

# Lay Coordinator ❖ October 2008

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Nancy L. Potter  
nlpotter@charter.net  
16 Cornerstone Way #12  
Fitchburg WI 53711

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Fall is here and hands down, it is my favorite time of year. The weather is beautiful, the trees are beautiful, the kids are back in school and programs sprout up in all of our churches.



Many of our churches are starting out October with a special celebration for World Communion Sunday. **Fort Atkinson Friedens** will celebrate communion with a variety of breads that represent cultures around the world.

**Fort Atkinson First** has a LIVE BIG program at their church, *Live Our Belief in God*. Parents, teachers and students liked it so much last year this year they have expanded the LIVE BIG program to adults with a new Bible Study and a No Stress Zone class. I think a No Stress Zone class sounds great!

A new Bible Study, *In Sure and Certain Hope*, is starting up at **Monroe St. John's** as well. They will meet together for five weeks and discuss what the scriptures have to say about eternal life.

**Zwingli Monticello** are using a video series called *Confronting the Controversies: Biblical Perspectives on Tough Issues* to engage in discussion together on controversial topics that face us today.

I see a lot of book groups are back in gear. **Madison Lake Edge** is reading *Good Omens* by Gaimen and Pratchett and *The Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follett. **Madison First Congregational** is reading the *Dance of the Dissident Daughter* by Sue Monk Kidd. **Middleton Community UCC** is reading *The Scandalous Gospel of Jesus* by Peter Gomes and then Anne Rice's *Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt*. **Platteville First** is reading *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri and **Verona Salem** is reading *Eat, Pray Love* by Elizabeth Gilbert. There you go, lots of good book recommendations!

**Fitchburg Memorial** has started a church-wide reading group studying and discussing *The Heart of Christianity* by Marcus Borg. They set up three different times choices so many folks could participate.

Lets not forget our Service Ministries. **The New Glarus Home** will hold their Annual Fall Bazaar on Saturday, Oct 4 with a bake sale, craft table and a sloppy joes luncheon.

**Monroe St. John's** has their Autumn Fest Saturday, Oct 11 and they will have a bake sale, luncheon, gourd garden, quilt raffle and silent auction.

Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup> **Portage Trinity** will dedicate their service to the history of gospel music with songs included.

Next year the Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting will have an environmental theme and so will the Spring Association Meeting. I am seeing a response to environmental issues in our local churches as well. Both **Madison First** and **Fitchburg Memorial** have started Sustainable Living Groups to explore these issues and **Madison Orchard Ridge** continues with their Eat Local Challenge.

Congrats go out to- Morgan Blum of **Monticello Zwingli** who raised \$2,750 for Green County Habitat for Humanity biking the Habitat 500-mile ride, to **Madison Community of Hope** who raised \$3,296 from sales of their Duck Doo compost and to **Columbus Olivet** who raised \$5,808.93 with their rummage sale and brat fry!

Speaking of **Columbus Olivet**, they are recovering from their flood damage and have nearly completed their church basement repair work.

Our churches continue to collect for a variety of local causes. Many are participating in the Koats for Kids program. **Whitewater Congregational** just finished up PB and J month, all those under 55 bring jelly and those over 55 bring peanut butter for the local food pantry! **Baraboo First** is just starting "Cleanliness is Next Godliness" month when they collect toiletries for the food pantry and Hope House!



We are in the middle of a national election and both sides are claiming to have a monopoly on change! Coming back from a mission trip to Haiti, Rev. David McDonald of Windsor UCC has another idea for us.

*"The challenge before us is to move our faith from a passive endeavor of the head into an active endeavor of the heart and hands. I have just seen places where the church's work is having a direct and real impact, now. I have been challenged to see that our faith becomes an instrument of doing, rather than just a tool for listening. I have been confronted with the reality that we can be doing more. Waiting to act must end and the faithful folk ... must become instruments of hope and change."*

**Go and Serve.**

Nancy