

Ken's Pennings....

In October, "President Bush warned Iraqi generals that if they used chemical or biological weapons against U.S. troops, they would be tried as international war criminals, much as former Yugoslavian leader Slobodan Milosevic is now being tried by an international court for attempted genocide in Bosnia and Kosovo. The president's warning was appropriate and necessary, made all the more powerful by its citation of international law. Yet the very next day, the president dispatched a top State department envoy to Europe to demand that all Americans be given total immunity from prosecution on war-crime charges by international criminal courts. One law for everyone else; no law for Americans. It is an act of Empire." (Jay Bookman, AJC, October 10, 2002)

In order not to appear hypocritical to the rest of the world, we should be setting an example by making a plan to destroy our own weapons of destruction. Instead, we are breaking treaties designed to do just this.

So what are we to do as Christians in these times? We can be grateful for the blessings we receive as a democratic nation. We can celebrate our many freedoms like the right to freedom of religion and speech.

But we must also watch! We must stay awake! ... Democracy requires constant vigilance.

The gospel of Mark was written in a time of Empire as a call to vigilance and even resistance. He warned them not to be seduced by the imperial worldview....They were to wait for someone greater than even the emperor. That's what we are doing in Advent time. The church should be a place for training for living in the midst of empire. We need to keep each other alert and awake...to be Peacemakers and...agents of reconciliation.

Please Note: End of year Contributions to ORUCC

The general rule is that a contribution is effective when delivered. This means that checks that are placed in the church offering during the first worship service in 2011 will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2010, even if the check is predated to 2010 or was actually written in 2010.

However, checks that are written, mailed, and postmarked in 2010 will be deductible in 2010 even if it is not received until 2011.

Year-end contribution statements for 2010 will be emailed mid January. Those who do not have email, will have statement mailed.

Poinsettia Orders

Name _____

In Honor _____

In Memory _____

No. of plants _____ at \$15 each Total Enclosed \$ _____

Please collect your plant after late worship on December 24th.

Please return this form to the church office by Sunday, December 12



Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ COMMUNION

***"Spiritually Alive,
Joyfully Inclusive,
Committed to Justice."***

Sunday Morning

December 5

9 am Java and Jesus
10 am Worship, Winton Boyd preaching
Senior Choir

December 12

9 am Java and Jesus
10 am Worship, Winton Boyd preaching
Handbell Choir

December 19

10 am Worship, Winton Boyd preaching
Senior Choir

Newsletter Dates and Article Deadlines

Published 12/15 & 1/5

Information to be included in the newsletter is due the Monday before the above dates by 9:00 a.m. Email items to office@orucc.org, or drop them off at the office.

Church Emails

Debbie Bauerkemper
office@orucc.org
Tammy Martens
tmartens@orucc.org
Ken Pennings
ken@orucc.org
Winton Boyd
winton@orucc.org

www.orucc.org

Advent and Christmas at ORUCC:

December 5-2nd Sunday of Advent (LOVE) "Humility in the face of Mystery"

December 12-3rd Sunday of Advent (JOY) "Uncommon and Unbelievable Joy"

December 19-4th Sunday of Advent (PEACE) "Where Are You Going"

Special Services for the Season:

Tuesday, December 21-Longest Night Service at 7p.m.

This is a service for those of us living through dark times for any reason. We'll note the longest night of the year and our hope for emerging light with prayers, readings, silence and the music of Taize.

December 24-Christmas Eve services

5:00 pm-Family Friendly Candlelight service (childcare provided)
Music by children and TRU Function

10:00 pm-Service of Lessons and Carols with Communion
Music by Senior Choir, John Stevens, and Alumni Choir

Young adults high school age and older are invited to meet at 9:30 pm on Christmas Eve to run through Carol of the Bells.



December 26 at 10 am-Songs and Stories of the Season

God's Gifts, Our Gifts



We are grateful for those who have returned pledge cards indicating their financial commitment to our 2011 Ministry budget. To date we have raised \$277,000 in pledges. Many have not returned their pledge cards. Our Leadership Team and Budget Planning Mission Team appreciate your timely response. If you have any questions, need more information or need to consult with someone, please contact

Stewardship Mission Team chair Ken Psyck.

Construction Update

- Work on offices continues.
- Venting for new HVAC in Education wing has begun.
- Small bathroom and women's bathroom now functional.
- Support beams installed in lounge entrance, demolition of worship hall alcove has begun.
- Construction loan/mortgage signed with Associated Bank.
- Building Committee met to approve several change orders, including re-roofing entire flat roof between buildings.
- Heat is on!

Tree of Life



Prayers:

- For Diane Wensel, having successful surgery to remove colon cancer on Monday.
- With gratitude, we remember Bob Laurion, whose memorial service was held on Monday. We hold Lyn and her family in our continuing prayers.
- Russ and Judy St. Clair ask prayers for their three year old grandson, Bennett, recently diagnosed with hypotonia (low muscle tone).
- For Canon James, grandson of Meg and John Stevens, who has palate surgery this week.
- For neighbors on Russett Road after a shooting on Saturday night.
- We rejoice that Deb Joseph's sister, Carol, is cancer free after treatment for colon cancer.

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



Wider Church Family Prayer Cycle

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

- Brian & Annette Porter
- Robert & Carol Prugh
- Chris Radtke and Dick Radtke



The Green Team Corner: Advent – Ever-Green Hope

As we begin Advent and await Christmas, we celebrate our hope in God. One way we symbolize our hope is through use of evergreen decorations in our homes. Across many centuries and cultures, evergreens have symbolized new birth or rebirth. Evergreens have represented hope for coming light and fruitfulness, remembered in times of darkness and winter at the time of the winter solstice. Similar traditions can be found in early Egypt and Rome, and in pagan Europe before Christianity. Christians have decorated Christmas trees at least since 1510. We also use evergreen advent wreaths with candles lit for hope, love, joy and peace during the weeks leading up to Christmas.

GREEN ACTION IDEA: We can enjoy using natural greenery, pine cones and other gifts of nature to decorate our homes simply and beautifully for this season. We can pause to experience the beauty of ever-greens and remember the hopes we hold for new life.



SUNDAYS

Java and Jesus-9:00 Room 13

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

Compassion Offering

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

December Compassion Offering is the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

The proceeds from this offering are a critical source of funding for the ongoing work of the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance in providing needed support to retired and active UCC clergy and lay employees. This offering enables us to send Christmas gift checks to low-income retirees; provide supplementation of small annuities; provide supplementation to help cover the cost of premiums for low-income retirees in the UCC Medicare Supplement Health Plan; provide funding to make grants to clergy and lay employees who find themselves at a moment of financial hardship.

The generous gifts of UCC congregations to the Christmas Fund will enable the Pension Boards' Assistance program to provide assistance to approximately 1600 people in 2010.

On-line Donations: For your convenience, we have added the following opportunities to pay on-line, located on the church website.

- Deposit-2011 Youth Mission Trip
- Deposit-2011 January Family Retreat
- Final Payment-2011 Yth Mission Trip
- Final Payment- 2011 January Family Retreat
- Compassion Offering

Other opportunities may be added in the future.



Coffee Fund for Sunday Mornings and all Other Church Events:

Many of us enjoy a good cup of Fair Trade coffee after worship on Sunday mornings. Our coffee fund balance is at a minus. If you can help out by donating to the Sunday morning/Church Event coffee fund, that would be appreciated.

Ken's Pennings

Last Sunday, the first Sunday of Advent, Winton Boyd preached a sermon entitled "Awaking from our Sleep." He exhorted us to stay awake this season, to note how God is already present in our pain, discomfort and confusion, how God is present in the world around us – in spite of injustice, poverty and rage, and how God is being born in our lives.

On the first Sunday of Advent in 2002, Rev. Lanny Peters, one of the pastors of Oakhurst Baptist Church, Decatur, GA, and a dear friend of mine, preached another challenging message titled in a similar way, "In the Midst of Empire: Stay Awake."

I hope you enjoy the following excerpts from Lanny's sermon:

"Today we are invited into a new kind of time-Advent time. We begin Advent at Oakhurst by focusing on, of all things, repentance. What a counter cultural idea! On the busiest shopping weekend of the year, we are asked to reflect on our lives to discern what we might need to change in order to be more open to God and to prepare for the coming of the Light of the world. To observe Advent is to decide to enter a different sort of time... The ancients had a view of time that we do not have. It was a sense that the time was ripe for something to happen, what could be called "kairos" time. In our reading from Isaiah 64: 1-9, the prophet is sensing that something momentous is about to take place. This was written at a time when the Jews were being allowed to return home after several generations of captivity in Babylon. But as they returned, they found their beloved Jerusalem in ruins. Many people had become so assimilated in captivity; they did not even want to go back.

The prophet saw that many of his people did not call on the name of God any longer. It looked as if God was hidden. The prophet called out for God to come in some earth shaking way to shatter this sense of complacency and apathy, to help restore their sense of identity as people originally created by God like a loving potter.

The writer of the Gospel of Mark (13: 24-37) is also focused more on kairos time than chronos time. He calls his readers to discern the time at hand, to wake up and stay alert to what was happening in the world. "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates." Mark expected the return of Christ anytime. Like Isaiah, Mark saw that things were so bad that surely God was about to intervene in a dramatic way.

These texts are unavoidably political. Both were written in a time of high commercial and military empire-Isaiah in the time of the Babylonian Empire and Mark during the time of the Roman Empire. The Roman political system was designed to make sure the conquered territories helped keep Rome rich. It was based on a giant pyramid scheme. Those above squeezed everybody below and they in turn took a cut from the ones below them. The story of Jesus' birth in Luke's Gospel begins by noting that it occurred in the days of Herod. Herod was one of Rome's puppet kings, whose job was to extract taxes from his people in exchange for riches and power.

Luke tells us that the reason Jesus was born in Bethlehem was that his father Joseph was forced to go back to his hometown to register to pay taxes, having to take with him a pregnant wife. The result of this massive Roman pyramid scheme was that it finally settled on those at the bottom and led to massive poverty among rural folks like Jesus' family. This contributed to the rise of Zealot groups such as the one that rebelled in the middle of the first century that liberated Jerusalem. Rome responded by laying siege to Jerusalem, destroying much of the city and the Temple. It was somewhere around that time that the gospel of Mark was written.

In the midst of apparent hopelessness, Mark was trying to get his community to use the Gospel story as a lens to see the world. Watch! Stay awake! He called them to a time of vigilance and even resistance. He warned them not to let the imperial worldview take over them.

Ched Myers has written an excellent commentary on the gospel of Mark, called Binding the Strong Man. The strong man in the title is a metaphor he draws from Mark that represents the Roman imperial powers. He says that Mark is telling Christians to not base their reality in the strong man who appears now to be in total charge but to resist and wait for someone stronger is coming. Don't be blinded by the world's idea of power and salvation. That word from Mark may be as pertinent today for us Christians as it was then.

We are living in a time of empire. The United States is the most powerful country in the world, maybe even in history, both militarily and economically. I want to preface what I am about to say by saying that I am the beneficiary of that in many ways. In Monty Python's movie, "Life of Brian," there is a scene where a group of Zealots are meeting. One of them declares angrily, "What has Rome done for us!" One of them responds thoughtfully, "Well, there are the good roads." Others chip in with other good things like aqueducts, and safer streets. Yes, there are many benefits of living in the most powerful country in the world...In countless ways, our country is a wonderful place to live.

But there is a down side. Those of us at the top of the pyramid tend to live extravagantly while poverty gets worse. We are often naïve about the ways we benefit from empire politics. We trade rights of people for our comfort. We would rather fight for cheap oil than change our driving habits. When I was in Turkey, I noticed that almost every home has a solar receptor. They live next door to the largest oil producers in the world but cannot afford oil like we can so are developing alternatives like solar energy.

We also heard stories of how their country suffered from the last war in Iraq and are only now returning to normal. If there is another war, they will suffer again. They felt that most Americans are oblivious to this. Almost everyone in Turkey is against the United States attacking Iraq and sees it as having little to do with al-Qaida and everything to do with oil.

OUR COMMON LIFE TOGETHER

Women's Breakfast Group: They meet 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.

Knitting Group: The Knitting Group will meet **December 6** at 1:30 p.m. in the lounge. The group welcomes anyone who would like to do handwork of any sort while participating in pleasant conversation. Bring whatever you are working on and join us! If you have any questions please contact Sandra Dyar at 271-2409 or Karen Falkner at 833-9730.

Tuesday Evening Bible Study: We will meet the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the church from September to May. We are currently studying "the Message Of The Psalms", by Walter Brueggemann, and related passages from the book of Psalms. We read aloud the assigned verses at the start of the meeting and then take turns commenting on the reading. Respecting each others ideas is important. If you have questions call Sandra Dyar, 271-2409.

Movie Group: Join us on Friday, December 10. Hosts are Bob and Louise Jeanne, 609 Hilltop Drive. We'll gather at approximately 8:30 pm for dessert, beverage, and conversation about the movies we have just seen (or seen recently) and other topics. All are welcome, but please help us with planning if you can by calling 271-9481 or email louisejeanne@gmail.com to let us know that you'll be coming. Hope to see you then!

Women's Book Group: On Thursday, **December 9th** from 7-9 pm, join us at the home of Ellen Maurer, 2657 Fitchrona Road. We discuss *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee; this literary classic celebrates the 50th anniversary of its publication this year. The setting is a dusty Southern town during the Depression. A white woman accuses a black man of rape. The outcome of his trial is such a foregone conclusion that no lawyer will step forward to defend him—except the town's most distinguished citizen. His compassionate defense costs him many friendships but earns him the love and admiration of his two motherless children. Library copies are readily available. Please let Ellen know if you plan to come. You can reach her at eamaurer@wis.edu or 845-7164.

OVER 55: The next meeting is Tuesday, **December 14** at Good Shepherd. It will be a chili lunch. Everyone is asked to bring a can of chili to add to the pot. Chefs will be Al Bach and Tom Klossner. Helen Horn and Ralph Petersen will also help with set-up. Cookies will be provided by Mary Lou Peterson, Gene & Sandra Dyar, Carolyn Carlson, Marcia Sheets and Marylin Boyer. Char Klossner will bring makings for sundaes.

Jennifer Jaqua will speak on Transitioning our Newest Veterans from Combat to Home: How is the VA Helping?

SAFE Christmas Gathering: SAFE's annual Christmas potluck and informal program will be hosted by John and Ginny Kruse on Monday, December 13, 6:30 pm, at 110 S. Henry St., #1007, in Downtown Madison. Please bring a salad, casserole or dessert to pass. Dress comfortably, because some of us will sit on the floor. Driving and parking directions will be sent to the SAFE email list. You're encouraged to RSVP, and you can do this when you see Ginny or John at church, by email gmkruise@wisc.edu or phone 238-9225.

SAFE was started in 1994 by a group of ORUCC members in order to carry out the message of our congregation's commitment to being an Open and Affirming congregation. Safe (Spiritually Affirming Friends Everywhere) is open to everyone. We meet each month between September and May in our homes to share a potluck supper and have an informal program or discussion. All are welcome. To receive occasional email messages about SAFE meetings, contact Rev. Winton Boyd at winton@orucc.org.

Mitten Tree: Once again, we will have the Christmas tree up to hold donations of mittens/gloves, hats and scarves. These donations will be used for our area schools and for IHN families. Teachers in the congregation who work at schools where there is need, please let us know, as well. The social workers in the schools are the main distributors of these items. You can bring your items for the tree any time in December. This is a fun activity for our knitters and fleece sewers. It is also a great way to shop with your family and let everyone pick out something in a size and type they would like for themselves. All you need to do is hang it on the tree and it will be shared it with someone in need. This winter is predicted to be a cold one! Share the warmth of this wonderful ORUCC tradition. Questions? See Cherie or Bruce Olsen (274-6299).

Volunteers needed to stuff, fold and label Newsletter: If you feel a need to do some volunteer work, I have the job for you! I need a few people every 1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoon to help stuff, fold and label the newsletter for mailing. With 3 to 4 people it only takes approximately one hour. Time frame where I need volunteers is between the hours of 12:30 to 2:30ish. If you are able to help out or need more information, contact Debbie at the office 271-7212 or email me at office@orucc.org.

Lunching Together After Worship:

As we welcome more and more visitors and new people, we are increasingly aware that many might enjoy a somewhat casual and spontaneous chance to get to know others over lunch. We're hoping that there will be a few of us willing to be "point people" on a Sunday of our choosing to help make such a lunch happen. This is how it will work. We're hoping to keep it simple for everyone.

Select one or more Sundays you would be willing to serve as "Point Person" for the remainder of 2010 through December of 2011;

Let Office Manager, Debbie Bauerkemper, know which Sunday(s) you've selected (office@orucc.org or 271-7212);

For the Sunday(s) you've selected, make reservations for noon at a local restaurant where 8-10 people can be seated together comfortably. Be sure to choose a restaurant where the wait staff can provide separate checks;

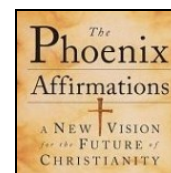
Two weeks before your date (by Wednesday), contact Debbie Bauerkemper with the name & address of the restaurant so that she can include it in a bulletin announcement. The announcement will give people the option of signing up with you ahead of time. However, people should feel free to join the lunching group spontaneously;

On "your Sunday," wear a large colorful name-tag which reads, "Join me for lunch?" Throughout the morning, invite folks to join you for lunch;

Have folks meet you in the east entrance of the church so that you can leave as a group around 11:45 am. You may wish to provide printed driving directions for each driver;

Have a great time!

20-Something Brunch: In your twenties? No place to go after worship on Sunday, **January 9th**? Come have lunch with others in and around their twenties at the home of Ken Pennings & John Leonard, 317 Bram St., Madison. RSVP to Ken at ken@orucc.org, or 556-3044, and let him know of any dietary restrictions. After lunch, we'll have a conversation about experiencing "the holy" in the holidays.



Last summer, we had a sermon series on the [Phoenix Affirmations](#) - a set of affirmations written by other progressive Christians over the past few years. Now, we'd like to hear from you. It's not too late!

Many of you indicated how helpful and encouraging these affirmations were as you consider your own Christian faith and walk. Now we'd like to gather a series of thoughts, stories and reflections from you on these affirmations. We invite you to respond in writing (a paragraph or two is enough) to one of the following questions. You may focus on one of the affirmations, or even a word or phrase in the affirmation.

Which affirmation(s) resonate with you and your own walk of life? Which affirmation(s) help articulate some of your own lived experience of faith? How does your own spiritual life come alive as you ponder one of these affirmations?

We'd love to hear from you! Here's how you can share your thoughts with us:

Go to www.orucc.org which has the form we've handed out in worship - tell us how these affirmations resonate with your faith. Email your thoughts to either ken@orucc.org or winton@orucc.org.

Volunteer Opportunities at ORUCC (new schedules effective January 1, 2011)

How important is an Usher and a Welcomer?

Our ushers and welcomers are among the first people and most important to us on Sunday mornings. Ushers hand out bulletins, take the offering, serve communion and help clean up after worship. Ushers and welcomers, more importantly, 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. **Welcomers and Ushers** are key in our ministry of hospitality. Would you like to be a part of either one of these ministry? If so, we can add you to the schedule that will come out in January of 2011. We could use a few more. If you are interested in becoming an usher, please contact Pat Fellows oregon1@tds.net or the office at 271-7212 for more information. If you are interested in becoming a welcomer, please contact Ken Pennings, kpennings@orucc.org or 271-7212 for more information.

Coffee and Sound

If you are interested in volunteering to be added to the coffee and/or sound system rotation, please contact the office for more information, or talk to the person who took care of the sound during worship, or the person in charge of the coffee hour after worship in the Friendship Hall. They will be more than happy to talk to you.

Youth Mission Trip "Post Office": You are invited to send Christmas cards to other members of the church through our annual Holiday post office. Cards are 40 cents and proceeds will support our youth summer mission trip. An envelope will be provided for payment. The "post office" will be available, Sunday December 5, 12, 19 at a table in the Friendship Hall. Please be sure to check the post office often for your own mail too! If you have questions, please contact Tammy Martens or Jackie Eveland-Psyck.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
December		
Sunday 5	9:00 a.m.	Java & Jesus/Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Monday 6	1:30 p.m.	Knitting Group
	6:45 p.m.	Handbell Rehearsal Friendship Hall
Tuesday 7	7:30 p.m.	Tuesday Night Bible Study
Wednesday 8	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday 12	9:00 a.m.	Java & Jesus/Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Monday 13	6:45 p.m.	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:15 p.m.	ORUCC Men's Group
Tuesday 14	7:30 p.m.	Tuesday Night Bible Study
Wednesday 15	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday 19	9:00 a.m.	Java & Jesus/Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service

Ushers—Need 3 each Sunday unless specified

Dec 5 Joyce Binder, Vern Reed, Jerry Nelson
Dec 12 Bernie & Jim Treichel, Paul Hedges
Dec 19 Laurie Irwin(L. Jones), Jon Blanchard, Pat Fellows
Dec 24 5:00 pm Paul Hedges, Bernie & Jim Treichel, Jerry Nelson
10:00 pm Lyn Laurion, Pat Hale, Joyce Binder, **NEED 1 or 2 VOLUNTEERS**
Dec 26 Need Volunteer, Rosemary Stare, Bob Ansheles

Welcomers

Dec 5 Hope Soroos, Jack Schairer, Barb Hummel
Dec 12 Rachael Lancor, Lorraine Dellmann, Barb McLeod
Dec 19 Johce Pohl, Leah Narans, Lyn Laurion
Dec 24 5:00 pm Linda Hitchman, Barb Hummel, Rosemary Stare
10:00 pm NEED VOLUNTEER Nancy Cox, Steve Sheets
Dec 26 Bobbi Sonntag, Dick & Lois Rossmiller

Sound

Coffee

Dec 5	Ken Psyck	Brian & Rachael Lancor
Dec 12	Ken Psyck	Deanna Blanchard
Dec 19	Fred Fisher	Joyce Binder
Dec 24 5:00 pm	John Gilbert	NO COFFEE
10:00 pm	Paul Hedges	NO COFFEE
Dec 26	Ken Psyck	Phil & Judy Winkel

OUR CHURCH IS OPEN AND AFFIRMING OF ALL PEOPLE REGARDLESS OF AGE, RACE, CULTURE, SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND ECONOMIC STATUS.
 OUR CHURCH IS A SAFE SANCTUARY FOR ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH.

Are you still interested in receiving our newsletter? If not, please mail the back (which includes your name and address), call the church office at (608) 271-7212, or contact office@orucc.org requesting us to remove you from our mailing list.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ
 1501 Gilbert Road
 Madison, WI 53711
 www.orucc.org
 office@orucc.org

Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. Postage PAID
 Madison, WI
 Permit No. 1396

YOUTH NEWS

For information, contact Rev. Tammy Martens at tmartens@orucc.org

Nursery Care provided from 8:30-11:30 a.m. every Sunday morning.

Winter All Church Family Retreat: January 14-16, 2011 at Pilgrim Center on Green Lake:

PLEASE SIGN UP NOW!

A special invite to the Confirmation Youth and their families to join in on this retreat. **There will be activities for children and youth through 12th grade as well as guided discussions for adults!** We will have childcare for our infants, toddlers and there will be guided activities for the children and youth while adults are in their discussion time.

Please sign up with Tammy Martens and go to our web site (www.orucc.org) to pay online for this retreat. Click on the “donate” button on the home page and follow the instructions. **I am happy to share that the church is subsidizing the cost for this retreat so each family gets a reduced price.**

Cost for the retreat (covers 2 nights and 4 meals):

- Adult Guest--\$70.00
- Youth Guest (12-17 years old)--\$65.00
- Child Guest (4-11 years old)--\$52.00
- Infant Guest (0-3 years old)--\$25.00

Christmas Caroling for 2nd-6th Graders: Second through Sixth Graders are invited to go caroling on Sunday, December 19 to Oakwood Village West. Orchard Ridge has a number of members who live there. We will eat lunch at the church after worship and then carpool over to Oakwood to arrive there by 12:45 p.m. We will be back at the church by 2:00.

High Schoolers Caroling and Youth Christmas Party: The High School Youth are invited to Christmas Carol on **Saturday, December 18, meeting at 3:00 p.m. at ORUCC.** We will do some caroling in the neighborhood and to some shut-ins. We will end up at the home of Caroline and Sam Riese’s home, 1114 Saalsaa Road, Madison. We will have supper there and do a white elephant gift exchange. We should be finished by 6:30 p.m. This is always a fun event and it warms the hearts of us and those we visit. Please RSVP to me at your earliest convenience. I will also need a couple of adults who can transport the carolers.

Porchlight Duffle Bag Project sponsored by Christian Witness and Service Ministry: Once again we are going to help Porchlight provide filled duffle bags for the homeless men staying in their shelters, where they provide emergency shelter, food, employment services, counseling, and affordable transitional and permanent housing to homeless people in the Dane County area. Porchlight’s services are designed to foster independence and the transition into permanent housing and employment. Porchlight is the largest supplier of low-cost housing in Dane County and is comprised of an emergency shelter for men, housing and services for men and women suffering from serious mental illnesses, 172 single room or efficiency units and 55 family units. Every year Porchlight provides over 350 women, men and children with over 100,000 nights of shelters. Our donations of personal care items will fill duffle bags that are donated by Land’s End and these will be, in most cases, the only gifts that these men will receive at Christmas time.

Items needed are:

- | | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Men’s stocking hats | Men’s winter gloves | Deodorant | Combs | Travel sized tooth paste |
| Dental floss | Tooth brushes (Soft) | Chap sticks | Hand sanitizers | Small shaving creams |
| Disposable shavers | Small pocket Kleenex packets | New wash clothes, hand towels | | |

In addition, Porchlight is also in need of used but clean towels, blankets, sheets (single and double only), pillows, pillow cases, mattress covers, bath rugs, shower curtains, and other small household items like silverware, dishes, pots and pans, etc. These items will be used in their recently remodeled men’s shelter. Place all donations in the wrapped donation box in the Friendship Hall at church by December 15.

Church Directory Updates. Please make the following changes in your directory:

- Change address for Alice Jones to: 200 W. Packard St. Apt 132, Appleton, WI 54911
- Change address for Pat Hale to: 6225 Mineral Pt. Rd. Apt C68, Madison, WI 53705
- Change address for Deborah Holbrook to: 6 Whitcomb Circle #11, Madison, WI 53711
- Change email address for Jeanne McLellan to: jeanne.mclellan@yahoo.com