



OCTOBER, 2008 ISSUE 2

Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ COMMUNION

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

Sunday Morning

October 19

9 am Education

10 am Worship, SAFE
led service

Senior Choir

October 26

9 am Education

10 am Worship, “Jesus’
Mission Statement”

Winton Boyd preaching
Senior Choir

Newsletters

November 5 & 19

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



The World of the Generous Gets Larger and Larger ORUCC Stewardship Drive

Our stewardship theme this year focuses on generosity and its impact not just on the world around us, but also on our faith.

In 2007 ORUCC members/friends gave \$68,926 directly to mission, which is 19.7% of our total giving to the church. This includes support for many worthy organizations and causes, fair trade sales, youth fund raisers, and assistance to those in need in our neighborhood. In addition, members of this congregation give massive amounts of volunteer time given to the church, mission work on behalf of the church, and other efforts in the community. During the Stewardship season a few years ago, we tried to quantify our volunteerism. It was hard to do because there was so much volunteering going on and we were rather humble about admitting it. Beyond our care for the world, we also thousands of cards, calls, emails, meals, prayers, and comforting hugs to one another through the various joys and concerns of our lives.

In every way, we are a generous and giving congregation. It is central to our faith and to our existence. In a time of a national uncertainty and fear, it seems that our faith calls us to a few basic things.

Generosity. Those of us weathering these days without deep impact on our personal finances or jobs need to continue to be generous. If it is true that greed was a key component in creating the troubles our economy now faces, our faith reminds us that it is more blessed to give than to receive. We can also anticipate increased need for our generosity outside our walls. We are well poised to respond if needed, but need to handle rising costs even as we seek to meet rising needs.

Creativity. If it is true that the economic readjustment going on is permanent or at least long term, we will need to be creative in how we respond and thrive as a faith community. The offering of our hearts and minds to the work and ministry of the church will be critical, and hopefully, fun and uplifting at the same time.

Community. A recent study on giving patterns by region found that in the Midwest, the relationship between marital status and charitable giving for Midwesterners is the strongest among all the regions. Married couples in the Midwest give 124 percent more than single households. While the survey did not ask or account for same sex couple giving, our experience is that such couples have been extremely generous here at ORUCC. In addition, the influence on giving because of having been a youth volunteer is stronger in the Midwest than in any other region. All of this speaks to the power of communities, small and large, in shaping our lives.

Please consider the important of your own generosity, your own creativity, and your own commitment to this community as you prepare a pledge for 2009. **Pledge cards will be mailed next week and Stewardship Sunday is November 9th.** May we continue to be the “land of the generous” here at ORUCC!

Tree of Life



Please pray:

- For Scott Sneve, hospitalized recently with an infection.
- For Ellen Fluck, having back surgery on November 3.
- For Mary Bucknell's father, in ICU in Illinois.
- For Larry Koval, father of Brian Koval (fiancé of Zee Lemke Oliver).
- For Frank Montello, godfather of Eden Ansheles, battling cancer.
- For Leah Narans and her family after the death of her grandfather on October 10.

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



Family Prayer Cycle

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

- Jon & Deanna Blanchard
- Nan Blom & Bill Roach
- Ray Blum & Gerri Groethe

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RACE

Your Input Desired

At 9:00am on three upcoming Sundays (Oct. 26, Nov. 2 and Nov. 9), ORUCC member Pam Oliver will lead three Conversations about Race in America.

This new Sunday "Heart & Soul" series will continue (but not duplicate) the greatly appreciated sessions on the topic of Race facilitated last spring at Orchard Ridge by Pam.

As a noted UW-Madison faculty member in the Department of Sociology, Professor Pamela Olver is frequently interviewed and quoted. Most recently she was chosen to be one of the keynote speakers at Madison's YWCA Summit on Racism.

Please see the church website for a survey to help provide input for this class (www.orucc.org).

SUNDAY 9 A.M. Java and Jesus in Room 13

Java and Jesus is an ongoing discussion group based on readings and videos sent out each week by Rev. Winton Boyd. The emphasis is on exploring our own reactions and beliefs in response to the materials. If you are interested in being on the email list for materials sent each week, please email winton@orucc.org. It can also be sent through the mail.

We are discussing the book, *Why Christian: For those on the Edge of Faith* by Douglas John Hall. Hall is professor emeritus from McGill University, Montreal.

In his preface he writes, "It's...doubting faith—or faithful doubt — that I want to dialogue with here. I think I understand it. It's where I live too, most of the time."

Heart and Soul in Room 12

October 19, 9:00 a.m. — THIS BRAVE NATION

Come join the final session of the fall series THIS BRAVE NATION to hear about two brave Americans who love our nation, love what they're doing, and love doing it with enough other people to make a difference in the future. Sunday's conversation features Anthony Romero, Exec. Dir. of the American Civil Liberties Union, and 18-year-old Ava Lowery, an activist who uses new means of communication. Ginny Moore Kruse will facilitate our conversation after we see excerpts from the video featuring Romero and Lowery. We hope at least a couple of ORUCC teens will join our conversation, too.

It's hard to call someone younger than 18 years old a "legend," but Ava Lowery is just that in some progressive circles. From her home in a small Alabama town, at age 14 Ava created a website where she made videos railing against the war in Iraq. Today her site, peacetakesoutrage.com gets nearly two million hits per month. Anthony Romero is the son of a proud Puerto Rican who worked hard to support his family while waiting tables. He's an openly gay man in his 40s who is the first person in his family to go to college. Anthony initially used traditional communication technology, but now he's learning from young people like Ava that new media for organizing and activism are extremely effective.

You can see all five of the THIS BRAVE NATION videos, including the ones featuring Pete Seeger and Bonnie Raitt by searching "this brave nation" on the internet. But if possible, also join ORUCC members & friends on Sunday @ 9:00am and "meet" Ava and Anthony via video. We'll talk about their and your approaches to making a difference in our community and nation as a conclusion to our fall "Heart & Soul" series.

Breakfast for Grace

We've done it. We have successfully served our first two Wednesday breakfasts at Grace Episcopal Church for the Porchlight Homeless Men's Shelter. Many thanks to Sandra Dyar, Gretchen Olson, Rosemary Stare, Marilyn Arnold, Deanna Blanchard, Tory Vollrath, and Jack and Jan Christian for donating food in August and October.

We will be taking food in the evening of the second Tuesday of the even numbered months. Our next breakfast commitment will be in December. Generally we will take items that do not need to be cooked, such as bread, cereal and orange juice, but we will try to add a special item when we can. These special items might include fruit breads, muffins, fruit and hard boiled eggs. We will gather the food and one person will deliver all of the items. You can recoup what you spent for food (within guidelines) from our own church's Christian Witness and Service Ministry budget.

If you are interested in being a part of this project please contact Judy Winkel at 271-0481 or jpwinkel@charter.net. We would like to have a list of 20 or more volunteers so that you will only need to bring food occasionally.

OTHER EVENTS

SEASONAL HALF-DAY RETREAT—SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

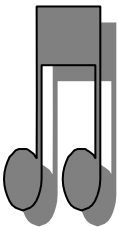
8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. ORUCC and Madison Mennonite have been offering a series of 4 half-day spiritual seasonal retreats over the past year. Each retreat has been held during a different season of the year (beginning with winter, then spring, summer and fall). We root our work in a small book, *Seasons*, by Parker Palmer. Using this book, as well as Scripture, poetry, journaling, solitude time and discussion we will reflect on the work of the Spirit in our lives and the ongoing questions and dynamics of our faith. This final retreat in the series will be co-led by Winton Boyd and Tammy Boyd (ORUCC) and Tonya Wenger (MMC). To register, please send a check to the church for \$15.00. If you have questions, please contact Winton at winton@orucc.org or 271-7212. Childcare is available.

POST ELECTION PRAYER AND WORSHIP—WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5 AT 6:15 P.M. (Note new time)

Regardless of our political persuasion-an election is a powerful time of decisions and acting on our faith. We will gather in song and prayer the night following the election to pray for our country, our world, and ourselves.

FAIR TRADE SALE—SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

For over 20 years we have hosted this annual sale benefiting artisans from around the world. It takes a good deal of volunteer effort to pull off. Contact Jan Christian, chair of Christian Witness and Service, if you are interested in helping. The sale is an all morning event.



The Gospellers of the Wisconsin Conference UCC will perform

On Sunday, **November 23** at 4:00 PM The Gospellers, a gospel choir of the Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ, which toured Germany this past June, will perform at Madison Christian Community, Hope United Church of Christ, 7118 Old Sauk Road, Madison, Wisconsin. A freewill offering will be taken. Before the concert at 3:15 PM there will be a video of the tour. Following the concert 'light refreshments' will be served.

The Gospellers were organized to go on tour this past June in Germany, on invitation of the church in Berlin-Brandenburg. Hosted by the Westend Gospelsingers in Eberswalde, Germany, the thirty-five members of the choir from Wisconsin always performed with local gospel, choirs, experiencing the joy of choir fellowship with our German sisters and brothers.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
October		
Friday 17	5:15 p.m.	OWL Retreat
Saturday 18	8:30 a.m.	OWL Retreat
Sunday 19	9:00 a.m.	Christian Education
	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	11:30 a.m.	TRU Function Rehearsal
Monday 20	6:45 p.m.	Handbell Choir
Tuesday 21	6:00 p.m.	Supper/Programs to follow
	6:30 p.m.	OWL/Way of Prayer
	6:30 p.m.	Yth group (3-12th grade)
	7:30 p.m.	Tuesday Night Bible Study
Wednesday 22	5:45 p.m.	Nominating Committee Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 23	5:30 p.m.	Adult Faith Formation Meeting
Thursday 25	8:30 a.m.	Autumn Seasonal Retreat
Sunday 26	9:00 a.m.	Christian Education
	11:00 a.m.	Harvest Brunch
	11:30 a.m.	TRU Function Rehearsal
Monday 27	6:45 p.m.	Handbell Choir
Wednesday 29	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal



**Orchard Ridge United
Church of Christ**

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

COMMUNION

Ushers—Need 3 each Sunday unless specified

Oct 19 Vern Reed, Bob Ansheles, Barb Wolter
Oct 26 Phil & Judy Winkel, Pat Fellows
Nov 2 Bob Ansheles ©, Marilyn Arnold, Lyn Laurion
Nov 9 Pat Hale, John Pray, Laurie Irwin
Nov 16 Carolyn Carlson, Paul Patenaude, Pat Fellows
Nov 23 Pat Hale, Jack Christian, Vern Reed

Welcomers

Oct 19 Rosemary Stare, Ruth Ley, Ruthanne Landsness
Oct 26 Tory Vollrath, Bobbi Sonntag, Steve Schumacher
Nov 2 Dick & Lois Rossmiller, Rachael Lancor
Nov 9 Cheryl Diermyer, Ellen Fluck, Jean Rush
Nov 16 Helen Atz, Steve Sheets, Marilyn Arnold
Nov 23 Barbara Stretchberry, Amy Fewel, Charlene Gallagher

Sound

Coffee

Oct 19 Helen Horn	Deanna Blanchard
Oct 26 Mike Walsh	Leah Narans
Nov 2 John Gilbert	Tom Klossner
Nov 9 Paul Hedges	Bob Ansheles
Nov 16 Ken Psyck	Annette Porter
Nov 23 J. McLellan	J. McLellan

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.**

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Compassion Offering

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

The Compassion offering for October is CROP

CROP, an arm of interdenominational Church World Service, helps people develop self-sufficiency through programs at the local, national, and international levels. In Madison the support is primarily to supply local food pantries.

67 groups participated in the 34th Madison Area Wisconsin Walks With the World CROP Hunger Walk-Rock Event (C**o**mmunities **R**esponding to **O**vercome **P**overty) We walk because some walk miles for food!

1st and 3rd Tuesday Programs

6:00 p.m. – Catered Dinner

Friendship Hall followed by

6:30-8:00 – Programs for all ages

Next Gathering October 21

Next Tuesday Evening Gathering for Children and Youth: October 21

Third-Sixth Graders: During our Tuesday night time, we have been drumming with Nani. The kids will be sharing/leading their song in worship on Sunday, October 26 with Nani. I hope you all can make it. We will have one more drum circle/practice with Nani on Tuesday, October 21. Don't worry if you missed this last Tuesday, you can still join in!

7th/8th Graders: Our Whole Lives (OWL). Dinner provided at 6:00. OWL training is from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Way of Prayer-we are reading week 2 (Images of God")

Tuesday Night Bible Study

The Tuesday evening Bible Study Group will meet on **October 21** in room 12. We meet from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. We will be reading Hebrews, chapters 7 through 10 for the October 21 meeting. We start each session by reading aloud the assigned chapters. We welcome and encourage new members. We meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. If you have questions call Sandra Dyar (271-2409) or Judy Winkel (271-0481).



Youth Help Needed at Harvest Brunch

We need a few youth to help with the Harvest Brunch on Sunday, October 26. This is after worship and will require about 2 hours of your time. A donation will be made for our mission trip. Let me know if you can help.

YOUTH NEWS

Top Ten Reasons to Return to the Gulf Coast for 2009 Youth Mission Trip

10. We now have drywalling experience.
9. The humidity.
8. The guys could clean the girls' bath/shower rooms again.
7. We could see Joe and Joy in their new house.
6. Keith's Convenience Store needs our business.
5. Traveling 2500 miles on a bus is lots of fun.
4. Wilson, bus driver, wants to spend another week with us.
3. Mission on the Bay's awesome southern hospitality.
2. More Orchard Ridge Youth need to come.
1. There is still lots of work to be done!

As soon as we got back home from the Gulf Coast, I was making calls and writing emails for our next summer's mission trip. As I thought about opportunities for us, I talked with folks about the possibility of returning to Mission on the Bay next year. There are lots of advantages for us to return but most importantly we may be able to know of our job site before going down next year. I am staying in touch with Leah McBride who was our volunteer coordinator at our work site and I hope that she will be able to place us next summer and that we would be able to know of this before we come down. That way we can bring extra tools that would make our job easier and we would feel even more productive. We may also be able work at a job site in New Orleans for the day which would give us a richer experience there.

With these advantages in mind, I have reserved a week for us at Mission on the Bay. The dates for next year's mission trip are August 1-8, 2009.

The next step is fundraising. The trip will cost approximately \$12,000. We can have up to 30 people come on the trip. **If your child is interested in participating on the trip, please attend the fundraising meeting we will have after worship on Sunday, November 9. Both youth and parents are asked to come to the meeting.** I would like all families to help organize at least one fundraising event (not including Bratfest). What I envision is a team of families taking on one fundraiser and seeing it through from start to finish. At our meeting, we need to decide on what those fundraisers will be and when we will have them. Some ideas the youth had were a book sale, pizza sale, Sub sandwich sale on Super Bowl Sunday, some kind of game night. **PLEASE COME WITH YOUR IDEAS AND CALENDARS TO THE NOVEMBER 9 MEETING.**

Tuesday Evening Gatherings

We have been trying to find times for when the youth can gather as a way to stay connected with one another. **I invite youth to come for Soup Supper night on Tuesday nights from 6:00-7:00.** It's a way for us to check in with one another and also get updates about upcoming events. Our next Soup night is Tuesday, October 21.

ORUCC's Second Annual Fall Harvest Brunch – Sunday, October 26th

Mark your calendars now! Save Sunday **October 26th** for the second annual Fall Harvest Brunch. Members and friends are invited to a mouth-watering celebration of Wisconsin's bountiful harvest. This will be a sampling of the best of Wisconsin produce, dairy and meats, including ham, eggs, sausage, French toast, roasted root vegetables, sweet potato casserole, salads, pies and other tasty desserts, all made with locally grown ingredients. Special guests will be Dave and Barb Perkins, who own the Vermont Valley Community Farm.

The cost is \$8.00 for adults and teens, children 12 and under are free. Tickets must be purchased in advance and will be available in the lounge after worship on October 12th and October 19th. If you would like to contribute a dish made with local produce, please contact LuAnn Griener at lgriener@uwhealth.org. **Over 100 people attended the brunch last year so get your tickets early as we sold out last year!** All proceeds will be donated to Partner Shares Program, run by the Madison Area Community Supported Agriculture Coalition.

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.



Knit/Crochet Group

The daytime group will meet on **Monday, November 3** from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the lounge (first Monday of each month). **The evening group has been discontinued. If you have an interest to meet in the evening please give me a call.** Instruction for knitting and crocheting will be offered and supplies. Bring whatever you are working on.

Quilting Group



The quilting group will meet on Wednesday, **November 5** from 9:30 a.m. until noon in the Friendship Hall. The group meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. Newcomers are always welcome. For questions, please call Dorothy Peterson at 845-8412.



Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, **November 5** at 12:30 p.m. in the Friendship Hall. The discussion will be "Paul and the road to Damascus" Acts 9, led by Mary Lou Peterson. We will welcome new members. If you have any questions call Mary Lou Peterson at 238-2380.

OVER 55 Group

The next meeting of the OVER 55 group will be on **November 11** at 11:45 a.m. Lunch will be served at 12:00 with a program to follow. Tonya Wenger, from the Mennonite Church sharing our building, will be speaking to us about the Mennonite International Relief programs.

We are in need of three more salads. If you can provide one please contact Judy Winkel at 271-0481. Your food item should serve at least 10 people. Bring a sandwich if you like. Beverages and tableware will be provided.

We welcome guests. Please let Judy know if you plan to bring guests so that luncheon arrangements can be made.

SAFE Group

The SAFE meeting will be hosted by Barb Wolter on Monday, **November 17** at 6:30-8:30 p.m., at 1626 Wheeler Rd. #202, Madison. Please phone 244.1720 if you need directions. If possible, bring a casserole, salad, or dessert to share, Barb will provide beverages. **After our potluck dinner, we'll be discussing the outcome of the presidential election.**

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, transgendered and questioning individuals and their families and friends – gay and straight. Questions about SAFE, ask this year's planning team: Lori Miller, Barb Wolter or Ginny Kruse. Want to receive regular e-mail announcements about SAFE programs, projects and gatherings, then please send your e-mail address to winton@orucc.org indicating that you want to be added to the SAFE e-mail list.

How important is an usher?

It seems like a rather simple and unspectacular task here at church. Yet, our ushers are among the first and most important people to us on Sunday mornings. Of course they hand out bulletins, take the offering, serve communion and help clean up after worship. More importantly, however, they provide guidance, direction and welcome to visitors and guests. Did you know that most people decide within 5 minutes of entering a church building whether or not they will come back. Long before worship starts or a sermon is preached! Welcomers and ushers are key in our ministry of hospitality.

Would you like to be a part of this ministry? We are scheduling ushers for the remainder of the year. We could use a few more. Please contact Pat Fellows oregon1@tds.net if you have interest.

Boydseye View

A few random thoughts (like apples falling from the autumn trees!)

- ✿ Have you wandered down the education hall recently to see our Sunday School rooms recently? As we move into our second year with our new time and format, you will see very inviting and soulful rooms. More importantly, on Sunday mornings, you will see and hear wonderful energy and love throughout the rooms. Kudos to all the volunteers under the direction of Tammy Martens for all they are doing.
- ✿ Several have wondered how the economic crises of the past month will affect giving to charitable organizations. It is too soon to know, but we are in the midst of our Stewardship Season (see front page). What we know is that this congregation has always been very generous and faithful in giving time, energy, and money to keep this ministry strong and vital. We also know the power of a faith community in difficult and trying times in our lives. There is no better time to be a part of this community of faith. It is amazing what a good hymn or choral anthem or *TRU Function* piece or prayer in worship can do after or before a busy or harried week!
- ✿ When it comes to politics, we obviously lean more towards the Democratic Party or the Green Party than we do the Republican Party. Most importantly, we vote because we care. We care about the essential direction of our country because we invest a good deal of heart and soul through our work and volunteer efforts to make this a society that reflect the realm of God, as we understand it. For that reason, we will be holding a short *post election service on Wednesday evening, November 5th at 6:15* in the sanctuary. The purpose of the service is not to declare ourselves winners or losers but to acknowledge that our involvement in the politics of this country is rooted in our Christian faith. Because we invest so much in these elections, it is good to be with others in the congregation afterward to share a word of hope, a voice of concern or a point of gratitude. It is good to sing, to pray and celebrate the often confusing but always necessary efforts to bring “forth the reign of mercy, the rein of peace, the reign of justice, the city of God.” (*You are Salt for the Earth, O People*)
- ✿ On Saturday, October 18th, our Leadership Team will be meeting all day to assimilate and synthesize the wonderful reports from our four explorer teams into a Next Generation Report. During the upcoming weeks and months, we will offer several opportunities for input, feedback, questions, and reactions from the wider congregation. Many thanks to Helene Nelson and Barb Hummel who are facilitating the day long retreat. Many thanks to the members of the four teams that worked hard on excellent and thoughtful recommendations. Please keep us in your prayers

Went



Elders of the month

What do a college mixer, Green Lake Camp and stained glass art have in common? Bob and Lyn

Bob was born in Chicago, but the family soon moved to New Jersey, where as a boy he played sports “by the season” - baseball, basketball and football. With sports journalism in mind and family roots in the Chicago area, Bob decided to go to Northwestern University. In 1943 he became part of the Navy College Training Program at Northwestern. Later he was recommended for the Navy’s nuclear submarine program requiring a physics and math emphasis at the Univ. of Ill. in Urbana. After V-E Day, he opted to stay in the Navy for a year and was sent to Notre Dame.

Lyn was born on Easter Sunday near Davis, Illinois, where her father was minister of the Evangelical & Reformed Church. Before she was five, the family moved to Minneapolis. The year before she graduated from high school, they moved to the Chicago area. Lyn wanted to become a doctor like her older brother, so she began premed studies at the Univ. of Ill. Chicago campus. That plan was curtailed due to lack of family resources, and so Lyn entered Northwestern’s pre-nursing program. Ever since meeting each other in 1942 during a college mixer, Lyn and Bob had corresponded. They were married in 1948 while she was in her last year of nursing education. Their first child Joan was only a month or two after Lyn had taken and passed her state boards.

During the next ten years the Laurions moved - and moved - and moved. They lived in Woodland Park, Colorado, where Bob went into building, and then to Colorado Springs and a view of Pike’s Peak while he worked with a small motors company. Son Tom was born in Colorado before they moved to Washington, D.C., where Bob was trained in the Rural Electrification Telephone Program. When an REA field position opened up in Wisconsin, they moved to the first of their three Wisconsin Rapids homes. Jim and Ruth were each born within these five years. Another move took the family to New Jersey, but that job required Bob to commute and travel too much, so they returned to Wisconsin. Bob’s new REA position brought them to Madison and to the home on Somerset Lane where they’ve lived ever since. In 1967, Bob’s REA experience with small phone companies made him a valuable addition to the Telephone & Data Systems (TDS) staff in Madison, but no move was necessary!

At one point before the Laurion family moved to Madison, they spent a week at a family church camp at Green Lake. That’s when they met Gordon and Jeanne Garnett who told them about the new Orchard Ridge Church in Madison. Bob and Lyn were present at the Orchard Ridge ground-breaking, and they became extremely involved in church committees and boards. Bob recalls teaching a Sunday School class while the classes were held in members’ homes. Later Lyn served as church school superintendent when dividers were used in Friendship Hall to separate the classes. Bob and Lyn have each served a term as moderator.

In addition to homemaking and parenting responsibilities, Lyn has held a variety of salaried and volunteer positions in the community, mostly part time and usually stemming from her formal education. She’s an avid bridge player, and like Bob, she’s enjoyed golfing and extensive world travels. Bob has played tennis over the years, and he has 26 years of service in the Naval Reserves. For 25 years they owned and enjoyed a beautiful 80-acre farm in Waushara County. The children went to Cherokee and West High Schools, three graduated from UW-Madison and one from Northwestern. Joan now lives in Madison, Tom in Wyoming, Jim in Colorado, and Ruth in Louisiana.

Lyn enjoys the Wednesday Bible Study and the Quilting Group. Lyn and Bob appreciate the openness of ORUCC and the feeling that people know each other beyond attending the Sunday worship service. Their significant tangible gift to our church is easy to see, because it’s one of the stained glass panels installed between the Worship Hall and Lounge. While this artwork enhances the experience of being in our building, it can also remind us of what can’t be seen but must be remembered and cherished: Bob and Lyn’s many other contributions to and continuing presence in our congregation.

Ginny Moore Kruse