

## Christmas Family Workshop

# Create Priceless Christmas Memories Without Setting Foot in a Mall

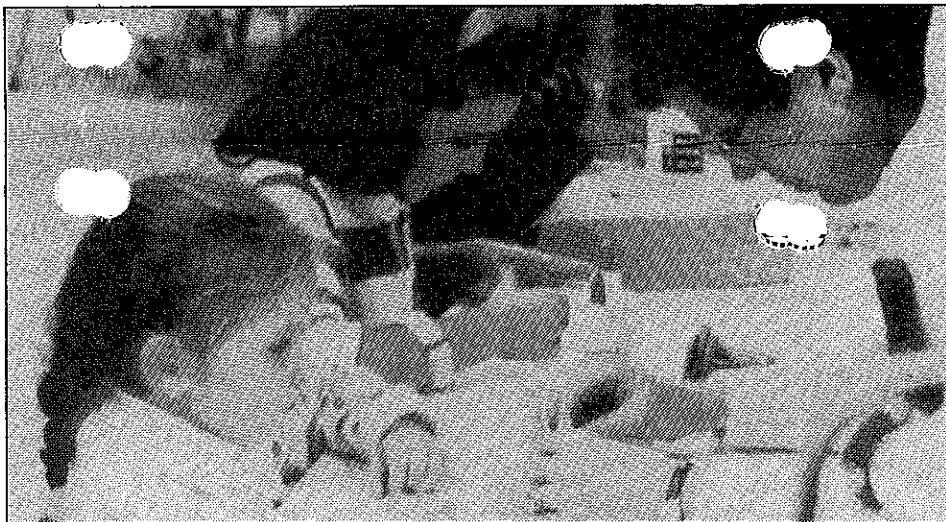
Most people take pride in displaying a few special Christmas decorations: antique dolls, a vintage Lionel train set, perhaps a crystal Nativity scene. However, each family's tree usually bears ornaments that are

At the First Congregational Church Christmas Family Workshop, the children of our church (ages 2 to 102) will create some of these priceless Christmas treasures—and make many happy

Linda Lasch, who helped organize the 1991 Workshop, calls it "An ideal memory maker for kids, parents, and grandparents. My oldest daughter, who's 'graduated' from the craft making stage, will attend this year as a helper. The kids learn for themselves how to create things, instead of just spending money at a store. It's a wonderful event, and you don't have to have small children to enjoy it."

The CE Board charges a nominal amount for each craft, which is strictly a "break-even" operation. Many projects are meant to be tree ornaments, but past projects have included napkin rings, stationery, needle-

*continued on page 4*



Les Grubeo Photo

*With a little help from Ddg Wakefield, a soon-to-be heirloom clothespin clown takes shape at the 1991 Workshop.*

just as precious but, aesthetically, could best be labeled "sentimental." Tiny, slightly grubby hands fashioned them from construction paper, glitter, or macaroni for a long-ago Christmas season. Even though the ornaments' makers may be attending college or raising their own children, the owners would as soon throw away their wedding album as part with these hand-made treasures.

memories as well.

Ddg Wakefield and the Board of Christian Education are putting together this year's workshop. A dozen booths will be set up in the basement Sunday School rooms with craft projects of various complexities. From Pine cone/peanut butter bird feeders to create-your-own Christmas buttons, there'll be something for every age and skill level.

### Christmas Family Workshop

**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

**Cost:** Crafts are on a "per-project" basis (usually 30¢ to 90¢ ea.)

**Food:** Potluck, 5:00-5:45 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Last name A-K, main dish

Last name L-P, salad

Last name O-Z, desserts

Plus utensils & plates

# Coordinating Our Pastoral Care Ministries

Nursing home, hospital, and homebound visitation; grief support, crisis support, and mental and spiritual counseling; the Pastoral Care needs of our congregation are varied and ever-growing. Until this year, these needs were met chiefly by the Minister of Pastoral Care and a number of individual support groups, without the coordination of a governing board.

In the spring of 1992, the Board of Deacons' Sub-committee on Pastoral Care recommended establishing a group devoted specifically to Pastoral Care. The **Congregational Care Committee** is now a reality—thanks to Rev. John Strassburger and seven other individuals committed to the spiritual, physical, and mental welfare of their fellow church members.

## Needs and Goals

In a recent interview, John related that the goals for the new Committee are two-fold: to coordinate the caring ministries of our church, and to establish a broader-based representation for pastoral care needs. "First Church has a number of dedicated individuals who volunteer time, money, and talent to what could be called 'Pastoral Care' activities," he said. "The Committee will provide coordination for these activities—as well as a means of identifying needs and programs which might otherwise be overlooked. We also hope to get into the area of program development—identifying

needs before they become 'problems.'"

Headed by Chair Lisa Lokken, the Committee had its first meeting in mid-October to discuss how these goals can be accomplished.

Charter members include those who represent our established support groups (the Partner Program, Mobile Meals, and Grief Support), as well as individuals with backgrounds in health care and social services. John noted that "We have a good start, and we'd like to add members with backgrounds in education and volunteer experience for a truly representative Committee."

Lisa said it's a good core group, but we need volunteers to help carry out the programs and generate ideas for different ministries. We'd also like to maintain communication between the various boards and our committee, since there is overlap in many program areas. The Congregational Care Committee is a kind of clearing-house for ideas and activities."

## Charter 1992-93 Members

**Lisa Lokken, Chair**, Registered Nurse, currently a nursing educator at St. Joseph's; **Steve Fisher**, attorney; **Bob Hankins**, Congregational Home Administrator; **Bob Kebbekus**, retired physician, Mobile Meals volunteer; **Alice Krebs**, Mobile Meals Coordinator; **Holly Krull**, background in registered nursing, Partner Program Coordinator; and **Grace Wyrick**, paraprofessional in social services. ♦

New members, ideas, volunteers, and comments are welcome! The Committee will establish a monthly meeting time early in 1993. Contact the church office, Lisa Lokken, or Rev. Strassburger for more information.

## Habitat House Dedication

A prayer-centered housewarming for B.J. and Mary Johnson and their children will be held at the Habitat House (2212 N. 36th St.) at 4:00pm on Saturday, December 5. The dedication will include a prayer in each room and a brief program by Rev. Rick Koch and the Habitat Committee. The event is open to everyone. ♦

## Congregational Columns

Editor, Rachel Pearson

### Communications Committee

Mary York, Chairperson

Beth Andersen, Susan Barth, Tom Gold,  
Jane Jacobson, Sharon Koenigs,  
Eric McAttee, Pam Parker, Rachel Pearson

♦ ♦ ♦

Rev. Philip 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

♦ ♦ ♦

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# “Great People...Doing Their Best for the Church”

There are a multitude of Sunday morning tasks, large and small, which our church members need and expect: scheduling floral arrangements, providing ushers and greeters, assisting with communion and baptisms, videotaping services, filling pulpit supplies, etc. Then there are the “extras” which enrich and expand our church’s ministry: hosting New Member seminars and dinners, providing videotapes to St. Joseph’s Hospital and the Congregational Home, organizing Lenten Potluck Suppers, decorating the nave at Thanksgiving and Christmas, and others.

How does one Board with 18 members of various backgrounds and interests coordinate this wide variety of vital projects? According to Board of Deacons Chair Laura Roberts, it’s no problem.

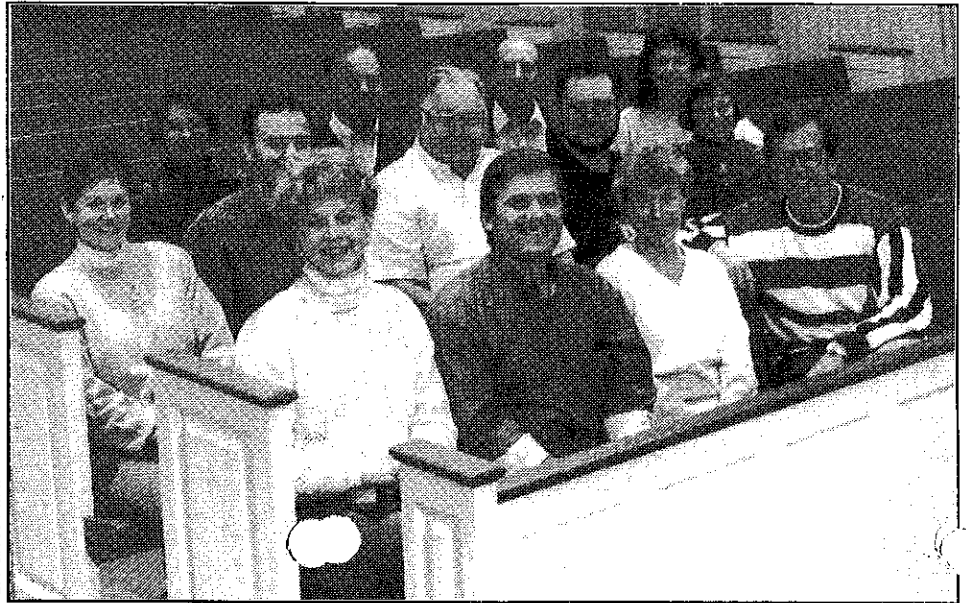
“My three years on the Deacons have been the most enjoyable ones of my membership in the church,” Laura said. The word “Deacon” may sound a bit dry and old fashioned, but Laura stresses that “It’s an active, generous, giving group—you couldn’t ask for a nicer group of people.”

Deacons are asked by the Nominating Committee to serve a three-year term, and are selected from a cross-section of the membership. The main criteria is an interest in serving one’s fellow church members.

During Laura’s year as Chair, the Deacons have implemented many of the changes recommended by the Long Range Planning Committee. These include increasing communion

services in the church to six, recommending the creation of a Pastoral Care Committee, authorizing Saturday services, and promoting lay participation in

potluck supper. In general, it’s just a great blend of great people who are interested in doing their best for the church—a really enjoyable group to work with.”



Lee Grube Photo

*From left, first row: Laura Roberts, Butch Boyd, Cindy Payette, Roger Gruebling. Second row: M. Chris Ellis, Leigh Eggert, Henry Vogel, Brian Esser, Susan Moore. Third row: Cathy Lewis, Tom Tanger, Keith Schulenburg, Lisa Lokken. Not shown: Carole Leverentz, Alida Smith, Dick Berger, Kathy Macy Cohan, Marty Vander Velde.*

Sunday services with the children’s sermons and liturgies.

One Deacons project appreciated by *everyone* is the 150th Anniversary Pictorial Directory—a major undertaking in a church with over 1600 members. The Deacons began planning in January of 1991, organized the photography session in fall of that year, and delivered the finished directories as the main festivities of the 150th Celebration began.

When asked about her favorite project as a Deacon, Laura said “It was all very positive, though I must admit the Christmas decorating sessions are the most fun. The Deacons’ spouses also help decorate and stay afterward for a

## 1992 Members and Duties:

Laura Roberts, Chair, Pictorial Directory; Butch Boyd, Vice-Chair & Secretary; Dick Berger, Greeters; Leigh Eggert, Greeters; Chris Ellis, Pastoral Care; Brian Esser, Videotaping, Rides; Roger Gruebling, Treasurer; Carole Leverentz, Flowers; Cathy Lewis, Communion; Lisa Lokken, Pastoral Care; Kathy (Macy) Cohan, Communion; Susan Moore, Baptisms; Cindy Payette, Membership, Thanksgiving & Christmas Decorations; Keith Schulenburg, Ushers, Pastoral Care; Alida Smith, Dinners & Suppers; Tom Tanger, Membership; Marty Vander Velde, Dinners; Henry Vogel, Membership. ❖

# Christmas Family Workshop *(continued from page 1)*



Les Grube Photo

*Gingerbread men get the taste test.*

point squares, and other seasonal-themed items. Each booth will be run by a teen or adult helper. The most popular construction materials consist of edibles—peppermints, gumdrops, candy canes, etc. Projects may also be purchased as “kits” to be done at home on a snowy afternoon.

As the Workshop afternoon wanes and the gumdrops disappear, par-



Les Grube Photo

*Parents are encouraged to participate.*

ents' thoughts will turn to maintaining some semblance of good nutrition. They'll need journey no farther than the Fellowship Hall for the post-Workshop Potluck Supper. Ddg describes this as “Very informal. Everyone brings a dish, and we usually cook up enough hot dogs to feed the kids. Participants bring utensils and paper plates to minimize clean up.”

Ddg continued, “That’s the neat thing about the Workshop. The kids have a great time with the crafts, the parents enjoy their children’s excite-



Les Grube Photo

*A young culinary artist at work.*

ment, and everyone has fun at the potluck. Plus, when we get home, no one has to cook, wash dishes, or vacuum glitter out of the carpet for the next week.”

Plan to attend this special holiday event with your children, grandchildren, the neighborhood kids, even your bridge club. It’s the perfect way to get into the holiday spirit—*without* putting a major dent in your schedule, wallet, or sense of “good will toward men.” ❖

## Ornaments:

Snowman  
Gumdrop Basket  
Cookie Cutter  
Clothespin Clown

## Toys:

Doll  
Mini-Frisbee

## Christmas Crafts:

Copper Plaque  
Christmas Statue  
Gingerbread Magnet  
Bird Feeder  
Buttons

Watch for samples of this year’s Workshop projects in the lighted showcase.

## Gingerbread People

$\frac{1}{3}$  c. shortening  
1 c. brown sugar, packed  
 $1\frac{1}{2}$  c. dark molasses  
 $\frac{2}{3}$  c. cold water  
 $6\frac{1}{2}$  c. flour  
2 t. baking soda  
1 t. salt  
1 t. allspice  
1 t. ginger  
1 t. cloves  
1 t. cinnamon

Preheat oven to 350°F. Thoroughly mix shortening, sugar, and molasses. Stir in water. Measure flour by dipping method or sifting. Blend in all dry ingredients and stir. Chill dough (about 1 hour).

Roll dough  $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick on lightly floured board. Cut out shapes and place far apart on lightly greased baking sheet. Bake 10-12 minutes or until no imprint remains when touched lightly. Makes about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  dozen,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " fat, puffy, cookies.

# First Church Celebrates the Season

## PFers' Spiritual Focus

### "Faith, Hope, Joy, and Love."

On the four Sunday evenings prior to Christmas, the Senior High Pilgrim Fellowship will discuss these four topics in its Advent Series. This provides a way for the young people of the church to focus on their spiritually during the holidays.

Each program is organized by PF officers and held in members' homes. The evenings are a time for fellowship, tradition, and fun, including refreshments and the lighting of the advent wreath candle. It also gives teens who can't make the Wednesday evening meetings a chance to participate in Pilgrim Fellowship.

For more information, contact Megan Ellis (258-1189) or Greg Williams (453-4319).

## Christmas Eve Pageant

This Senior Pilgrim Fellowship Pageant continues a tradition dating back to the 1940s and before. The plot changes every year, but often centers on a Scrooge-like character who is shown the meaning and spirit of the holiday, ending with the retelling of the Christmas story.

The Rev. Rick Koch calls it "A very important time of year for the kids, and a chance to get as many of them involved as possible. They can perform, direct, make costumes, help with props, or 'all of the above.' There are plenty of tasks for those who want to contribute."

The evening evokes happy memories for everyone involved. For many, this includes the feeling of family togetherness, the carol singing, and the smallest chil-

dren's excitement as they decorate the church's tree. Rick Koch remembers singing a solo verse of "We Three Kings"; Sarah Edens was the Baby Jesus that year. In 1990, a street lamp prop nearly



Les Gubbe Photo

1990 Christmas Pageant participants

caught Rev. Mark Dunn on the head. The infant playing Baby Jesus almost never cries; usually a pacifier is an unofficial prop. Each year is different, yet successful in its own way, as if there's a PF Pageant "guardian angel."

Plan to attend on Christmas Eve, at 4:00 or 7:00 pm, to hear the age-old story retold by the youth of our church.

## Christmas Concert, Gathering

On December 13, Lee Jacobi, Betty Dethmers, Renée Hilgers, and Karen Wysocky will lead the musical talents of the Chancel, Pilgrim, Junior, and Handbell Choirs to treat our congregation and our community to a program of Christmas music.

The program for the combined adult choirs is ambitious and eclectic—and exuberant, as evidenced by the song title "Alleluia! Gloria! Magnificat! Nowell!" (David Music). The "Te Deum Laudamus" is set to music written by John Ireland in 1907, but is based on one of the few surviving hymns dating back to the early church in Rome. In a more modern time frame, the choir will also perform "Long Ago in Bethlehem," written by Muriel Ream in 1990.

Director Renée Hilgers calls her 1992 Junior Choir "small but mighty." Their program features a Junior Choir favorite: "Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mild" (traditional), which uses Orff equipment—xylophone-like instruments which are fun to play and to hear.

Selections of the Handbell Choir, led by Karen Wysocky, will include the Catalonian "Carol of the Birds"; Betty Dethmers will perform pieces for solo organ.

A festive Christmas Gathering will precede the 4:00 pm concert. Coffee, punch, and delicious Christmas cookies, provided by Circle 7 and the Women's Fellowship, will be served at 3:00 p.m. in Friendship Lounge.

## The Spirit of Giving

This year's Christmas offering will once again go to the Ministerial Assistance/Enrichment Fund of the NACCC.

The Sunday School children will decorate a Mitten Tree; donations will go to local organizations such as Sojourner Truth House. ❖

# DECEMBER

# 1992

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Retired Men's Club 9:00 AM Circle 8 11:30 AM at Congregational Home	Business & Professional Women 11:00 AM, lunch at 1:00 PM		St. Vincent Meal Cooking 9:15 AM & 1:00 PM Leave to serve 4:15 PM Deacons 6:30 PM	Alternative Worship 5:00 PM Habitat House Blessing 4:00 PM
6 Communion in Nave Adult Ed 10:00 Share-a-Prayer 10:10 Workshop 3:00 Potluck 5:00 39'ers 5:30	7 Bd. Fellowship 7:00 PM Bd. CE 7:30 PM	8 Cong. Care Comm. 7:30 PM Quilt Group 7:00 PM	9 Membership 7:00 PM Bible Class 10:30 AM & 7:30 PM	10	11	12 Help at Habitat Alternative Worship 5:00 PM
13 Kindergarten Pageant 9 & 11 AM Share-a-Prayer 10:10 Coffee Hour 10:00 Reception for Julius Ruff 10:00 Gathering 3:00 Concert 4:00	14 Senior Women 10:30 AM Bd. Trustees 7:00 PM Bd. Benevolences 7:30 PM Communications 7:00 PM	15		17	18	19 Christmas Hymn Sing Candlelight Service Alternative Worship 5:00 PM
20 Share-a-Prayer 10:10 Bd. of the Month 10:00	21	22 Council 7:00 PM	23 Bible Class 10:30 AM & 7:30 PM	CHRISTMAS EVE 24 Family Service 4:00 & 7:00 PM Candlelight Service 11:00 PM	CHRISTMAS 25	26 Alternative Worship 5:00 PM
27 Share-a-Prayer 10:10 Welcome Home Coffee 10:00-11:00 AM	28	29	30	NEW YEAR'S EVE 31 Office closes at noon		Event notices and reminders may be dropped in the Newsletter mailbox for inclusion in the CALENDAR

# First Congregational Church Worship Services

**Saturday, November 28** (5:00 p.m.)

Sermon: "Prepare the Way,  
Prepare Your Hearts" Rev. Rick Koch

Scripture: Matthew 3:1-12

**Sunday, November 29**

Sermon: Rev. John Strassburger

**Saturday, December 5** (5:00 p.m.)

Sermon: John Moore  
(Scripture TBA)

**Sunday, December 6**

Sermon: "Knock! Knock! Who's There?"

Scripture: Revelations 3:14-22

Anthems: "Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head" arr. Martin;

"A Vineyard Grows" Scott (9:00)

"Hark! The Glad Sound" arr.

Lig. J;

"Eucharist" Jacobi (11:00)

**Saturday, December 12** (5:00 p.m.)

Sermon: John Strassburger

(Scripture TBA)

**Sunday, December 13**

Sermon: "Great Expectations"

Scripture: Luke 2:22-32

Anthems: Cherub Choir

Pilgrim Choir: "Candlelight Carol" Rutter (9:00)

"Patapan" arr. Collins

"Sing Noel" arr. Burden (11:00)

**Saturday, December 19** (5:00 p.m.)

Rev. Rick Koch  
Christmas Hymn Sing  
Candlelight Service

**Sunday, December 20**

Sermon: "Making Room in the Inn"

Scripture: Luke 2:1-7

Anthems: Handbell Choir

Pilgrim Choir: "Do You Hear What I Hear?" arr. (9:00)

Junior Choir: "Advent Candles"

Chancel Choir: "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" arr.

Willcocks (11:00)

**Christmas Eve, December 24**

Senior Pilgrim Fellowship Pageant  
(4:00 & 7:00 pm)

Candlelight Service (11:00 pm)

Sermon: "Born This Day"

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-8; Luke 2:1-7  
and 8-20

Anthems: "Adeste Fideles" arr. Titcomb

"Christe Salve" Boodle

**Saturday, December 26** (5:00 p.m.)

TBA

**Sunday, December 27**

Sermon: John Strassburger

Scripture: TBA

Anthems: Alto Solo

Pilgrim Choir: "As It Fell Upon the Night" arr. Davis (9:00)

Alto Solo

Chancel Choir: "Christmas Greeting" How (11:00)

## Information, Please

Responding to requests for more information and interaction opportunities at church, the Long Range Planning Committee inaugurated the "Group-of-the-Month" series in September, followed in October and November by the Boards of Stewardship and Benevolences, respectively.

Conveniently held between services, these brief sessions are a chance for **all** church members to learn more about the boards and committees which serve our church. Each session includes a brief introductory talk on the group's duties, a question and answer period, and a chance to sign up for volunteer opportunities. ❖

### "Group of the Month" Schedule

December 20:

Music Committee

January 17:

Trustees Board

February 21:

Personnel Committee

March 21:

Fellowship Board

April 18:

Nominating Committee

May 16:

Deacons Board



*The Communications Committee  
wishes everyone  
a Blessed Christmas  
and a Happy New Year!*

## In Brief

### Columns Opportunities

We're looking for a few good people who want to write, edit, and take photographs for this newsletter. Contact Rachel Pearson or Mary York for more information.

### The Editor Thanks

Bruce Burgess, Lissa Edens, Rick Koch, Lisa Lokken, Sharon Petrie, Laura Roberts, John Strassburger, Cindy Trask, and Ddg Wakefield for background information; and Les Grube for photography and help with archival photos.

### They're Taking Names ...

... and reservations. The women of **Circle 12** (BPW) invite you to enjoy a program by pianist Anita McKnight at 11:00 a.m. on December 2, with lunch at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Call Laura Goetsch (258-3347) before November 30.

Join the **Senior Woman on Monday**, December 14 at 10:30 a.m. to hear Christmas readings by Claudine McGinley, with lunch (\$6.00) to follow at 11:30 a.m. Reserve by December 10 by calling Hilda Jorgensen (453-5356).

First Congregational Church  
1511 Church Street  
Wauwatosa, WI 53213-2593

### Reservations Not Necessary ...

Bring a sandwich and get ready to wrap: on December 1 at 11:30 a.m., **Circle 8** will meet at the Congregational Home for lunch and Christmas gift wrapping.

**Retired Men's Club** members and their guests will meet at 9:00 a.m. on December 1, with a Christmas program from the Tosa East H.S. Choir at 10:00.

### Stop Shopping, Start Cooking

Are you looking for that perfect Christmas gift for a friend or holiday hostess? Then pick up a few copies of **Celebrate**, First Church's very own member cookbook. It's brimming with family recipes suitable for holiday entertaining, like Ruth Janssen's Potato Torte, Peggy Muth's Hot Wassail Bowl Punch, and Sally Boyle's Aunt Sal's Candied Sweet Potatoes.

At \$7.00 copy, it's reasonably priced and suitable for anyone who likes to cook—or eat. There are even Christmas gift-wrapped copies available. Call 258-7375, to reserve your copy today. ❖

## Our Church Family

### Baptisms

Aaron Scott Blazich, son of Marc and Valerie, November 8.

### Births

Tim and Julie Anheuser and son Jimmy welcomed Michael Stuart on October 20.

### Deaths

Don Bandtel, husband of Florence Silver Bandtel, services Nov. 1

Irma Kramlich, services Nov. 16  
Marion Prinslow, services Nov. 16

### In the Hospital

Calvin Hanson, County Hospital  
Carrie Rondeau, County Hospital  
Charles Schneck, St. Joseph's  
Bob Heinz, St. Joseph's  
Kay Wylie, St. Luke's

### Home from the Hospital

Merle Smeltzer, Columbia  
George Zimmerman, St. Joseph's

### Weddings

Maureen Malone and Daniel Campbell, October 31  
Laury Hansen and Joseph Hackett, November 7  
Cheryl Nortman and R.J. Foster, November 14

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