

CONGREGATIONAL COLUMNS

January 30, 1994

Annual Meeting Highlights

The Annual Meeting was held January 19, 1994 from 7:30 - 10:30 p.m. with an inquisitive, interested group. As the meeting began Bill Edens gave a short talk - *1993 - The Year In Perspective.*

While it's easy to say that 1993 was a year full of changes for us at First Congregational Church, hearing some of the events highlighted emphasizes that point -

- At the 1993 annual meeting, a simplified constitution and by-laws were passed.
- After 28 years, Les Grube retired and staff positions and responsibilities shuffled to adapt.
- We welcomed 37 new members.
- Rob Fredrickson joined the staff to fill a void left by Rev. Rick Koch as he shifted his responsibilities.
- An oil tank was excavated preventing possible severe ecological damage.
- The decaying state of the church steeple was discovered as water leaked into the balcony.
- We lost a long-time tradition of weekday Bible school to be replaced with a new Pre-P.F. program.
- Phil Muth our senior minister of 10 years retired.
- The Search Committee engaged the services of Denise Tracy who is helping to provide strong leadership to see us into the next generation. And while these many exciting, yet sometimes stressful events took place, the resiliency of the congregation shone through.

The Search Committee, which also gave an



The meeting was well attended.

update has encouraging news that an interim minister may be with us by March. They now have six serious candidates from which they will hopefully present a candidate at a whole-church meeting for approval. The actual search for a new senior minister will begin approximately the same time.

Joe Berte provided an excellent explanation of the Treasurer's Report in which it is very encouraging to note that total operating expenses came in at over

\$21,000 under budget. All of the boards and committees worked very hard this year to save wherever possible. We did, however have some large expenditures through Growth and Development such as the oil tank, the Search Committee, and the main office renovation.



Joe Berte provided the Treasurer's Report.

The somewhat discouraging news is that of a deficit budget currently planned for 1994. Even with budgeted expenditures decreased considerably from last year, we are not able to proceed with a balanced budget at the current pledge plan. This brought about a request for a re-evaluation of pledges by members. Those who have withheld their pledges to this point are asked to consider pledging now, and others are asked to increase their pledge for 1994. Although the

(continued on page 5)

Survey Planned for February

The Search Committee has formed a sub-committee to write an all-member survey. The questionnaire will gather data needed to write an accurate church profile. The Survey Sub-Committee consists of Peter Holtz, Steve Hayes and Sarah DeYoung.

The information gathered from the survey will be compiled into a detailed description of our church and congregation. This profile will contain data about our membership: ages, occupations, family members, and church participation. It will also define our needs and expectations for the future of our church and the qualities we hope to find in our next senior minister. The purpose of the profile is to help prospective candidates determine whether their talents and abilities match our needs.

Every member will be asked to complete and return a questionnaire. Your opinions are important to the

future of our church. This is a chance to help in the search process. We pray that everyone will care enough to become involved. The survey will be distributed in early February. The results will be shared with the congregation as soon as possible. ■

by Beth Andersen

Search Committee Member Profiles

Peter Holtz is the manager of customer service for Wisconsin Electric. He and his wife Barb have been members of First Congregational Church for 12 years and both have served on numerous committees. Peter and Barb have four children - Katie, 14; Betsy, 12; Tori, 8; and Tim, 4.

In his spare time, Peter enjoys sports and music. (While he appreciates all types of music, he says he has a strong preference for Rock 'n Roll.)

Steve Hayes is an attorney with Von Briesen and Purtell. He and his wife Nancy have four children - Steve, 23,

who lives in Washington D.C. working for Fund for America; Andy, 20, is a sophomore at St. Olaf College; Julianna, 15, is a sophomore at Tosa East; and Dan, 11, a fifth-grader at McKinley. Nancy is a lifetime member and Steve joined at the time of their marriage. Nancy is currently serving on Church Council while Steve is also on the Personnel Committee.

Steve is on the Board of Channel 10, the Board of Resolve as one of his legal specialties is adoption, and is the chairperson for the Milwaukee Bar Association Judicial Selection Committee. He enjoys golf, fly-fishing and travel.

Sarah DeYoung is a teacher at the UWM Child Care Center. She became a member of First Congregational Church last spring and this is her first committee assignment. In her spare time, Sarah enjoys skiing, volleyball, reading, and committee work.

Call for Support Begins to Get Answers

Thanks to all the loyal members for paying their pledges or making special contributions in 1993. A very special thanks to those who responded at the end of the year to our need for extra money for the '93 budget.

Those of you who attended the Annual Meeting heard both Doug Jacobson and Tom Godfrey talk about the need for all of us to re-examine our support for the church programs for 1994. Already we have

had several people respond to that request. Thank you to those people - your support enables this church to carry on the work of the Lord. Won't you all consider increasing your support. ■

THANK YOU!

CONGREGATIONAL COLUMNS

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◆
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Pearl Hunkel, a Gem in Our Congregation

Pearl Hunkel has been a member of First Congregational Church for more years than she can remember. With her husband, the late Dr. Victor Hunkel, Pearl raised one son and four daughters in the church. (Her son Philip died at age nine from a rare form of leukemia.) Her daughters are now scattered across the world. Mary, the oldest, lives in Burlington, VT. Judy and Cary both live in Madison where Cary works as a wildlife artist. Janet, the youngest, calls Boston home, but is now in the Ukraine. She is working to help Ukrainians establish small businesses. Pearl also has six grandchildren, three boys and three

girls, ranging in age from seven to thirty-four. With a smile in her voice, she adds, "All four of our girls graduated from Tosa East."

Born and raised in southern Illinois, Pearl met Victor in a chemistry class at the University of Wisconsin. In 1941, Pearl and Victor built their home in Wauwatosa where Pearl still proudly lives. Throughout the house, much of which was renovated by Pearl and Victor, there are beautiful antique family heirlooms and works by artists who Pearl and Victor knew or were related to. Pearl has an amazing memory for detail which can make each item throughout the house come to life as she describes it's history.

In years past, Pearl enjoyed working on the church's Mission Board. Now she primarily participates in the senior women's group. Pearl also devotes time to the Ideal Club, an auxiliary group from Children's Hospital. She has been a member for over fifty years. The group of about ten women makes items for the hospital at their monthly meetings. The women also make items in their homes, outside of meeting

times, including cloth dolls which are given as admittance toys.

Pearl and Victor enjoyed extensive travelling. She remembers with special fondness a trip around the world which they took in 1959. "We had a ticket and a vague idea of what we wanted to see and do - and off we went. I don't think you could do it like that today. If we liked a place, we'd stay there longer, if not, we'd pull up stakes and move on. It was really a great thing to do."

The Hunkels made many skiing trips to Switzerland, Austria and France over the years. And Pearl happily reports that she is expecting company this summer from Switzerland. Willie Klopfenstein, a renowned sculptor, and his wife Elizabeth, will be visiting Pearl in August.

In addition to her trip around the world and frequent skiing trips to Europe, Pearl visited Israel several years ago. She found Jerusalem to be "very interesting." Be sure to wish Pearl, our world traveller, a "Guten Tag," next time you see her! ■

by Pam Parker



On a special ornament tree made by her daughter, Pearl hangs an impressive collection of ornaments that include family heirlooms, gifts from friends, and souvenirs from around the world.

Ladies' Night Out Scheduled for February 9

Ladies' Night Out, sponsored by Circle 9 will be held February 9, 1994. We will kick off the evening at 6:00 p.m. with a spaghetti dinner prepared by John Sgarlata and served by P.E. members. The cost of the dinner is \$4.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children.

Entertainment will follow. Beginning at 7:00 p.m. A.J. (Ardan James) will perform magic illusions, mime, comedy, ventriloquism and more!!

This promises to be a wonderful evening of fun and fellowship for women ages 2-102!

Reservations can be made by calling Lauren Priegel, 475-0575. Please call by February 2. ■

Women's Lenten Day Retreat to Focus on Faith and Healing

On Thursday, February 24, 1994, First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa will host a Lenten Day Retreat. Reverend Mary Koch will lead a Lenten Discussion, "Daughters of Phoenicia - Reflections on Women, Faith and Healing." A social hour will be held from 9:30 - 10:00 with the morning session to run from 10:00 - 11:15. A luncheon will be held from 11:30 - 12:30, with the afternoon session to follow from 12:45 - 2:00. Reservations and a \$5.00 donation per person for the luncheon are appreciated. While we hope you will be able to attend both sessions, you are welcome to choose one or the other.

Throughout the ages, women have been fascinated by the connection between spiritual discipline and physical health.

In biblical times, a Syrophenician mother and many other named and unnamed women achieved physical healing by requesting it of Jesus. He told them that their faith had made them well.

Today, in many small communities across our nation, the practice of holding "coffee-clutch" prayer circle gatherings is a ritual of great import. Women labor meticulously to create detailed lists of the sick and injured among their neighbors; and then they pray for them, believing their prayers will be answered

In some larger communities, women join together in Christian classes and self-help groups where they focus on spiritual meditation as a way of healing their own bodies from the slow deterioration of stress or the aggressive ravages of traumatic illness.

"Faith-Healing" earned a bad name

during the 20th century, with many quacks and charlatans using the concept for their own profit. But with the dawn of the 21st century, new philosophical understandings and scientific data are surfacing, enabling women of faith to reclaim and reaffirm their innate sense of the vital body-spirit connection.

During the morning and afternoon sessions of our Lenten day retreat together, we will talk and reflect about the practice of intercessory prayer for others and for ourselves. We will also look at some of the new findings about the direct impact that prayer and meditation can have on the physical body - findings which have been unearthed by professional doctors, psychologists, teachers: the modern day "Daughters of Phoenicia." ■

submitted by Lissa Edens

Lenten Schedule Full of Services and Activities

The 1994 Lenten Season begins February 16, with Ash Wednesday. Throughout Lent, there will be a full schedule with a combination of traditional offerings and new programs.

First the Men's Lenten Breakfasts will be held Tuesday mornings, at 6:45 in the Friendship Lounge rather than on Wednesdays as in the past. This is to prevent an overload of activities in the Wednesday schedule.

Five consecutive Wednesday evening Pot Luck Dinners will begin on February 23. Dinner will

be at 6:00 with special chapel services to follow from 7:00 - 7:45. The services will feature alternative worship styles. The schedule is as follows:

February 23: The service will feature a video presentation that's sure to bring the meaning of Lent into focus!

March 2: Led by Rick Stieghorst, this service will feature a guided meditation experience.

March 9: This music-oriented service will feature special anthems and a hymn-sing led by Dean & Marj Fowler.

March 16: The service will be led by the Junior Pilgrim Fellowship and

will feature a dramatic presentation. **March 23:** The service will feature dramatic monologues presented by Charlie Wakefield and Doug Jacobson.

Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter will follow our traditional format. Watch for your Lenten Devotional Booklet and take advantage of these services and fellowship activities. ■

Annual Meeting Continued

Budget was passed, past moderator, Doug Jacobson asked that we all consider it a "work in progress" while everyone assesses how much more we can support the efforts of our church.

All of the nominees for officers and



board members were commissioned. Tom Godfrey took over the position of moderator as Doug Jacobson stepped down, appreciated by a standing ovation after a dedicated two years of service ending with an inspirational address to members.

Reports from the ministers reinforced reports of a busy year as they

have recently taken over preaching duties in addition to their normal busy schedules.

Burleigh Jacobs reported for Congregational Home recognizing the support of the church and asking for any books or vacation pictures that anyone would like to donate.

Towards the end of the meeting, while some worried about the downward trend in stewardship (which made it necessary to cut the budget for benevolences by \$10,000), one of the Covenant Class members who will become a Church member this spring questioned whether the focus on money throughout the meeting negated the focus on working to do God's will. In response, while no one likes to keep asking for money, it's important to remember that the requests for money enable this church to carry on God's work. ■

Question and Answer

Q Who chooses the hymns each Sunday?

A The minister who will be preaching decides on the accompanying hymns. There is a selection of hymns for each season, and from the selection, music is chosen that will most closely follow the theme for that service.

At times, he may also ask for input from Lee Jacobi, the director of music. ■

Adult Education Sessions Held Between Services

Seven more Sunday mornings during the Spring semester will feature adult education seminars between the worship services, from 10:10 until 10:50 a.m., in the Social Hall. Each seminar will focus on a different theological question as outlined below:

February 6: "What Does It Mean to Be a Church?" - Dr. John Strassburger
What does God expect of you as a church member; of us as a local church; and of Christians everywhere as the Body of Christ?

February 20: "How Can We Know

Anything About God?" - Rob Fredrickson.
How do we come to know God as we do?

March 6: "What's God Like" - Rev. Richard Koch.
What are God's "characteristics?"

March 20: "Who Was (and Is) Jesus Christ?" - Rob Fredrickson
Was Jesus a great man or God - or something in between?

April 10: "What or Who Is the Holy Spirit?" - Rev. Richard J. Koch.
What role does the Holy Spirit play?

May 1: "What Happens to People When They Die?" - Rob Fredrickson
Is there really a heaven and hell? If so, who goes where and why?

May 15: "How is the World Going to End (If at All)?" - Dr. John Strassburger
Is Jesus coming back? What then?

There is **no** pre-requisite level of biblical or theological knowledge and consistent attendance is not necessary. Come when you can. Enjoy some coffee and the fascinating theological questions. ■

FEBRUARY 1994

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<p>Early Christians, 7 am Rt. Men, 9 am - Bd. Deacons, 7:00 - Handbell, 7:00 - B.S. Comm., 7:00 - Boy Scouts, 7:00 Ch. St. Singers, 7:30 Alc. Anon., 7:30</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<p>Circle 12, 11 am Sr. P.F., 6:30 Twin Blessed Moms, 7</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>	<p>Jr. P.F., 4:00 Pilgrim Choir, 6:45 B.S./C.S. Roundtable, 7 Quilters, 7 Chancel Choir, 7:30</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>	<p>St. Vincent Meal Prog. 8:30 & 4 Artist's Group, 10:00</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>	<p>State Jr. P.F. Rally in Madison, return 4:00 Saturday</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5</p>
<p>BOY SCOUT SUNDAY Communion, Worship, Sun. School, & Nursery, 9 & 11 am Jr. Choir, 10 am - Adult Ed., 10:10 am - Partner Pgm., 2:00</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6</p>	<p>Board Christian Fellowship, 7:00 Board Christian Education, 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous, 8</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7</p>	<p>Early Christians, 7 am Pre-PF, 4:30 - Brownies, 6 - B.S. District, 7 - Boy Scouts, 7 - Handbell, 7 Resolve, 7:30 Alc. Anon., 7:30</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8</p>	<p>Bible Class, 10 am & 7:30 Sr. P.F., 5:45 Ladies' Night Out, 6:00 Search Committee, 6:00 at Cong. Home</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9</p>	<p>Jr. P.F., 4:00 Pilgrim Choir, 6:45 Chancel Choir, 7:30</p> <p style="text-align: right;">10</p>	<p>Artist's Group, 10:00 State Jr. P.F. Rally in Madison, 5:00 Friday to 4:00 Saturday</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11</p>	<p>State Jr. P.F. Rally in Madison, return 4:00 Saturday</p> <p style="text-align: right;">12</p>
<p>Worship, Sun. School, & Nursery, 9 & 11 am Jr. Choir, 10 am Pancake Breakfast, 8 to 11 am</p> <p style="text-align: right;">13</p>	<p>Senior Women, 10 am Board Trustees, 7:00 Board Benevolences, 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous, 8:00</p> <p style="text-align: right;">14</p>	<p>Early Christians, 7 am - Ret. Men's Club, 9 am - Handbell, 7 - Boy Scouts, 7 - Quilters, 7 - Bd. Cong. Care, 7:30 - Alc. Anon., 7:30</p> <p style="text-align: right;">15</p>	<p>Sr. P.F., 7:00 ASH WEDNESDAY service, 7:30</p> <p style="text-align: right;">16</p>	<p>Jr. P.F., 4:00 Pilgrim Choir, 6:45 Chancel Choir, 7:30</p> <p style="text-align: right;">17</p>	<p>Artist's Group, 10:00</p> <p style="text-align: right;">18</p>	<p>Artist's Group, 10:00 State Jr. P.F. Rally in Madison, 5:00 Friday to 4:00 Saturday</p> <p style="text-align: right;">19</p>
<p>Worship, Sunday School, Nursery, 9 & 11 am Junior Choir, 10 am Adult Ed., 10:10 am Blue and Gold Dinner, 2:00</p> <p style="text-align: right;">20</p>	<p>Alcoholics Anonymous, 8:00</p> <p style="text-align: right;">21</p>	<p>Lenten Breakfast, 6:45 am Early Christians, 7 am Ret. Men's Board, 9 am Brownies, 6:00 Handbell, 7:00 Boy Scouts, 7:00 Alc. Anon., 7:30</p> <p style="text-align: right;">22</p>	<p>Bible Classes, 10 am & 7:30 Pot Luck Dinner & program, 6:00 Resolve, 7:00 Sr. P.F., 7:00</p> <p style="text-align: right;">23</p>	<p>Jr. P.F., 4:00 Pilgrim Choir, 6:45 Chancel Choir, 7:30 Women's Day, 9:30-2:00</p> <p style="text-align: right;">24</p>	<p>Artist's Group, 10:00 Sr. P.F. State Overnighter in Kenosha</p> <p style="text-align: right;">25</p>	<p>Sr. P.F. State Overnighter, Kenosha; back today Covenant Class rehearsal, 10 am</p> <p style="text-align: right;">26</p>
<p>COVENANT CLASS SUNDAY Worship, Sunday School, Nursery, 9 & 11 am - Jr. Choir, 10 am - Cov. Class Dinner, 5:30 Youth Alive, 6:30</p> <p style="text-align: right;">27</p>	<p>Alcoholics Anonymous, 8:00</p> <p style="text-align: right;">28</p>					<p><i>Event notices and reminders may be dropped in the Newsletter mailbox for inclusion on the Calendar.</i></p>

Special Youth Events Heat Up Winter Weeks

As we progress through the winter weeks, it's especially exciting to take note of four special upcoming youth events: the SuperBowl Sandwich Sale, the Merkt's Pizza, Cheesespread and Cheesecake Sale; the second annual Wisconsin State Junior High Winter Rally, and the Wisconsin State Pilgrim Fellowship's Winter Overnighter (for senior high students).

On Sunday, January 30, from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. and from 12:00 - 12:30 p.m., the Senior High Pilgrim Fellowship will be distributing previously ordered SuperBowl submarine sandwiches from a table in the main hallway. All of you astute SuperBowl fans who placed sandwich orders on either of the previous two Sundays will have nothing to fear from SuperBowl hunger. With your fully-loaded sub sandwiches in hand, you and your stomach will be able to happily enjoy the big game!

The SuperBowl Sub Sandwich Sale is one of several upcoming P.F. fund-raisers. The P.F. officers have decided to contribute the proceeds from selected fund-raisers to charity. (For example, the proceeds from the Fall Work Day are being used to sponsor a disadvantaged Colombian child.) The Sub sale, however, is designed to raise money to defray the costs of P.F.'ers attending the national P.F. conference in Des Moines, Iowa, and summer camp at Camp Lucerne.

Another such upcoming fund-raiser is the Merkt's Pizza, Cheesespread, & Cheesecake Sale, set to take place throughout the first half of February. These treats are outstanding! And since the cause is good, why not stock up?!? The pizzas, of

course, freeze, and the cheesespread and cheesecake are great for parties or family get-togethers.

Most importantly, the members of the Junior and Senior High Pilgrim Fellowships are relying on your support to make attendance at NAPF and camp an attainable goal. We estimate the total cost of attending this year's NAPF conference will be \$350, and camp fees for both junior and senior high are likely to approach \$200. These are hefty financial burdens for teenagers and their families to bear. Your support of these and other selected P.F. fund-raisers will help make these summer events more financially feasible. Most emphatically, our P.F.'ers extend a resounding "Thank you" to the congregation for all your support...past, present, and future!

But fundraising is far from the whole story of the upcoming weeks. In addition to regular weekly Junior and Senior High P.F. meetings, Wisconsin State youth events will be featured. On February 11 and 12, the junior high youth from Congregational Churches throughout the state will gather at Heritage Congregational Church in Madison for the second annual Junior High Winter Rally. The program theme will be "Stories," focusing on select parables of Jesus. There will be fun, fellowship, and faith-formation for everyone involved. The cost is only \$10, but the registration deadline is coming up fast...it's Monday, February 7! So come to Jr. P.F., or contact Rob Fredrickson a.s.a.p. for all the details!

Not to be outdone, the Wisconsin State Pilgrim Fellowship (for senior high youth) is sponsoring a Winter

Overnighter at the Kenosha Youth Foundation, on Friday, February 25 (into the 26th). Scheduled activities include swimming, volleyball, basketball, billiards, ping pong, video games, movies, and a dance! The low, low fee of \$10 includes pizza and other late night munchies, plus donuts in the morning. But don't dilly-dally in making plans! The absolute, no-exceptions registration deadline is Friday, February 11. So come to P.F. soon, or contact Rob Fredrickson or Sarah Edens for registration details.

What's more, the parade of special activities doesn't end after February! As the warm winds of Spring begin to blow, the P.F. schedule will be hotter than ever, with a hearty mix of weekly meetings, special events, fund-raisers for charity, and fund-raisers for NAPF and camp. So stay alert and don't let the action pass you by! ■

by Rob Fredrickson

Honored Queen

On January 15, Kristen Lynn Kuss was installed as Honored Queen of Bethel #7 of the International Order of Job's Daughters in Brookfield.

Kristen is also active on the drill



Kristen Lynn Kuss

team and baseball team and is a sophomore at Wauwatosa East High School. She is the daughter of Lynn Kuss and the late Rudolph

Kuss, IV. ■

In Brief

The Editor Thanks: Beth Andersen, Pam Parker, Lissa Edens, Lauren Priegel, and Rob Fredrickson for written materials; and the office staff for their assistance.

Circles to Meet

Circle 8: Tuesday, February 1, 11:30
Meet at Congregational Home to have lunch with the Health Care Center residents.

Circle 12: Wednesday, February 2, 11:00
Meet in Friendship Lounge; the Rev. Mary Koch will speak.

Our Church Family

People Warmth

"People warmth" is that sense of comfort and joy that comes from being near loved ones and knowing that someone cares. Part of God's purpose in creating this church is to provide this kind of warmth for you. The Bible calls it *fellowship* - a supernatural closeness that exists between believers because God himself is in their midst. God has put us here so we can enjoy and benefit from this fellowship. And each church member supplies part of that warmth.

You are part of the fellowship of this church! Each time you attend, encourage someone, or join in the singing, you are building the warmth that makes our church special. Enjoy this warmth which God has provided. Warm your hearts with the love of God's people.

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