

Lay Coordinator ★ January 2010

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It is a new year, that time when all of our churches are planning annual meetings and asking committees to get their reports in! Have you finished yours yet?!



Monticello Zwingli had a huge picture of their church drawn and then cut it up into pieces and mailed out a puzzle piece to all of their members. Members had to return their puzzle piece to the church with their giving intention on the back. When all the pieces had been returned they had "the whole picture" of their church!

The Green Team at **Madison Orchard Ridge** puts a Green Thought of the Day in every issue of their church newsletter. The thought for today- make sure your tires are properly inflated; it increases your gas mileage and saves you money. Many of their hints they get from a book they are selling called, *How Many Lightbulbs Does it Take to Change a Christian*. I think I have to check around and get a copy for myself!

The second and third graders at **Madison Orchard Ridge** received their own Bibles on Jan 3. They are also having a special class for them called "Making Friends with the Bible" so they can learn how to use it.

They will be getting together on cold, winter Tuesday nights at **Windsor UCC** to discuss, *The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming* by Heri J.M. Nouwen. The book weaves a connection between a painting by Rembrandt of the Prodigal Son, Jesus' parable of the Prodigal Son, and how we can apply the lessons of the Prodigal Son to our own lives.

Columbus Olive† has an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) and they are running two sessions on a Sunday morning so everyone in the congregation can get training on how to use it.

On Wednesday nights this month folks at **Platteville First Congregational** will gather and watch a 15-minute segment of the PBS Frontline Series, *From Jesus to Christ*, and then follow it with discussion. February 7th after worship they are hosting a Valentine Luncheon. After homemade soup and bread, everyone will make Valentines for shut-ins and loved ones.

Here is another novel to add to your winter booklist- *The Hotel on The Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford.

Lenten plans are underway at many of our churches. **Paoli Zwingli** will be having a series discussing the eight things in our lives that are "Taken for Granted". They will be viewing documentaries and having discussions on food, water, air, shelter, clothing/goods, transportation, electricity and healthcare. Perhaps shedding light on these things that are "Taken for Granted" will bring a new perspective.

Monroe St. John's is starting a new discussion series on Thursday nights this month centered on the book, *Luke for Everyone* by Tom Wright. If you need some fun after your Luke study you can attend Euchre for Everyone on Jan 28, beginning at 7 pm!

There will also be an opportunity to play euchre and enjoy a luncheon at **Belleville First** on Valentines Day at 1:00 pm. Proceeds go their Church Improvement Fund.

If you live in Green County and this is STILL not enough euchre for you, you can play every 3rd Thursday at The Garden Apartments in Monroe!

Souper Bowl of Caring started in 1990 when a Super Bowl prayer inspired a group of young people to do something more then celebrate a game. Since then Souper Bow of Caring has raised more than \$60 million across the country for people in need. This year **Belleville First** will be celebrating Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday, February 7th.

All during the month of December **Lowell First UCC** held a baby shower for Mary and collected baby items that were then donated to the Dodge County Food Pantry.

Monticello Washington Reformation will hold their annual meeting on Jan 17th and they will follow it with a special celebration- the end of mortgage payments! They will be having a potluck and burning their mortgage. What a nice way to start a new decade!



Our Association pastor, along with many other pastors in our churches, closes his newsletter reflection with the salutation, "with the greatest of hope." For the last four days I have had my 20-month-old granddaughter Olive visiting. As I watch her nonstop energy (busy rearranging my house!), these words take on new meaning for me. It is with the greatest of hope that I pray she will know a world of peace and love. With strength from above, may all of us adults work hard towards that end- for all of God's children.

Happy New Year, Go and Serve.

Nancy