



DECEMBER, 2009 ISSUE 2

Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ COMMUNION

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

Sunday Morning

December 20

9 am Education for all
10 am Worship, Rev.
Winton Boyd preaching
TRU Function, Senior
Choir, Children’s music

December 24

5 pm Family Friendly
service
10 pm Lessons and Carols
service

December 27

9 am Education resumes
On January 3
10 am Carol and Story
Sunday

Upcoming Newsletters

January 6 & 20

Information to be included
in the newsletter is 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

Tammy Martens
tmartens@orucc.org

Ken Pennings
ken@orucc.org

Winton Boyd
winton@orucc.org

Advent & Christmas 2009 at ORUCC

Labyrinth walk—December 16-21.

We’ll have a labyrinth in our Friendship Hall – open for walking prayer and meditation. We’ll have several hosted times with someone to answer questions, otherwise it will be available at posted hours. Hosted times include 12/17 (6-8p), 12/19 (10a-1p), 12/20 (7-8:30p), 12/21(6-7 p and 8-9p: before and after Longest Night Service)
Labyrinth available for use 12/17 (all day until 8p), 12/18 (from 9-5), 12/21(all day until service). Contact a pastor for use at other times and we’ll arrange for building to be open. It will not be available on Sunday, except at posted times due to worship and education in both ORUCC and Madison Mennonite Church, and the Garnett memorial service.

Longest Night Service—December 21 at 7:00 p.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.

Christmas Eve Services Welcoming the Light of God

5:00 p.m.

Family friendly Candlelight service with Carols and Christmas
Story retelling
Music with our children, TRU Function

10:00 p.m.

Traditional Candlelight Service of “Lessons and Carols” with
Communion
Music with Senior Choir and John Stevens and Alumni Choir
(Alumni Choir meets at 9:30 in Room 12)



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 2010 will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2009, even if the check is predated to 2009 or was actually written in 2009. However, checks that are written, mailed, and postmarked in 2009 will be deductible in 2009 even if it is not received until 2010.
Year-end contribution statements for 2009 will be emailed mid January. Those who do not have email, will havestatement mailed.

Tree of Life



Prayers:

- For Jeanne Garnett and her family after the death of Gordon last Sunday morning. A memorial service will be held at ORUCC on Sunday, December 20 at 1:30 p.m.
- For Bob Anderson, recently diagnosed with stage four brain cancer. We also pray for his children and grandchildren helping care for him.
- For Bernie Treichel, recovering from a heart attack last Friday. She expects to go home about press time for this newsletter.
- For John Lemke and family, after the recent death of his father in Oregon.
- For the volunteers and buyers at the Fair Trade Christmas Sale. The total proceeds from the sale were \$19,658.

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.

- Robert & Louise Jeanne
- Marj & Silas Johnson
- Tim Johnson

Looking for a Quiet Space?

If you have not found the **MEDITATION ROOM** downstairs, check it out. 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.

Directory Updates

Change address for **Ellen Fluck** to:

Hebron Village-Rm 345, Oakwood Village West,
6205 Mineral Point Rd., Madison, WI 53705



SUNDAYS

Java and Jesus-9:00 Room 13 Genesis: A Living Conversation

We are working our way through an engaging DVD series by Bill Moyers on significant stories in the book of Genesis. The DVD gathers thoughtful and articulate people—scholars, writers, artists, psychotherapists, teachers, scientists, composers, lawyers, journalists, translators. Join us for discussion and coffee.

There is no Java & Jesus on December 27th. We'll resume on January

Compassion Offering

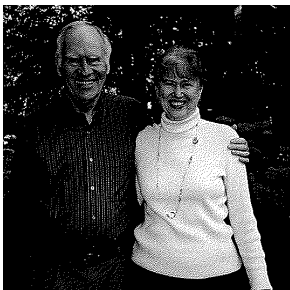
Each month our Sunday cash offerings (change and bills) are designated to a worthy mission cause. Each month a different ministry is highlighted. This is a voluntary contribution. For credit on your church statement, on your check write the ministry in the memo line. While this will not count toward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

The December Compassion Offering will be split between The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Wisconsin Rescue Mission

Since 1902, the **Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross** (this year the original name reclaimed) has enabled the United Church of Christ to provide a financial “safety net” to individuals and families in need. The fund administered by the Pension Boards, provides: Gift checks to low-income retired clergy and their widowed spouses; emergency assistance to clergy in financial need; and funding for pension and health supplementation plans for low income retired clergy and lay employees.

The Wisconsin Rescue Mission was founded in 1962 by the Rev. John F. Hendrickson, a Rio native who spent many years as an alcoholic, was “rescued” by a pastor in Texas, and returned to Madison to try to help others. Hendrickson’s motto was “Hope at the End of the Rope.” He died in 1976. Since 1977, the Rev. William R. Wineke, who once served as interim pastor at ORUCC and is a member here, has been chaplain. Ruth Burlingame is the executive director.

The Mission, open five days a week, serves noon meals and provides free clothing and counseling. The main hot meal is served Sunday following religious services, although no one is required to attend church in order to eat. The number served is a couple dozen during weekdays to more than 100 on Sundays. Some are homeless. Many have mental diseases. A majority seem to have problems with drugs and alcohol. But a number of older people come just to have lunch and be part of a larger group. The Rescue Mission is located at 2540 E. Mifflin Street. (adapted from Wineke email)



Long-Time ORUCC Member

Paul & Barbara McLeod

The story of Paul and Barbara McLeod is a wonderful story of two people who knew each other in their youth, went separate ways, then found each other again in their later years.

Paul was born in Madison and Barbara was born in Nashville. They both attended Randall Elementary School. They got to know each other well in high school when they were active in Youth Fellowship at First Methodist Church in Madison. They frequently double-dated, with Barbara dating Paul's best friend. Paul and Barbara eventually celebrated their first marriages at First Methodist. In fact, Paul was best man at Barbara's wedding.

Following high school, Paul and Barbara went their separate ways, Paul to medical school and Barbara to elementary school studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Barbara eventually married her high-school sweetheart and moved to Downers Grove, Illinois, where she taught gifted and talented young children for 25 years. Barbara's husband died 23 years ago, and Barbara remained in Illinois. Paul's wife died 8 years ago.

After medical school, Paul interned in Duluth, Minnesota, prior to joining the Air Force, where he was stationed at a minute man mission base in Great Falls, Montana. He has vivid memories of the Cuban Missile Crisis of October 1962, considered by many to be the closest the world has ever come to nuclear war. The Air Force base in Montana where Paul was located was considered a primary target of the Cuban-based Soviet missiles. Paul and his family then moved to NYC for his Ob-Gyn residency at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital.

Returning to Madison, Paul began his practice as an obstetrician-gynecologist, working at Jackson Clinic with ORUCC colleagues Gordon Garnett, Stan Boyer, and Blake Waterhouse. Paul continues his practice, working mornings, now with the UW Foundation. He especially enjoys working in the office because it provides the time to talk with patients. Paul has now practiced for 42 years, and delivered over 8,000 babies! Paul and his wife joined ORUCC in 1966 when Roger Knight was pastor. Paul particularly appreciated that Pastor Knight took an early stance against the Viet Nam war. Paul's wife enjoyed teaching Sunday school and was a past moderator. Paul relates that it was during high school at a Methodist congregational meeting that his thinking changed from seeing things as "black or white" to more complex shades of gray.

Paul and Barbara maintained their friendship over the years, and rekindled it at a new level in 2003. They were married in 2005, and share 18 grandchildren, ranging from age 4 to 21. They celebrated a milestone birthday on December 13th with Paul's Mom turning 101. They share a love of music and art, and a special appreciation of the ORUCC Senior Choir, Java and Jesus, and Heart and Soul. Paul likens Winton's prayers to poetry for the soul. If you visit them at their Whitcomb Drive home, with some urging, Paul may treat you to some classical or ragtime at the piano. Whatever the case, it is a special pleasure getting to know this gracious couple.

Written by Ruthanne Landsness for the Congregational Life Ministry



Christmas Gifts for needy families

The Ministry of Christian Witness and Service invites you to consider a gift for the women and children who will be in the Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS) Shelter during the holidays. ***There is a giving tree in the church lounge with ornaments suggesting new items to be donated.***

Mitten Tree for nearby children

Our annual mitten tree is in the lounge. This is a fun activity for knitters, fleece sewers and shoppers. We welcome mittens, hats, scarves, ear muffs, etc. After the holidays, these items are delivered to Joining Forces for Families on Russett Road and to nearby schools. If you have other suggestions of where to deliver them, please contact Cherie or Bruce Olsen (274-6299).

Youth Mission Trip "Post Office" last day today for only 40 cents per card

You are invited to send Christmas cards to members of the church through our post office. Cards are 40 cents and proceeds will support our youth summer mission trip. **Today is the last day to take advantage of the post office for only 40 cents per card.** Please be sure to check for your own mail too!

| CALENDAR OF EVENTS | | |
|--------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| December | | |
| Sunday 20 | 9:00 a.m. | Education |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Worship Service |
| | 1:30 p.m. | Gordon Garnett Memorial Service |
| Monday 21 | 7:00 p.m. | Longest Night Service |
| Wednesday 23 | 7:00 p.m. | Choir Rehearsal |
| Thursday 24 | 5:00 p.m. | Family Friendly Service |
| | 10:00 p.m. | Candlelight Service Lessons & Carols |
| Friday 25 | | Christmas Day Office Closed |
| Sunday 27 | | Education to resume January 3 |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Worship Service |
| Monday 28 | 7:15 p.m. | ORUCC Men's Group |
| | | Holiday Office Closed |
| January | | |
| Sunday 3 | 9:00 a.m. | Education |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Worship Service |
| Monday 4 | 1:30 p.m. | Knitting Group |
| | 6:45 p.m. | Handbell Choir |
| Tuesday 5 | 8:00 a.m. | Lifeline Screening |
| | 7:30 p.m. | Tuesday Night Bible Study |



Ushers—Need 3 each Sunday unless specified

Dec 20 Vern Reed, LuAnn Greiner, Jon Blanchard
Dec 24-5:00 pm Paul Hedges, Bernie & Jim Treichel, Jerry Nelson
Dec 24-10:00 pm Lyn Laurion, Jon Blanchard, Pat Fellows, LuAnn Greiner, **NEED VOL**
Dec 27 Rosemary Stare, Jack Christian, **NEED VOL**

2010 Usher Schedule will be out next week.

Welcomers

Dec 20 Brian & Rachael Lancor, Rosemary Stare, Char Klossner
Dec 24-5:00 pm Barb Stretchberry, Amy Fewel
Dec 24-10:00 pm **NEED VOLUNTEERS**
Dec 27 Bobbi Sonntag, Cheryl Diermyer, Jeanette Phillips

2010 Welcomers Schedule will be out next week.

Sound

Coffee

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Dec 20 Paul Hedges | Joyce Binder |
| Dec 24-5:00 pm Helen Horn | NO COFFEE |
| Dec 24-10:00 pm John Gilbert | NO COFFEE |
| Dec 27 Ken Psyck | Phil & Judy Winkel |

2010 Sound/Coffee schedules will be out next week.

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 newsletters? 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.

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YOUTH NEWS

For information, contact Rev. Tammy Martens at tmartens@orucc.org or 271-7212

Children Sharing in Worship December 20 and in the 5:00 Christmas Eve service

Throughout the next few Sundays, the children will gather with Julie Mazer in preparation for the Christmas Holidays. The best way for your child to feel prepared to share in the services on December 20th and 24th is to attend music/movement time on December 6 and 13. Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm of the Children's Music/Movement Program at Orchard Ridge UCC.

Mission Trip: Let the Fundraising Begin! The 2010 Youth Group Mission Trip will be to Alamosa, Colorado. We will work with La Puente Home and San Luis Habitat for Humanity. The dates are **July 31- August 7, 2010.**

The cost per person to attend the mission trip is \$700.00. Fundraisers for this 2009-2010 to help get us to Alamosa, Colorado next summer. They include:

December: Orchard Ridge Post Office (Jackie Eveland-Psyck organizing)

January: T-shirt, sweatshirt sale (Chris Riese organizing)

February: Valentine's Bake Sale (Gail Ansheles organizing)

March: Pizza Sale (need organizer)

May: Bratfest (Tammy Martens organizing)

June: Golf Outing (Jon Blanchard, Tammy Boyd organizing)

Children to Receive Bibles: January 3, 2010

We will be giving to the second and third graders their very own Bibles on **Sunday, January 3, 2010.** The Bible is a wonderful book that teaches us about God, Jesus, and humanity. It is a book of inspiration and great hope. But it also is a very complicated book. So in addition to giving the children a Bible, we offer an opportunity that will help them learn how to use their Bibles. During the 9:00 Sunday School hour starting in January, 2010, all second and third graders are invited to "Making Friends with the Bible." It will be taught by J. and Jeanne McLellan and held in Room 11 (same place second and third graders are meeting now).

Tuesday Evening Soup Supper and Youth Programming will resume on January 19th

Tuesday Night Bible Study

The Bible Study group will meet **January 5th** in room 16 from 7:30-9:00 pm. This group uses a relaxed and friendly approach in our study of the Bible. We read aloud together the assigned verses at the start of the meeting and then take turns commenting on the reading. We feel it is important to respect each others ideas. No one is an expert. Please join us and learn more about this group. If you have questions call Sandra Dyar (271-2409) or Judy Winkel (271-0481).

OUR COMMON LIFE TOGETHER

Date Change for Women's Breakfast Group

The Women's Breakfast Group will meet **January 8th** due to the holiday. They will resume meeting the first Friday of every month at 8:30 a.m. at Copper Top in February. The informal group is open to all women who enjoy conversation and connecting on many topics.

Knitting Group

The Knitting Group will meet on **January 4th** 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. If you have any questions please contact Sandra Dyar at 271-2409 or Karen Falkner at 833-9730.

OVER 55

At the Over-55 gathering on Tuesday, **January 12**, UW Professor Emily Auerbach will talk about the UW Odyssey Project, a free life-changing course for adults who are near the poverty level. Through exposure to great works of literature, philosophy, history and art, the Odyssey Project makes it possible each year for 30 economically disadvantaged adults to gain a sense of empowerment and a voice while also earning UW credits. This year the students range from age nineteen to age sixty.

The impact of the Odyssey Project on entire families can be amazing. Many graduates have gone on to earn degrees at MATC and the UW, and to become more active in the wider community. This is some of the good news one rarely hears or reads. Prepare to be inspired!

We'll gather at 11:30am. Lunch will be served at Noon. Please bring a can of chicken soup for Soup Chefs Al Bach and Tom Klossner to prepare.

Bring your own sandwich, too, and most of all, bring yourself. Desserts will be contributed by Debbie Bauerkemper, Sandra Dyer, Dorothy Peterson, Lois Rossmiller, Hope Sooros and Judy Winkel. Beverages and tableware will be provided.

New attendees are welcome to come to this Over-55 gathering, and to all other Over-55 meetings, too. Please let Karen Falkner or Ginny Kruse know if you're a first-timer, or if you're plan to bring guests, so that enough tables & chairs can be set up in advance.

Quilting Group

The Quilting Group will meet on Wednesday, **January 6th**. The group will meet on the first and third Wednesday from 9:30 to 12 Noon in the Friendship Hall. New members are welcome to join. For more information, please contact Dorothy Peterson at 845-8412.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, **January 6th** at 12:30 p.m. in room 13. The discussion will be "Jesus' Public Ministry in Galilee" Mark 6:1-8:21. The discussion will be led by Lyn Laurion. We welcome new members. If you have any questions call Mary Lou Peterson at 238-2380.

Habitat Project on Russet Road

The enthusiasm for the Russett Road Habitat project is fantastic! We have filled the November 11th date, but don't despair! We now have dates reserved for January and February. You may sign up by emailing or calling Sally Allen (saralynn1033@yahoo.com or 836-3007) for either construction or providing lunch on **January 23rd** and/or **February 13th**. There are also ways to volunteer on days that are not specifically designated for our church, so if you are interested in other dates please contact Mary Smith at 255-1549 ext. 104.

ORUCC traveling to El Salvador March 27-April 3

Our planned trip to the Dominican Republic had to be re-routed because of issues beyond our control in the Dominican Republic. We'll be working with Habitat for Humanity in the San Salvador, and will be sharing this experience with members of First United Methodist and Madison Mennonite. The estimated cost is \$1700-1800. If you are interested, contact [Winton Boyd](mailto:Winton.Boyd@firstumc.org) immediately.

From Our Green Team



A Simple Green Idea for Winter Drivers

GREEN THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: “Make sure your tires are properly inflated (especially important in winter...) to increase your gas mileage, save you money, and eject certain safety concerns.” (from <http://family.go.com/hot-topics/pkg-go-green/>)

According to a web site recommended by Barb and John Olsen proper tire pressure has these benefits:

- Improves miles per gallon by about 3% - saving you money as well as reducing energy use.
- Improves how your car handles and thus, keeps you safer!
- Reduces CO2 emitted by your vehicle – about 3.3% -- compared to under-inflated tires.
- Extends the life of your tires by as much as 15%.

GREEN ACTION IDEAS: “Pause next time you’re at the gas station and pump up just more than your tank.” It’s the green thing to do!

“Do You Want to Change the World?”



You already do, each day, by how you live. We all do—we can’t help it. We consume. We create waste. The question is: how can we change the world in as gentle a way as possible.” These words are from the [enact: steps to greener living](#) book. Watch this space for more information about the formation of EnAct groups at ORUCC in January.

Stocking Stuffers!

The **Green Team** is ready to assist you in your shopping for the holidays! How about a book called “How Many Lightbulbs Does it Take to Change a Christian”? Some of the topics covered in this little book are saving water, transportation options, and energy conservation. At the cost of \$5.00 per book it would make a perfect stocking stuffer. The book will be available at a table in the lounge after the service. It’s a great book to own and give to others. Start your new year with some green thoughts and actions.



“From Jesus’ fullness we have all received grace upon grace.” Update on our Annual Stewardship Drive

To date we have received pledges totaling \$333,655. If you need another pledge card or have questions, please call the church office (271-7212).

If you have questions about the stewardship campaign please contact: Bob Ansheles 271-3973 or Ken Psyck 233-3139.

Health Event at Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ that could save your life!

There will be a preventive health event at our church on January 5th. Life Line Screening, the nation’s leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will have their affordable, non-invasive, painless health screenings on that day. Screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries, which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms, which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease; and atrial fibrillation or irregular heartbeat, which is closely tied to stroke risk. Register for all four of these for only \$149. Your Health is in Your Hands, so call 1-888-653-6441.

A Boydseye View

Two young children saw the twinkling lights on the trees in the sanctuary and opened their mouths in amazement. *This is beautiful* one girl said. *Look what they did in the big church*, a young boy screamed as he ran down the education hallway.

A young elementary student raced in from the outside to check this week's soup on a Tuesday night. As a regular participant, he was eager to see if his dinner was to be cheese and broccoli or chicken noodle soup. It helps that along with soup one can usually get oreos.

A group of high school students, led by Tammy Martens, sang Christmas carols in the living room of a dying man, surrounded by his family, sharing prayer, laughter and tears amidst *Jingle Bells* and the final line of *Silent Night*, which is "sleep in heavenly peace."

Ken Pennings asked us to share our "defiant nevertheless" moments in worship. Those moments when in spite of all that is happening in the world and our lives, we can still rejoice in God's love. It was hard to stop that spontaneous sharing. Even though we did conclude it in worship, the sharing continued long afterwards in small groups and one-one conversations.

The congregation voted to approve a fund raising campaign, endorsing the sentiments of long time member Dick Rossmiller, who said the founders of this church took a leap of faith and now it is our turn.

What is spiritual formation if it is not embodied in each of these moments or cadences of life and faith? What does it mean to be a community of faith if it is not sharing such moments? Some of them come in small, intimate settings. Some come in worship on Sunday. Some in our homes, among friends, in places where life's joy and sadness intersect.

There was a time when liberal or progressive faith was defined mostly by the content of our ideas. While it is critical that we not have to leave our minds at home when we come to church, increasingly we are remembering that spiritual formation is a whole life, whole body experience. What a child experiences in twinkling lights may one day be experienced in words like mystery, awe, Advent or God's light. Today's chicken noodle soup may be understood as compassion, caring and inclusiveness later in life. Likewise, while it may be open minded thinking that brought us to church, it may be Oreos or the singing of Taize songs (*In the Lord I'll be ever Thankful*) that keeps us here.

What has been briefly described here in events of the last two weeks is but a snippet of the life of this community. It is but a small glimpse of our entire life of faith. What is essential to it all is a community of people who walk together, learn together and seek in love and grace to live out God's compassion as we understand it.

As this calendar year comes to a close, and as we celebrate the coming of God into all of our lives this Advent and Christmas season, may we also give thanks for this community and pledge ourselves to find ways to strengthen and deepen the bonds, the formation, and the faith that already exists.

