

***Transplanted for Mission***  
**A History of Advent Lutheran Church**  
**1960-2010**

I am honored as pastor of Advent to be writing this introduction to Advent's 50-year history. I've learned more about Advent's history this year than during the previous nine years I've been here. This past spring I read through the first 40 annual reports searching for insights to include in a letter to honor my predecessor Andrew Rogness upon his retirement. Pastor Rogness came to Advent fresh out of the seminary and my impression is that Advent and Andrew grew up together. The annual reports opened my eyes to the reality that Advent's first 15 or more years were challenging. Beginnings are difficult! In July I also received a letter from Advent's first pastor providing his unique perspective on Advent's first year and a half. Pastor David A Kramer, too, came right from the seminary. The newly elected bishop of the Wisconsin District of the American Lutheran Church decided that Pastor Kramer was too inexperienced to start a new congregation and gave him the boot. Pastor Kramer left after just 14 months, but by this time the congregation was organized, he had chosen the name "Advent" and a new building had been built and was being used for worship, Sunday School and other activities. The first person baptized in the new building was Pastor and Mrs. Kramer's daughter, Karen.

Pastor Kramer sets Advent's beginning in an historical context. He writes, "Dwight Eisenhower was still president, but Jack Kennedy's campaign was in full swing, the price of gasoline was under 30 cents per gallon and the post-WWII optimism was still around. Both houses and churches were springing up everywhere, at least in Madison they were." Today gas is around three dollars a gallon, the post-WWII optimism is long gone, the economy is shaky, many congregations and denominations are in decline, and global warming was not a consideration 50 years ago. In the early years, Advent was modest by necessity. Advent is now modest by choice because of its commitment to supporting other ministries with its dollars. Advent, after thought, conversation, study and prayer, has the courage to venture in new directions. In many respects Advent has been a countercultural community and for this reason the congregation will continue to draw people who have lost faith in the false promises of the world into this community of believers in the Triune God.

Pastor Kramer noted in his letter that the name, Advent, did not please many people. But the name fits us; we are an Advent people. We do not know what the next 50 years will bring, but we are confident that God will ultimately reconcile all things to God's self. In the meantime, we will do what we have been doing for the past 50 years—figure it out as we go along! Thank you for joining me in giving thanks to God for the abundant blessings God has poured out on Advent for the sake of the world through the past 50 years. Seeds were planted and God gave the growth! Thanks be to God!

*Jeff Wild, Pastor*  
*Advent Lutheran Church*  
*November 2010*

## **The Land**

A good history ought to go back to the land on which the story is played out. How were we so fortunate to acquire this wonderful site? It was a gift!

Brothers Herman and Gilman Dauck farmed this land, which their uncle, Karl Meyer, had bought in the late 1800s. When it came time for the brothers to retire and sell it, they decided to set aside a five-acre tract as a gift to be used to build a church. At a critical juncture Advent heard about their offer and gratefully accepted this amazing gift. It's hard to overestimate the positive impact this gift had on the struggling new venture that was coming into existence, the Madison Christian Community. An additional 3.4 acres were purchased from developer Pat Lucey before we broke ground.

The architect for the first MCC building paid homage to the agricultural heritage of this land by placing the stairwell in a sort of "silo." In our own small way we continued to farm the land by making plots available to members and neighbors for gardens. Since 2003 volunteers from the MCC have been engaged in a garden ministry in collaboration with elementary school children from the Lussier Education Center and prisoners from Oakhill Correctional Facility.

We recently received a letter from Dauck descendants thanking us for carrying on the tradition of growing food on this fertile land. They had read a newspaper article about the gardens and our two most recent additions: a winter wheat crop and five roosting hens!

Westfield Road was completed along the west edge of our land in 1977, which enabled us later to establish a second driveway and the lower parking lot. In 1979 we were required to sell one-half acre to the City of Madison when they re-positioned and improved the intersection of Gammon and Old Sauk Roads. In 2009 we became aware of the fact that our next-door neighbor was making use of ten feet of our property for a driveway extension. That will probably be the last slice of MCC land to be sold off!

We cherish and make use of the whole place, even the Spirit Woods, which has yet to be "finished." When completed, this wooded portion of the property will surround a quiet walking path. As mentioned elsewhere, the Memorial Garden is sacred land set aside as a final resting place for loved ones no longer living. The new Labyrinth will be available to anyone at any time for prayer and meditation. A "new" plant surprises us every once in a while in the prairie from seed that was sown 30 years ago! Hundreds of pounds of fruits and vegetables are harvested every year from the many MCC gardens. In connection with our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary we will be planting a young burr oak to replace the venerable old burr oak that stood in the "V" of the two wings of our church and which is sorely missed.

## **Our Buildings**

When Pastor David Kramer conducted Advent's first worship service on September 7, 1960, it was in space rented at the 7 Up bottling plant at 5105 University Avenue (soon to be demolished). By February 1961 the fledgling congregation had dedicated and moved into its own building at 5002 Sheboygan Avenue (now part of the Chapel Hill Apartment complex).

With the birth of the MCC in 1968, both Advent and the Community of Hope worshiped in the Sheboygan Avenue church until 1969, when the church property was sold and both congregations moved to rented space at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 326 S. Segoe Road, while their new building was being constructed. During this sojourn all three congregations supported a shared Sunday School.

On October 25, 1970, a joyful first service was held in the new Madison Christian Community at 7118 Old Sauk Road, in the sanctuary we now call the Covenant Room. One congregation would worship early, the other late, with Sunday School and Adult Education between services. Mid-year we observed “Switchover Sunday” and we’d trade worship times! During the summer both congregations met at 9:30 with one upstairs and one down.

By the 1990s there developed a strong desire for a second sanctuary so that both congregations could hold worship at the same hour, enabling MCC members to mingle before and after services. The early 8:50 worship slot was also perceived to be less than desirable in attracting new members. Sunday School classroom space had crept into every nook and cranny including the furnace room and stairwell! It was time to expand. The 1993 building program removed our distinctive “silo” and constructed a second sanctuary (the Blessing Room) with offices and education rooms on the lower level. The original office space on the first floor was transformed into a kitchen and an elevator was added to make the building handicapped accessible.

A fundraising effort in 2005 raised \$350,000 to upgrade and repair the original part of our church. We set aside \$20,000 of the total to pay apartment rent for a homeless family for two years.

From the earliest days we have made our facilities available to groups in need of meeting space. With brief interruptions, there has been a nursery school on site all four decades. Stroller’s Theater, during the ‘70s and ‘80s, was right here in our worship space! The Madison Boy Choir and Children’s Choir started out as tenants here. We’ve always been available to Madison area piano teachers for recitals and have hosted concerts of many varieties. Seventh Day Adventists worshipped here before they had their own church. Since 2003, a Chinese school has made this a lively place every Saturday. In this respect we are a community center, a community resource and happy to be so.

### **How Two Became One**

In 1967 a large number of Madison Protestant and Catholic churches in Madison sent representatives to discuss greater cooperation among and between themselves. As the talk turned to denominations sharing facilities, most participants fled or were yanked out of the deliberations by their judicatories. Only Advent Lutheran and the UCC continued the conversation. The Madison Christian Community is the result.

A core of Advent people had come to believe that unless we had something unique to offer on Madison’s west side, “just another Lutheran church” was not going to thrive at the corner of Sheboygan and Eau Claire avenues.

Four concepts formed the basis of the new community, which Advent (an already-existing congregation) and Hope (a new UCC mission) launched:

1. Show the world that by sharing facilities and resources the congregations could achieve greater economy and thus free up dollars for mission.
2. Show the world that Christian denominations can get along, can grow in understanding of each other and can present a common Christian witness.
3. Show the world that it is possible to enjoy the benefits of cooperation without the loss of autonomy in worship, preparation for membership or use of the sacraments.
4. Show the world that we welcome the opportunity for new expressions and new forms of ministry to adapt to changing needs.

A marriage took place in 1968. Advent Lutheran and Community of Hope UCC were joined in fear and trembling and high hopes. As in most marriages there have been rocky patches as well as occasions of exemplary harmony. Today the bonds of that partnership are so well established that it's impossible to relate the history of Advent without reference to the Madison Christian Community and our sister congregation, Community of Hope. We have learned from each other, been supported and affirmed by each other. We have cried and laughed together. The partnership has prodded us to open our minds and hearts, to take risks, to take a stand and to accept challenges we may not have undertaken alone. That's another plus: We never feel alone!

We're still Lutheran ... not "watered down." We have a reputation for generosity in benevolence giving and have provided volunteers to service organizations such as Lutheran Social Services, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Oakwood Lutheran Homes, the Jail Chaplaincy, Habitat for Humanity, IHN/The Road Home, Men's Homeless Shelter, Wexford Food Pantry, Dane County United and others. When we joined Madison Urban Ministry (MUM) in 1974 we were the first Lutheran congregation to do so.

### **The Church is the People**

We've never served lutefisk and lefse, but there are plenty of "son" and "sen" name endings on the member rolls to hint at the Scandinavian heritage of lots of our families. However, the present community comes from many different ethnic backgrounds and religious denominations, making for a rich diversity.

A few traditions have disappeared (a men's dartball team, the Holy Cows women's softball team and annual church picnics), but many have been retained and others added: youth and adult annual canoe trips, circles, salad suppers, family campouts, multi-media Confirmation services, at least one outdoor worship service each summer, hymn sing Sundays, etc. A recent addition is the Thanksgiving Eve Pie Fest!

Speaking of endurance, Ruth Olson and her daughter, Karen Schwarz, are the only living charter members who have been Advent members throughout its 50-year history. For 42 of those years, George Diel was Advent's treasurer!

At a Lenten service not long ago, Doug Johnson looked around and said, “There are more pastors here than people!” It’s true. A whole lot of pastors are members of Advent. When asked why this is, one pastor said he was a non-traditional guy looking for a non-traditional congregation. Another said he chose Advent for the same reasons that many people choose a church—because he knew and admired some of the folks who were already members. A third went into detail: “We recognize a vibrant congregation when we see one. There’s some Spirit-freedom in the air and a robust appetite for engagement on lots of levels. There is an ‘earthiness’ about this community that makes this journey of faith fun and challenging. In a few words it’s the ‘Spirit of this place’ that caught me. Solar panels on the roof, prairie, garden, open and welcoming stance, reaching out to the homeless and underprivileged, variety in worship, no pews, art wall, sense of humor, on and on.” For his part, Jeff Wild is pleased and honored that so many clergy have chosen Advent as their church home. “It keeps me on my toes,” he says.

Whether clergy or lay, the reasons given for joining Advent are strikingly similar:

“The congregation’s emphasis on stewardship ... We had never experienced this level of community/world involvement in a congregation. I was skeptical at first about joint worship and joint education but now feel that as the MCC we (Advent and Hope) are both stronger as congregations and better able to serve.”

“The preaching is inspiring, the music wonderful and the worship lively.”

“We are pleased that children are so important here.”

“I like a community that practices what it preaches and loves its members, too. I like the emphasis on youth programs -- the Sunday School, middle and high school programs, -- for our future hinges on them.”

“We like the ecumenical partnership. The pastor’s sermons apply to daily living and they help us get through the week. The concept of Advent is about hope and expectation, and we always feel more hopeful after a service at Advent.”

### **Annual Renewal**

Our annual renewal of membership is a distinctive feature. At Stewardship time each fall, we send out packets with several questions to be considered, including whether or not the person desires to continue membership in the coming year. This may seem strange, but it does challenge people to really rethink whether they have been fully engaged in their church, whether this church meets their needs, and whether they need either to re-commit to Advent or find another church home. If they wish to renew then they are asked to pledge their financial support and to sign up for the areas of ministry in which they would like to be involved.

### **Many Members, Many Ministries**

There are many examples at Advent and MCC of members who have a passion for a certain project, who persuade a few others to support their efforts, and pretty soon a whole new ministry has begun. They weren't recruited by the pastor or church council. In most cases they didn't have to ask permission from the pastors or council. They felt a call to help meet a need and they ran with it. Thus Advent's mission continues to expand. The following is not an exhaustive list, but will give you a feel for this bottom-up style of "God's work. Our hands."

#### Treasury of Love

In 1974 Margaret Smith became aware of a growing number of Madison residents experiencing hard times and in need of help. She asked Pastor Brown if there was a church fund to meet such emergency requests. There being none, she, the pastor and a couple others decided to start such a fund by placing a basket on the altar the first Sunday of the month and inviting members to contribute when they were able. In the early days the gifts were literally pennies to \$5 at most. That was before Dave and Kathy Mack's house fire, which was a wake-up call to Advent that without warning anyone of us could be in need of help. Ever since, the Treasury of Love has been generously supported and countless families, whether members or not, have been helped. A full accounting of all funds collected and anonymously disbursed is included in our newsletter.

#### The Prairie

Hope member Lois Komai remembers collecting prairie seeds in western Dane County in 1974 with former member Joyce Powers. The seeds were destined for the MCC prairie. That's when Lois became hooked on the prairie and she's been involved ever since, now heading up a loyal crew of MCC members who keep our prairie healthy while the prairie keeps rain that falls on our land on our land. Lois reminds us that the Bird Berm Prairie facing Old Sauk Road was Andrew Rogness' idea for making use of the fill from our building excavation in 1993.

#### Harvest of Hope

In January 1986, with over three feet of snow preventing farmers from being able to get into their fields to harvest their corn, Community of Hope member Roger Williams put out a call for volunteers to help hand-harvest corn. Two-hundred and fifty people from the Madison area (including both youth and adults from Advent) showed up on Martin Luther King weekend to do what machines couldn't. Out of that experience Roger launched a ministry to provide financial assistance and hope to Wisconsin farm families in crisis. To date they have distributed over \$873,000. We are proud that Advent is fully invested in this cause through the MCC.

#### MCC Quilters

In 1995 Hildy McGown asked her Circle friends if they would support her if she started a Lutheran World Relief quilt-making project. When five women said they would help, she convened the once-a-month workshop (now 20 women) that has met ever since and has shipped over 2,500 quilts all over the world.

### The Labyrinth

In 1996 David and Sonja Keesey-Berg and Lois Komai, from separate sources, learned about a labyrinth, a circular pattern upon which a person walks in meditation and prayer. Having experienced this form of meditation they wanted to bring it home to the MCC. With the help of others they set about to create on canvas an 11-course Chartres labyrinth, approximately 40 feet in diameter, which continues to travel to churches and retreats around the Madison area. Sonja estimates that as many as 700 people walk this canvas labyrinth each year. In 1998 Sonja planned the mowing of an outdoor labyrinth at MCC. She, along with David, Dobbin McNatt and Andrew Rogness, measured, marked and mowed the labyrinth that has been in use until now. A more permanent outdoor Santa Rosa seven-circuit labyrinth is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year. In 1999 Hope member Ginger Long was instrumental in seeing that a labyrinth was woven into new carpeting installed in the Covenant Room.

### Fair Trade Coffee Sales

Susan Gruber was involved with support for a Fair Trade coffee project before she moved from Milwaukee and joined Advent in 2002. ELCA congregations in Milwaukee had convinced farmers in Mt. Meru, Tanzania, to rebuild their coffee plantations, which they had abandoned due to low prices. Once here Susan convinced us to become an outlet for Mt. Meru coffee and today the MCC is the largest purchaser of coffee of all the churches that are involved. Almost all profits go to the growers because most of the work here in the U.S. is done by volunteers such as Susan.

### Immigrant Resettlement

In 2002 John Rowe received an unexpected phone call. It was from Ben Flumo, a Liberian man with whom John worked in the 1970s when he was there on a U.S. agricultural development project. The Rowes hadn't heard from Ben since they lived in Liberia nearly 30 years prior! Here was his request: Would John and Mary sign some papers so Ben's son-in-law, Zubah Gorvego, who had just won a diversity visa for himself and his family, could bring them all to the U.S.? "Signing some papers," Mary learned, was actually full sponsorship requiring a guarantee of financial responsibility for the family for three years. They did not know the Gorvego family, but they had tremendous respect for Ben and were well aware of the chaotic civil war devastating Liberia.

On the spur of the moment one Sunday, Mary got up during announcement time at Advent simply to ask for the congregation's prayers as she and John pondered this decision. As soon as she sat down, Jeff Wild went to the microphone and asked, "How many of you would be willing to help the Rowes sponsor this family?" When two-thirds of those present raised their hands, we knew that we had just signed on to another rewarding new mission, this time the actual rescue of an actual family from a war zone! Needless to say, a flurry of purposeful activity ensued. We later learned that Gorvego was the foster son of a Lutheran missionary and our church was the answer to her prayers. Today, Kebeh and Zubah Gorvego own a home in Middleton and the family are members of Advent, where Gorvego has served as treasurer. All five proudly became U.S. citizens in 2008.

From 1980 when Advent and Hope sponsored Tsi-Tsu and his Laotian Hmong family, through 2010 when the MCC work crew helped Habitat for Humanity build a new home for another Liberian immigrant family, the Bokais, the MCC has assisted in the resettlement of 47 newcomers to America!

#### Care Packages for Our Servicemen and Women

Retired Army Chaplain and Presbyterian minister Peter Fribley asked Brad Spencer to help him with shipping a load of books (many donated by Half-Price Books) to a Chaplain serving in Iraq with U.S. forces back in 2003. It wasn't long before Brad was making regular Sunday announcements requesting snack items, coffee, soccer balls, DVDs, CDs, children's clothing, Beanie Babies and more books for an ongoing ministry whereby members of MCC interact with decency and humanity toward our men and women in uniform, who then interact with decency and humanity toward Iraqi citizens.

#### Memorial Garden

In 2004 Fran Grugel felt the MCC needed to have on our property a permanent place for the cremated remains of loved ones. Surely we could dedicate such a place on our eight acres. In a matter of months a committee, permits, documents, plans and materials were assembled and our Memorial Garden took shape just east of our entrance.

#### Visits to Homebound

Eileen Bolstad and Margaret Smith, sensing that two dear friends could use some cheering up since they were no longer able to get to church, took it upon themselves in 2007 to start a schedule of regular visits for each of them. They recruited visitors, drew up schedules, and set in motion these lovely visits that benefit both Doris Roberts and Hildegard Scheibe AND the visitors that show up each week to share a cup of tea.

#### Prayer Shawl Ministry

The most recent addition to this list came about when brand-new member Winifred Brown announced that she would welcome other knitters to meet her on a certain night in 2010 at church to begin producing prayer shawls. A handful of MCC women are now applying their skills to a ministry that combines fellowship, crocheting, knitting and prayer.

#### **Getting the Word Out**

The Internet has made communications faster and easier. Our website ([www.madisonchristiancommunity.org](http://www.madisonchristiancommunity.org)) puts at people's fingertips lots of information, which can be regularly updated. E-mail informs members about emergencies where help may be needed quickly as well as providing topics for upcoming adult education sessions and reminders of meetings. Homebound parishioners can hear recorded sermons by visiting the website and clicking on the "sermons" button.



## **A Word about Our Lay Leaders**

What follows is a list of every Advent Council president from 1960 to 2010. How, exactly, does one get to be president? First you must be voted to a three-year term on the Church Council by the congregation at its January Annual Meeting. The Council elects its president for a one-year term from that group of seven and that person automatically becomes the president of the congregation. In alternate years Advent's president becomes the chair of the MCC Leadership Team, its corporate board.

### **Advent Council Presidents**

John Law, Jr.	Bill Moorman	Mary Rowe
Harvey Maahs	Rich Olson	Jan Robertson
Reuben Gartman	Ordean Torstenson	Rita Olson
Forrest Harms	Rea Gustafson	Dean Krahn
Gerry Larson	Zane Torgerude	Jeff Billerbeck
Don Grams	Harry Libby	Reed Cooper
Mary Neuendorf	Tom Kunes	Ellen Lindgren
Howard Hagens	Linda Pils	Larry Erickson
John Suby	Paul Kent	Doug Johnson
Helen Proksch	Val Dantoin	David Canon
William Young	Scott Dettman	Joanna McDonald
Tom Ullsvik	Jeff Zutz	Gretchen Wahl
Myrna McNatt	Ken Streit	

### **Advent Pastors through the Years**

1960-1961	David Allen Kramer
1961-1964	Henry Leonard Anderson
1964-1971	Ray K. Lester
1971-1972	Hans Frederick Gustafson (Interim)
1972-1975	Robert J. Brown
1975-1999	Andrew Rogness
1999-2000	Sande Nelson (Interim)
2000-Present	Jeff Wild

You can't help but notice the long tenure of Andrew Rogness. This much-beloved shepherd died at age 62 on June 30, 2010, and is honored and remembered with an engraved stone in our Memorial Garden.

### **Being Green**

Andrew awakened us to environmental stewardship, but Jeff Wild has nudged us into becoming one of the greenest churches anywhere. Since Jeff arrived in 2000 we have installed solar panels on our roof, begun a garden ministry with the elementary children at Wexford/Lussier Education Center that is now in its eighth year, converted our garden tractor to run on discarded cooking oil, created a rain garden, installed a 2,500-gallon rain barrel and irrigation system to water our garden, and in 2010 started raising a new MCC—the Madison chicken community! Though Jeff would never claim sole credit for this list, surely his ecological conscience, fertile imagination and grant-writing skills have

been significant factors. Our garden ministry has been featured in *The Lutheran*, on the front page of the *Wisconsin State Journal* twice, and in a film produced by Advent and selected to be shown at ELCA Churchwide Assembly. In 2003 the Department of Energy named us one of four Energy Star Congregations. In 2007 the National Council of Churches named us one of four Great Green Congregations.

### **Making a Joyful Noise**

Unlike many Lutheran churches, Advent has neither an organ nor a choir. This might lead one to think music doesn't matter here. Wrong! In fact, music has had a central place in our life together. God has blessed this community with talented musicians who willingly share their talents. With the exception of one five-month period a few years ago, our service pianists have been and continue to be from our membership. These pianists show incredible flexibility as they lead the congregation in one of a dozen plus liturgies we rotate. Some members will remember with love and gratitude former Advent pianists Sue Blekeberg, Sybil Klatt (formerly Walluks), Sherri Hanson, Scot Hanna-Weir, Margaret Smith, Janet Billerbeck, John Miles, Mary Bowman and Shelly Gustafson (a talented high school pianist).

Advent welcomes and encourages young musicians, providing a warm and generous audience. Youth often play the prelude or during the offering, and take part in special musical group performances throughout the year.

On Sunday mornings the congregation sings like a choir, breaking into soprano, alto, tenor and bass during familiar hymns. It is a happy surprise when the pianist stops playing altogether and lets the congregation finish a hymn a cappella and in four-part harmony!

Choirs and instrumental ensembles form for specific liturgies, special services or events. The drumming circle, for instance, enhances our African Song Celebration. Volunteer cantors assist when called upon. Over the course of a year, it's safe to say our worship services call upon the artistry of 55 musicians or more.

### **Accepting and Affirming**

Of the 22 ELCA congregations who advertise in the Saturday *Wisconsin State Journal*, only Lake Edge joins Advent in proclaiming a welcome to all "without regard to race, family or economic status or sexual orientation." Questions that can and do divide congregations have been resolved at Advent through study and discussion. Here are some examples: Our acceptance of a wide variety of liturgies; the ease with which we use multiple versions of the Lord's Prayer; letting each family decide for itself the age at which their child(ren) will receive communion; becoming one of the earliest congregations to offer sabbatical leave to pastors; the decision to offer extra-legal sanctuary to two refugee families; our opposition to the Wisconsin referendum outlawing same-sex marriage; our decision to hold a service mourning the human cost of the Iraq war amidst white crosses planted on our recently-burned-over black prairie.

### **But Not Perfect**

Our 50 years have not passed without controversy, however. The decision to form an ecumenical partnership in 1968 was, without a doubt, the most contentious. The fact that we survived the pain (and it was deep pain) of the loss of members and the uncertainty that accompanied that whole process highlights the debt of gratitude we owe to visionary pastors Ray Lester and UCC representative Richard Wichlei. Ray himself lauds the strong leadership of the Advent Council at the time and the stability that came with the arrival and 17-year tenure of Hope's first pastor, Daniel Schmiechen. That we came through the prolonged lean financial years reminds us to be grateful for the UCC and Lutheran subsidies and loans that kept the lights on.

As David Keesey-Berg so eloquently stated in his essay called *Gifted Land*, the challenges Advent faced in the 1960s and '70s can be seen "... as a means by which God pruned his people and nurtured in them a spirit of courage and gratitude ... I believe that spirit of gratitude is alive and well at MCC and it has helped us to become a more creative and compassionate community of faith." Needless to say, the Holy Spirit was with us then and is now and can be counted on as we move into the next chapter of our history. Thanks be to God!



**Picture compliments of John Rowe**

## **Acknowledgments**

I want to acknowledge the following documents for their valuable assistance in the preparation of this account and recommend them to anyone wishing to get a more in-depth picture of events that have brought us to this happy 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Blessed Be the Tie that Binds, Advent 1960-1985

The Story of the Madison Christian Community

Congregational Mission Profile, 2000

Gifted Land, 2003

The MCC Remembers, 2009

In addition I thank the many members of both Advent and Hope who shared their memories, analysis, suggestions and help in assembling this review of what makes Advent Advent, especially Sonja Keesey-Berg, MCC's administrative secretary, whose knowledge and helpfulness are legendary! Debra Greene was the editor.

*Hildy McGown*

## **MCC Staff**

Tisha Brown, Pastor, Community of Hope UCC

Jeff Wild, Pastor, Advent Lutheran

Jen Streit, Youth Ministry

Sonja Keesey-Berg, Administrative Secretary

Tom Matthews, Secretarial Assistant and Maintenance

## **Current Advent Council**

Gretchen Wahl, President

Marily Crews-Nelson

John Malecki

Rolf Nervig

Dean Ryerson

Bob Schneider

Julie M. Walsh

Pastor Jeff Wild, ex officio

## **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee**

Kathy Johnson, Chair

John Brugge, Sr

Carrie McGinley

Hildy McGown

Myrna McNatt

Karen Schwarz

Lynn Schultz

Rita Spencer