

SHALOM

SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOLUME XXVIII, ISSUE 4, DECEMBER , 2008

FROM YOUR ASSOCIATION MINISTER

A poem from Mary Oliver for Advent:

MAKING THE HOUSE READY FOR THE LORD

Dear Lord, I have swept and I have washed, but
still nothing is as shining as it should be for you.
Under the sink, for example, is an uproar of mice –
it is the season of their many children.

What shall I do? And under the eaves and
through the wall the squirrels have
have gnawed their ragged entrances – but it is
the season when they need shelter,
so, what shall I do? And the raccoon limps into
the kitchen and opens the cupboard
while the dog snores, the cat hugs the pillow;
What shall I do?

Beautiful is the new snow falling in the yard
and the fox who is staring boldly up
the path to the door. And I still believe you will
come, Lord: you will when I speak to the fox,
the sparrow, the lost dog, the shivering sea-goose, know
that really I am speaking to you whenever I say,
as I do all morning and afternoon: Come in, come in.

With Great Hope in Advent,

Bob

SPRING TRAINING EVENT FOR EDUCATORS

“It takes a Church to Raise a Christian” training event will happen Saturday, March 28 at First Congregational UCC in Fort Atkinson. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Leah Gunning Francis, Associate Professor at Eden Theological Seminary. Workshops will include:

The Teaching Ministry in the Life of the Congregation
Super Duper Super
The Hidden Curriculum
Embedded Curriculum
Adult Education Enneagrams
Cattail and Cottonwood Curriculum

Cost: \$25.00 before March 6 and \$30.00 after

CONTACT THE WISCONSIN CONFERENCE, UCC at www.wcucc.org or cmaretell@wcucc.org or 608-846-7880

FEMINIST STUDY GROUP BEGINS NEW BOOK

The Study Group will begin reading and discussing “The Great Transformation” by Karen Armstrong. They will meet on December 11 at the Association Office at 3 p.m.

If you have interest, contact the Association Office at (608) 244-3350.

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

The Search Committee at Orchard Ridge in Madison

For our Congregations at:

Emerald Grove – Bill Weiss, Pastor
Endeavor – Barbara Bolz, Pastor
Evansville – Luke Bocher, Pastor

REMINDERS:

- 1) There will be no District Meetings in December. We begin again in January.
- 2) The Clergy Retreat will happen February 8-10 at Pilgrim Center.
More information to follow.
- 3) The Spring Association Meeting will be held on May 2 at St. John’s UCC in Monroe.
Tentative theme: “How Green is My Church?”

CORRECTIONS, CHANGES AND ADDITIONS TO NEW SWWA DIRECTORY

Change of address & email for David Yochum – dyochum@idcnet.com
230 Greenhouse Lane
Whitewater, WI 533190

Address Change for William Koehler
2700 Bayshore Blvd. #11-106
Dunedin, FL 34698-1603

Email for Petra Streiff – petralarry@tds.net

CONGREGATIONS SEEKING PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

Madison Orchard Ridge – seeking ½ time Associate

CONGREGATIONS TO BE SEEKING

New Glarus Swiss – Interims, John Jewell & Petra Streiff
Whitewater Cong. – Interim, Craig Jan-McMahon

DECEMBER SHALOM CALENDAR

- 1 Board of Directors, WI Conf. Office, 10 a.m.
- 3 Periodic Support Consultations, Assoc. Office, 12 Noon
- 4 Ministerial Development Group (MDG), Verona, 9:30 a.m.
- 4 Search and Call Consultation, Orlando until the 9th
- 5 Ministerial Development Group (MDG),, Lake Edge, 9:30 a.m.
- 11 Ministerial Development Group (MDG),, Evansville, 9:30 a.m.
- 11 Congregational Development & Renewal Committee, DeForest, 11:30 a.m.
- 11 Feminist Study Group, Assoc. Office, 3 p.m.
- 11 Division on Church & Ministry, Assoc. Office, 5 p.m.
- 14 Installation of Denise Cole at Dane Immanuel, 9 a.m.
- 15 Wisconsin conference Staff Meeting, DeForest, 9 a.m.
- 16 Contemporary Theology Study Group, Assoc. Office, 1 p.m.
- 18 Ministerial Development Group (MDG),, Verona, 9:30 a.m.
- 19 Ministerial Development Group (MDG),, Lake Edge, 9:30 a.m.
- 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!

JANUARY 2009

- 2 Ministerial Development Group (MDG),, Lake Edge, 9:30 a.m.
- 4 Epiphany Party, Mutton/Ames Home, 5-8:00 p.m.
- 7 Periodic Support Consultations, Assoc. Office, 12 Noon
- 8 Ministerial Development Group (MDG),, Verona, 9:30 a.m.
- 8 Spring Meeting Planning Committee, Assoc. Office, 4 p.m.
- 8 Executive Committee of the Association, 5 p.m.
- 11 Installation of Lora Whitten, Edgerton, 3 p.m.