

The Congregationalist

January 27, 1992

First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa



Celebrate Our 150th Anniversary

While the official date for First Congregational's 150th Anniversary is March 1, 1992, several activities have already been held and many more are planned. Still ahead in February and March are Dr. Ream's visit, the Anniversary Dinner, the anniversary worship services on March 1, a concert featuring two new works of church music commissioned by the congregation, and Alice Parker's 'hymn sing' at both services on March 8. See the following for more details of these events.

An anniversary is a time for celebration. After 150 years of serving members and supporting the community, First Congregational has many reasons to celebrate. An anniversary is also a time of rededication. Our church would not be as strong as it is were it not for the vision and commitment of members past. For 150 years, they have volunteered their time and money to develop and maintain strong programs of preaching, Christian Education, music, and community outreach. If we current members expect an equally joyous 175th anniversary celebration in 2017, our dedication can be no less.

On March 1, 1842, 11 people met in the log house of Deacon Richard Gilbert, located near the present intersection of North Avenue and Mayfair Road. Several years later the members bought a blueberry patch for \$50.00 on what was to become Church Street. By 1853, they had built

their first church and the membership stood at 86.

Many of Wauwatosa's early settlers were members of our church. The first town clerk, Jonathan Warren, and its first postmaster, Nathaniel Wesson, worshiped here. And, over the decades, the names of many others—such as Blanchard, Damon, Gilbert, Hart, Jacobus, Potter, Rogers, Stickney, Swan and Warren—have been added to city streets and historic sites.

As our congregation grew, the original church was expanded in 1870 and again in 1888. By 1919, still more room was needed. So, a new sanctuary was built and the 1853 structure was moved westward on the property and converted to an education building. In 1959, a chapel and additional educational facilities and offices were added to create the structure that stands today.

With 1650 members, First Congregational is the largest Congregational Church in Wisconsin and one of the largest in the United States. We are a member of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, a fellowship of 400 Free Congregational Churches. In 1955, First Congregational Church and 140 representatives of other Congregational Churches joined together to preserve the Free Congregational Way. This led to the formation of the NACCC and the eventual location of its headquarters in Oak Creek, Wisconsin.

Highlights of This Issue

February 8
Reception for
Dr. Norman and Muriel Ream

February 9
Guest Speaker
Dr. Norman Ream

February 29
Anniversary Dinner

March 1
150th Anniversary Services

March 1
Commissioned Works
and Special Music

March 8
Alice Parker Hymn Sings

May 19 & 20
"A Celebration of Memories"
Antique Show

July 4
Anniversary Parade Float

September
Commemorative Book Published

150th
Anniversary
1842-1992

Norman S. Ream - Former Pastor to Lead Worship

Come and hear Dr. Ream on February 9th at the 9 AM and 11 AM services in celebration of 150 years of a freely governed community of faith.

Who is this man we call Minister Emeritus who that led our church for 25 years? Norm came to our church from outside of the Congregational fellowship because of his deep interest in the free church movement. He was the minister of a prominent Methodist Church in Neenah, Wisconsin before joining our church.

A native of Salt Lake City, Norm was a graduate of the law school at the University of Utah where he received his J.D. degree in 1941. He received his Bachelor of Divinity degree from Garrett Theological Seminary in 1944, and an honorary D.D. from Piedmont College in 1967.

He married Muriel Howe of River Forest, Illinois in 1944. The Reams have four children: Claudia, Norman H., Roger, and Sarah. Today, Norm and Muriel live in Estes Park, Colorado where they enjoy the quiet life in the mountains.

There are a number of notable events in our history that are traced to Norm's leadership.

He was the catalyst for forming the Wauwatosa Retired Men's Club in 1960. By 1964 it had a self-limited membership and a waiting list of 91. Dr. Ream was named Wauwatosa's Outstanding Citizen of 1968. At the ceremony, Mr. William Sparling, a past moderator of the church, said, "Because of his inspirational leadership, we are better Christians, better Americans, and better appreciate the freedoms we enjoy."

A prolific writer, Norm received awards in 1962, 1964, and 1967 from the Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge, "for outstanding achievement in bringing about a better understanding of the American way of life." His best known speech, "The Best Kind of Government" was published in booklet form and is reprinted in the Congressional Record in 1967.

In 1965, he proposed that the church develop a retirement home. After gathering financial support, the church broke ground on the Congregational Home in 1972 and opened the doors in 1974. Today the home is entirely self-supporting.

Finally, we cannot forget Dr. Ream's sermons. Inspired by his own



"Little Acre", he continually reminded us of the grandeur of the universe, with its logical order balanced by the fallibility of human nature, the precious balance of national freedoms with personal responsibilities, and the value of solitude with nature and communion with our God.

A reception for Norm and Muriel Ream will be held Saturday afternoon, February 8, between 3 and 5 P.M. in the Friendship Lounge. Be sure to attend and renew acquaintance with the Reams.

Our New Look

We are trying something new! At the end of each month we will be printing a newsletter like this. This newsletter will cover special events and give you more in depth information about who and what is happening in our church. We welcome your suggestions and comments about our newsletter.

Thank You . . .

Our 150th Anniversary Committee deserves a big thank you. This committee was appointed by the moderator in the summer of 1990 and convened in September, 1990. It has met monthly and diligently developed the anniversary plans and programs for us.

Betty Boyce
Joyce Orr
Cindy Frederick
Barbara Zaiser

Marge Fowler
Betsy Lierk
Julius Ruff
Paul Stein

Bill Edens
Toby Ralph
Don Zentner

Jan Jacobs, Chairman

Phil Muth, Jan Burgess, Les Grube, ex-officio

New Choral Work Created for 150th Anniversary



First Congregational Church has commissioned Alice Parker, a noted American composer and conductor, to create a new work for chorus and organ in celebration of our 150th Anniversary. The composition will be presented in the special concert at 4:00 P.M., on Sunday, March 1.

"We wanted to commission a piece that was fitting for our anniversary," said Lee Jacobi, Director of Music, "And that would be a contribution to the choral literature for churches. Virtually everything that Alice Parker writes is published. So, we asked her to create a piece for organ and voices that is celebratory in nature and of moderate difficulty. The

text is to be applicable to a church service but not necessarily of Biblical origin."

Alice Parker established herself as a foremost arranger when she collaborated with Robert Shaw to create music for his famed Robert Shaw Chorale. Many of those arrangements have become standard repertoire for choruses all over the world. She has also composed operas, cantatas, song cycles, chamber music for voices and instruments, and set hundreds of sacred and secular melodies.

"Her work is very melodic, very singable," said Jacobi. "We sang several of her compositions at our Christmas concert, last December."

Alice Parker is a graduate of Smith College and the Julliard School of Music. A fellow at the MacDowell and Millay Colonies for the Arts, she was awarded the Smith College Medal in 1982 for 'filling countless lives with song'.

She travels extensively, performing her works and the choral masterworks with college, university, community and church groups. She has also led improvisatory singing on the radio program 'A Prairie Home Companion' and in neighborhood sings in New York City.

Parker is cited in *Contemporary American Composers*, Anderson; *Women in American Music*, Block and Neuls-Bates; *Unsung: A History of Women in American Music*, Ammer; *The Who's Who of American Women*; *The World Who's Who of Women*; and the *Dictionary of American Biography*.

On March 8th, the Sunday following the 150th Anniversary, Alice Parker will visit our church to personally direct the congregation in 'hymn sings' at both morning services.

New Organ Work Commissioned For 150th

Raymond H. Haan, well-known American composer is creating a new work for our 150th anniversary. The piece for solo organ will be performed at a special concert at 4:00 P.M., Sunday, March 1.

"Mr. Haan's work is widely published and enjoyed," said Mrs. Betty Dethmers, church organist. "He is developing a theme and variations on the St. Thomas tune of the hymn, 'I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord.' It will be a piece for solo organ, about five minutes in length. We requested a theme and variations because it shows off the organ's capability so well."

Raymond H. Haan is Director of Music at Cutlerville East Christian

Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He has been published extensively by more than 20 national publishers. His music is performed widely in the United States and abroad. As a member of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP), he has received composer's awards for the past 12 years.

Haan is a graduate of Calvin College and the University of Michigan. He and his wife, Claretta, reside in Cutlerville, a suburb of Grand Rapids. They have four grown children.

Anniversary Banquet Saturday, February 29

The 150th Anniversary Banquet will begin with a pre-dinner reception in the Friendship Lounge from 5:30 to 6:15. The Clyde Russell Trio will perform during the reception.

The Covenant Class of 1992 will begin serving a gourmet dinner in the Social Hall at 6:15. John Erdahl has crafted special table decorations for the occasion. These handmade pieces will be for sale after the banquet.

William Godfrey will direct the evening activities as Master of Ceremonies. A former Associate Minister from our church, the Reverend Richard P. Buchman of the Ozaukee Congregational Church, will give the banquet address. The Church Street Singers, under the direction of David Dethmers, will sing several selections to close the evening's activities.

Make your reservations now. Each gourmet dinner will be \$12.00 per person and include a souvenir. Your pre-paid reservations must be made to the church office by noon, Monday, February 24th.

RESERVE NOW, 258-7375

150th Anniversary Sunday, March 1, 1992

Morning Service

Dr. Philip Muth will be speaking on the theme "More Truth and Light." The title is based on a quote from the Reverend John Robinson, Pastor of the Pilgrims. As the pilgrims were leaving for the new world Pastor Robinson said, "The Lord has yet more truth and light to bring forth from His Holy Word."

Afternoon Concert

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| 1. Let the Peoples Praise You, O God | Bruce Neswick |
| 2. Love Divine, All Loves Excelling | Peter Mathews |
| 3. Psalm 148 | Gustav Holst |
| 4. The King of Love My Shepherd Is | Donald Busarow |
| 5. Theme and Variations on St. Thomas Tune | Raymond Haan |
| 6. Lord, Thou Hast Been Our Refuge | Ralph Vaughn Williams |
| 7. Sonnet | Alice Parker |
| 8. The Lord Bless You and Keep You | John Rutter |



Enjoy A Hymn Sing - March 8

Regardless of how well you sing, be sure to attend one of the Alice Parker 'hymn sings' on Sunday, March 1, 1992. At both morning services, Miss Parker will share in the celebration of our 150th Anniversary by directing each congregation as if it were one large chorus.

"Alice Parker believes that within every person there is an artist and all she has to do is release that artistry," said Lee Jacobi, Director of Music. "Using the Congregational Hymnal as a text, and taking on the roles of musical historian, storyteller and choral director, she will lead the entire congregation in a transforming, magical experience. Everyone will sing with an undiscovered skill and joy."

Alice Parker leads more than 20 workshops each year that focus on the renewal of congregational

singing. She has worked with all of the major denominations. In a typical workshop, she interweaves three ideas: the hymnal as a musical resource, the congregation as a potential chorus, and a form of worship that uses both.

The hymnal is a musical resource. Any hymnal is a historical anthology of texts and tunes. Some contain a wider variety than others, but most carry tunes from at least three centuries. Miss Parker looks at the origin of the melodies and demonstrates ways of making the 'sing' in appropriate styles.

The congregation is a potential chorus. Miss Parker works without accompaniment, teaching each melody by rote because it is the quickest way to also teach tempo, mood, sonority, and articulation. The congregation

responds to each phrase, mastering the notes, rhythm, and style.

Worship with a singing congregation. This congregation-as-choir is central to the worship service. The joining of voices in wonderful sound releases tensions, opens hearts, creates bonds, and returns a worthy musical offering to the Creator.

Regardless of what you think of your singing ability, Lee Jacobi promises you an Alice Parker 'hymn sing' will be a spiritual occasion.

Commerative Book

In view of the significance of the church's one-hundred and fiftieth anniversary, we are planning a particularly ambitious commemorative history to be published in September, 1992. Our planned history will outline the origins of Congregationalism, examine the early nineteenth-century Protestant effort to Christianize the frontier, and trace the origins and history of First Congregational Church. Particular emphasis will be placed on the past twenty-five years of the church's history. The illustrated volume will be prepared by Bill Edens, Toby Ralph, Julius Ruff and Barbara Zaiser.

Antique Show "Celebration of Memories"

On May 19th and 20th, the traditional antique show will return for this special year. Antique dealers will exhibit in the Social Hall. In addition, there will be displays, a luncheon and coffee shop, raffles, bakery and spring plants and a new edition of our cookbook.

July 4th Parade Float

The church will be represented in the Wauwatosa 4th of July parade with a float created on the theme of the 150th anniversary. Boy Scout Troop #47 will construct the float. The troop is sponsored by the church.

Souvenirs Available

A bound commemorative edition will be released featuring the past history and the recent commemorative events. It will be a true collector's item and treasured for years to come. Other souvenir items available are mugs, T-shirts, and stationery with our anniversary logo and are available for sale in the church office and at special events.

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CAREER SUPPORT GROUP

Mon., Jan. 27, 7:00 P.M.

will meet in Church Library

For those seeking employment and also for anyone interested in making a career change.

CIRCLE 12 TO MEET

Business and Professional Women will meet Wed., Feb. 5, at 5:30, for dinner and a program in Friendship Lounge. Please call hostesses, Marion Halmstad, 453-5890, or Verna Van Uxem, 464-0292.

JANUARY 26, 1992

SUNDAY 9:00 and 11:00 A.M.

Sermon: *"Finding True Happiness"*

Scripture: Psalm 1:1-6, Matthew 5:1-12 Philip A. Muth

HABITAT WORK IN FULL SWING

Church members work side by side at Habitat House, 2212 N. 36 St. on Monday mornings from 8:30-Noon and Saturdays, 9-3. Contact Rod Schmidt at 771-2880, if a Monday or Wednesday night from 5-8 works into your schedule better. Lunches are served on Saturdays, and if you would like to prepare a lunch, call Kris Mesheski for open dates at 476-4616.

PILGRIM FELLOWSHIPS

Meetings Wed., Jan. 29

JR. P.F., 4-5:30 P.M.: Teams will participate in a Treasure Hunt throughout the church.

SR. P.F., 6:30-8:30 P.M..

HELP AT ST. VINCENT FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Our church members prepare and serve at St. Vincent's the first Friday of each month. Food is prepared here at the church at 9:00 A.M.; transported to St. Vincent's, 931 W. Madison, at 4:15, and served at 5:00 P.M. Singles, couples and groups are encouraged to join in this fellowship. Call Kay and Howie Millen, 476-6694, and say you'll help.

MAIL VOLUNTEERS

Thurs., Feb. 27, 10:00 A.M.

Anyone who can help with a mailing is invited to join in fellowship in Friendship Lounge. We'll be sending out Lenten Booklets on Feb. 27th.

PARTNER PROGRAM

Sunday, February 2, 2:00 P.M.

All lay ministers in the Partner Program and others interested in visiting or homebound members are invited to meeting in Friendship Lounge.

SERVING JAN. 26

Director of Music--Lee Jacobi

Organist--Betty Dethmers

Head Usher--Butch Boyd

Ushers--9:00--Marty Vander Velde, Captain; Mark Lemke, Tom Kielma, Roger Gruebling, Joe Berte, George Sorum--

11:00--Tom Winkel, Captain; Phil Landis, Lee Tolg, Ken Wittig, Lewis Wrangell

YOUTH ALIVE

Senior High youth will meet Sunday, Feb. 9, 6:00-8:00 P.M., at Sarah Ornst's, 14305 Hillside Rd., EG, 782-6263 Bring a soda and a snack to share.

WEEK OF JANUARY 26

Worship Services	Su. 9 & 11 a.m.
Nursery Care	Su. 9 & 11 a.m.
Sunday School	Su. 9 & 11 a.m.
Covenant Class I	Su. 10:00 a.m.
Covenant Class II	Su. 10:00 a.m.
Junior Choir	Su. 10:00 a.m.
Adult Ringers	Su. 10:00 a.m.
Career Support Group	Mo. 7:00 p.m.
Bd/Trustees	Mo. 7:30 p.m.
Alcoholics Anon.	Mo. 8:00 p.m.
Retired Men's Board	Tu. 9:15 a.m.
Boy Scout Troup 47	Tu. 7:00 p.m.
Church St. Singers	Tu. 7:30 p.m.
W'kday Church Sch'l	We. 3.45 p.m.
Junior P.F.	We. 4:00 p.m.
Senior P.F.	We. 6:30 p.m.
Twin Blessed Mothers	We. 7:30 p.m.
Pilgrim Choir	Th. 6:45 p.m.
Chancel Choir	Th. 7:30 p.m.
Artists' Group	Fr. 10:00 a.m.

THE CONGREGATIONALIST
(USPS 669-940) is published weekly by
First Congregational Church, 1511
Church St., Wauwatosa, WI 53213-2593.
Yearly subscription \$10.00.
Second class postage paid at
Milwaukee, WI 53213.
POSTMASTER: Send address
changes to
The Congregationalist, 1511 Church
St.,
Wauwatosa, WI 53213-259
Volume 92 Issue 4

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAUWATOSA

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