



DECEMBER, 2009 ISSUE 1

Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ COMMUNION

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

Sunday Morning

December 6

9 am Education

10 am Worship, Rev.

Tammy Martens preaching
Senior Choir

December 13

9 am Education

10 am Worship, Rev.

Ken Pennings preaching
Handbell Choir

December 20

9 am Education

10 am Worship, Rev.

Winton Boyd preaching
TRU Function, Senior
Choir, Children

Upcoming Newsletters

December 16

January 6

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

Advent Half-Day Retreat—8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Saturday morning, December 12 at the Hospice Center

Gather with others from ORUCC and Madison Mennonite for a quiet break in the midst of Advent. Retreat cost is \$15 and includes lunch. RSVP to winton@orucc.org

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 (3-5p, 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.

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 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).

Personal care items for men of Grace Episcopal Homeless Shelter

Thanks to donations of duffle bags by Lands End, the shelter is able to give men a bag of useful items. The items being solicited all kinds of personal things like insulated gloves, stocking hats, white tube socks, deodorant, wash cloths and hand towels, chap sticks, and combs. Please put donations in the decorated box in the lounge. Items will be picked up on December 15.

Youth Mission Trip “Post Office”

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. The post office will be available December 6, 13, 20. Please be sure to check for your own mail too!

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

Tree of Life



Prayers:

- For Gordon Garnett—receiving hospice care at home.
- For Ralph Petersen and Helen Horn after the death of Ralph's sister-in-law, Peggy.
- For John Lemke, Pam Oliver and their children Zee and Robert after the death of John's father, Ken, last Friday.
- For Barb Wolter's mother, Edith, also in hospice care.
- For the guests who will be arriving at ORUCC this Sunday through the Interfaith Hospitality Network. We'll be hosting next week.

Prayers of Joy:

- For the 6 middle schoolers who had a chance to attend the Knock, Knock retreat recently at Pilgrim Center with Rev. Tammy Martens.
- For a wonderfully successful Fair Trade Sale, and for all the volunteers who helped with it.



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.

- Jane Ilgen
- Laurie Irwin
- Jim & Jennifer Jaqua & Family

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 have statement mailed.

Leadership Team calls for Congregational Meeting on December 13, 2009 at 11:15

Our Facility Improvement Team (FIT) has met for months with Strang, Inc and met twice with the congregation to present building remodeling plans. The Leadership Team unanimously recommends that the congregation a) embrace adoption the building plans as presented and b) authorize the hiring of a fundraising consultant to help with a winter/spring 2010 Capital Appeal Campaign to raise the money for such a project. These decisions require the support and a vote from the congregation as a whole. Check your mailbox for a separate mailing about this meeting.

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.

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

BOB ANDERSON

Bob Anderson was born in 1932 in his grandfather's house between Blair and Ettrick in Trempealeau County. Until he was nine, he went to school in Blair and, after the family moved, he attended the town school in Lewis. Bob always liked horses. He had a saddle horse to ride and care for. This involved many tasks, including killing the rats that would get into the horses' feedboxes – one rat a day! Bob smiles when he relates that, and also as he remembers playing work-up baseball during school recesses. Bob played baseball and football while he was a student at Frederic High School. He excelled academically, so one of his high school teachers urged Bob to consider enrolling at the nearby River Falls State College. Bob did that and his college financial package was a state scholarship amounting to \$18.00 a quarter, plus \$7.00 a quarter from the family. After classes began, he received a weekly \$10.00 check in the mail from home. That check covered the \$7.00 for room rent and his "board," which was three meals a day at the college food club where he was a member. The remaining \$3.00 covered all his other expenses!

In 1954 Bob graduated from RFSC with a degree in Elementary Education. Excellent recommendations gained him a teaching position in the highly prized Madison School District where he taught math at West Junior High School located in the West Senior High basement. A public school teacher usually had to round up a summer job, and Bob's was being a counselor in the UW Music Clinic boys' dorm. That's when he met a "dark-haired girl who was cute as a button." That girl was Jane, and she had a similar summer job in the girls' dorm. During the school year Jane was a kindergarten teacher in a school district south of Chicago. Bob put quite a few miles on his 1952 Rambler in order to visit her before they were married in 1957. Bob was drafted a year later, and he spent three months at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri, followed by six years in the Army Reserve. After they were married, Jane taught kindergarten half-time at Emerson School, and later she taught in a Montessori school. After three years at West Junior High, Bob transferred to Cherokee Heights Junior High where for 15 years he taught three math classes, one English class and one class in American History.

Bob and Jane's daughter Elizabeth was born in 1959, and son Matthew was born in 1964. While the children were young, family vacations involved a lot of tent camping in Wisconsin, as well as visits with members of their extended family who lived in Illinois and the northern part of our state. Beth is now a 911 Dispatcher in Dane County. Her daughter Becky is a UW-Stevens Point senior and her son Justin is a senior at McFarland High School. Matt works at Concordia University in Mequon. Matt's son Andrew is a Marine who has had a tour in Iraq and will soon be headed to Afghanistan.

During the early years of their marriage, Bob and Jane rented apartments on Dayton Street and East Johnson Street, a three-bedroom house on Sheffield Road, and then a Britta Parkway apartment. Early in the 1960's they bought their home on Malabar Lane in what was then the new Meadowood Development, and there they stayed. After they became settled on Malabar Lane, they began visiting west side churches. Bob was raised Lutheran and as a girl Jane was a Congregationalist. The pastor at Orchard Ridge Congregational UCC was Rev. Roger Knight, and he visited them in their home. That cinched it for Bob and Jane, and in 1962 they became ORUCC members. Throughout his years at ORUCC, Bob has served as Moderator, Sunday School Superintendent, and once he chaired the annual finance campaign. Until three or four years ago Jane sang in the ORUCC choir, and for many years she also sang in the Madison Symphony Chorus. Jane was active in the church women's group, and she was one of the women who served the lunches following memorial services.

In 1972 Bob became a learning coordinator at Sennett Middle School. His career in Education was capped by his return to teaching 18 years later at Jefferson Middle School where he taught 8th grade math until he retired in 1992. Throughout the years, Bob did a lot of furniture refinishing for their home. His camera collection numbers in the hundreds. He's happy to report that until he was 55 years old, he played softball on the municipal Recreation Department softball team managed by Gene Dyer. Genealogy and writing represent some of Bob's continuing interests and activities. He has already written a memoir, and it includes complete genealogies on both sides. Now he's writing a biography of the grandfather in whose home he was born.

After more than 50 years of marriage, Bob finds it almost impossible to realize that Jane's not in their home with him any longer, perhaps sitting next to him watching TV. In one respect she isn't far from Malabar Lane, because she now lives at the Sunny Hill Health Care Center. Bob sees Jane there three times a day, and he makes a special point of being with her each evening to say good night.

For Bob and Jane, Orchard Ridge UCC has been "home" for more than 47 years. According to Bob, it still is home, because being part of our community of faith is a "habit," a good one. Why? Because the people here are always so friendly. Look for someone tall enough to be a basketball player sitting in the back row center each Sunday. That's where you'll find Bob, and if you inquire, he'll explain how to play work-up baseball.

Written by Ginny Moore Kruse for the Congregational Life Ministry

CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
December		
Sunday 6	9:00 a.m.	Education
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	11:00 a.m.	Host Interfaith Hospitality Families
Monday 7	1:30 p.m.	Knitting Group
Tuesday 8	11:30 a.m.	OVER 55
Wednesday 9	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday 13	9:00 a.m.	Education
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	11:00 a.m.	Congregational Meeting (building)
Monday 14	7:15 p.m.	ORUCC Men's Group
Tuesday 15	6:00 p.m.	Soup Supper/Programs to follow
	7:30 p.m.	Tuesday Night Bible Study
Wednesday 16	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday 20	9:00 a.m.	Education
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service



Ushers—Need 3 each Sunday unless specified

- Dec 6** Joyce Binder ©, Vern Reed, Paul Hedges
Dec 13 Judy & Phil Winkel, Jerry Nelson
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, Joyce Binder, Bob Ansheles, LuAnn Greiner
Dec 27 Rosemary Stare, Barb Wolter, Jack Christian
2010 Usher Schedule will be out mid December

Welcomers

- Dec 6** Hope Soroos, Jack Schairer, Jan Christian
Dec 13 Joyce Pohl, Lorraine Dellmann, Mary Connor
Dec 20 Brian & Rachael Lancor, Rosemary Stare, Char Klossner
Dec 24-5:00 pm Ellen Fluck, Barb Stretchberry, Amy Fewel
Dec 24-10:00 pm **NEED VOLUNTEERS**
Dec 27 Bobbi Sonntag, Dick & Lois Rossmiller

Sound

Coffee

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Dec 6 Mike Walsh | Brian & Rachael Lancor |
| Dec 13 J. McLellan | Deanna Blanchard |
| 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 |

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.

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 1501 Gilbert Road
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YOUTH NEWS

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

High School Youth Group Caroling and White Elephant Exchange—December 12, 3-6 p.m.

High School Youth will meet at church to go caroling, then return to church for a white elephant gift exchange and supper. Be creative with the white elephant gift you bring—the goal is not to spend any money for this gift! But if you are lacking in white elephant creativity, please don't spend more than \$5.00 on a gift. Please RSVP to Tammy.

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)

Calling all Youth! T-Shirt Designs Needed!

Our January fundraiser for the mission trip to Colorado will be an ORUCC apparel sale. I have identified organic/eco-friendly t-shirts and sweatshirts and now all we need is a special design element -- an illustration or a phrase/quote -- to accompany the ORUCC name and "tree" logo on the shirts. While we want a "cool" shirt design we need it to have broad appeal to the congregation to maximize sales. So get your creative juices flowing and submit your designs or ideas by Saturday, December 12: Chris Kuske Riese ckrrgr@charter.net. I welcome any thoughts about how to make this a hugely successful fundraiser.

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 6

OUR COMMON LIFE TOGETHER

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.

Knitting Group

The Knitting Group will meet on **December 7th** 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

George Hesselberg, award-winning *Wisconsin State Journal* columnist and reporter for thirty-eight years, will speak to OVER 55 members Tuesday, **December 8th**. His human-interest stories, from covering the Winter Olympics in 1994 in Lillehammer, Norway to everyday life in Madison, will inform and delight you.

Folks will gather at 11:30 am and lunch will be served at 12:00 pm. John and Margaret McClung will treat us to their traditional incomparable chocolate sauce and ice cream. Others who have offered to bring food include Meg Stevens, Sheri Mauerman, Pat Hale, Marilyn Boyer, Peggy Anderson, Sandra Dyar, Char Klossner, and Jean Rush for casseroles. Christmas Cookies will be provided by Mary Lou Peterson, Judy Schaeffer, Karen Falkner, Marge Wennen and Judy Winkel. Please make enough for 10 people. Beverages and tableware will be provided.

Guests are welcome. Please let Hope or Ken know if you have invited friends so we will be sure adequate lunch arrangements will be made.

Women's Book Group

On Thursday, **December 10**, at 7 pm, join us at the home of Ellen Maurer, 2657 Fitchrona Rd. Please let Ellen know if you can come 845-7164.

The book we'll discuss is the memoir *The Land Remembers* by Wisconsin author Ben Logan. Subtitled "The Story of a Farm and Its People," this book describes the rhythms and rituals of the farm life Ben knew as a child, the intertwining of their lives with the land's. You might have been close to his treasured homestead if you have canoed on the Kickapoo River, been to the Gays Mills Apple Festival, or just wandered the back roads of the southwestern part of the state. Let's take a look at a bit of "our" state through the eyes of someone who knew and loved his family's land intimately.

Not being a new book (pub. Date 1975), you should have no trouble getting a library copy. Yes—this book will also give us an opportunity to discuss Christmas traditions, always a delight in December. All women are welcome to join us.

Quilting Group Notice

The Quilting Group will not meet on Wednesday, December 16. The group will resume its work on Wednesday, January 6. For questions, please contact Dorothy Peterson at 845-8412.

Women's Bible Study Christmas Tea

The Women's Bible Study will meet at Black Hawk Country Club for our annual Christmas Tea on Wednesday, **December 16th** at 12:30 p.m. If you have any questions call Lyn Laurion at 238-5150.

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.

SAFE Annual Christmas Meeting

SAFE's annual December potluck dinner and informal program will be hosted by John and Ginny Kruse at 6:30 p.m., Monday, **December 14th** at 1708 Regent St. Please bring a casserole, salad, or dessert to pass. Beverages will be provided by our hosts. You may RSVP when you see Ginny or John at church, by e-mail gmkruise@wisc.edu or phone 238-9225.

SAFE all needs you. We need one more person to join Jude Stevens and Mary Connor as organizers. We also need a volunteer to have SAFE at their home during the month of January. Please contact Jude at stevensj@charter.net or 835-3499 if you can help.

Isthmus Brass Christmas

WHAT: An Isthmus Brass Christmas

This is the inaugural performance by Madison's new professional brass ensemble, conducted by John Stevens. The concert is a benefit for Porchlight of Madison, and will feature holiday favorites of all sorts.

WHEN: Tuesday, December 15th -7:30 PM

WHERE: First United Methodist Church

Downtown, on the corner of Johnson and Wisconsin

Here is a personnel list.

TRUMPETS	HORN	TROMBONES
John Aley	Ricardo Almeida	Dylan Chmura-Moore
David Cooper		Mike Dugan
Jeff Wohlbach	TUBA	Katie Kretschmann
John Shipper	Michael Forbes	Mark Hoelscher

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

This is the time of year we at Orchard Ridge UCC set aside for our stewardship campaign to raise funds for the operation of our church. We take the time to reflect on Orchard Ridge Church, its mission and its people and to prayerfully consider how we can support the church's ongoing work.

To date we have 148 pledges totaling \$319,445. 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.

ARTICLES ABOUT LONG-TIME MEMBERS

In each recent issue of *The Communion*, you've read an article about one or two of our congregation's long-time members. The ORUCC members being interviewed this year probably have only one thing in common. They joined our church during the 1950s or 1960s. Other than that, they lead individually interesting lives, and most are actively involved in ORUCC in more than one, two or even more ways. From now on you'll read articles based upon interviews conducted by Sandra Dyer, Ruthanne Landsness, Ginny Moore Kruse, Jeanne McLellan and Dianne Stevens. You're invited to contact Ginny (gmkruise@wisc.edu) if you want to become one of the writers involved in this Congregational Life Ministry.

Directory Updates

Remove Mark & Cris Kaiser from the directory.

Change email address for Bobbi Sonntag to: rwsrjs65@att.net

Change phone number for Barb Hummel to: 233-7400

Tammy's Time

I stumbled upon this Advent reflection as I was reading email. It spoke to me and is something I have been pondering these past few days. I share it with you hoping it encourages you as you travel through these days and weeks of Advent.

The mention of Advent always stirs thoughts of waiting. . . waiting for Christmas. We Theologians always speak of reflecting on the three ways of Christ's coming: in history in Bethlehem, in the daily events of our lives, and the second coming in the future.

I've been thinking that we've got it all wrong. We need not wait for God. God is always present, always with us. That's what the name Emmanuel means: God-with-us. And, that's the primary truth we hear in the Scriptures. God created us, and calls us into relationship. God is indeed present with us, and especially in the person of Jesus the Christ.

No, this Advent, I've come to see that it's GOD who waits for US. . .

. . .waits for us to notice that we are indeed created by God. We are born with unique gifts and qualities as well as deficiencies and lack of qualities. God only sees our goodness, and waits for us to notice too.

. . .waits for us to notice the myriad ways in which God is with us, always. We know the Creator in the beauty and amazing capacities of creation, both earth and human. We know the Creator when we experience love. We know the Creator when we cannot explain or understand mystery.

. . .waits for us to notice when we observe people acting in the image of God: in covenant with one another, both those known and unknown, both those alike and those very different.

. . .waits for us to notice the emptiness in our hearts that can only be filled by God's own Self.

It is true that in Advent we wait; but really, it is God who waits for us. May we savor and revel in that reality.

Sallie Latkovich, CSJ