.

In this youth-obsessed culture, how do we age confidently and well? Impending age invites us to examine authenticity, personal wisdom, purposefulness, being instead of doing, and the dispelling of our fears. Impending age also invites us to identify common health risks, to be knowledgeable about nutrition, and to develop strategies for optimal brain health and heart health. Join us! Leaders for this day: Rev. Holly Whitcomb, UCC minister and author will lead "Conscious Aging and Spiritual Wisdom." Dr. John Whitcomb, long-time doctor of emergency medicine and Medical Director of Aurora-Sinai's Wellness Center, will lead "conscious Aging and Optimal Health."

To register please send a check for \$50 made payable to Rev. Holly Whitcomb. Send to 2095 Elm Tree Ct., Elm Grove, WI 53122. Include your name, address, phone no.(s). You will receive a map. Retreats can fill quickly. Please register as soon as possible. For more information, please call (262) 784-5593.

ORUCC Directory Updates

Please change the following in your directory.

Deborah Holbrook address and phone #: 8626 Wood Violet Way, Madison, WI 53717, home phone 827-0531

Mary Bucknell new email address: bucknell@tds.net

It's time again for...ORUCC's Annual Worship and Work Sunday & Plant Sale! Sunday, May 4th 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Worship & Work Sunday

The Landscape Mission Team is extending a special invitation to you to participate in a very timely spring workshop known as Worship & Work Sunday. If you choose to participate you will have the opportunity to master some very important life skills including mulching, tree trimming, weeding, raking, pruning, and an age old technique known as "sprucing up". We are also looking for volunteers to participate in a special workshop ;titled How to Sell a Potted Plant. All of these are "hands-on" workshops, so bring your gloves. No special skills required. Children are welcome to participate in some gardening activities and light snacks will be provided too all who get their hands dirty. At the end of the workshop all participants will also receive a certificate for big hugs and thank you's from the Landscape Mission team for having contributed to the overall beautification of ORUCC's outdoor surroundings. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity (cause we sure could use your help!). Complete the Can You Lend a Hand sheet and mail it to the office or bring it to church and put it in the collection plate. Contact LuAnn Greiner at lgreiner@uwhealth.org if you have questions.

Plant Sale

While you're out puttering around in your garden this spring don't forget about ORUCC's Plant Sale! Pot up those "extras" that you find in your garden, bring them to the sale, and also have the opportunity to buy new plants to add to your landscape. Donated plants can be dropped off on Saturday, May 3rd or before worship on Sunday, May 4th. All proceeds of the Plant Sale go toward enhancing ORUCC's landscapes. Contact Bernie Treichel at jbtreichel@chartermi.net if you have questions.

ORUCC's annual Worship & Work Sunday and Plant Sale is May 4th! 11:00 am to 1:00 pm Can You Lend a Hand ?

Many outdoor projects are planned for Worship & Work Sunday and we need your help! Below is a list of projects/needs. Signing up now will help us to better plan for the day.

Project you are interested in helping with.....

- Weeding and planting flower beds
 I can bring a trowel and weeding tools
- Trimming trees and shrubs/Raking
 I can bring a limb saw
 I can bring a shrub clipper
 I can bring a rake
- Moving mulch (lots of it!)
 I can bring a wheel barrel and shovel
- Assisting with the Plant Sale (no special knowledge necessary)
- My greatest talent is flexibility, I'll help wherever it is needed.

This year there will be some gardening activities for families with small children. Is your family interested in participating? Yes / No

Name(s): _____

Place this form in the Sunday collection plate or drop off or mail it to the office.

- Don't forget**
- * Bring a pair of gloves and wear some comfy digs!
 - * Stay for snacks & ice cream

For questions about Worship & Work email LuAnn Greiner at lgreiner@uwhealth.org or call 233-6051.
For questions about the Plant Sale call Bernie Treichel at jbtreichel@chartermi.net or call 835-5228.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
April		
Sunday 20	9:00 a.m.	Education for all
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Monday 21	6:45 p.m.	Handbell Rehearsal
Tuesday 22	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Mentors Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation
Wednesday 23	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Christian Witness & Service Meeting
Saturday 26	5:00 p.m.	Parents with Children Potluck
Sunday 27	9:00 a.m.	Education for all
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	11:30 a.m.	Congregational Mtg with Explorer Teams
Monday 28	6:45 p.m.	Handbell Rehearsal
Wednesday 30	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
May		
Sunday 4	9:00 a.m.	Education for all
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	11:30 a.m.	Work & Worship & Plant Sale
Monday 5	1:30 p.m.	Knit/Crochet Group
	6:45 p.m.	Handbell Rehearsal
Tuesday 6	7:00 p.m.	Knit/Crochet Group
	7:15 p.m.	Leadership Team Meeting

Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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.

COMMUNION

Ushers—Need 3 each Sunday unless specified

Apr. 20 Doug Piper, Helen Horn, Ralph Peterson
Apr. 27 Jack Christian, Jerry Nelson, Bob Ansheles
May 4 Carolyn Carlson ©, Bob Ansheles, Kathy Paulson
May 11 LuAnn Greiner, Barb Wolter, Kathy Paulson
May 18 Phil & Judy Winkel, Laurie Irwin
May 25 Lyn Laurion, Marilyn Arnold, Paul Hedges

Welcomers

Apr. 20 Barb Stretchberry, Amy Fewel, Char Klossner
Apr. 27 Jan Christian, Helen Atz, Bobbi Sonntag
May 4 Cheryl Diermyer, Steve Sheets, Marilyn Arnold
May 11 Dick & Lois Rossmiller, Bobbi Sonntag
May 18 Barb Stretchberry, Amy Fewel, Char Klossner
May 25 Jan Christian, Helen Atz, Jean Rush

	Sound	Welcomers Assisting those in need	Coffee
April 20	Ken Psyck		Phil & Judy Winkel
April 27	J. McLellan		Dick & Dorothy Jones
May 4	Helen Horn		Linda Hitchman
May 11	Mike Walsh		Jim & Jennifer Jaqua
May 18	John Gilbert		Linda Hitchman
May 25	Paul Hedges		Dorothy & Byron Peterson

Non-Profit Organization
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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.



Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group

We meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. We will continue our study of the kings David and Solomon by reading the book of I Kings. We read aloud the assigned reading at each meeting, so no homework is required!

This is an information and discussion group open to anyone interested in learning more about the Bible. We welcome any new members. Please call Sandra Dyar (271-2409) or Judy Winkel (271-0481) for more information.

The Knit & Crochet groups



The daytime group will meet on Monday, May 5th from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the lounge (first Monday of each month). The evening group will meet on Tuesday, May 6th 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.



Over 55.....

...but still young enough to enjoy the zoo! Look forward to attending our next meeting on Tuesday, May 13, we'll meet, up close and personal, some real, live zoo critters. Rick Bilkey, educational coordinator for the Henry Vilas Zoo and member of ORUCC, has graciously consented to include us in the zoo's many spring outreach visits to various places, and either he or one of his assistants will be presenting the program. Come and enjoy "the zoo brought to you".

Join us for a salad and dessert luncheon at 12:00 with the program to follow. Salads will be provided by Helen Atz, Margaret McClung, Ellen Fluck, Helen Horn, Dorothy Peterson, Lois Rossmiller and Debbie Bauerkemper. Ice cream will be provided by Jan Christian and Ree Hale, and nuts by Marcia Sheets. **We need someone to provide mints.** Call Dorothy Jones if you can provide mints. It has been suggested that food items should serve at least 10 people, and that these may either be purchased or home-made. If you plan to bring guests, please call Dorothy Jones at 271-7946.

SAFE Meetings This Spring

The April SAFE gathering will be hosted by Jerry and Bev Nelson on Monday, April 21, from 6:30 - 8:30pm, at 5721 Kroncke Drive. RSVPs are welcome, 271-1513. Call the Nelson's if you need directions. Bring a casserole, salad, or dessert to share with everyone. After our potluck dinner, we'll begin talking about plans for the fall, so bring your ideas, too.

All ORUCC members and friends are always welcome to come to this and any other SAFE meeting. SAFE is an informal ORUCC social gathering of Christian lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-gendered individuals, families and friends - gay and straight. If you want to be added to the regular e-mail list to receive announcements about SAFE programs, projects and gatherings, send your e-mail address to winton@orucc.org.

Women's Book Group

On May 10, we'll meet at the home of Marylin Boyer, 7990 Stagecoach Rd., Cross Plains. We'll discuss *Walking the Bible*, by Bruce Feiler, who writes for the New York Times, Washington Post, and Gourmet. The library has copies of this book.

Here's one description: "Both a heart-racing adventure and an uplifting quest, [this book] describes one man's epic odyssey—by foot, jeep, rowboat, and camel—through the greatest stories ever told...Feiler's inspiring journey will forever change your view of some of history's most storied events."

Please let Marylin know if you can attend (798-4760).

ORUCC Book Group in the News

The ORUCC Women's Book Group was featured in a recent publication of the Madison Public Library Friends. The booklet cited area book groups and the books they especially appreciated during the past year. Our book group selected five favorites to recommend: *Middlesex* by Jeffrey Eugenides, *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen, *The Sweet Hereafter* by Russell Banks, *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See, and *The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton.

All are welcome to come to one or more of these monthly book discussions. Jan Christian coordinates the arrangements.



Come to the Spring Concert of the Philharmonic Chorus

The Philharmonic Chorus of Madison is scheduled to present a concert on Wednesday, April 23 (7:00 p.m., Oakwood West), Friday, April 25 (7:30 p.m., Covenant Presbyterian Church), and Sunday, April 27 (3:00 p.m., Christ Presbyterian Church). This Spring Concert includes a capella music by Scarlatti, Palestrina, Ralph Vaughan Williams and Monteverdi as well as English folksongs. ORUCC member Karen Falkner and John Kruse are members of this choral group. Each performance is free and open to all. For more information go to philharmonicchorusofmadison.org.