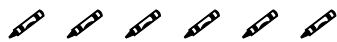


Lay Coordinator ✎ August/Sept 2009

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Summer is winding down, days are getting shorter and everyone is starting to think about the upcoming school year. I used to love going to buy new school supplies when I was a kid, especially a new box of crayons, all perfect. They didn't stay that way very long but it was so much fun to have new pencils, erasers and crayons to start out the year!



When school starts on September 1, nearly 100 children in Madison will enjoy the delight of having all the supplies they need to have a successful school year thanks to the generosity of folks at **Madison Lake Edge**! The kits were dedicated, and the children who receive the kits prayed for during a service.

Madison Lake Edge will hold a book discussion on Sept 20 to discuss *The House at Sugar Beach* by Helene Cooper. It is a memoir about the author's childhood in Liberia.

Congratulations to Pastor Tiff Bates of **Brodhead Congregational UCC** on the 30th anniversary of his ordination! Brodhead is also looking forward to their community wide Annual Fish Boil September 12.

Lake Mills UCC is holding a women's retreat, *God is Still Speaking, How Can We Listen?* This retreat is for women of all ages and is Saturday, September 26. For more information or to register call 920-648-5813.

Thanks in part to the support of many of our local churches; the Act 7 ride this year raised a record amount of money, \$300,260 for HIV/Aids research. Way to go!

Mt Vernon Zwingli UCC raised \$7,330 at their Fourth of July chicken BBQ and Silent Auction. This is a "do not miss event" if you have never had the chance to go, put it on your calendar now.

All the members of **Monroe St. John's UCC** that are 70 or over will be honored with a special meal and entertainment after services on September 20. On another note, St. John's Relay for Life Bake Sale made \$675 for the American Cancer Society. The church also collected over 500 bars of soap for the Second Harvest Food Pantry. They are a busy place down there in Green County!

Verona Salem UCC will be helping out their food pantry too. They will be joining in the first ever Verona CROP Hunger Walk on October 11. The Verona Food Pantry receives 25% of what they raise and the rest goes to programs of Church World Service.

Fort Atkinson Friedens UCC is planning ahead. They are celebrating World Communion Sunday October 4 with breads from around the world and folks are starting to think about what kind of international bread they can bring.

Did you know that **Madison Plymouth UCC** graciously lends their facilities to four different AA meetings who meet there weekly? How nice our churches can contribute to the community throughout the week.

It is important that we don't just exercise the spirit but exercise the body too. To this end, **Windsor UCC** has a softball team, The Second Street Sluggers. They have fought their way to a 1-5 record with many of the games being close. They look to improve their record and continue to have fun along the way! **Middleton Community UCC** has a summer biking group called Team Comma that frequently gathers to take Saturday morning rides.

Fitchburg Memorial UCC has formed a group to help people with job-seeking efforts. People interested in learning more about this group may contact the leader, Cheryl Porior-Mayhew at 608-835-0819 or mayhew@uwalumni.com

I grew up in LaCrosse and then going on to attend UW-Madison, I traveled down highway 14 through Vernon County many, many times! That was why I was excited to see that the Women's Guild at **Paoli Zwingli UCC** is sponsoring a bus trip, *Vernon County Views*, on September 9. They will tour round barns; eat at Borgen's Café in Westby, tour a maple syrup factory and visit the Vernon Vineyards and Winery in Viroqua. I can honestly say, "You will have so much fun!" This is one of the most beautiful and hospitable areas of Wisconsin and coming from me who thinks Wisconsin is the greatest place in the world, this is a big endorsement!



I leave you with some humorous words from the **Sauk City First UCC** newsletter. *Three boys are in the schoolyard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem and they give him \$50. The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song and they give him \$100. The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon and it takes four people to collect all the money!"*

Go and serve.
Nancy