

Lay Coordinator ◆ November 2007

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

Fall means Confirmation Retreat! We just held our Southwest Association Confirmation Retreat at Pilgrim Center. The staff there sent us a follow-up email to compliment us on how well behaved our youth were and in what good condition they left the facilities! Hats off to our UCC youth!



Lake Mills UCC has been very active in their community this fall. Their men's fellowship group sponsored a Harvest BBQ in the local park to raise money for their trip to Back Bay next spring and on November 6 the church will host the community blood drive.

Sometimes I get hungry just reading our SW church newsletters! **Orchard Ridge UCC** will be holding their First Annual Fall Harvest Brunch on Sunday, November 4. They will feature Wisconsin produce and guest speakers will be the owners of Prairie Farms who will speak on sustainable farming. As we all get more concerned about our food and where it comes from, locally produced items are getting more and more popular. **Fitchburg Memorial UCC** members, Howard and Susan Cosgrove, recently had a 100 mile dinner where the all the ingredients needed to come from within a 100 miles! All part of the eating local challenge!

As chilly weather descends upon us, books and movies are more popular than ever! **Lake Edge UCC** read *A Thousand Splendid Suns* for October and will read *Snowflower and the Secret Fan* for November and *Wish You Well* for December. They are watching "Sicko" the documentary by Michael Moore and "Tim's Island" a documentary about Hurricane Katrina in the coming months. I am always looking for book and movie recommendations; I will have to put these on my list!

The CE Board of **First Congregational Fort Atkinson** has designed and planned a float for the local holiday parade on November 10th. Their youth and adults will put the float together and be riding on it singing during the parade!

Speaking of floats, the youth at **Whitewater Congregational UCC** have a busy fall planned! They will be building a float for their local holiday parade, visiting the Zoo, visiting Fairhaven and bowling and volunteering at The Clothes Closet. Whew, this is just November, I wonder what December looks like!

Brodhead Congregational UCC is collecting household items for Green Haven of Monroe. Green Haven is a shelter for abused individuals and their children.

Zwingli UCC Paoli will hold their Annual Auction, Bazaar and Raffle Nov.2 in the Montrose Town Hall in Paoli. Baked goods, crafts and a homemade lunch are available as well as the chance to bid at their auction!

Belleville will once again have an ecumenical community-wide Thanksgiving service with a combined choir from the five churches that participate (including our **Belleville First UCC**). Folks from around the area can join together at Grace Methodist Church November 20th at 7 to express their thanks to God. Refreshments will be served after the service.

December will soon be upon us and with that comes many holiday activities at our churches. **Fitchburg Memorial UCC** will have their Holiday Cookie Walk and Craft Sale Saturday, December 15th. Since I will be baking cookies for this one, I thought you better get it on your calendar early!

A member of **Mt Vernon Zwingli** is holding a holiday card-making workshop in her home on Saturday, November 10th. What a great idea, fellowship and at the same you will end up with 10 completed cards at the end of the day!

This fall we have had the most spectacular color; sometimes it has been so beautiful it almost takes my breath away. Nature's fall spectacle reminds us that we must care for our environment. Have you joined the conversation at ZUCCCC, **Zwingli United Church Creation Care Conversation**? If you are interested, contact Rev Brad Brookins at mtvucc.org to be included. One of the links he recently brought to our attention is Orion Magazine, which can be found at orionmagazine.org. Check it out.

Did you see that flyer in this Shalom about the Rest and Recharge Retreat for our Christian Educators? Saturday, January 26th you will have the opportunity to say thank you to your educators by sending them to a day of ideas, networking and fun.



October 14th we celebrated our 50th with a birthday party at **First Congregational Madison**. There our Southwest Association DVD was premiered to great acclaim! The celebration continued with the first of our "Living the Call" series. We had a stimulating conversation about wealth and power and the role of our faith. The next event is November 27th at 7:00 pm at **Fitchburg Memorial** and we will discuss war and peace. Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to discuss big issues and how our faith intersects. I hope I will see you there!

Happy Fall! Go and Serve.

