



MAY, 2008 ISSUE 1

Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ COMMUNION

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

Landscape Mission Team



The Landscape Mission Team would like to extend a big thank you to all of those who participated in Worship and Work Sunday activities. The plant sale was a big success and the flower beds and children’s garden (located on the east end of the education wing) were completely transformed. All members are encouraged to meander through the gardens, rest on one of the rocks or benches and take in the peaceful beauty of our outdoor surroundings.

Sunday Morning

May 11

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

May 18

9 am Education
10 am Confirmation
Sunday
Senior Choir

May 25

9 am Education
10 am Deb Holbrook
preaching

Newsletters

May 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



*Ralph Peterson, Steve Sheets,
and Carol Prugh with weapons
of mass mulching.*



*Laurie Irwin and Gabriel
Martens filling the wheelbarrow.*

*The Luecke-Rasmussen family working
in the children’s garden!*



Sunday, May 11th—Pentecost Sunday (WEAR SOMETHING RED)

“Sacred Conversations on Race” — Winton Boyd preaching
Music Appreciation Sunday with both Handbells and Senior Choir
Reception for all our directors (John Pray, Vance Nelson,
Bruce Gladstone and Vicki Nonn)

Tree of Life

Please pray:

- For Sheri Mauerman and Barb Wolter, who have recently separated.
- For Maureen Cassidy, undergoing a second round of chemotherapy, as well as recovering from a blood clot in her leg.
- For Asher Roberts, newborn son of Erin Roberts and Sara Vanderlind, who has been in and out of the hospital with intestinal problems since his April 18th birth.
- For the people of Zimbabwe in the wake of recent elections, the people of Myanmar after a devastating tornado.
- For our college students and faculty as they come to the end of another semester.
- For the congregation of Trinity UCC in Chicago in the wake of a great deal of unsolicited publicity and scrutiny, including the Rev. Otis Moss III, who will assume the Senior Pastor role later this spring.
- For Ellen Fluck experiencing back and leg pain.

We give thanks to God:

- For our mothers, grandmothers and other women who have “mothered” us; as well as those expectant or hopeful mothers, as we celebrate Mother’s Day on Sunday.
- For Sara Roberts, congratulations on retiring.



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.

- Jennifer Alderman
- Dave & Sally Allen & family
- Marge Anderson & Janet Sperstad

This year’s recipient of the “Wendy Benton May Day Award for Forgotten Kindness” is...

**Sandra Dyar
Congratulations!**

Coming Up at ORUCC

- May 18 Confirmation Sunday
- June 1 Senior Recognition and TRU Function after church.



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 May offering is Harvest of Hope

Many Wisconsin farm families are experiencing a financial crisis due to low commodity prices; high costs of fuel, machinery, fertilizer and other inputs; rising property taxes; shifting global markets; and drought, flooding and other climatic conditions.

Yet it is more than a farm crisis. It has also become a rural crisis, dislocating farm and non-farm families, creating shifts away from family farm agriculture, causing tensions within rural communities and shattering people’s values, beliefs and hopes for the future.

To assist farm families in getting through these tough times, the Madison Christian Community created the **Harvest of Hope Fund**.

The Harvest of Hope Fund provides gifts to farm families who need financial assistance:

1. To purchase seed, fertilizer, fuel and other supplies needed for spring planting; or
2. To meet emergency needs for food, home heating fuel, medical expenses, farm expenses, retraining or other immediate situations.

Funds are available to people of all faiths. Please give generously to help the people who grow our food.

Java and Jesus (Room 13)

Sundays 9 am for Adults

During the month of May we will be using a brand new video from the Center for Courage & Renewal, featuring the words of Parker Palmer. These will be combined with writings from Palmer’s recent book, *A Hidden Wholeness*.

May 11 - In the World - Reconnecting Soul and Role
Inner Work Can Change the Outer World
Standing in the Tragic Gap

May 18 - In the World - Reconnecting Soul and Role
Nonviolence in Everyday Life
The Soul of a Citizen

HEART & SOUL—ROOM 12

“Living with Illness”

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)

**Proud Theater Presents:
Proud Theater: Loud and Clear**

DATES: *May 29 and 30, 2008 – 7:30 PM
May 31, 2008 – 2:30PM and 7:30 PM*

WHERE: *In the Evjue at the Bartell Theatre
113 E. Mifflin Street – Madison, Wisconsin*

TICKETS: \$10

EVENT AND PERFORMANCE INFO: *Contact Proud Theater at proudtheater@gmail.com or visit www.proudtheater.org or www.stageq.com for more info.*

In an age of mixed messages and lost signals, it's the youth who speak loud and clear!

Proud Theater Productions presents 'Proud Theater: Loud and Clear', a fun and exciting evening of theater, music, poetry and dance written by and starring the talented youth of Proud Theater, Madison's very own LGBTQ youth theater troupe.

Proud Theater is an award-winning, exciting, and innovative youth theater program designed to foster self-expression and self-empowerment for Madison-area youth ages 13 to 19 who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer/questioning (LGBTQ), or who are the sons or daughters of LGBTQ parents, or allies of the LGBTQ community at large. This includes ORUCC member Seb Harris (sophomore at Memorial).

For more info on the show, contact Proud Theater at proudtheater@gmail.org, or visit www.proudtheater.com.

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.

OCWM (Our Churches Wider Mission)

ORUCC Contributes about \$17,000 to OCWM each year

In Wisconsin, OCWM Basic Support is used in five ways:

1. To support the UCC on the **Association** level:
Placement of pastors; Ordinations and installations; Pastoral care for clergy and families; Building community among pastors and congregations; Support and training for pastors and lay leaders.
2. To fund ten non-profit health and **human service agencies** through the Wisconsin Council of Health and Human Services (WCHHSM):
Aurora Sinai Medical Center in Milwaukee; Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS; Cedar Community senior home in West Bend; Crossroad Children's Homes in Fort Wayne, IN; Emmaus Homes for people with development disabilities in MO; Fairhaven Senior Services in Whitewater; Lifelink international adoption program; New Glarus Retirement Home; Orion Family Services throughout WI; Parks Edge Pre-school in Hales Corners.
3. To provide **ministries for the local church**:
Camping at Pilgrim Center and Moon Beach camps; Resources for all areas of church life; Lay Academy to train non-ordained leaders; Global partnerships; Church renewal, new church starts, youth initiatives.
4. To support the oversight **ministries of the Conference**:
Communications, including the all-church mailing; Website and other publications; Seminars, workshops and meetings at The Conference Center in DeForest and the Annual Meeting; Administrative support services and administration of the shared-cost health insurance program; Financial oversight of contributions and invested funds.
5. And to fund wider church ministries through the **national UCC**.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
May		
Sunday 11	9:00 a.m.	Education for all
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Monday 12	6:45 p.m.	Handbell Rehearsal
Tuesday 13	11:45 a.m.	OVER 55
	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation
Wednesday 14	5:30 p.m.	Adult Faith Formation Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Spirituality Explorer Team Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday 18	9:00 a.m.	Education for all
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
		Confirmation Sunday
Tuesday 20	7:15 p.m.	Leadership Team Meeting
	7:30 p.m.	Tuesday Night Bible Study
Wednesday 21	7:00 p.m.	Christian Witness & Service Meeting



COMMUNION

Ushers—Need 3 each Sunday unless specified

May 11	LuAnn Greiner, Paul Patenaude, Kathy Paulson
May 18	Dick & Dorothy Jones, Laurie Irwin
May 25	Lyn Laurion, Marilyn Arnold, Paul Hedges
June 1	Dick & Lois Rossmiller, Steve Sheets
June 8	Sandra Dyar, Paul Patenaude, Peter Hoff
June 15	Rick Daluge, Rosemary Stare, Bob Ansheles

Welcomers

May 11	Dick & Lois Rossmiller, Bobbi Sonntag
May 18	Barb Stretchberry, Amy Fewel, Char Klossner
May 25	Jan Christian, Helen Atz, Jean Rush
June 1	Barb Stretchberry, Amy Fewel, Char Klossner
June 8	Dick & Lois Rossmiller, Steve Sheets
June 15	Cheryl Diermyer, Steve Sheets, Marilyn Arnold

Welcomers Assisting those in need

	Sound		Coffee
May 11	Mike Walsh		Jim & Jennifer Jaqua
May 18	John Gilbert		Linda Hitchman
May 25	Paul Hedges		Dorothy & Byron Peterson
June 1	Ken Psyck		Tom furan
June 8	J. McLellan		Doug Hendrix
June 15	Helen Horn		Jane Glaze

Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ

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

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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.



Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group May 20th last gathering until September

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, June 2nd from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the lounge (first Monday of each month). The evening group will meet on Tuesday, June 3rd 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 what-ever 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".

There will be a short meeting following the program to try to get organized for programs for the fall. Please think about ideas to suggest for programs that we can get on a calendar for fall. Bob Anderson has agreed to take a group photo after lunch. Thank you for your participation and help this year!

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, and mints by Jean Morris.

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 Picnic

The spring SAFE picnic will be hosted by Steve & Marcia Sheets on Monday, May 19, 6:30-8:30 pm, at 6362 Goose Lake Dr. Bring a salad or dessert to share with everyone. Please phone 845-5667 to RSVP, so we'll have a rough estimate before we shop for supplies for the grill. Even if you haven't been able to be at many, or any, SAFE meetings this year, don't miss the annual picnic! We'll meet again beginning in September.

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 June 12, we'll meet at the home of Jan Christian, 9018 Aspen Grove Lane. We'll discuss *The Yearling* by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings; copies of this Pulitzer Prize winning book are available at the Madison Public Library. The novel is about a young boy in the Florida backwoods who is forced to decide the fate of his pet, a fawn he has lovingly raised.

Rawlings was a 1918 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she majored in English and wrote for campus literary magazines. She lived and wrote in Cross Creek Florida until she died in 1953. Rawlings will be featured on a new stamp for the U.S. Postal Service's Commemorative Stamp Program this year.

All women are invited; please let Jan know if you can attend (827-0500).

Please Come See Our Handiwork



The ORUCC Wednesday morning Quilting Group invites you to view the five comforters made by the group this past season, which will be displayed in the Friendship Hall on Sunday, May 11. The comforters will be donated to IHN and The Ronald McDonald House. They measure in size 90 by 66 inches. The batting and the sheets used for the backs of the comforters are purchased with church funds, and the rest of the fabric and yarn is donated materials. It requires approximately seven hours of machine sewing and three two-and-half-hour sessions of group work to complete one comforter. To date, 113 comforters have been sewn and donated to various agencies since the beginning of the Quilting Group in 1994. Members of the group are Edith Army, Mary Ann Bast, Sandra Dyar, Pat Hale, Fern Hernandez, Lyn Laurion, Ruth Ley, Dorothy Peterson, Roberta Sonntag, and Carol Van Keuren.

YOUTH NEWS

Nursery Update

Amy Fewel, Youth Faith Formation team member, has been organizing the clean-up of the nursery. We have gotten rid of old, worn-out toys and have collected gently used toys from Orchard Ridge families. We will be purchasing some shelves to keep things nice and tidy. Thanks to all who donated toys and thanks to Amy for coordinating this effort.

Outdoor Play Equipment

Youth Faith Formation has been discussing ways for kids and youth to have fun outside after worship is over. It was decided to purchase some outdoor play equipment for kids of all ages. We can start using it this Sunday, May 11. So, grown-ups, get your cup of coffee and come join us outside after worship to enjoy fellowship with one another as the kids play!

Youth Mission Trip

All youth who are participating in the Mission trip to Bay St. Louis, MS are strongly encouraged to attend Sunday School this Sunday, May 11, 10:30-11:15 for our third orientation session. Our last session will be Sunday, June 8 from 11:30-12:30. You will be receiving information packets about the trip soon.

Graduating Seniors Recognized

High School Seniors will be recognized in worship on Sunday, June 1. We will offer a special blessing to our seniors and families.

Family Get Together

Would you like to develop stronger friendships with one another? Would you like to connect and gain spiritual support from other parents? Then join us on Saturday, May 31 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. here at Orchard Ridge. Childcare will be provided for kids through 5th grade-ish. Parents will continue their discussion of the book *In the Midst of Chaos* by Bonnie Miller-McLemore and look at chapter 2 "Sanctifying the Ordinary" and chapter 3 "Pondering All These Things". Snacks and beverages will be provided.

Duck Doo Organic Compost is here!

\$6.00 per bag. Proceeds to help fund the Youth Mission trip to Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. Make check payable to ORUCC and put "duck doo" in memo line and put the money in the envelope located on the table in the lounge.

Donations Needed for Nursery and Children's Outdoor Equipment

The Youth Faith Formation Committee is working to update the nursery and we need your help. We are looking for gently used items to replace some of the old and broken ones that the nursery currently has. Please consider donating the following items that would be appropriate for young children.

- Toys, books
- CD Player/boombox and/or children's CDs
- Stools for the bathrooms (for washing hands)

We are also gathering items for children of all ages to use outside for playtime such as balls, bats, Frisbees, etc.

If you have something you would like to donate, please drop nursery items off in the nursery and bring any outdoor equipment to Tammy's office. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Fewel at 848-1587. Thank you in advance for your help!

Bus Tour Follow-up

So you thought you had read the last of the Urban Bus Tour? Think again:

The weather cooperated on our second attempt to tour some of the places we support with Local Mission and Compassion Offering dollars, and 28 of us hopped aboard the bus for a very informative experience, start to finish. (Also fun!) Several commented afterward—even those quite familiar with "the system"—that being at the places we visited made a huge difference in their perception of the recipients, the services they receive, and where they receive them.

So now it's done and forgotten? No! One person said later, "I was so impressed when one of our hosts told us that he served 400 families in one week at the food pantry that I went to our food pantry the next day and gave them a check..." Further, a subcommittee of Christian Witness and Service will do some serious thinking about whether ORUCC might provide some hands-and-heart assistance at one of the sites.

We'll let you know more later.

Ministry of Christian Witness and Service

Leadership Team Thank You

The Leadership Team appreciates the feedback and questions received on April 27th during our congregational meeting. Both the Spirituality and Music Explorer Teams shared updates on their work, and the Leadership Team presented a proposal for future staffing. All of these items will be considered at the May 20th meeting of the Leadership Team. If you have questions, insights, input or concerns, please contact John Lemke or Karen Falkner.

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

The Southwest Madison Triad

Invites you to a Free Conference

"Connecting Neighbors for a Stronger Community"

Triad is a new program for Madison that promotes safety and security for older adults and the entire community. The Triad committee is made up of neighborhood residents, law enforcement, fire department, community agencies and businesses. Together they plan programs and promote education that focuses on crime prevention and creating safer neighborhoods.

Workshops offered at the conference include:

- **Personal Safety and Home Security (Including Internet safety)**
- **Fire and Falls Prevention**
- **Neighborhood Building (Including Neighborhood Watch)**
- **Youth Issues and Programming**

In addition to the workshops, speakers from the Mayor's Office and the Madison Police Department will update the participants on the response to the Public Safety Meetings.



Saturday, May 17, 2008

8:00am-12:30pm

Wisconsin Youth Company

1201 McKenna Blvd, Madison, WI

Everyone is welcome!!!! For more information contact:
RSVP of Dane County: (608) 441-7897

This conference is the result of a grant from the City of Madison-Emerging Neighborhood Funds.

Shall We Grow Bigger?

As ORUCC continues to look to its future, we also look to our present and to our past. It has become apparent that the size of our congregation has reached a plateau (Usually in measured in Sunday morning worship attendance). For each new member we acquire, one seems to fall away – for whatever reason – moving, death, shifting to another church. One family arrives and another goes. The Leadership Team has been enlightened to learn in its study of growth issues that this "plateauing" phenomenon is noted and common in churches (and indeed in other organizations). The resources, the number of seats in the sanctuary, the amount of programming, the number of pastors and other staff, and, yes, even the number of parking spaces available in the lot can be factors in why a church stays a certain size. The Leadership Team is not making a value statement here. Perhaps this ORUCC plateau is exactly what we want and we should stay here. If so, that should be a deliberate decision. However, if the congregation reaches the conclusion that we should grow, then very deliberate efforts will have to be made to accomplish that goal. The Leadership Team is eager to keep learning more about this issue. We welcome your thoughts too.

ORUCC Graduates

More graduate stories will be featured in future newsletters



Anna Hutchcroft

Anna will be graduating this June from Memorial High School. She really looks forward to the next chapter in her life and is excited about all the opportunities that she has before her. One of the things she is trying to decide is her plan for the fall. She has wonderful possibilities. She may go to a university in Australia (her family is moving there this summer). She may go to a school in San Francisco. Sometime soon she may go back to Nicaragua and work as a volunteer again teaching painting and English. She loved her time in Nicaragua and was deeply touched by her experience and what she learned there.

One of Anna's biggest accomplishments was the Gallery Exhibition she hosted that included 60-70 of her photos this past year. Anna has been expressing herself through art for a very long time but it wasn't until her High School Art teacher said to her, "Anna, you know you are going to be an artist when you leave school" that she finally realized that this is her passion and her area of giftedness that she can give to the world. She believes in the old proverb "a picture is worth a 1000 words" and hopes to instigate change through the photos she takes.

A couple of activities Anna enjoyed at Orchard Ridge was the Chicago Mission trip and the youth retreat to Pilgrim Center. Anna feels fortunate to have the family she does. They have been very supportive and encouraging to her. Anna is very optimistic and hopeful even though the world can be discouraging at times. She says the way she stays hopeful is by surrounding herself with people who are real and accepting.



Alden Hedges

Alden is the son of Paul and Teri Hedges. He is a student at Memorial High School and will graduate this June. Alden's plans for the fall are to attend UW-La Crosse where he will major in music. Alden's passion is music and he plays the bass.

He is very excited to head to college and have the opportunity to room with a good friend. He has been friends with Matt Paul since he was 8 years old.

Alden enjoyed the opportunities that were provided through the Art Department at Memorial. He also loved and continues to enjoy connecting with other students who love music and share similar interests in music.

Alden has lots of music commitments. He plays in WYSO (Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra) and he also belongs in a band he and another student started a couple years ago. This band is called Fury the Cur. The name of the band was inspired by a poem from *Alice in Wonderland*. Their band recently performed in Memorial High School's Battle of the Bands.

Alden loves to write songs and tries to put together lyrics by reading about news stories and events, gathering more information about the story, and then writing lyrics that push a different viewpoint. Two persons he greatly admires are Edgar Meyer (upright Bass player) and Paul McCartney.

Two of his fondest memories of being at Orchard Ridge are the youth mission trip to Chicago and the OWL (Our Whole Lives) retreat to Pilgrim Center.

Alden would love some day to live outside of the United States. Right now, his ideal for the future would be to move to a small town, play his bass in a shop, and make enough money to get by.



Nicaragua Thanks You!!!

Each month on the 2nd Sunday, we take a "birthday offering" to support the Wisconsin Nicaragua Partnership. Thanks to you, we provided materials so that I could teach 44 community leaders how to make prototype chicken feeders. They can then construct larger ones to help keep their backyard flocks productive, strong, and disease free.

We are also now again collecting items in the Nicaragua basket by the coat room. We need:

- Large pieces of summer fabrics
- Sewing notions of all kinds
- Books in Spanish for children and adults
- Used musical instruments, sheet music, and music books in Spanish or English
- Used summer sports equipment of all kinds

Our partners in Nicaragua thank you!

Ellen Maurer