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FROM YOUR ASSOCIATION MINISTER

The Association lost a faithful colleague and dear friend last month. Rev. Marlea Waber was one of the pastors at Swiss UCC in New Glarus. She was ordained here in the Southwest Association and was deeply committed to our ministry together. Here are some words spoken at her memorial service: "At the door of the monastery (or maybe the church), place a sensible person who knows how to take a message and deliver a reply, and whose wisdom keeps them from roaming about. This person will need a room near the entrance so the visitors will always find someone there to answer them. As soon as anyone knocks or a poor person calls our, the person will reply 'Thanks be to God' or 'Your Blessings Please', then with all the gentleness that comes from reverence of God, provide a prompt answer with the warmth of love." (The rule of Benedict)

The way we answer doors is the way we deal with the world. It is the way we show the face of Jesus to the world. This was the temperament of Rev. Marlea Waber. Marlea had a strong sense of hospitality. She knew how to answer the door. It was more than being invited to a house or a church; she knew how to answer the door to a relationship. She knew how to invite people in to a relationship with her and a relationship with God through Jesus Christ...

Eternal Life was an important word that needed to be spoken to those in deep grief. She felt this very strongly. Eternal Life is life everlasting, extending beyond any natural end which now can no longer be death. Eternal Life is the free gift of God. It is not our due from God. It is nothing we have earned. It is not payment for services well done. Eternal Life is our undeserved and free gift, God's gift of Grace. Marlea announced this many times over the years here at Swiss Church, so now the one who answered the door with grace and hope is experiencing the Eternal Life that she Witnessed to, that she announced and proclaimed in these walls, to the people of the community. He is Risen, he is Risen indeed! We here in the Southwest Wisconsin Association give God thanks for the life, witness and the Ministry of Rev. Marlea Jeanne Conrad Waber. With the Greatest of Hope, Bob

The Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society will meet at Zwingli UCC in Monticello on Saturday, October 13, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The morning program will include a panel discussion by authors of the recently published history of the Wisconsin Conference and a presentation on the history of the UCC in Green County. After a noon luncheon there will be a business meeting and tours of a cheese factory and dairy farm. Make your reservation for lunch by calling Zwingli Church at (608) 938-4369. For more information on ERHS go to www.erhs.info

DISCERNMENT DAY

What shall I do with the longing in my heart to serve Jesus Christ?

Friday, November 2, 2007
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Wisconsin Conference Center

Join us for a day of exploration and discussion with Dr. Martha Baumer. Dr. Baumer, former professor at Eden Theological Seminary, pastor from the Wisconsin Conference, previous Conference Minister in Illinois and life-long, committed Christian has worked with many people in discerning what a call to ministry might sound like and where to seek help in unfolding God's intention for their lives. Cost for the day will be \$30.00 and will include lunch. Call Carol Martell at the Conference Office to register.

IRAQI MEDICAL RELIEF DRIVE IS MOVING AHEAD

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

With twenty-two churches reporting on monies already collected, this drive is slightly under \$30,000.00. That is well over a thousand dollar average! The Social Concerns Committee has also received requests from several churches to keep the program open on into the fall, since most of this drive occurred during the late summer when church activities were limited.

SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN
ASSOCIATION
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
VOLUME XXVI, ISSUE 13,
OCTOBER 2007

Because of the urgency of the need, our first installment will be sent to the Iraqi Red Crescent (via the International Committee of the Red Cross) at the end of this month. However, the drive will remain open until we achieve the goal of \$47,500 which will fully fund a mobile medical clinic.

With gifts coming in from around the world, six such clinics have been planned to serve the civilian population in places where emergency medical services may be otherwise unavailable. If your church has collected (or expects to receive) additional contributions that have not been reported, we ask you to call in your report and/or mail the gifts to the Association Office. Designate them for the Iraqi Medical Relief Fund. You may still plan to hold a fundraiser for this fall that is appropriate for your church and community

This people to people expression of compassionate concern may go a long way toward protecting our troops. For we believe the turmoil in Iraq and Afghanistan will only be solved through a winning over of hearts and minds, and a determined spirit to fix or heal what is broken.

Phil Shively
For the Southwest Wisconsin Social Concerns Committee

DISTRICT MEETINGS IN OCTOBER

Clergy gather in districts monthly for Bible Study, theological reflection and prayer. The dates and locations are:

District I	Dodgeville
October 17	8 a.m.
District II	Madison
October 24	8 a.m.
District III	Portage
October 17	NOON
District IV	Evansville
October 16	9 a.m.

The theological paper for discussion is "A Theodicy for Pastoral Practice" by Thomas Oden. We have copies available at the Association Office.

IN OUR PRAYERS

For the family of Marlea Waber in her passing
For Erwin Pegel, recovering from a stroke in Monroe Manor
For Paul Shupe and Congregation at Lake Edge as he is Installed
For Phil Haslanger as he is Ordained
For our Congregations at:
Madison Plymouth, Charles Wolfe, Pastor
Mazomanie, Carolyn Kennedy, Pastor
McFarland, Wayne Shannon, Pastor

HASLANGER TO BE ORDAINED AS PASTOR AND TEACHER

Phil Haslanger was approved for Ordination at an Ecclesiastical Council held on September 23 at Lake Edge UCC in Madison. Earlier this year he was issued a call as the Associate Pastor at Memorial UCC in Fitchburg. So, with the approval of the Association and the call of the church at Fitchburg, Phil will be ordained on October 28 at Lake Edge UCC., the congregation that he is a member of and who sponsored him as an In-Care Student. All are welcome to celebrate this event with Phil. The service begins at 3 p.m.

NEW CHURCH START BEING EXPLORED

Tom Ferguson has been called by the Association to explore the possibility of a new church start. He describes the vision in this way: "I envision creating a network of 4-5 small group/house churches, led by lay persons, consisting of 8-10 people each. These groups would meet on their own several times a month, focused around worship, community building and service. Once a month all the small groups would meet together for communal worship to coordinate ministry resources and build communal fellowship." Take a look at what it might look like at porchmadison.blogspot.com or Contact Tom at revcfergus@gmail.com for additional information.

A WORD FROM MARGIE MCCLYMONT

Margie McClymont, who served parishes in Monroe and Barneveld, contacted us with her new e-mail address margmac@hotmail.com. She also suggested LaPuente, the organization she heads in Colorado, as a good place for a workcamp. Be in touch with her if you have interest.

MISSION TRIP TO BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

The Congregational United Church in Brodhead is sponsoring a Mission Trip to Biloxi, MS, the week of October 20-28, 2007. Biloxi is still recovering from the damage done by Hurricane Katrina. The Gulf Coast community is home to the Back Bay Mission, a United Church of Christ agency that has been organizing rebuilding and clean up efforts in the area. The trip is open to community members willing and able to work on light construction. Cost will be approximately \$150-\$200/person which will include transportation by car or van, housing and food. For more information, please contact Bill Balasia at (608) 897-2863 or Pastor Tiff Bates at (608) 897-2917. There will be a planning meeting Saturday morning Oct. 6th at 9 a.m. at the Congregational UCC in Brodhead.

RESOURCES

Sharing our Heritage, Shaping our Future is the fall event from the Great Lakes Association of United Church Educators happening October 16-18 at Pokagon State Park, Angola, IN

Knock, Knock: God's at the Door is a middle school retreat at Pilgrim Center November 16-18. Contact Lisa Hart, Youth Ministry Coordination at 846-7880 or lhart@wcucc.org
Couples Counseling in the Pastoral Setting at the Pyle Center, 702 Langdon Street, Madison, November 29-30.

We have brochures for these events at the Association Office.

KEEP IN MIND

Young Ambassadors (ages 16-25) trip to Germany, June 28-July 19, 2008
Adult trip to Germany and Russia, June 16-30, 2008