

the Congregationalist newsletter

February 23, 1992

First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa

DOUG JACOBSON, OUR NEW MODERATOR

"This is a Congregational church," reflected Doug Jacobson, newly elected Moderator of the church, in a recent interview. "It belongs to the people, and it will succeed only if all the people in the congregation take an active part. That is my aim . . . that all members make a personal commitment to become more involved and make the church a part of their lives."



"I am honored and very excited. There are lots of things we can do to make the next 150 years even better than the last . . ."

Like all Congregational churches, our church is administered by a Council of elected members. The moderator acts as lay leader of the church, guiding the Council as they administer the day-to-day needs of the congregation, just as the senior minister addresses its spiritual needs. Doug was selected by the Nominating Committee in late 1991.

continued on page 7

NEWSLETTER FORMAT: A NEW COMMUNICATIONS VEHICLE

In a large church such as ours, the amount of information which must be disseminated is great and can't always be conveyed during a Sunday morning coffee hour or in the weekly *Congregationalist*. People often say, "I didn't know that," or, "I wish I'd known more about that [event, concert, group, committee, activity] in time to get involved." Yet our members and their activities are the church.

Late in 1991, the Long Range Planning Committee and the Communications Committee sought to address this need. Thus, the expanded *Congregationalist Newsletter* was created.

The goals of the *Newsletter* are many and varied: to provide information on current church activities, needs, and services; to inform members about the church's history as well as its long-range plans; to entertain with stories and photos highlighting interesting aspects of our membership. But the fundamental purpose of this newsletter is that of an instrument to bring members of First Congregational Church together as they do God's work.

January's *Newsletter* focused on the celebration of the 150th Anniversary. February's issue features articles on our ministerial staff and their duties. Subsequent issues may take on a new look, and new features,

as the *Newsletter* evolves into a print forum for church news and ideas. Expanding the format allows for more photos, longer articles, a "month-at-a-glance" calendar of non-routine events, and a wider range of topics. Every issue is intended to be a useful two-way communication vehicle. However, this type of communication can't be accomplished in a vacuum: we need input from members. Contact the church office with ideas and information you would like to see in future issues of the *Newsletter*.

It's been said that "every person has at least one novel in them." Likewise, every member of First Congregational Church is important and has something meaningful to say. With your help and God's blessing, the *Newsletter* will help turn "I didn't know that" into "I'm so glad I got involved." Let's hear from you!

HIGHLIGHTS

Expanded Newsletter

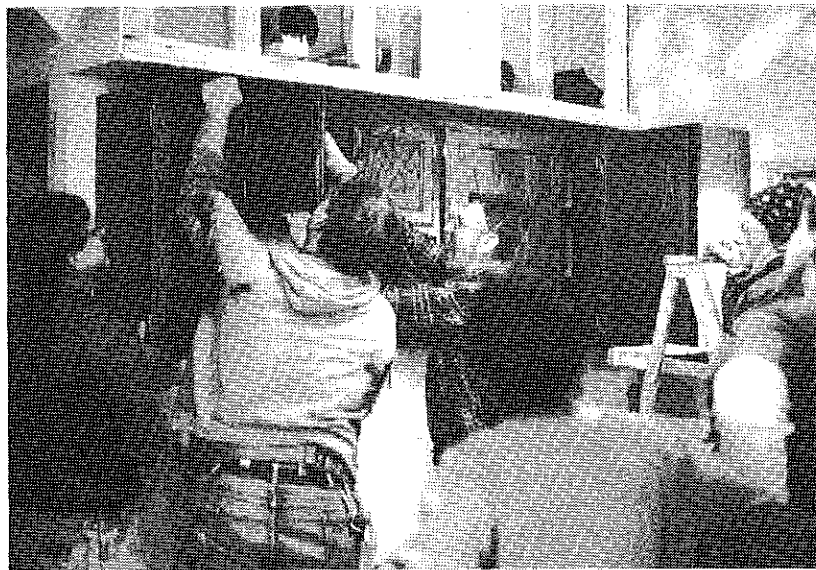
New Church Moderator

Pastoral Care, what is it?

Special Services,
Music Celebration
March 1

Hymn Sing
March 8

HABITAT HOUSE INTERIORS TAKING SHAPE



150th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Some of the most exciting events of our Anniversary Celebration are coming up in the next few days. Mark your calendars, and

CELEBRATE!

Anniversary Banquet

February 29

Reception 5:30 P.M.

Dinner 6:15 P.M.

Banquet address by the Rev. Richard Homan

Music provided by the

Clyde Russell Duo

and the Church Street Singers

Anniversary Church Services

March 1

9:00 and 11:00 A.M.

"More Truth and Light"

Dr. Philip Muth

Anniversary Choir Concert

March 1

4:00 P.M.

The compositions commissioned by our church for the 150th Anniversary will be performed for the first time at this concert: Raymond H. Haan's "Variations on the Tune 'St. Thomas'" (hymn 269), for solo organ, and Alice Parker's choral piece, "Mind and Heart."

Congregational Hymn Sing

March 8

9:00 and 11:00 A.M.

Directed by Alice Parker

The New Covenant, Our Commitment to Faith

Philip A. Muth

At the Annual Meeting of the church, the congregation voted to adopt a new church covenant. It reads as follows:

"As followers of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves to share in the worship and service of God, to grow in the knowledge and expression of our faith, to reach out with compassion to those in need, to treat each other with love and understanding, and to return to God a portion of His Gifts."

The new Covenant came from the Long Range Planning Committee which noted that our old "Covenant" was really the statement of purpose contained in our constitution and did not contain any real declaration of commitment. In these days when there are so many conflicting demands upon our time and energy, the Committee felt that we need to make a high level of commitment to the church. That commitment is not only theologically sound; it is essential to a healthy church.

We expect to use the new Covenant often (certainly at the reception of new members on March 29th), and we hope all members will practice the commitment it promises.

The Congregationalist Newsletter

Editor

Rachel Pearson

Communications Committee

Mary York, Chairman,
Susan Barth, Jane Jacobson,
Sharon Koenings, Tom Gold,
Rachel Pearson, Eric McAttee

A WEALTH OF CARING

Our church is blessed with not one, but two, individuals whose duties include the term "Pastoral Care."



John Strassburger comes to First Congregational Church with twelve years of professional experience as a pastoral counselor, and nine years as a parish pastor. His training and background include a wide variety of clinical and congregational settings. John is the staff resource person to any group or individual in the church expressing needs for pastoral care and counseling. Priority is given to hospital visits, shut-ins, meeting with individuals in crisis situations or in grief, and for confidential counseling. He works with the coordinators of the Partner Program for home bound members, the ongoing Grief Support Group, the Mayfair Interfaith community program for older adults, and the newly-formed Pastoral Care Committee of the Board of Deacons. John related, "You could say that Pastoral Care encompasses everything we do to make sure none of our members slips through the cracks. I see the work of

pastoral care and crisis intervention as *presence*. In the nurturing of souls, *being there* is of paramount importance."

In the coming months, John will encourage the growth and development of new programs and methods for meeting our members' spiritual needs. "I'd even like to move away from strictly identifying 'Pastoral Care' with one or two staff persons or groups, and develop the concept of 'Congregational Care' in which more lay people are active and involved," John said. In other words, Pastoral Care is not just for pastors.

Mary Koch began an intern year with our church in September of 1991. Her work began immediately as an interim Pastoral Care provider while the church searched for a successor to Mark Dunn. This includes teaching the Covenant Class and visiting members of our church who reside in nursing homes, intermediate care facilities, and assisted-living apartments.

Mary says, "My ministry could be said to cover everyone in the church, but the need for pastoral care is greatest among older members who may be unable to attend church services on a regular basis." She spends each Monday making as many visits as possible, from the Congregational Home, Alexian Village, and as far north as Cedar Ridge in West Bend.

Mary described her visits: "I talk to each person about their health and day-to-day concerns, pray with them, and try to ascertain where God's spirit is moving in their lives." Later, each visit is written up in a process called "Journaling," in

which she briefly records her thoughts on each person's spiritual needs. She may also refer the member to the Grief Counseling Group or the Partner Program.

"My aim is to touch base with our older members and determine how our church can meet their needs. We are always considering different ways to provide a 'pastoral touch.' One thing we need immediately is to have more people involved in the Partner Program," Mary says. In addition to meeting a vital need in our church, this intern year is fulfilling part of the applied ministry requirement for Mary's pastoral education.



She spent her 1991 "summer vacation" as a chaplain at St. Luke's Hospital in Milwaukee. The wife of our Christian Fellowship Minister, Rick Koch, Mary is a student at Garrett-Evangelical Seminary in Evanston, Illinois, and will graduate in May of this year.

Sunday, February 23
 Services at 9:00 and 11:00 A.M.
 Sermon by Richard J. Koch:
 "What Credit Is That To You?"
 Scripture:
 Luke 6:27-38, Psalm 37:1-11

SERVING FEB. 23
 Director of Music—Lee Jacobi
 Organist—Betty Dethmers
 Head Usher—Butch Boyd
Ushers—9:00—Tom McLenahan,
 Captain; Chuck and Colleen Foster,
 Bruce Burgess, Gladys McLenahan
11:00—Alex Saeger, Captain; Jeff
 Saeger, Brooks Boyce, Bill Hockensmith,
 Jack Brussock

| WEEK of FEBRUARY 23 | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 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. |
| Cherub Choir | Su | 10:00 a.m. |
| Adult Ringers | Su | 10:00 a.m. |
| Junior Choir | Su | 10:30 a.m. |
| Council Social | Su | 7:00 p.m. |
| Career Support | Mo | 7:00 p.m. |
| Alcoholics Anon. | Mo | 8:00 p.m. |
| Retired Men's Board | Tu | 9:15 a.m. |
| Boy Scout Troop 47 | Tu | 7:00 p.m. |
| Sunday 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 Moms | We | 7:00 p.m. |
| Bible Class | We | 7:30 p.m. |
| Women Book Mailing | Th | 10:00 a.m. |
| Pilgrim Choir | Th | 6:45 p.m. |
| Chancel Choir | Th | 7:30 p.m. |
| Artists' Group | Fr | 10:00 a.m. |
| 150 Anniversary Celebration | Sat. | |
| Reception | | 5:30 p.m. |
| Dinner | | 6:15 p.m. |

**RECEPTION FOR BOARDS
 AND COMMITTEES**

A reception for over 100 people who currently serve on our many boards and committees will be held on Sunday, February 23, 1992, in Friendship Lounge. The purpose of the reception is to acknowledge the work of everyone who is giving of their time, and the many people who have given of their time in the past, to help Make A Difference in the lives of every member of our congregation.

All of us who have served on boards or committees over the years know what a major responsibility it is to develop and implement programs for a 1600-member congregation. The reception is intended to provide opportunity for everyone who is currently serving to get to know each other a little better and learn a little more about what is going on throughout the church.

We are all in this together, and we all have a common goal . . . to be the best that we can possibly be.

First Congregational Church

1511 Church Street, Wauwatosa WI 53213
 (414) 258-7375

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Minister | Rev. Phillip A. Muth |
| Christian Fellowship | Rev. Richard J. Koch |
| Pastoral Care | Rev. John H. Strassburger |
| Christian Education Director | Debby Wakefield |
| Administrator | Lester E. Grube, Jr. |
| Minister Emeritus | Rev. Norman S. Ream, D.D. |

**AN INVITATION
 FOR
 NEW MEMBERS TO JOIN**

An informational forum on the opportunities and activities available in this church will be presented at 3:00 P.M. on March 8th for anyone interested in joining. New Members will be received on Sunday, March 29th, at both the 9:00 and 11:00 A.M. services, and a dinner will be held in their honor Tuesday, March 31st.

Call the church office, 258-7375, to be added to our mailing list, if you have not already done so.

**MAIL VOLUNTEERS
 Thurs.,
 Feb. 27,
 10:00 A.M.**

The church office needs your help in sending out Lenten Booklets. Join us in Friendship Lounge.

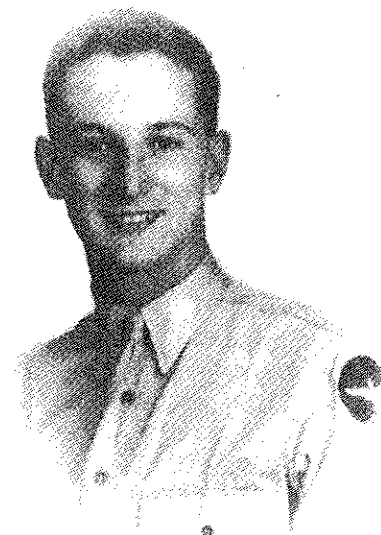
DAVE WAKEFIELD

It's not easy to write something about Dad, especially when we've just had his Memorial Service. The good that comes out of these difficult times is the reminiscing and talking, the surfacing of old friends and associates, and the recalling of memories of a man who loved the important things in life.

Dad had a deep, great, and abiding love for his God, his wife, his children and grandchildren, and his friends, home and garden. He always sought to improve people and situations, yet he had the capacity to accept things the way they were. Military and work duties took him around the United States, but he chose to live much of his life within five blocks of his childhood home. Dad was a man who loved the thrill of competition, yet he could turn his back on the very things he fought for if he realized they were no longer important. He cared deeply, and would communicate this caring in outbursts and profanities, warm handshakes and loving hugs.

We celebrate his life by remembering the good times, and living as he did, with zest and a loving spirit.

by Jennifer Wakefield



Dave Wakefield, circa 1944

Leadership of First Congregational Church

PROGRAM STAFF

In hopes of giving you a better understanding of the leadership of the church, here is a brief sketch of the duties of our program staff.

The Senior Minister (Phil Muth) "is directed by the church constitution to have responsibility for the spiritual welfare of the church, shall enlist followers of Christ, preach the Gospel, administer the sacraments, and have under his care all services of worship." He also supervises and directs the other staff members.

The Associate Minister for Pastoral Care (John Strassburger) is responsible to plan, supervise, and evaluate the church's program of pastoral care. This includes hospital calling, shut-in ministry, general parish calling, visitor follow-up, and recruitment of new members.

The Associate Minister for Christian Fellowship (Rick Koch) plans, supervises, and evaluates the various youth fellowships, the Covenant Classes and the assimilation into church life of new members. He also works with the Board of Christian Fellowship to help provide Christian fellowship for all ages.

All three ministers do calling, counseling, weddings, baptisms, funerals, and provide other ministerial services as requested.

Church Administrator (Les Grube) supervises the secretarial and custodial staffs; oversees the use of church properties, publications, and food service; monitors the raising, handling, and expenditure of church monies; maintains a pictorial record of church events; and directs the Weekday Church School.



The five persons referred to as the Program Staff are: seated, the Rev. Richard Koch, Dr. Philip Muth, and Dr. John Strassburger. Standing in back are Les Grube, Administrator, and Ddg Wakefield, Director of Christian Education.

The Director of Christian Education (Ddg Wakefield) plans, supervises, and evaluates a program of Christian education for all ages. She recruits, trains, and supervises teachers, and organizes and conducts special programs like Children's Sunday, Teacher Recognition and Vacation Church School.

Phil Muth and Rick Koch currently have Fridays off. John Strassburger has Thursdays off. Les Grube is off Thursday afternoons. Ddg Wakefield, who is part time, works Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 1:00-3:00 p.m., all day Tuesday and Thursday (till 3:00 p.m.), and Sunday mornings.

Tuesday morning all five meet for staff co-ordination. The best time to reach staff members is usually weekday mornings. In the afternoons their duties may take them out of the building, but all of the ministers have "beepers" and can usually be reached by calling the church office, 258-7375.

BOOKS TO CONSIDER

What is your favorite book? In honor of National Library Week (April 5-11), the March Newsletter will feature books recommended by members of our congregation. This may be a book of the Bible which has had particular meaning in your life, an inspirational biography, a volume dealing directly with "spirituality," or a work of fiction which made you look at the world differently.

Our society bombards us constantly with more information than we can evaluate. It is an act of kindness to direct someone to a piece of writing worthy of our time and attention.

Leave your suggestion(s) in the church office by March 8.

"To spread good books about, to sow them on fertile minds, to propagate understanding and a carefulness of life and beauty, isn't that a high mission for a man?"

Christopher Morley

March 1982

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Communion 8:40 & 10:40 ANNIVERSARY SERVICES Nordic Brass 9 & 11 Music Celebration 4 1 | Bd. Christian Education 7:30 pm Bd. Christian Fellowship 7:00 pm 2 | Bd. Deacons 7 pm 3 | 150 Anniversary Comm. 6:45 pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 pm 4 | Women's Fellowship Coffee 9:30 am Choir Practice 6:45 or 7:30 5 | | Kouples' Klub 7 pm 7 |
| Hymn Sing 9 & 11 New Member Forum 3 pm 8 | Bd. Trustees 7 pm Bd. Benevolences & Church Relations 7:30 pm 9 | 10 10 | Men's Breakfast 6:45 am Lenten Potluck 6:00 pm Lenten Programs 6:45 pm 11 | Choir Practice 6:45 or 7:30 12 | | 14 14 |
| Handbell Choir 9 am Junior Choir 11 am 15 | Bd. Stewardship 7 pm 16 | Women's Fellowship Coffee 9:30 am 17 | Mt. Breakfast 6:45 am Lenten Potluck 6:00 pm Lenten Programs 6:45 pm 18 | Choir Practice 6:45 or 7:30 19 | PF Mystery Dinner 20 20 | PF Mystery Dinner 21 21 |
| Volleyball Tournament 22 22 | 23 23 | 24 24 | Men's Breakfast 6:45 am Lenten Potluck 6:00 pm Lenten Programs 6:45 pm 25 | Choir Practice 6:45 or 7:30 26 | | 28 28 |
| Tenor Solo 9 & 11 Reception of New Members 9 & 11 29 | Memorials & Special Gifts Comm. 7 pm 30 | New Member Dinner 6 pm 31 | | | | |

continued from page 1

Doug is co-owner of Fluid Management, Inc., an environmental engineering and consulting firm which assists companies with the clean up of contaminated properties, soils, ground water. Most of their work is done in Wisconsin. The design phase of the clean-up may take as long as two to five years. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources must then approve the clean-up.

Currently, the company is working on 150-160 projects and employs 23 people, among them Janie, Doug's wife, who works part-time.

Born on Milwaukee's north side, this entrepreneur came to Wauwatosa in 1974 after working in California and in the Chicago area. Doug and Janie met when both were students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and they were married in 1968.

The family has been very active in church affairs. Doug has been on the Board of Deacons, chairman of the Board of Christian Education and co-chairman of the recent Stewardship campaign. He and Janie have taught Sunday School, and she has been Women's Fellowship president.

Their children, Kerri and Kevin, have been active in local and state Pilgrim Fellowship. For 14 years, Doug played softball on the church "White" team. Family Camp, which they enjoyed for eight years as the children were growing up, has special memories for all.

Kerri, 21, is doing undergraduate work in international affairs at the University of Brussels, Belgium. She is engaged to a

native Belgian whom she met while at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, and they are planning a summer, 1993, wedding in our church.

Kevin, 19, is a freshman at Purdue, majoring in industrial engineering.

This is a family of sailors. The Jacobsons have a sail boat which is kept on Lake Michigan. In winter they enjoy skiing. Travel lures them when time allows.



Kerri, Kevin, Janie, and Doug Jacobson at the time of Kevin's graduation from Wauwatosa East High School.



SAVE THE DATE

Plan to attend this year's Strawberry Luncheon on Wednesday, April 1st, at Congregational Home.

WEST SUBURBAN CAREER SUPPORT GROUP meets this Mon., Feb. 24, 7:00

in Friendship Lounge. Our program will be presented by Professional Public Speaker, Marilyn Berger. This meeting is open to all who are job seeking or interested in making a career change.

150TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

Saturday, February 29

Reception, 5:30, Friendship Lounge.
The Clyde Russell Duo

Dinner, 6:15, Social Hall
Served by Covenant Class

The banquet address will be given by former Associate Minister, the Reverend Richard P. Buchman. The Church Street Singers, directed by David Dethmers, will sing. William Godfrey will serve as Master of Ceremonies.

I (We) will attend _____

Phone _____ Amount _____

Each gourmet dinner is \$12.00 per person and includes a souvenir. Pre-paid reservations must be made to the church office by noon, Monday, February 24.

**"JESUS' ORIGINAL IDEAS"
TOPIC OF W. F.
LENTEN COFFEES**

This year, Women's Fellowship will be using a study entitled, "The Original Ideas of Jesus That Are Changing the World," by George Drew. Study materials are available in the church office for a \$1.00 fee. Babysitting available upon request; if needed, call Mary Eggert as soon as possible, at 425-3791. All the Coffees will be held from 9:30 to 11:00 A.M. in Friendship Lounge.

Thursday, March 5: Chapter 2 - "The Duty of Aggressive Help"; discussion leader, Lissa Edens.

Tuesday, March 17: Chapter 4 - "The Importance of the Individual"; discussion leader, Ruth Karl.

Wednesday, April 1: Chapter 5 - "Christianity Is Fellowship"; discussion leader, Carmen [unclear].

**THE LIGHT
OF THE WORLD**

I believe in Christianity as I believe the Sun has risen not only because I see it but because by it I see everything else.

*C.S. Lewis,
"The Weight of Glory"*



The Congregationalist
First Congregational Church
1511 Church Street
Wauwatosa WI 53213-2593

KOUPLES KLUB

Sat., March 7, 7:00 P.M.

Meet new people, renew old friendships, and help re-establish the Kouples Klub! We will be welcoming John and Gwen Strassburger on Saturday, March 7, 7:00 P.M. at Steve and Pam Bergum's, 15205 Hidden Glen Ct., Elm Grove. R.S.V.P. Pam, 797-9550, or Kathy Collis, 781-6705.

BIBLE CLASSES

Wed., Feb. 26, 7:30 P.M.

Dr. Muth's Bible class meets this Wednesday. Newcomers are encouraged to attend.

PILGRIM FELLOWSHIPS

Meet Wed., Feb. 26

JR. P.F., 4-5:30 P.M.: "How Our Music Talks to God," presented by Wendy Sue Earle.

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

FAITH PRAYER

Dear Lord, I can feel Your power working within me. Help me commit myself to You. Then I cannot fail.

STRAIGHT LINES

God can write straight with crooked lines.

Song of the Sparrow

"YOUR NAME" HERE?

The expanded *Congregationalist Newsletter* is looking for a new name. Of course, it won't be named after an individual, but your idea could be chosen for the Newsletter's cover page. Bring your suggestions to the church office by April 15. The winner's name and photo will appear in the renamed edition.

Good luck!

CHAPEL COMMUNION

Next Sunday, March 1,
8:40 and 10:40 A.M.

NEXT WEEK'S SERVICES

Dr. Muth will preach for our special 150th Anniversary worship services on Sunday, March 1st. His sermon, "More Truth and Light," uses Psalm 46:1-7 and Matthew 5:1 as Scripture passages.

THE CONGREGATIONALIST (USPS 669-940) is published weekly by First Congregational Church, 1511 Church St., Wauwatosa, WI 53213-2593. Yearly subscription \$18.00.
Second class postage paid at Milwaukee, WI 53213.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Congregationalist, 1511 Church St., Wauwatosa, WI 53213-2593.

Volume 92

Issue 8