

Thanksgiving, 1992

Celebrating Our Pilgrim Heritage

On Thursday, November 26, members of First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa will step from the late 20th Century to the early 17th Century. The sounding of the conch shell and drum, which called the original Pilgrims to church, will begin our Thanksgiving Day service.

Although it's likely most of our congregation will wake up that morning to a digital clock radio or a microwave oven defrosting the turkey, the conch shell and drum will help remind us of the sacrifices of the first Congregationalists. These men and women were religious idealists from England willing to forsake their homeland to worship God in the way they thought He wanted.

The first Thanksgiving at Plymouth in October, 1621, com-

memorated survival more than a bountiful harvest. Nearly half of the almost 100 people who had arrived on the *Mayflower* died in the first year. Some succumbed to "general sickness," probably pneumonia or tuberculosis. Others died of starvation; in the spring of 1621, each person had a daily ration of five kernels of corn. The Pilgrims' descendants later placed five kernels on their Thanksgiving plate to honor their forebears' sacrifice.

Early Thanksgiving Day services were just that—an entire day. The "short prayer" lasted an hour, and the services would halt for lunch and resume in the afternoon for three or four hours. They had no hymnals, so a strong-voiced member would sing or "line out" a line from a Psalm, and the rest of the congregation would repeat it. Men

and women sat on opposite sides of the room, a custom referred to as being "dignified."

Our 1992 services will honor many of these traditions. Church members in Pilgrim costumes will greet worshipers, and corn kernels will be available in the Narthex to commemorate the hard winter of 1620. The conch shell will sound, and choir members will enter to the beat of the drum, followed by ministers in black robes with Pilgrim collars. Lee Jacobi will "line out" a hymn for the congregation to follow. Although men and women will not be "dignified" in the old sense, and "ticklers" (to awaken parishioners who have fallen asleep) will not be present, our 1992 Thanksgiving service will encompass the *spirit* of Thanksgiving, 1621. ♦

Identity Crisis Solved

Finally! This newsletter has its own name and identity—***Congregational Columns***.

The Communications Committee is tackling the redesign phase of the newsletter, which began with our first issue way back in January.

Watch this space! In the months to come, we'll be adding more color, artwork, and features—while striving to keep our "user friendly" look and feel. As always, we welcome your input and comments.



People in the Newsletter

We Have a Winner

Congratulations to Howard Thiedt! Howard's entry, *Congregational Columns*, was chosen by the Communications Committee as the official name for this newsletter. Unfortunately, the Commit-



Howard Thiedt

tee's budget couldn't cover an all-expense-paid trip to *anywhere* (other than to the next Committee meeting). But Howard does have our immense gratitude for his efforts. His happened to be the first entry received back in March—he even took the time to sketch a sample nameplate to illustrate his idea.

The Thiedts have been members of First Congregational Church since 1974. Eleanor is a career homemaker; Howard retired from Northwestern Mutual Life in the 1970's. Howard also has an extensive background in church music, including 30 years as a choir director and 12 as a church organist. In 1987, they moved from Wauwatosa to West Bend, but they've retained their active church membership.

The Committee extends its sincere thanks to Howard and to everyone who entered the contest. ♦

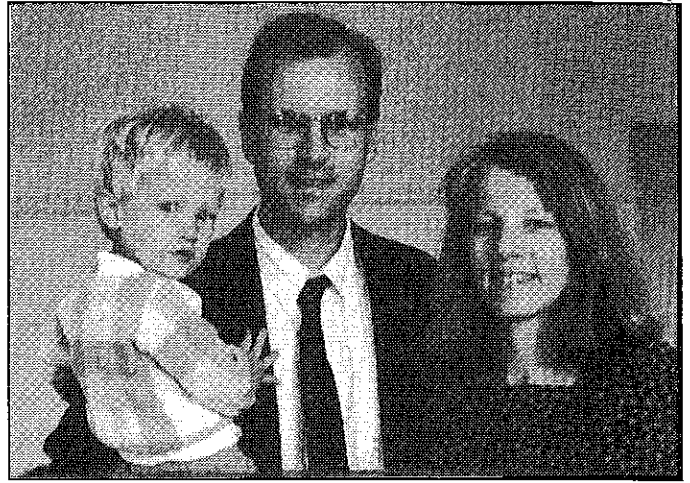
The Person Behind the Lines

You may have been wondering about the person behind this newsletter—the individual who brings together the various elements of each month's issue and makes it a cohesive whole. This publication is orchestrated by Rachel Pearson. With the help and support of the Communications

Committee, she has taken the newsletter from its fledgling stages to the present format. Rachel researches and writes many of the stories, edits and organizes articles written by others, coordinates photos and artwork, and expedites the final copy through the print production stages. Rachel's husband Paul is a family member at the St. Michael Hospital Family Practice Residency Program, and their son Sam is a "typical" two-year-old.

After graduating from UW-Madison with a degree in Agriculture, Rachel moved to California, working at positions in the pharmaceutical industry and at the University of Southern California which gave her increasing experience with writing, editing, and communications. She and Paul have lived in Wisconsin for three years and have been members of our church for two.

In late December, Rachel will retire from the editorship to devote time to midnight feedings, lullabies, and still *more* diapers: the Pearsons are expecting their second child in early January. We give a very special thank you to



Sam, Paul, and Rachel Pearson.

Rachel for the energy and enthusiasm she has brought to this newsletter, and we wish Rachel, Paul and Sam the very best of happiness with their new "brother." ♦

— Sharon Koenings

Congregational Columns

Editor, Rachel Pearson

Communications Committee
Mary York, Chairperson
Susan Barth, Tom Gold,
Jane Jacobson, Sharon Koenings,
Eric McAttee, Rachel Pearson

♦ ♦ ♦

Rev. Phillip A. Muth, Senior Minister
Rev. Richard J. Koch, Christian Fellowship
Rev. John H. Strassburger, Pastoral Care

Ddg Wakefield,
Christian Education Director

Lester E. Grube, Jr., Administrator

Rev. Norman S. Ream, D.D.,
Minister Emeritus

Lee Jacobi, Director of Music
Betty Dethmers, Organist

♦ ♦ ♦

The Congregationalist (USPS 669-940) is published weekly by the First Congregational Church, 1511 Church St., Wauwatosa, WI 53213-2593, 414/258-7375. 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. Vol. 92, Issue 43.

Mobile Meals Ministry

Imagine you've just had eye surgery. Driving, grocery shopping, and cooking present new challenges. But, to maintain your health, you need regular, nutritious meals. Or, imagine a new mother just returned from the hospital. She too may be unable to plan and prepare well-balanced meals.

In mid-September, the Mobile Meals Ministry (a cooperative effort of First Congregational Church and the Congregational Home) began helping these individuals. Participants need not have been hospitalized.

"Sometimes, after a major loss, people are unable to carry through daily tasks, such as planning and preparing food. This Ministry can help them maintain their physical health during an emotionally trying time," said Rev. John Strassburger.

To participate, individuals should contact Betsy Aspinwall at the church office (258-7375).



Dan Lamb Photo

**Mobile Meals volunteers
Bob and Jane Kebbekus.**

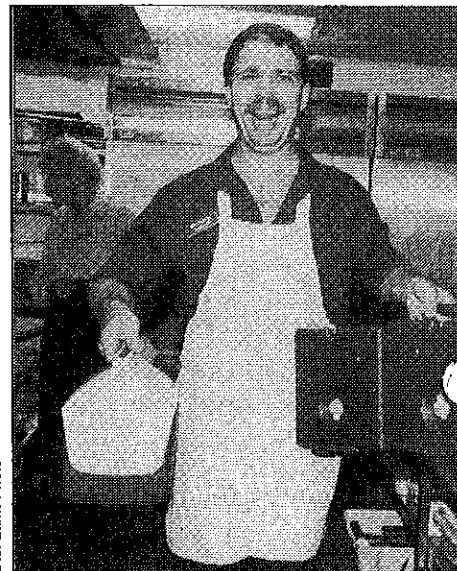
Diana Haberman, dietitian at the Home, will then conduct a thorough interview with individuals meeting the program criteria. "We'll review their food preferences and can accommodate special dietary requirements," said Diana.

Volunteer drivers from our church deliver meals prepared

at the Home. The full program includes twenty meals per week (lunch and dinner, Monday through Friday, excluding Holidays).

Though still in its early stages, the program will soon expand to include other member churches of Mayfair Interfaith. ❖

— Pam Parker



Dan Lamb Photo

**Congregational Home Chef
Gene Rosenow.**

Pilgrim Fellowship Plans for 1992-93

Fund Raising with a Mission

What would you do if: 1) you belonged to Senior Pilgrim Fellowship; 2) you wanted to attend the National Association Meeting and Mission Project in Maine next summer; and 3) your current earning power is less than minimum wage? The answer: just about *anything*—as long as it's ethical and will add to the trip fund.

With the help of their parents, PF'ers plan at least one fund raising activity per month. For example, October 31 is a "PF workday." Senior PF'ers will perform yard work, babysitting, heavy lifting—even windows—for \$4/hour per person. (If you don't think they'll earn it, remember that PF'ers helped demolish and clear heavy plaster from the Habitat

house in less than a day).

Other autumn activities include bake sales (during each Coffee Hour), a "stock sale," and a Christmas season babysitting service. The 1993 schedule includes a SuperSub Sale, auction, "Bowlathon," Easter Breakfast, spring workday, geranium sale, and a volleyball tournament. And, PF'ers are babysitting our choir members' children on Thursday nights.

This year's dream—the trip to Maine—is a big goal, but a very reachable one. Our congregation can help PF members learn that dreams can come true—when you're willing to work for them. ❖

The Board of Benevolences and

This year's Benevolence Board is taking a very pro-active role in the way our church relates to the community and to the world. Benevolences monitors our giving to nearly 50 programs. This ranges from small but important donations of less than \$50 to the Wauwatosa Clergy Association to several thousand dollars for the Congregational Home. The Board also administers holiday offerings designated for specific projects such as Habitat, the Honduran Clinic, and the Tosa Food Pantry.

In addition, this board oversees our church's affiliation with and support of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC).

Autumn, 1992 has been a hectic one for this board as it prepares for the November Mission Fair. A dozen charities will send representatives to our Fellowship Hall, including Milwaukee Hospice Home Care, the Next Door Foundation, and Laubach Literacy. The last Mission Fair had an international focus; this year's Fair will highlight groups we support in the greater Milwaukee area. The purpose is three-fold: to provide information on specific charities; to promote volunteer opportunities; and to give these organizations a chance to say "Thank You" to the congregation for its support.

The 1992 Board has been led by Chair Ken Wendt. When asked in a recent interview how the Board effectively handles so many charities and programs, he said, "We don't really have sub-committees. Each of our eight Board members oversees a small number of organizations. That



Board of Benevolences and Church Relations (From left), seated: Carl Rubenheimer, Helen Wemyes, Ruth Karl, Ken Wendt. Standing: Dorothy Tofte, Ed Probst, Art Kletti, Kay Bowman, Bill Hockensmith.

keeps things manageable, yet provides each group with a 'personal' touch."

Getting the Word Out

One of Ken's goals for this Board has been to provide more publicity on specific charities. "Our church members respond favorably to the special offerings at Easter and Thanksgiving," Ken said, "Perhaps because they have a clear idea of how the money is being used. We hope to extend this informational coverage to each of the groups our church supports." Besides the Mission Fair, publicity is being provided in the weekly *Congregationalist*, at the Benevolence Board's "Group of the Month" presentation, and via this newsletter. In addition, the Board plans to publish a **Missions Directory** booklet as an all-in-

one guide, briefly describing each program.

Church Relations

The Board also oversees First Church's support of the NACCC in Oak Creek, Wisconsin and helps sponsor attendance by church members at the NACCC annual convention. This organization aids new churches, foreign missions, and expansion of fellowship and education within and among existing congregations and with other denominations. The NACCC activities are publicized in its bi-monthly magazine, *The Congregationalist*.

Ken stressed that, although all the churches belonging to the NACCC are Congregational, the organization itself requires nothing mandatory, reflecting the fiercely individualistic spirit of each congregation.

Church Relations

1992 Board Members

In addition to their regular board duties, each member administers several projects, with examples given below.

Ken Wendt, 1992 Chair: Interchurch Activities, including the four NACCC Funds.



International Mission Fair

Kay Bowman: First Congregational Church Scholarship Fund, Next Door Foundation.

Bill Hockensmith: Boy Scout Chaplaincy Funds of Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties, Milwaukee Rescue Mission.

Ruth Karl: Taiwan Congregational Mission, Bible Translators.

Art Kletti: Responsibilities to be assigned. Art joined the Board in October, 1992.

Carrie Laubenheimer: Greek Protestant Churches, Congregational Home.

Ed Probst: Travencore Church Council, Gideons.

Dorothy Tofte: Milwaukee Hospice Home Care, Congregational Historical Society.

Helen Wemyss: Chaplaincy Services, Inc., Milwaukee County Institutions, Wisconsin Ministerial Association. ❖

Benevolence Projects Supported by FCC

47 Ways We Put Our Faith in Action

Local/Domestic

Boy Scout Chaplaincy Fund, Milwaukee County
 Boy Scout Chaplaincy Fund, Waukesha County
 Chaplaincy Services, Inc., Milwaukee County Institutions
 Congregational Home, Inc.
 Cook Christian Training School
 Habitat for Humanity (local chapter)
 Indian Trails Missions Outreach
 Infant Nutrition (Hunger Task Force)
 Kindcare, Inc.
 Logan Square Youth Outreach
 Mayfair Interfaith
 Milwaukee Hospice Home Care
 Milwaukee Rescue Mission
 Next Door Foundation
 Silk for Life
 Tosa Community Food Bank
 Wauwatosa Clergy Association
 Wisconsin Ministerial Association

Foreign (Supported through NACCC)
 Bible Translators (Nancy Loveland)
 Christian Mission of the Far East
 Congregational Mission of Honduras
 Greek Protestant Churches
 Pan American Institute, Tijuana, Mexico
 Hong Kong Congregational Association
 Karapokot Development Project, Kenya

Travencore Church Council, India
 Third Evangelical Church, Athens, Greece
 Taiwan Congregational Mission

Education

Bruce Guadalupe Community School
 Congregational Foundation for Theological Studies (NACCC)
 First Congregational Church Scholarship Fund
 Gideons
 Literacy Services of Wisconsin
 Milwaukee Hearing Society
 Olivet College (NACCC)
 Piedmont College (NACCC)
 Youth Leadership Training (NAPF)

Interchurch

American Bible Society
 American Committee—International
 Congregational Fellowship
 Congregational Historical Society, Boston, MA
 Congregational Library, Boston, MA
 NACCC General Fund
 NACCC General Benevolences
 NACCC Missions Adm. Fund
 NACCC Church Building Fund
 Wisconsin Congregational Association

Other

Representation at Interchurch Activities

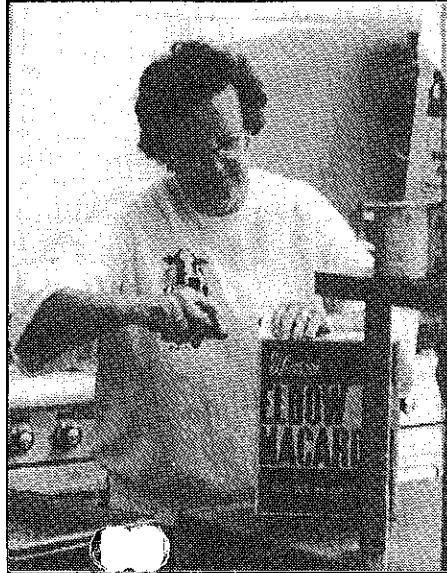
Cooking for a Crowd: Kay and Howie Millen

For the last four years, Kay and Howie Millen have coordinated our church's participation in the St. Vincent de Paul Meal Program. Each Tuesday before the first Friday of the month finds them bagging bargains at Second Harvesters of Wisconsin or Waukesha Wholesale Foods. For less than \$200, they orchestrate a balanced meal for nearly 400 people. The Millens unload and store the food in the church kitchen and organize the Friday cooking and serving sessions.

Amazingly, they've never needed to recruit volunteers. "A nucleus of people comes through each month—some have been doing it for years," Kay said during a recent interview. "But, there's always room for more. If some of the young people, including PF'ers, would come to serve—they would gain so much. It has been such a rewarding experience for us!"

Howie, a native of Mayville, is a 1941 electrical engineering graduate of Marquette University. He retired 10 years ago from

Wisconsin Electric Power Co., where he designed sub-stations. During World War II he served in the South Pacific with the 13th Air



Kay Millen at work on the first Friday in October (Howie was under the weather on this day).

Force. Member of an air-sea rescue squadron, Howie flew one of the legendary PBY's which rescued 800 Americans shot down by the Japanese.

Kay, born in Brodhead, received

her RN degree from Lutheran Hospital. The Millens will celebrate their 50th anniversary next April. Their three children and eight grandchildren live in the area, including son Steve and his wife Carol.

Interaction with people interests Kay and Howie—for the past six years they've also volunteered at the Froedtert Hospital gift shop once a week.

Kay stressed that the patrons of St. Vincent's are grateful for the wholesome meals they receive. Hundreds gather in the dining room brightened by a Reynaldo Hernandez mural and the pleasant clatter of dishes and silverware. Many of the patrons are lonesome and welcome

chance for a friendly word. And, the need is there. Toward month's end, 600-700 people come to each meal, many of them children. Thanks to the Millens and other faithful St. Vincent's volunteers, there's one Friday night a month when they will not go to bed hungry. ❖

— Marge Shirer

Women's Fellowship: A Tradition of Giving

Women's Fellowship (WF) concluded their 1991-92 season with a meeting and luncheon on April 28, 1992. We had a great year with many successful activities. Deserving special thanks are the Advisory Board Members, event organizers, as well as each person who attended Women's Fellowship events.

Following recommendations made by the Long Range Planning Committee and adopted by the congregation, WF is now under the aegis of the Board of Christian Fellowship. Lissa Edens will represent the

women of the church as Liaison to that board. Each year, a new Liaison will be appointed by the CF Board. This allows the Fellowship Board to plan for the entire congregation—men, women, and youth.

Funds for future WF events will become part of the Board of Christian Fellowship budget. From June 1990 through July 1992, WF donated a total of \$6,078: \$4,218 to First Church activities, and \$1,860 to other programs. These donations will be reflected in the Benevolence Budget. Seed money

of \$500 was transferred from the WF treasury to the Christian Fellowship Board to help underwrite events for church women.

Traditional WF events, such as the Circles, Bus Tour, Christmas Gathering, Ladies' Night Out, and Lenten Coffees will continue. The Liaison will recruit individuals to oversee these events.

Thus the women of this church will continue to enjoy vital, rewarding, worthwhile programs and fellowship under the auspices of the Fellowship Board. ❖

Worship Services

October 25
 Rev. John Strassburger
 preaching
 Anthems: "The God of Love
 My Shepherd Is," Peek
 "Psalm 100," Williams
 (9:00)
 "Brother James' Air,"
 Jacob
 "Gloria (Heiligmesse),"
 Haydn (11:00)

November 1
 Sermon: "The Man in the
 Tree," Rev. Phil Muth
 Scripture: Psalm 65:1-8;
 Luke 19:1-10
 Anthems: Bass Solo. "Hymn to
 the Trinity," Burkhardt (9:00)

Bass Solo. "Joy in the
 Morning," Sleeth (11:00)

November 8
 Sermon: "The God Who
 Cares," Rev. Phil Muth
 Scripture: Psalm 34:1-10;
 I John 4:7-21
 Anthems: Men's Choir
 Anthems (9:00 & 11:00)
 "Glory to God in the
 Highest," Dickau
 "Put on the Whole Armor
 of God," Taylor

November 14 (5:00 p.m.)
 Sermon: "What's Pulling
 You?," Rev. Rick Koch
 Scripture: Luke 6:16-21

November 15
 Sermon: "What is God
 Like?," Rev. Phil Muth
 Scripture: Psalm 145:1-9;
 John 14:1-6

November 21 (5:00 p.m.)
 Sermon: Rev. Rick Koch
 (Sermon & Scripture TBA)

November 22
 Sermon: "Giving Thanks,"
 Rev. Phil Muth
 Scripture: Psalm 95:1-7;
 Colossians 3:12-17
 Anthems: "Behold Now,
 Praise the Lord," Titcomb
 "O Clap Your Hands," Shaw
 (9:00)

"New Songs of Joy Now
 Sing," Wood
 "O Give Thanks to the
 Lord," Larson (11:00)

November 26
 Thanksgiving Service
 (10:30 a.m.)
 Sermon: "Lest We Forget,"
 Rev. Phil Muth
 Scripture: Psalm 147:1-11;
 Deuteronomy 8:11-20
 Anthems: "We Give Thanks
 Today," Powell
 "Prayer of Thanksgiving,"
 Kremser (Pilgrim Choir)
 Drummer, Michael Mooney

NOVEMBER

1992

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Chapel Communion 8:40 & 10:40 Share-A-Prayer 10:10 Men's Choir 10:10 Adult Education 10:00 New Member Forum 3:00	2 Bd. Fellowship 7:00 Bd. Christian Education 7:30	3 Craft Fair at Congregational Home 10:00 - 4:00 Lunch at 11:30 & 1:00 Bd. Deacons 7:00	4 BPW 11:00	5	6 St. Vincent's Cooking: 9:15 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. Serving: 4:15 p.m.	7
8 Coffee Hour 10:00 Share-A-Prayer 10:10 Mission Fair 9:30 - 11:30 Men's Choir Sings SS bring canned goods	9 Bd. Trustees 7:00 Bd. Benevolences 7:30 Sr. Women 10:00 a.m. Circle 9 7:00 p.m.	10 Nominating Committee 7:00	11 Membership 7:00 Dr. Muth's Bible Classes 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.	12	13	14 Alternative Worship 5:00 p.m.
15 New Member Sunday Share-A-Prayer 10:10 Bd. of Month 10:00 SS bring canned goods	16	17 Quilt Group 7:00 M & SG 7:00	18	19	20 State PF Rally at FCC begins 6:00	21 State PF Rally all day Alternative Worship 5:00 p.m.
22 State PF Rally a.m. Share-A-Prayer 10:10 SS Food Offering	23	24 Church Council 7:00	25 Dr. Muth's Bible Classes 10:30 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.	26 THANKSGIVING Worship 10:30 Dinner 12:00 noon	27	28 Alternative Worship 5:00 p.m.
29 1st Sunday Advent Share-A-Prayer 10:10	30					Event notices and reminders may be dropped in the Newsletter mailbox for inclusion in the CALENDAR