

the Congregationalist
newsletter

June 28, 1992

First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa

Moving Day Nears "By the Grace of God"



Habitat Crew photo

Mary and B.J. Johnson graciously receive visitors (on a sofa improvised from drywall) at the 1991 Open House.



Habitat Crew photo

Kamare and Mary tackle some of the never-ending clean up tasks.

The sounds of hammers and buzz saws will soon be replaced by the hum of the Johnson family's daily life. B.J., Mary, and seven of their eight children all eagerly await the day when they can truly call their Habitat House "home." Alongside many members of First Congregational Church, the Johnsons have spent countless hours working on the house at 2212 N. 36 St., getting it to its present "nearly ready" state. [Purchasers of the remodeled houses are required by Habitat for Humanity to put in a minimum of 500 work hours. The Johnsons, to date, have logged almost 1200 hours.]

During a recent Saturday work session, Mary and B.J. paused from their work to speak about themselves and the project.

When she's not devoting hours to her future home, Mary works full-time at Teen Pregnancy Service of Milwaukee. In addition, she is taking courses at Cardinal Stritch College, preparing for her R.N. licensure. How does Mary juggle her family and work responsibilities and keep smiling? With a shoulder shrug and a smile, she responded, "By the grace of God."

Mary hastened to add that B.J. is very supportive. A welder by trade, B.J. handles most of the

cooking for the family, and "helps out a lot," according to Mary.

B.J. talked about his feelings during the early stages of the project. "After the demolition phase had begun, I wondered just what we'd gotten ourselves into! But now, we can't wait to move in," he said.

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The Johnsons *from page 1*

"All the kids helped, too," added Mary. This included Johnnie, age 19, a drummer living on his own, who found time to help the family. The older girls, Makeba (16), Sharetta (14), and Kamare (11) helped too, including many Saturdays sitting for the baby of the family, Agape, now two.

Byron, age 16, especially enjoyed painting the back yard fence at the new home. Twelve-year-old Ramon (a.k.a. "Boogie"), took to the demolition phase with gusto. "He just loved using the sledge hammer," Mary said. (Boogie showed an affinity for working with hammers; his picture can be seen in the March 29 Newsletter, pulling nails in the attic.)



Habitat Crew photo

Sharetta: painting with a smile.

David, age 8, found his talents put to use outdoors. "David's been the building and grounds crew," said Cindy Trask, one of the project leaders from our church. David also helped a neighbor with spring gardening. The appreciative neighbor left a beautiful flower pot for the family to enjoy.

As the Newsletter goes to press, the exact move-in date has not been set but is expected to be in early July.

Cookbook Solves Three Problems at Once

Yes, the *Celebrate Cookbook* has over 330 recipes. It even has money-saving manufacturer's coupons valued at \$4.25. But how can one little cookbook (priced at a mere \$7.50) solve three problems?

One: It answers one of the oldest questions known to humankind: "What should I make for dinner tonight?" These are tried 'n' true, most requested, all-time-hit recipes: from traditional favorites like Celestial Chicken Salad (Holly Krull, Janet Schalmo) to a quick, kid pleasin' Tator Tot Casserole (Lorene Halvorson).

Two: The *Celebrate Cookbook* is the gift the considerate house guest will bring this summer.

Three: Be way ahead on your Christmas shopping--buy several copies now. You'll have so much time during the holidays, you can make a few loaves of Sharon Nortman's Cranberry Bread.

If that isn't inducement enough, then the Lemon Bread should convince you. Contributed by the Congregational Home, Cetera

Group, it's a favorite from the Antique Show Luncheon.

Lemon Bread

12 Tbsp. butter
2 c. sugar
4 eggs
3 c. flour
2 tsp. baking powder
½ tsp. salt
Rind of 2 lemons, grated
1 c. milk
1 c. chopped nuts

Glaze:

⅔ c. sugar
Juice of 2 lemons

Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs. Add dry ingredients, lemon rind, and milk. Mix well. Stir in nuts. Pour into two (9 X 5 inch) loaf pans. Bake at 350° one hour. Allow to cool in pans 15 minutes. Combine ⅔ cup sugar with lemon juice. Spoon gradually over bread, allowing glaze to be absorbed. Let stand 30 minutes and remove from pans. ♦

Anyone who's ever built a house, moved, or remodeled so much as a coat closet knows that these things always take longer, cost more, and involve more steps than could have been envisioned. Yet, through the whole project, the Johnsons have kept working, smiling, and persevering, thanks to their faith in God and the support of the project leaders and volunteers of First Congregational Church. With our continued help and prayers, moving day will soon be here. ♦

-- Pam Parker

The house still has minor projects and finishing touches to be completed: call Rod Schmidt at 771-2880 to volunteer.

The Congregationalist Newsletter

Editor, Rachel Pearson
Communications Committee

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

♦ ♦ ♦

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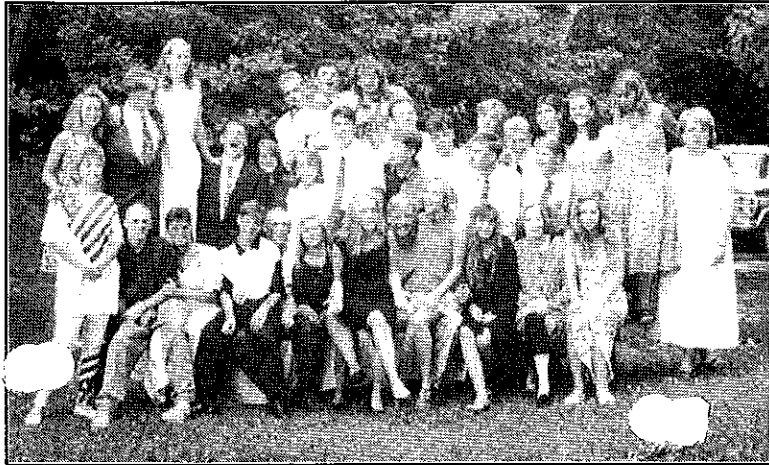
♦ ♦ ♦

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Pilgrim Fellowship Camp

Friends, Fellowship, and Fun: "The Best Anywhere"

Pilgrim Fellowship Camp holds a special place in the hearts of many young people here at First Church. What follows are the personal reminiscences of two campers, one recent, the other looking back from a distance of a few short years.



Barth photo

"Happy Campers": 1991 Senior High Camp.

Enthusiastic Praise

I can't adequately describe the Pilgrim Fellowship Camp experience in a few paragraphs--but I will say it's been one of the most influential and beneficial experiences of my life--not to mention a heck of a lot a fun!

During six summers, I spent a week in the majestic forests near Neshkoro, Wisconsin. Granted, it's not Yellowstone National Park, but I've been to Yellowstone, and I'd much rather head back to good ol' Lake Lucerne.

What makes this camp better is not the food, the setting, or the accommodations. It's the friends, fellowship, and fun I found there--the best anywhere. People you didn't know before could become your best friends in six days, friends who have remained close despite time and distance.

There are typical "camp" activities: swimming, dancing, playing games, laughing and sometimes even crying. The important part is that we do things *together*. The shared experiences, thoughts, ideas, dreams, and fears, plus our

love for life and faith in God, are what make this camp worthwhile. It's a week of 100% pure adrenaline for your entire life.

Whether you're rock solid in your faith

or feel God has not yet touched your life, this camp is for you. Don't go expecting first class accommodations and gourmet meals. Do expect "five star" friends, fellowship, and fun. You'll have one of the greatest weeks of your life, and PF Camp will be richer because YOU were there.

Kevin Jacobson
Bloomington, Indiana

Special Memories

All of us have a few choice memories kept in a special spot in our hearts. Though I now live far away from where most of these memories were created, I still "unpack" them when I need a reason to smile. Some of my most cherished memories are of summers at PF Camp, including:

A car full of campers turning

onto County Highway YY, their excitement and anticipation rising, until it bursts into the fresh air as the car stops at the Craft House.

A sea of warm hugs and greetings when friends from all over the state reunite or meet for the first time.

Conversations in the cabin at night after lights out with your friends and counselor, talking about the day's activities or life's strange quirks.

Sitting with friends by the clear blue lake water, discussing "whatever": from feelings about God to the "delicious" camp food.

Enthusiastic shouts, cheers, and laughter rising over the field as campers and counselors battle their rivals at softball, volleyball, or "marshmallow" capture the flag.

And best of all: the warm glow of the nightly campfire and the inspiring sounds of voice guitars, the hush of the night, and the healing touch of a friend's hug before heading off to bed.

These sights and sounds stay in the hearts of those who've enjoyed PF Camp. These are memories you too will cherish--and which you can't afford not to create.

Kerri Jacobson
Antwerp, Belgium

Dates for 1992 Pilgrim Fellowship Camp are July 12 - 18 for Junior High, August 2 - 8 for Senior High. The cost is only \$185 per camper. Brochures are available in the church office, or contact:

Mrs. Marina Rosenberg
213 Aster Lane
Mequon WI 53092
414/ 241-4684

Literally and Figuratively, a Success on Many Levels

By sheer numbers alone, the May Antique Show was a resounding success: 925 tickets, 1200 flowers, 1600 raffle chances, and 300 lunches were sold for the two-day event. In the basement coffee shop, bakery, and bake sale area, sales were over \$500. Upstairs, 22 antique dealers from 4 states displayed fine jewelry, furniture, and collectibles.

The most important result of this event, however, was the intangible: the sense of fellowship engendered by 150 volunteers working together. These included planners, coordinators, quilters, bakers, cooks, serving persons, ticket sellers, the office staff, and those who generously shared their heirloom china, crystal, and keepsakes for the vignettes in the vestibule nursery.

Raffle Items

Two highlights were the prizes donated by church members. The exquisite Doll House was built and hand decorated by an anonymous donor. The lucky winner was **Julius Ruff**, who with wife **Laura** and children **Julia** and **Charles**, will undoubtedly enjoy it for years to come. Julius has been active on the 150th Anniversary Committee.

The much-admired **Iris Quilt** was won by **Mary McGinnis** of Wauwatosa. Jay Valde sold the ticket to Mary, an exercise instructor at the West Suburban Y. Mary claimed her prize within 10 minutes of getting the call, exclaiming "I never realized real people won these things!" One of the antiques dealers offered to buy the quilt from her, suggesting that "It might not go with her decor." Mary shot

back "I'll change my decor to match the quilt!" The five women who donated their quilting skills to this project couldn't ask for a better testimonial than that. ♦



Rachel Pearson photo

Betty Davis with the family's Reed and Barton silver, an 1895 wedding gift to Walter Davis' grandmother.

July 1992

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			National Assoc. in Ohio		Church Closed No St. Vincent Meal this month	150 Anniversary Church Float in Wauwatosa Pa. starts 9 AM at Mayfair proceeds East on North Ave.
			1	2	3	4
Communion in Chapel at 9:40 Coffee in Lounge 11 AM		Church Ball Team 8:30 at Hart Park	Membership Committee at 7:00 PM			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Coffee in Lounge 11 AM Grief Support 2:30 Junior High Camp	Bd. Trustees 7 PM Junior High Camp	Church Ball Team 7:30 at Hart Park Junior High Camp	Junior High Camp	Junior High Camp	Junior High Camp	Junior High Camp
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Coffee in Lounge 11 AM	Career Seminar 6:30 led by David Swanson 259-0265	Church Ball Team 9:30 at Hart Park				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Coffee in Lounge 11 AM Family Camp	Family Camp	Family Camp	Family Camp	Family Camp	Family Camp	Event notices and reminders may be dropped in the Newsletter mailbox for inclusion in the CALENDAR
26	27	28	29	30	31	

From Sidewalks to Steeples and Everything in Between

"The Board of Trustees." The name evokes images of staid business-suited people, tedious balance sheets, and stacks of dull stocks and bonds locked in the church safe. Right? Wrong!

What this board does is anything *but* dull. It has the second largest budget (after Personnel), a wide list of responsibilities, and oversight for the business and fiscal affairs of the church. It's the only Board which must meet every month, all year.

Trustees are among the few people who know our building, literally, from top to bottom.

1992 Chair **Dan Christiansen** leads a dedicated group whose mission is three-fold: 1) Review the church's bills and ensure they are paid properly and promptly; 2) Manage the church's assets; and 3) Oversee the physical plant and its maintenance.

They Get the Job Done

When the Board convenes each February, new members are given a complete church tour by Les Grube, from boiler room to the nave loft--all 42,000 square feet on four occupied levels.

Each year, the Board anticipates the costs of maintaining our church, including utilities, snowplowing, insurance, and necessary building repairs and upgrades. Under scrutiny from the Church Council, they start

The Board of Trustees meets the second Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Conference Room. Visitors are welcome.



Les Grube photo

Dan Christiansen,
1992 Board of Trustees
Chair.

derail the best-laid plan, and the Trustees must be prepared for these contingencies.

Much of the budget process includes shopping around for the best prices on items such as insurance, skilled trades. Dan stressed that **Administrator Les Grube** is instrumental in gathering this information.

At each monthly meeting, **Church Treasurer Joe Berte** presents the Treasurer's Report to the Trustees. Current bills are reviewed and approved, and current and future projects are discussed.

This Year's Projects

Major expenditures are considered for months or even years before they are undertaken, and are then referred to a subcommittee for action. One current project is the remodeling of the former Library into what will be called the "Parlor." The remodeled space will be used as a Bride's room, dining area, and meeting room. The Trustees had budgeted preliminary funds; additional money is being provided by a donor.

Another major project is the renovation of the Associate Minister's office. It will be

with a "skinny" budget of about \$60,000, allotted from pledges. Cold, snowy winters or unexpected repairs will quickly

refurbished to better accommodate the various functions and counseling services of Dr. Strassburger.

The Trustees also control the use of church facilities by outsiders. Use is granted to those groups focused on cultural or educational purposes which do not conflict with our members' beliefs, and who do not charge admission or make a profit. These include recitals, support groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous, and the Boy Scouts.

1992 Members

Dan Christiansen, Chair, in his third year on the Board, is also the delegate to the Church Council.

Rick Artz, Vice Chair and Trustees Treasurer. Rick reviews bills prior to meetings to ensure they are in order.

Dale Engstrom is the Subcommittee Chair for the Renovation of John Strassburger's office.

Paul Guenther, in his third year on the Board, is working on improvements to the upper hallway.

Diane Houriet is chair of the Parlor Renovation Subcommittee.

Marion Petersen, long active in church affairs, is also a member of the Fiscal Task Force.

William Rose. In his first year on the Board, Bill is pricing repairs to the church steeple.

Luanne Williams is adding her interior design experience to the Parlor Renovation Subcommittee.

Barb Zaiser is helping with the renovation plans for John Strassburger's office.

Ex-officio members: **Joe Berte, Les Grube.** ♦

In Brief

Any Suggestions?

Yes? Well, now they'll have a home. The Communications Committee recently obtained a small suggestion box which will soon be installed in the Narthex of the church. This is the place for suggestions, comments, and questions that are either "too minor" to bother the staff about, or from contributors who wish to remain anonymous. The box will be maintained by the Communications Committee, which will either act on the suggestions or refer them to the appropriate board, committee, or staff person.

The Editor Thanks:

Kevin Jacobson, Kerri Jacobson, and Parker for written contributions; Dan Christiansen, Jan Jacobs, Jane Jacobson, Cindy Trask, and Jay Valde for background information; Les Grube, the Habitat Crew, and Sue Barth for photography; and Rani Gusho for the CALENDAR.

First, Get a Parachute

Then, attend next month's job-hunting workshop: "How to Get a Great Job in a Bad Economy." The presenter is David Swanson, author of *The Résumé Solution* and Chief of Staff for workshops by Richard Nelson Bolles, whose book *What Color Is Your Parachute?* has sold 4.5 million copies.

The three-hour program will be offered free on Monday, July 20, beginning at 6:30 PM here at First Congregational Church. Job hunting tactics, skill identification methods, and marketing techniques geared to today's tight economy will be covered. The challenges faced by college students and recent graduates in seeking an entry-level job will also be stressed.

This seminar is being offered free as a community service by First Church, but reservations are required. Call Dave Swanson at 259-0265, and take the first step at cracking what's been called "the toughest job market in 25 years."

Our Church Family

Baptism

Michael Andrew Hetzel, June 14, son of Carol and Michael Hetzel.

Deaths

Thomas L. (Verne) Cottam, father of Tom Cottam; funeral service held June 15.

Earl Preston, funeral service held June 16.

High School Graduations

Andy Hayes, Wauwatosa East
John Lach, Wauwatosa East
Kyle Tanger, Wauwatosa East

In the Hospital

Stuart Haagensen, St. Joseph's
James Kubal, St. Joseph's
Arthur Norris, St. Joseph's
Robert Peterman, St. Luke's
Carrie Rondeau, St. Joseph's

Share your joys, concerns, family happenings, and humorous stories with the rest of the congregation. Items for the "In Brief" and "Our Church Family" columns may be directed to the church office, Attention: Newsletter Editor.

First Congregational Church
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