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## FROM YOUR ASSOCIATION MINISTER

A reflection on Reformation Day, just passed. We are a people of the Word, we are people who trust the Word, we are people who count on the Word. We are a people of the Reformation, the Word and hearing it is at the center of our faith. We do believe that listening to the Word heals us. When the Word is let loose, when we hear the Word, really hear it, then what we seen through our hearing is that the suffering of the world is healed, that the broken hearted are bound up. We hear that we are to take into our hands the folk who have been crippled since birth, who cannot walk by themselves, who cannot stand up by themselves, who cannot feed themselves, who need the grace and power inherent in the Word, in the hearing, in the moment of hearing that transforms, that makes things new. Hearing the Word spoken to us gives us strength to be able to speak a word of Hope to those in deepest need. We confirm that in our hearing that the Word heals and the Word heals each one of our hearing. Listen...

With Great Hope,

Bob Mutton

### WINTER CLERGY RETREAT

Put these dates on your calendar, **FEBRUARY 10-12, 2008**, beginning at 6 p.m. on the 10<sup>th</sup> and ending at noon on the 12<sup>th</sup>. The topic has been decided almost (Our Own Festival of Homiletics) with presentations by a few of our own clergy from Southeast and Southwest, along with Dow Edgerton, Dean at Chicago Theological Seminary, and a number of sermons preached. Cost is \$100.00. More info to follow.

### NATIONAL YOUTH EVENT

Lisa Hart, Coordinator of Youth Ministry for the Conference ([lhart@wcucc.org](mailto:lhart@wcucc.org)) shared the following information: The NYE will be held in Knoxville, TN at the University of TN. The dates are July 23-28 for the Wisconsin Gathering. The actual event will start with dinner on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Registration costs will be \$345.00. The cost of the bus is yet to be determined, but looks like \$125-\$150 per person. NYE is open to youth ages 13-18. More info is available on the UCC website at [www.ucc.org/youth](http://www.ucc.org/youth).

## IN OUR PRAYERS

The family of Erwin Pegel in their loss Joe Rowley as he is ordained

Our Congregations at:

Middleton – Jim Iliff, Pastor  
Milton – Herb Saunders, Pastor  
Mineral Point – David Schlieter, Pastor

## ROWLEY TO BE ORDAINED

Joe Rowley, a member at Brodhead Congregational UCC, will be ordained there on November 11, 2:00 p.m. Joe is a graduate of Marquette University and Eden Theological Seminary. He has recently been called as the Associate Pastor at Parkway UCC outside St. Louis, MO. You are invited to participate in this wonderful event in the life of Joe and our congregation at Brodhead.

## DISTRICT MEETINGS IN NOVEMBER

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

District IV          Evansville  
November 20 9 a.m.  
District I             Dodgeville  
November 21 8 a.m.  
District II             Madison  
November 28 8 a.m.  
District III            Portage  
November 28 12 Noon

The Theological paper for discussion will be "Christ Meets Tribalism in Rural America" by Lowell Ferris and Ian McLean – from the journal, "In the Tradition" of the Southwest Wisconsin Association. This paper was presented at the Theological Round Table at New Glarus.

## HERITAGE AND CALL: CELEBRATING THE UCC @ 50

**Living the Call: War and Peace**  
*Tuesday, November 27, 7 p.m. at Memorial UCC in Fitchburg*  
Issues of war and peace swirl through our scripture. Christians have come to different conclusions about how we live our Jesus' call to love our enemies. How does our approach within the UCC compare with that of other Christian traditions?

SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN  
ASSOCIATION

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOLUME XXVI, ISSUE 14,  
NOVEMBER 2007

**Living the Call: Prisoners and Society**  
*Thursday, January 17, 2008, 7 p.m. at First Congregational UCC in Madison*  
UCC congregations in our area have put a particular focus of late on what is happening to prisoners in our state. What role can churches play in the reconciliation of offenders and local communities?

**Living the Call: Immigration and Hospitality**  
*Thursday, February 28, 2008, 7 p.m. at Orchard Ridge UCC in Madison*  
Like so many places in the nation, Wisconsin is experiencing a growth in the number of immigrants from other lands, especially from Mexico. What can we as Christians do to walk with newcomers on their journey into a strange land?

**FAR AHEAD DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR**  
January 6 Clergy Epiphany Party, Mutton/Ames Home, 5 p.m.  
February 10-12 Southeast/Southwest Clergy Retreat "Festival of Homiletics"

### **REV. ERWIN PEGEL JOINS THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT**

Erwin's passing is a deep loss for many, including myself. He has been a mentor and his theological depth and broadness of pastoral experience have benefited us all. David Moyer, in his News and Notes, announces Erwin's death in this way:

"I write to tell you of the death of one of our pastoral colleagues, the Rev. Erwin H. Pegel. Erwin had most recently served as the Pastor of Zwingli United Church of Christ in Monticello, retiring from that pastorate in 1995. He and his wife, Dora, were living in Monroe at the time of Erwin's death on October 16.

Born in Germany in 1930, Pastor Pegel received his early education at the Oberschule fuer Jungens in Bad Salzufflen. He then attended Berufsschule (Vocational School) and the Seminary of Missiology and Theology in Bad Liebenzell, Germany. Additional studies were at the Nyc Missionary Training Institute, New York, and the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. He also received a certificate from the Translators' Institute of the American Bible Society at Ponape, Micronesia.

Erwin served as a missionary field representative and Junior High Administrator on the Island of Truk, Micronesia from 1955-1968. From 1969 to 1972 he served the Ladeskirchliche Gemeinschaft at Guetersloh and the Gemeinschaftsbezirk in Bielefeld, Germany. Immigrating to the U.S. in 1972, Erwin served as pastor of the Waterford Federated Parish in Waterford, ME. From 1975 to 1985 he was Senior Pastor of the Grandville-Jenison Congregational UCC, Grandville, MI. He was pastor in Monticello from 1985 to 1995.

The Pegels had five children: Daniel, Martin, Donald, Christiane, and Angelika. Erwin was preceded in death by two of his sons, Donald in 2004 and Martin in 2005. Dora and Erwin have 8 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Erwin was a pastor with deep knowledge of the human condition. He and Dora dealt with many personal crises and tragedies over the years, and he quietly and courageously dealt with each one through his deep faith and trust in God and Christ as his savior. He was a beautiful and Christ-centered spirit.

The following excerpts from Erwin's 1984 Ministerial Profile/Statement on Ministry allows him to speak to us in his own voice about his and our vocation:

*The renowned Asian Christian, D.T. Niles, asks, "Have you known him? If you have, then you know how you came to recognize him and accept his hand upon your shoulder, his yoke upon your neck his goad behind your feet, his call within your heart. Not yet 18 years old I became convinced of his hand upon my shoulder and his call within my heart. Jesus Christ has become to me the center of my faith and therefore the center of my life... With Dr. Martin Luther I acknowledge "that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him; but the Holy Ghost has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. This is most certainly true."*

*... I believe that the institutional church has a future: healing human hearts, meeting human needs, nurturing spiritual and personal growth, and becoming, with God's help, a redemptive community in our society. We must be willing to deal*

*with real problems in the name of Christ. This will imply sacrifice, service, love and concern for all people. We may not always agree on what it means to follow Christ in a given situation, but let us always ask if our actions can be understood as following him. Let us truly serve God with as much vitality as we command."*

*"Behold, I am coming soon. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first, and the last, the beginning and the end."*

### **COURAGE TO TEACH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2-5 P.M.**

**"The Soul's Imperative: Reclaiming Integrity and Courage in Public Life"**

**Parker J. Palmer**

Noted writer, educator and activist  
Reception and book-signing to follow

\$50 per person, \$40 for educators  
Proceeds support local educators in  
Courage to Teach

**Promega's Biopharmaceutical Technology Center**  
**5445 East Cheryl Parkway**  
**Madison, WI 53711**

Pre-registration encouraged:  
[bhummel@chorus.net](mailto:bhummel@chorus.net)