

# Lay Coordinator \* April 2009

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Celebrate-April showers bring May flowers! Easter, spring, and my granddaughter Olive's first birthday, all in the same month, how could April get any better!



**Rev Shari Prestemon, the Executive Director of Back Bay Mission in Biloxi Mississippi, will be speaking at Fitchburg Memorial UCC on April 19 from 5 to 7 pm and you are all invited!** She will give us an update on the recovery work and expanded ministries of this beloved Mission. Learn how the support of the wider UCC has helped re-birth their ministry in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Please encourage the members of your outreach/mission committees and others to attend. If you would like to hear Shari and share in a potluck dinner, please RSVP to Rev Bonnie VanOverbeke (BBM Board Member) at 608-274-1859.

The members of **Reeseville UCC** are collecting donations of non-perishable items for an Easter gift box that they are putting together and sending off to our soldiers in Iraq.

Members at **Madison Lake Edge** are getting over their shyness and trying out for their "All Lake Edge Revue" variety show to be held Saturday, April 25 at 4:00. Those who don't perform can sign up for ushering, making programs, set design, or coordinating the post-production party!

An Easter Sunrise Service at **Madison Orchard Ridge** will be held at a member's home out in the country and will include communion, renewal of baptism vows and the holy fire.

**Lake Mills Congregational UCC** invites you to celebrate spring with them at their annual Turkey Ala King Dinner Wednesday, April 22, 4:30 to 7:00. Takeout is available. Their dinner is put on by their Half Circle Women's Group. Tickets are sold through their church office or at the door.

Pancakes, puns, proverbs and politics are just a few of the things covered in the **Madison Community of Hope** men's breakfasts the first and third Wednesday of each month at The Original Pancake House on University Ave at 6:30 am.

Save the Date! The annual Kalberwurst Supper at **Monticello Zwingli** will be held April 18.

**McFarland UCC's** annual Trash and Treasure Sale is scheduled for Saturday, April 4. This sale also includes homemade pies and cakes made by the congregation, yum, yum! In addition to their big sale, they are actively encouraging members to get out there and volunteer for upcoming McFarland Village Service Day, Saturday, April 25.

**Whitewater Congregational** is busy collecting small lotion and shampoo bottles to be included in their May Baskets!

**Mt Zion UCC and Platteville First Congregational** are getting a group together to attend Women of the Bible, a dramatic presentation on April 1 at the Sinsinawa Mound Center.

They are having a Creative Card Class on March 30 and April 20 at **Monroe St John's** where folks can gather and test their creative juices!

Even though temps are warming up and we are finally getting some sunshine, folks out there continue their book clubs and discussion groups. Some interesting new titles I noticed this month are *A New Earth* by Eckhart Tolle, *Mountains Beyond Mountains* by Tracey Kidder, *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Stout, *Easter from the Back Side* by J. Ellsworth Kalas, *The Shack* by William Young, *The Necklace* by Cheryl Jarvis and *The Unlikely Lavender Queen* by Jeanne Ralston. Here are enough book selections to tide you over until you can get out into the garden!

Just a reminder- May is Sustainable Travel to Worship Month. Better start making your plans now!



On a Sunday in March, Randy Keller, an inmate at Fox Lake Correctional Institution, was accepted into membership at **Madison First Congregational**. Randy has these words to share. "One of the things I love about First Congregational is the diversity it has to offer. Part of this diversity is your openness to come visit us in prison and to open your arms to persons such as myself. . . . it is an honor for me to be part of your church family. . . . I look forward to representing each of you with pride from behind the fence here in my gated community. I will represent you to the best of my ability. You are in my daily prayers and thoughts. Have a great day in the Lord".

It is hard to top, "Have a great day in the Lord"!

**Easter Blessings, go and serve.**

**Nancy**