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FROM YOUR ASSOCIATION MINISTER

Margaret Trost grew up in a Pastor's family (I know that pastor and that family quite well) and spent some of her formative time here in the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ. In fact she was a member of Lake Edge UCC in Madison. I'd like to suggest that you take a look at the incredible book she wrote. It's called, "On That Day Everybody Ate...One Woman's Story of Hope and Possibility in Haiti." Lake Edge Pastor Paul Shupe writes, "Several years ago, Margaret Trost was grieving from the death of her husband when asked to go on a mission trip to Haiti. Not knowing precisely what she was getting into, and still reeling from her great loss, she said yes, and that word changed her life."

Traveling to the slums of Port-au-Prince, Margaret encounters, for the first time, an almost biblical poverty, "spread out for miles and miles in all directions." But poverty, she knows, doesn't just happen; poverty has a history, just as people living poverty have their own stories. Trost asks herself, again and again, what forces and events left so many Haitians living on the edge and what, if anything might make a difference. "On That Day, Everybody Ate" is the story of how she answered these questions. (From the Forward)

On Thursday, October 2, at Lake Edge and on Wednesday, October 1 at Madison First Congregational (both at 7 p.m.) she will be reading from her book. Bryan Sirchio, whose music and invitation helped to inspire Margaret, will be on hand to sing and play. All are well on those evenings. No doubt it will be inspirational.

With Great Hope,

Bob

BARABOO TO HOST ASSOCIATION FALL MEETING ON 10/12/08

There will be a bit of a change this fall. The Fall Meeting which is normally held on the 4th Sunday of September will be held on October 12 in Baraboo, beginning at 1:30 p.m. The reason for the change has to do with our UEK (Germany Partnership). It is their 400th anniversary and we have been invited to participate in the week-long festivities. Dr. Mutton (usually called Bob) will be attending the UEK events, which conflict with our regularly scheduled meeting.

So, on October 12 we'll meet in Baraboo. The title of the topic for the day is yet to be decided, but you'll get the idea. It'll be: Faith and the Civic Life, or Faith and Politics or Christian Responsibility and Civic Affairs or Bringing Faith to Public Life or even... who to vote for when Christ is not a candidate!

More information will be coming your way with registration forms and a schedule. We'll have a number of speakers on the topic and a bit of dialogue we hope. It ought to be interesting with November 4th just over the hill. The agenda follows:

- 1:30 p.m. Registration
- 2:00 p.m. Welcome, roll call, hymn sing
- 2:30 p.m. Alan Green, Kerri Parker, Linda Ketcham
- 3:45 p.m. Break
- 4:00 p.m. Phil Haslanger/Paul Higgenbotham
- 5:00 p.m. Dinner
- 6:00 p.m. Business Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Prayers

Come and listen to 5 examples from UCC folk on how UCC people's faith impact their public life and reflect on your own.

BOUNDARY TRAINING OFFERED IN NORTHEAST ASSOCIATION

The Committee on Pastor and Church Ethics of the Northeast Association's Division on Church & Ministry will offer a Boundary Training for pastors from 9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, September 30, at Pilgrim United

SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Church of Christ, 535 Stow Street, fond du Lac. The registration fee of \$10.00 will cover the cost of lunch and supplies. Please register with Northeast Association Administrative Assistant, Scarlet Harvath, 920-731-4781 or scarlet@neaucc.org by Monday, September 22nd. Checks may be made payable to NEA UCC and sent to the NE Association Office (5765 W. Grande Market Drive, Suite B, Appleton, WI 54913) by September 22nd. Pastors from other Wisconsin Associations are welcome to attend.

DISTRICT MEETINGS TO BEGIN IN OCTOBER

Due to the scheduling conflict of Mutton going to Germany, the District Clergy gatherings will begin in October instead of September. We will be sending you a portion of the paper Dr. Moyer presented to the Northeast Association at their Spring 08 meeting entitled "The Church in 50 Years."

We'll meet:

District I Dodgeville October 15 8a.m.

District III Portage October 15 12 p.m.

District IV Evansville October 21
9 a.m.

District II Madison October 22 8 a.m.

MINISTERIAL DEVELOPMENT GROUPS (MDG) TO BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER

As is our tradition in the Southwest Association, the Clergy Support Groups (called Minister Development Groups (MDG) will begin with the new programming year. There are 3 gatherings: Evansville (2nd and 4th Thursdays), Verona (1st and 3rd Thursdays), and Madison Lake Edge (1st and 3rd Fridays). They all meet from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. In each gathering clergy come together to discuss practical theological issues, provide counsel and advice. These groups have been a benefit to those just beginning in ministry, as well as those of us who have been around for a while. You are invited to participate in any of the groups listed. A list of those presenting issues will be sent out after the first meeting of each group. Take advantage of this opportunity.

STUDY GROUPS START NEW BOOKS THIS FALL

The Contemporary Theology Study Group will begin reading "Surprised by Hope... Rethinking Heaven, the

Resurrection and the Mission of the Church" by N.T. Wright. Wright is the Bishop of Durham for the Church of England. He taught New Testament Studies for 20 years at Cambridge, McGill and Oxford Universities. He coauthored with Marcus Borg on "Simply Christian, The Challenge of Jesus, the Meaning of Jesus." The study group will meet at the Association Office on September 9 at 1 p.m. to discuss the first 53 pages. We do have books available.

The Feminist Study Group will be starting "Here If You Need Me" by Kate Braestrup. It is a true story of Braestrup, a chaplain for the Maine Warden Service. She tells the interwoven stories of the death of her husband, her seminary education and stories of search and rescue missions where she is chaplain. They will meet on September 4, at 2 p.m. at the Association Office.

BVO TO RETIRE

Rev. Bonnie Van Overbeke has announced that she will retire January 1, 2009, from the position of Pastor and Teacher at Memorial UCC in Fitchburg. Bonnie was ordained by the southwest Wisconsin Association at First Congregational UCC in Madison in September of 1991. She served as interim minister at both Dane Immanuel and Washington Reformation, Monticello. Before that she was Director of Education at Madison First Congregational. Bonnie served as Associate Conference Minister for Christian Nurture and Congregational Life for the Wisconsin Conference from 1991 to 1997 where she was the initiator of the now popular Lay Academy. In 1997 she was called as Pastor and Teacher at Memorial and has served there for the past 11 years. She is a past Moderator of the Southwest Association, helped initiate the Authorized Lay Pastor Program and serving on that committee. She initiated the Association's Partnership with the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Palestine, was a General Synod Delegate and has been a faithful member of the Lake Edge Development Group and numerous study groups. Indeed she has been an integral part of the life of the Association and the Conference and will be deeply missed. The scripture chosen at her ordination was Micah 6:8 "And what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God." This has characterized the ministry of our beloved Sister in Christ.

STACK TO GO NORTH

Rev. Christine Stack has resigned her position as Pastor and Teacher of the Congregational UCC in Whitewater where she has served since July 2001. Christine was involved in numerous activities of the Association and the Conference. She served on the Periodic Support Consultation Committee and was part of the group that helped establish the procedure. In addition, she chaired the Evangelism Committee. She was an active member of the Evansville District Meetings, participated in the Development Groups and in book study groups. She will be moving North (near Stevens Point) where she and her husband, Bob, live. Godspeed dear Sister in Christ.

IN OUR PRAYERS (Please add these petitions to your daily prayers)

For Rev. Tom Ferguson and his family in the loss of his father

For First UCC in Lowell as they celebrate their 150th Anniversary
For Kathleen Rinear and the congregation at Darlington as she is called as Pastor and Teacher

Our Congregations at:

Beloit First Presbyterian (affiliated with UCC), Frank Fisher, Interim Pastor
Boscobel First, Jennifer Johnson, Pastor
Brodhead Congregational, Tiff Bates, Pastor

DARLINGTON CALLS RINEAR

On June 29, Immanuel UCC, Darlington, called Kathleen Rinear to be their Pastor and Teacher. She was ordained by the Southwest Association on March 11, 2007. Kathleen was a member of Orchard Ridge UCC in Madison, educated at Chicago Theological Seminary and has served as an Interim Pastor at Union Congregational UCC in Waupun and most recently, as Interim Pastor at Saron UCC in Sheboygan Falls. Through all this she has been a faithful participant in the Lake Edge Ministerial Development Group. She began in Darlington on August 1st.

HERITAGE AND CALL DVD VIDEO

An excellent DVD video put together to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the UCC was available free of charge at the Spring Association Meeting in April. The video is an historical look at the 50 years of the Southwest Association, UCC. It is filled with images of ministry and congregations that date back to the mid 50's and move to the present. The technical work was done by Paul Hedges of Orchard Ridge UCC in cooperation with a number of clergy. Rev. Phil Haslanger of Fitchburg Memorial had a major hand in writing the script. The DVD was shown as part of the 50th Anniversary celebration on Oct. 14 at First Congregational UCC in Madison.

CHARLIE WORKMAN HABITAT HOUSE

Charlie Workman is known throughout the Southwest Association from his years as pastor at Zwingle Church in Monticello and his times as serving as either an interim minister or providing pulpit supply. Within Green County this 91 year-old is known as the "Father of Green County Habitat for Humanity." He and his wife, Marilyn, are the primary benefactors for the affiliate. In honor of his years of service and their monetary contributions, GCHFH is naming a house in his honor. The Green County UCC churches are committed to this local mission project as a means of building community while providing a home for a needy family. The hope is to broaden the effort throughout the SWA.

Work on the Charlie Workman House in Browntown, WI will begin on Saturday, July 5th. Teams from the UCC churches and individuals are wanted to volunteer from identified Saturdays from July until mid-October. Visit the website at www.greencountyhabitat.org or call Carol Holmes at 608-225-0341 for more information.

Monetary gifts in support of this house are also most welcome. Donations should be mailed to Green County Habitat for Humanity, P.O. Box 298, Monroe, WI 53566. Note that the donation is for the Charlie Workman House. Another way to show support is to send a team of bicyclists or come as single rider to the Bike 4 Habitat on Saturday, May 17th in Brodhead. Check the website for details.

CHURCHES SEEKING

Dane
Edgerton
Grand Marsh/Westfield
Mineral Point
Madison Orchard Ridge – seeking ½ time Associate

CONGREGATIONS TO BE SEEKING

New Glarus
Whitewater

CHECK OUT THE ASSOCIATION WEB SITE

The Division on Lay Life and Leadership has taken the Association website as their project and have done a great job. We now have a new page where people can sign up to receive Nancy's Association E-News. You can go to the home page and follow the link or just copy this one, <http://www.swwisconsinucc.org/ecommunications.htm>

If you wish to receive the Association Newsletter, Shalom, by e-mail or would like to start on or improve your church's website, check this link so they can let us know of your interest. Contact Nancy Potter for suggestions and critique.