



DECEMBER, 2008 ISSUE 1

Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ COMMUNION

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

Sunday Morning

December 7

9 am Education

10 am Worship, Tammy

Martens preaching

TRU Function

December 14

9 am Education

10 am Worship, Winton

Boyd preaching

Handbells

December 21

9 am Education

10 am Worship, Winton

Boyd preaching

Senior Choir

Newsletters

December 17

January 7

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

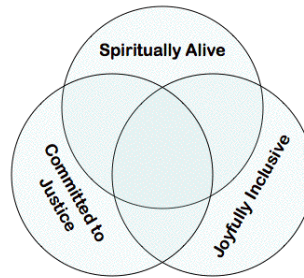
Rev. Tammy Martens

tmartens@orucc.org

Winton Boyd

winton@orucc.org

Our Next Generation Initiative Honoring Our Founders – Honoring our Future



Throughout the first nine months of 2008, Four Explorer Teams worked to bring recommendations and ideas to the Leadership Team regarding the church's future programming, leadership, and facility. The Leadership Team is excited to present a draft **Next Generation Initiative proposal** for congregational discussion and action. We encourage and invite all members to participate in one of the following opportunities for discussion on this exciting proposal to **expand and Improve our programming & facilities in order to strengthen and deepen our faith.**

December 7 at 11:15 – Presentation of proposal with discussion

December 14 at 9 a.m. – Second Presentation of proposal with discussion

January 4th at 9 a.m. – Discussion of proposal

January 4th at 11:15 – Discussion of proposal

January 25th – Congregational Action on Leadership Team proposal at Annual Meeting

Tree of Life



Please pray for:

- Victims and survivors of the terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India last week; as well as victims of war and violence throughout the world.
- Ellen Maurer's mother, Winifred Allbeck, who recently moved into a nursing home in PA.
- Mary White, back home at Coventry Village.
- Canon James, 2 month old son of Katie and Griffin, who is recovering well after surgery on his jaw.
- Rhonda Heise, recuperating after hip surgery.

We give thanks for:

- The many volunteers who made the Fair Trade Sale a success.
- Tammy Boyd's brother, the Rev. Scott Carlson, who was able to worship with us during his two month sabbatical from Sun Prairie United Methodist Church. We give thanks for his congregation as he returns to serve them.

Thank You

Many thanks for the cards, hugs, words of sympathy, and sharing of memories upon the death of Jane's mother, Fritzi Kulick, as well as a special word of appreciation to the reception committee for providing food and beverages after the memorial service. The loving support of this congregation is a great comfort to us in this difficult time.

Blessings—Jane and Dan Pettit



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.

- Stan & Marilyn Boyer
- Dennis & Mary Bradley
- Judy Brauer



Stewardship Update

2009 Orchard Ridge UCC Stewardship Appeal

This is Stewardship Season at Orchard Ridge UCC. We are a very generous congregation and hope that the financial giving to our ministry will continue to be done in a spirit of gratitude and joy. We hope that you will prayerfully consider a pledge increase for 2009. To date, we have received 137 pledges totaling \$300,922.

SUNDAYS 9 A.M.

Java and Jesus in Room 13

CHRIST OF THE CELTS

December 7, 14, 21

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.

Using the book, *Christ of the Celts: The Healing of Creation* (J. Phillip Newell). The book attempts to connect the Celtic tradition with our more conventional Christian beliefs and offers a vision of concern for healing creation and the environment – for the presence of the sacred in nature and all creatures. We will use excerpts from the book.

Heart and Soul in Room 12

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT CHRISTMAS

A December Heart & Soul Series

9:00-9:45am on Dec. 7, 14, & 21

What is particularly important or resonant about Advent or Christmas for each of us? Can we even attempt to ponder such questions while holding out a faint hope to move beyond rampant commercialization? How do we experience the spirituality of the Christmas season, as well as enjoying its secular pleasures? Memorable childhood experiences may affect how we approach Christmas. Living elsewhere in the nation or world can have an impact upon our understanding of the traditional Christmas Story.

Occasionally a family creates a personal celebration quite different from typical seasonal images, and changes in our lives and families always make a difference. During three Advent Sundays in December, ORUCC members have been invited to share personal reflections about the power of the Christmas Story for them during this season of darkness leading to the Light. Bring your coffee or tea, and join the conversation!

December 7: Three generations of Pipers - Ruth, Doug and Megan.

December 14: Karen Falkner, Sara Roberts and Steve Yeazel

December 21: Kathy Borkowski & Chris Glad, Ken Psyck and Elizabeth Strasma

Looking for a Quiet Space?

Have you found the **MEDITATION ROOM** downstairs? It is open for your use when you would like a quiet place to think or pray. Come to the stairs near the Education wing.

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

Madison Labyrinth Walks

Madison Christian Community
 7118 Old Sauk Rd., Madison
 www.madisonchristiancommunity.org

OPEN WALKS

Drop-in anytime between 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.. \$5 donation suggested.
 Contact: Lois Komai , 238-2503 for information.

Wednesday, December 10—9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
 Sunday, December 14—1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

WINTER SOLSTICE CANDLELIGHT WALK
 Sunday, December 21—6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Walk accompanied by live harp music.

Bruce Gladstone's UW Choral Groups Sing on December 7

The popular annual UW Winter Choral Concert on Sunday afternoon, December 7, will feature two choral groups conducted by ORUCC's Senior Choir Director Bruce Gladstone. Bruce conducts the Chorale and Madrigal Singers. Along with other choral groups they will perform two concerts, one at 2:00 p.m. and another at 4:00 p.m. at Luther Memorial Church, 1021 University Ave. The concerts are free, and no tickets are required.

Each concert will be identical. Other groups singing that afternoon will be the Concert Choir, the Masters Singers, Women's Chorus and University Chorus.

Advent at ORUCC

Worship Schedule

December 7: Advent 2—Sunday of Peace

Tammy Martens preaching
 Music by TRU Function

December 14: Advent 3—Sunday of Joy

Luke 1:26-38—*Sacred Companion*
 Music by Handbells

December 21: Advent 4—Sunday of Love

Luke 1:47-55—*Lifting Our Souls in Praise*
 Music by Senior Choir

Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. - Family friendly Candlelight service of Stories and Music

Music by TRU Function and Elementary children

10:00 p.m. – Candlelight service of Lessons and Carols

Music by Senior Choir, John Stevens and High School/ College Alumni Choir

December 28: Christmas 1

Luke 2:22-40 – *Long Awaited, Sacred Dreams*
 Music by Kythie Boyd and Ellery Hamann

Carol Singing – Sunday, December 14 at 11:15

Grab a cup of coffee or cocoa and return to the worship hall for the singing of carols. Appropriate for all ages.

Interfaith Hospitality Network – we host homeless families from

DECEMBER 21-28. There are many opportunities for volunteering. See the bulletin board outside the kitchen for more information.

God spoken here.

Peace
 born here

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 7

CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
December		
Friday 5		Lemke Wedding rehearsal
Saturday 6	3:00 p.m.	Lemke Wedding
Sunday 7	9:00 a.m.	Christian Education
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	11:15 a.m.	Next Generation Presentation
Monday 8	6:45 p.m.	Handbell Choir
Tuesday 9	11:45 a.m.	OVER 55 Christmas Party
Wednesday 10	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday 14	9:00 a.m.	Christian Education
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Monday 15	7:15 p.m.	ORUCC Men's Group
Tuesday 16	6:00 p.m.	Supper/programming to follow
	6:15 p.m.	OWL
	7:30 p.m.	Tuesday Night Bible Study
Wednesday 17	12:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Study Christmas Tea
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Christian Witness & Service Mtg.
Thursday 18	6:30 p.m.	IHN Coordinators Mtg.
Sunday 21	9:00 a.m.	Christian Education
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
		Host IHN Families - December 28



**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

Dec 7 Dick Rossmiller ©, Lois Rossmiller, Laurie Irwin
Dec 14 Bernie & Jim Treichel, Jerry Nelson
Dec 21 Lyn Laurion, Jon Blanchard, LuAnn Greiner
Dec 24-5:00 p.m. Bob, Ansheles, **NEED VOLUNTEER**
 Dick & Lois Rossmiller
Dec 24-10:00 p.m. Joyce Binder ©, Phil & Judy Winkel,
 Vern Reed, Paul Hedges
Dec 28 Marilyn Arnold, Paul Patenaude, Pat Fellows

Welcomers

Dec 7 Hope Soroos, Jack Schairer, Lynn Roethe
Dec 14 Jan Christian, Joyce Pohl, Lorraine Dellmann
Dec 21 **NEED VOLUNTEER**, Rachael Lancor,
 Rosemary Stare
Dec 24 Ruth Ley, Ruthanne Landsness, Barb Stretchberry
Dec 28 Bobbi Sonntag, Dick & Lois Rossmiller

Sound

Coffee

Dec 7 Mike Walsh	Brian & Rachael Lancor
Dec 14 John Gilbert	Deanna Blanchard
Dec 21 Paul Hedges	J. McLellan
Dec 24-5:00 p.m. -Ken Psyck	—
Dec 24-10: p.m. -J. McLellan	—
Dec 28 Helen Horn	Phil & Judy Winkel

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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.**

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 December is the Christmas Fund (formerly Veterans of the Cross)

The money raised through the annual Christmas Fund, administered by the Pension Boards, provides the primary revenue stream supporting the Ministerial Assistance programs of the United Church of Christ: Annuity Supplementation, Health Benefits Supplementation, Emergency Grants and Christmas "Thank You" Gift Check for low-income clergy and retirees. These programs are available to both active and retired clergy and lay employees in financial need.

Thanks for Giving

All together, our congregation supplied a record-breaking 60 (yes, sixty) Thanksgiving baskets to less fortunate families in our area. Many thanks to all contributors for making it possible for others to celebrate the holiday, despite their current financial hardship.



Mitten Tree

Share with others in our community! The Mitten Tree is set up in the lounge. Families and individuals can bring mittens (also gloves, hats and scarves) to hang on the tree. This is a wonderful activity for families with children, members who like to knit, and shoppers of all ages. After Christmas, they will be distributed to the Southwest Resource Center (the local office of joining Forces for Families), our IHN families living in our building over Christmas, and our local area schools. Please consider bringing an item or two and share the warmth of the holiday season. Questions? Call Cherie Olsen at 274-6299.

Secrets From the Garden Hand-made photo greeting cards

The greeting cards make fantastic Christmas gifts for all the puzzling people on your list. All proceeds go to Eviction Prevention in the Allied neighborhood. The cards are on the table in the lounge. These cards are provided by Dianne Stevens.

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 December 16th

Children Invited to Drum!

All children (3rd-6th Grade) will be drumming two songs for the 5:00 Christmas Eve service. We will be rehearsing on Tuesday, December 16 from 6:30-7:30 and on Christmas Eve at 3:45 in the afternoon.

Tuesday Night Bible Study

The Tuesday evening Bible Study Group will meet on **December 16** in room 12. We meet from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. We start each session by reading aloud the assigned chapters. We will be studying chapters 9-12. 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 NEWS

Children Invited to Sing!

Children (preschool through 6th grade) are invited to sing "Away in the Manger" with TRU Function at the 5:00 Christmas Eve service. We will rehearse the song during craft/play time on December 14 and 21. We will also rehearse at 4:15 on Christmas Eve before the 5:00 service.

All Parents are invited to a 9:00 presentation of the Next Generation Initiative on Sunday, December 14. The Leadership Team will share their summaries of the work that has been done by the Explorer teams and offer their proposals as we look to the future. I hope you can make this meeting. The same information will be shared on December 7 after worship. We just wanted to make it as convenient as possible for all parents to attend so we are offering a 9:00 meeting as well.

Coming in January...Sundays, 9:00 Parents' Study of the book *In the Midst of Chaos*. This will be offered during the Sundays in January and led by Winton Boyd and Darcy Luoma. Some of us started this study last spring but we only got through the first two chapters. Let me know if you need a book. This will be a great time to connect as parents and be encouraged in our ministry and work within our families.

OVER 55 Group

The OVER 55 group will have its annual Christmas party on **December 9th** at 11:45 a.m. We will enjoy some Christmas stories and will be singing carols (with the traditional words!!). Casseroles will be provided by Pat Hale, Len Rush, Fern Hernandez, Ree Hale, Meg Stevens, Marcia Sheets, Jan Christian and Judy Winkel. Desserts will be brought by Mary Lou Peterson, Hope Soroos, Helen Horn, and Barb Wolter. John and Margaret McClung will provide ice cream and chocolate sauce as they have done in years past.

We welcome guests. Please let Sara Roberts or Carolyn Carlson (273-1114) know if you plan to bring guests so that luncheon arrangements can be made.

Women's Book Group

On Thursday **December 11** at 7 pm, we'll meet at the home of Marcia Sheets, 6362 Goose Lake Drive. We'll be discussing *A Wisconsin Christmas Anthology*, edited by Terry R. Engels. It includes Christmas stories, poems, letters, historical anecdotes, recipes, and tales to read aloud by some of Wisconsin's best known authors. Just right for busy days when you can only read a few pages at a time.

There are books in the library, which people have been able to reserve and obtain in just a few days.

If you plan to come, please let Marcia know by email or at 845-5667. All women are welcome to attend.

SAFE Dinner and Christmas Music

The annual **December 15** SAFE meeting will be hosted by John & Ginny Kruse, 1708 Regent St., 6:30-8:30 p.m. Please phone 238-9225, or email to gmkruse@wisc.edu if you plan to attend or get directions. If possible, bring a casserole, salad, or dessert to share with everyone; the Kruses will provide beverages. After our potluck dinner, we'll talk about the music associated with Christmas, and we'll sing and hear some carols. Even if you haven't been able to be at many or even any SAFE meetings recently, try to come to this festive holiday gathering.

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.

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, January 5** from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the lounge (first Monday of each month). Instruction for knitting and crocheting will be offered and supplies. Bring whatever you are working on.

Movie Group

Phil and Judy Winkel will host the **December 12** meeting of the movie group. They live at 2650 Pennwall Circle in Fitchburg. See a movie of your choice, come afterwards and enjoy dessert and share information about your movie. Everyone is welcome and there is always a lively discussion on movies and other topics. Please call (271-0481) or email us at jpwinkel@charter.net if you are able to attend. Hope to see you.



Women's Bible Study Christmas Tea

The Women's Bible Study group will meet on Wednesday, **December 17** at 12:30 p.m. in the lounge for their annual Christmas Tea. If you have any questions call Mary Lou Peterson at 238-2380.

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.

Courtney Ramirez's last day in nursery December 7th

I want to let all of you know that December 7th will be my last day working in the nursery. I am graduating the following weekend from Edgewood College with a Bachelor's degree in education. I will be certified to teach elementary and middle school in general education as well as ESL and bilingual Spanish education.

It has been an absolute pleasure working with so many wonderful families in this church. I have had the joy of getting to know a lot of the children and their families, and I adore and will miss all of them so much! Thank you to Rev. Tammy Martens for giving me this great opportunity!

-Courtney Ramirez

Heather Kehl Wedding

Heather Kehl, daughter of Rev. Tim and Rita Kehl, and Dan Osborne were married in Milwaukee on October 19, 2008. The outdoor ceremony took place in a park overlooking Lake Michigan. The Osbornes live at: 2836 N. Maryland Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53211.

GIFTS FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION SERVICES (DAIS)

In the past, our church has identified a group of people to whom to give Christmas gifts. This year, the Ministry of Christian Witness and Service suggests the women and children who will be in the Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS) Shelter on December 25th.

The DAIS staff has indicated that the following items would be much appreciated. Gifts can be brought to church on Sunday December 7th, 14th, and 21st. Please put **new, unwrapped** gifts in the decorated basket in the church lounge. They will be delivered during the week of Christmas. Here is the wish list:

Children's pajamas (sizes 18 mos. and larger)
 Women's pajamas (all sizes)
 Socks and underwear (all sizes)
 Slippers/house shoes (all sizes)
 Children's clothing (sizes 18 mos. and larger)
 Women's shirts and pants (all sizes)
 Board and card games
 Non-violent action figures
 Cars and trucks
 Baby monitors
 Baby activity toys
 Toddler toys
 Pretend play and dress-up
 Multi-cultural dolls

Miscellaneous

Movie Theater gift cards
 Metro bus tickets
 Gas vouchers
 Walgreen's gift cards
 Bath towels and wash cloths
 2009 Appointment books
 Alarm Clocks
 Umbrellas
 Full-sized personal care products (shampoo, deodorant, etc.)
 Pampering bath gift sets
 Disposable diapers (size 3 and larger)

Thank you for your generosity!

Dates for your calendar

- Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society Concert and Dessert at church - Friday, January 9th, 2009
- Annual Meeting of Congregation - January 25th, 2009
- Partygras Celebration (our version of a pre-Lenten party) - Feb. 24th, 2009
- Ash Wednesday Service - February 25th, 2009
- Adult Urban Immersion to Milwaukee - February 28-March 1, 2009

Boydseye View

Hope prayed here – Peace born here – Joy shared here – Love sung here
God spoken here

Advent always sneaks up on me. I always look forward to Thanksgiving. I feel grateful for life as I know it, and I feel grateful to gather with loved ones over that holiday. It reminds me that I am not alone in the world, but am loved and appreciated by those who have known me all my life. They may think my house is too cold (they do), they may not try my cranberry/horseradish sauce (they did not) and they may trip over all the shoes in our entry way because it is too narrow (they do and it is), but they love my family and me. I feel grounded, and I appreciate that.

One of the surprises of this year's Thanksgiving meal at our house was that after about 7 years of feeding over 25 family members, we finally found the most efficient, effective and comfortable arrangement of tables. All of us marveled that we had not thought of this arrangement before. Same people, same tables and chairs, same house. We just did not see it before. It seems that sometimes it just takes a while to see what is right in front of us.

Even so, this year was like other years. It was hard to turn around a day or two later to celebrate the first Sunday of Advent. I love the sense of waiting that comes with lighting one candle a week. I love marking the days towards Christmas Eve. I love starting this holiday in the dark season of the year, which helps me enter and appreciate spiritual darkness and resurrection light. However, I always want more time. I always want fewer distractions. I always want the rest of life to stop. Of course it never does. School and work go on, meetings continue, MGE still sends the bill, the freezer still needs cleaning, and laundry piles up as usual. It is hard to focus on this annual ritual of remembering "God is coming" because I am too busy. I know I am not alone. Most of you reading this are also too busy.

In our litany of lighting candles this past Sunday Julie Luecke read these words: "We light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming of Christ. We say 'the coming of Christ' —because it speaks to a deep truth. Christ is coming. Christ is always coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart."

What I appreciate about these words is they are a reminder that God's coming into the world is not dependent on us. In fact, God's coming into the world – the troubled world and the wounded heart – is all around us. The journey of Advent is an opportunity to open our eyes, however clumsily we attempt it. Maybe, in the midst of our old and new traditions, we can all hope some new insight (remember those tables I spoke of earlier). Maybe we do not pray for a completely new life, but a wee bit more insight into the life we are living. Maybe in the process of hanging an ornament, singing an old carol, lighting familiar candles, addressing envelopes or listening to favorite music – we might see God coming to us in a new way.

It is my prayer. *Emmanuel. We are working hard to get ready, so give us eyes to see, ears to hear, and the awareness to notice. Please, help us see that you are indeed among us and within us. Amen*

