

# C O N G R E G A T I O N A L C O L U M N S

March 27, 1994

## First Congregational Church To Host 34th Annual WCA Meeting

First Congregational Church will host the 34th Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Congregational Association on Friday, April 22nd and Saturday the 23rd. The Association is a group of 33 Wisconsin Congregational Churches, organized on April 27, 1968 and bound together in faith, freedom, and fellowship. Annual meetings are held to conduct such business as may be required and to renew the bond of congregational fellowship that links the member churches together.

The main projects of the association are to sponsor and provide leadership for the annual summer youth camps at Camp Lucerne and to publish the *Wisconsin Congregationalist* bulletin which provides news items about member churches and articles of interest concerning the association and its activities.

Copies of the bulletin may be found in the literature rack in the narthex of First Congregational Church.

Information regarding the Annual Meeting may be found in the Spring, 1994, issue of the bulletin. Forms for registering for the meetings and the schedule of events are included.

The Boards of Benevolences and Church Relations, Christian Fellowship, and Deacons, with Art Kletti as chairperson, have made extensive preparations for the meeting and are hoping for a large attendance. Plan to attend the meeting and meet your fellow congregationalists from around the state.

As noted on the registration form, a need exists for home hospitality for some people from out of town. If you have a spare bed for use on the night of Friday, April 22nd, let the church office know. There are no meals or other preparations required. ■

by John Erdahl

## Benevolences Banking on Special Offerings

The Board of Benevolences and Church Relations has designated the recipients of this year's Lenten and Easter Offering. The Board has set a goal of raising \$8500 which would be divided among Milwaukee Hospice Home Care Center, Literary Services of Wisconsin, and the Next Door Foundation.

Because of the budget reduction this year, the Board has to rely on the Special Offerings to raise the money for some of its regular benevolence projects. We appreciate the support the congregation gives to these worthwhile projects. ■

# Mary York - Vice Moderator

Mary York is the new vice moderator and a tremendous asset to First Congregational Church. Mary is the third generation of her family to attend FCC - her grandmother, mother and father are all still active members.

Mary and her husband Merrill, (recently profiled as the chairperson of the Interim Search Committee) have three children. Their oldest son David, 23, graduated from Vanderbilt University and is now working. Susan, 21, is a junior at Depauw University. And Carolyn, 16, is a junior at Brookfield Academy.

Within the church, Mary has been very active. Most recently she has served on Council for the past three years, just finished her term as chairperson for the Communications Committee, and served on the Boards of Deacons and Christian Education.

In addition to the church, Mary is very devoted to Brookfield Academy. She says that it is similar to FCC in that it is a free-thinking, independantly supported school. She is on the Board of Directors for the school and serves on the marketing and volunteer committees.

Mary also works with the Center for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing. She is a member of the Board of Directors, served as chairperson for the Development Committee and is now working with the Communications Committee.

Aside from these organizations, Mary devotes much of her time to her family. She says she loves to watch her kids with their various involvements. She and Merrill enjoy traveling alone and as a family. Mary

was a History major and says she enjoys learning about the places they visit. Other than that, she likes to read in her spare time.



Mary and Merrill York

Mary views her present position as vice moderator as a support position. She says she will try to help Tom Godfrey however she can as the church works through this transition period. She also works with Budget and Finance. She said she would like to help unite the church - something which she is in a good position to do with her multi-generational connections.

Mary says that she brings to this position "a love for the church, not expertise. But I want to help however I can." As someone who worked on a committee with Mary, I would consider that to be a vast understatement. Her talents, dedication, and energy provide an immeasurable service to First Congregational Church. ■

# Think About It

## Lesson from a Rose

It is only a tiny rosebud—  
A flower of God's design—  
But I cannot unfold the petals  
With these clumsy hands of mine.

The secret of unfolding flowers  
Is not known to such as I—  
The flower God opens so sweetly  
In my hands would fade and die.

If I cannot unfold a rosebud  
This flower of God's design,  
Then how can I think I have wisdom  
To unfold this life of mine?

So I'll trust him for his leading  
Each moment of every day,  
And I'll look to him for guidance  
Each step of the pilgrim way.

For the pathway that lies before me  
My Heavenly Father knows—  
I'll trust him to reveal the moments  
Just as he unfolds the rose.

—Author unknown

## CONGREGATIONAL COLUMNS

Editor, Beth Linscott  
Communications Committee  
Susan Barth, Chairperson  
Beth Andersen, Dick Clark,  
Tom Gold, Pam Parker, Sandy Rose

◆  
Rev. Richard J. Koch, Christian Fellowship, Administrator  
Rev. John H. Strassburger, Pastoral Care  
Robert C. Fredrickson, M.C.E., Youth Director  
Rani Gusho, Financial Administrator  
Debby Wakefield, Christian Education Director  
Rev. Norman S. Ream, D.D., Minister Emeritus  
Lee Jacobi, Director of Music  
Betty Dethmers, Organist  
◆

*Congregational Columns* (USPS 010-493) is published monthly by the First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa, 1511 Church St., Wauwatosa, WI 53213-2593, 414/258-7375. Second Class Postage Paid at Milwaukee, WI53203-9998. Postmaster: Send address changes to *Congregational Columns*, 1511 Church St., Wauwatosa, WI 53213-2593.  
Vol. 3, Issue 3.

# Adult Education Bonus Scheduled for Late April

Many, many "thank yous" to all of you who have been attending adult education seminars between the Sunday morning worship services in the Social Hall! The crowds have been growing as we've been "uniting in the quest for spiritual discovery," and the healthy attendance has helped promote lively discussion of provocative theological issues.

Without preempting any already-publicized seminars, we're adding two "bonus" sessions to the spring semester calendar. On April 17 and 24, we'll have the privilege of hearing Tom Healey discuss "The Historical Reliability of the Resurrection." Tom is a student at Trinity Theological Seminary in Deerfield, Illinois, and a prospective member of our church. He is an experienced leader of adult Christian education classes, and has

graciously volunteered to share some of his insights on this timely, Easter-oriented topic. Tom's background includes a past affiliation with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and he still considers himself a "theological conservative." But his interest in our church and his interest in teaching these seminars stems from his deep appreciation of theological diversity, and a love of sprightly theological dialogue.

These seminars will take place in the Social Hall, from 10:10 until approximately 10:50, just like other adult education sessions. So don't miss this outstanding and rare opportunity to learn more about the resurrection and get acquainted with a prospective new member at the same time! ■

*by Rob Fredrickson*

# Question and Answer

**Q** Why has the church refused to divulge the individual salaries, bonuses, and benefits of the ministers?

**A** At the past Annual Meeting, there was an itemized list of the exact salary and medical benefits of each employee of the church for 1993 and the proposed 1994 budget. These were handed out before the vote was taken on the budget. This information is available in the church office if you were not at the Annual Meeting. There are no bonus payments to any employee and no life insurance. The ministers receive four weeks of vacation, other employees' vacation times are based on the number of years employed. There are seven paid holidays and six sick days per year which may be accumulated to a maximum of 60

# Getting to Know Rev. Strassburger

Reverend John H. Strassburger came to First Congregational Church in 1991 as the Minister of Pastoral Care. Rev. Strassburger was ordained in 1974 and served in many capacities including as pastor to local churches, and as a clinical chaplain at a couple of state hospitals. From those experiences, he decided to go back to school to obtain his Master of Theology in Pastoral Counseling and then his Doctorate in Education. Rev. Strassburger then served in many pastoral counseling/care capacities before receiving a call from First Congregational Church. He says he liked the position because it was a pastoral care ministry in a local church - a

function which he believes to be essential to the ministry of a large church and a position which made good use of his training.

His primary responsibilities to FCC include hospital, homebound, and nursing home visitations. (There are approximately 130 members at 25 different facilities plus individual homes which he visits.) Rev. Strassburger also works closely with the Board of Congregational Care, serves on the Mayfair Interfaith Board, is the Program Coordinator for the Wauwatosa Ministerial Association, and serves on the Board of the Congregational Home. He is current-

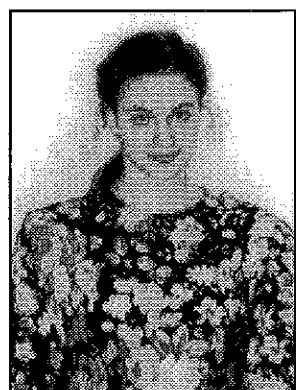
ly very interested in gerontology, spiritual care, and local church ministries. In the future, he hopes to help give birth to a "Shepherd's Center," which would serve as a continuing education center for older adults.

Rev. Strassburger's wife, Gwen works at M&I in corporate finance. They have two daughters, Jenny, 22 and Julie, 20. Jenny attends UW-LaCrosse and will graduate in May with a Psychology degree. Julie is at North Central College and is studying Spanish and Psychology.

Rev. Strassburger enjoys concerts, the theatre, reading and traveling. ■

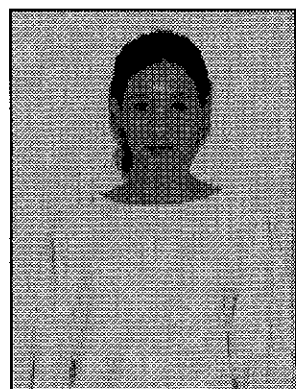
# Fifteen Covenant Class Members Confirmed

Fifteen young people from the class of 1994 joined the church on February 27th. After completing two years of study under the direction of The Reverend Rick Koch and Cindy Payette, they were confirmed in front of the entire congregation at both services. A dinner was held in their honor later in the day.



Amanda Collis

Amanda Collis attends Brookfield East High School. She is involved with swimming, musicals, plays, chamber choir, and forensics there. She is not quite sure what she will do after graduation; but, will probably attend college, majoring in math or science with a minor in dance, theater, or voice. She's considering a teaching career, but adds that "being in construction" would be okay, too. Other interests include: writing, poetry, camping, pickles, tree climbing and reading. She wishes more people would "discover the art of living; following the path of God and Jesus Christ."



Kelly Grubanowitch

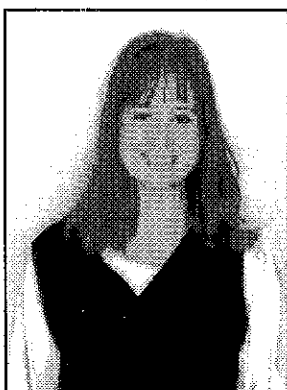
Kelly Grubanowitch also attends Brookfield East. She plans to play soccer this spring. After graduation her plans include col-

lege with a major in public speaking or nursing. She has worked with the 7th and 8th grade Sunday School classes and ushered here at church. She enjoys working at the Congregational Home as a food service aide and comments: "I enjoy being around the residents!"



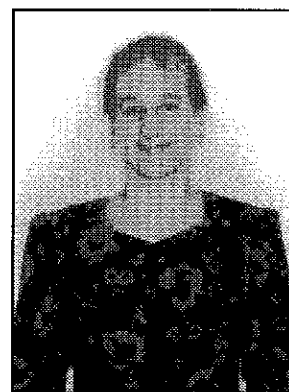
Julianna Hayes

Julianna Hayes is a sophomore at Tosa East. She participates in diving, baseball, intramural basketball, the AFS program and also does some tutoring. Although she is undecided, college plans may take her to Minnesota, DePaul or Arizona. She wants to be a guidance counselor or a psychologist. She has volunteered at the Lutheran Home and helped out at St. Vincent's. Julie said she really likes to work with people and help those in need. She loves all sports.



Tina Kiel

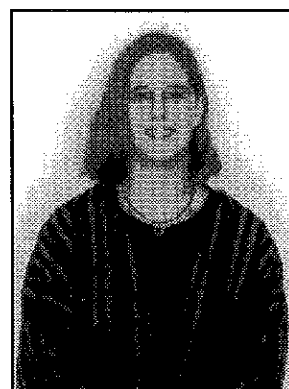
Tina Kiel also attends Wauwatosa East. She participates in debate and the A Capella choir there. She knows she wants to attend college but really has no idea yet what she wants to study. Hobbies include: dance class, singing, and roller blading in the summer.



Libby Kielma

Libby Kielma is a Student Council representative at Tosa East. She is active in AFS, A Capella, Mu Alpha Theta, Science Club, Elementary School Peer Helpers, Soccer, intramural aerobics, and the swim team. She wants to attend college and is considering elementary education, physical therapy, or pediatrics as possible careers. Libby is in the PF (really likes camp and the overnights), volunteers at the Congregational Home, serves at St. Vincent's, and has sung in the Women's Choir at church. She's played soccer for ten years, enjoys water skiing, and is currently studying lifeguarding.

Libby Kielma is a Student Council representative at Tosa East. She is active in AFS, A Capella, Mu Alpha Theta, Science



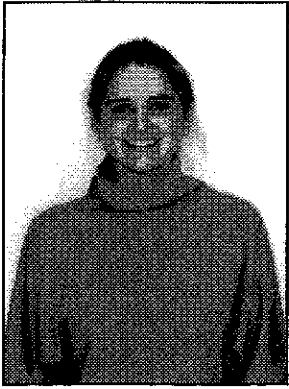
Emily Kolaga

Emily Kolaga attends Brookfield East. She is active in Soccer, the Pep and Marching Bands, the ski club, and is looking forward to a three-week trip to Germany in April. She hopes for a soccer scholarship to attend college, preferably Madison, and might pursue psychology, business, or law. She currently coaches a U-8 soccer team, has helped out at Vacation Bible School here at church, has been a program assistant at Girl Scout Camp and has attended PF camps and retreats.

Emily Kolaga attends Brookfield East. She is active in Soccer, the Pep and Marching Bands, the ski club, and is looking

# Covenant Class Continued

She enjoys skiing, water sports, reading, playing the saxophone and the guitar, family camping, and "hanging out" with friends.

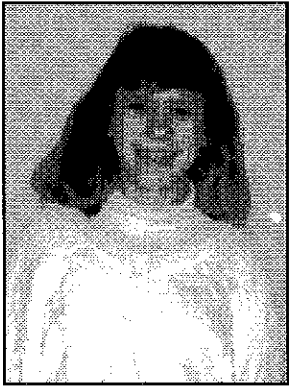


Susie Krull

Susie Krull goes to Mukwonago High School. She plays tennis and belongs to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

She hopes

to attend college and get into something in allied medicine. She works at St. Vincent's, babysits in the nursery, and goes to PF camp and the rallies. Her hobbies are tennis, swimming, and skiing.



Kristen Kuss

Kristen Kuss attends Tosa East. After graduation she might attend school in Madison or LaCrosse and is thinking of a career in

education or physical therapy. She has volunteered at the



Emily Lewis

Congregational Home and says her interests are "shopping and talking on the phone."

Emily Lewis is also a student at Tosa East. She

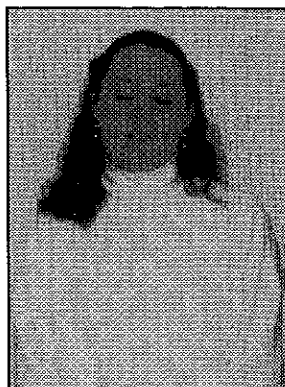
participates in swimming, track, and the band. She wants to go to college and hopes for a career in the field of health, possibly physical therapy. During the past four summers she has volunteered for Safety Town and also helps out at the Lutheran Home. She adds that she really likes working with kids.



Sarah Madeska

Sarah Madeska is a sophomore at Tosa East who participates in Peer Helpers there. The group emphasizes a positive,

chemical-free lifestyle for young people. She plans to go to college but is uncertain about an occupation. Perhaps she will study art or music. She tutors at Sojourner Truth House and volunteered at Safety Town. She recently participated in the AIDS Walk. At church, Sarah has helped her mom teach Sunday School and served at a New Member Dinner. She likes spending time with friends, listening to music, traveling, basketball and running.

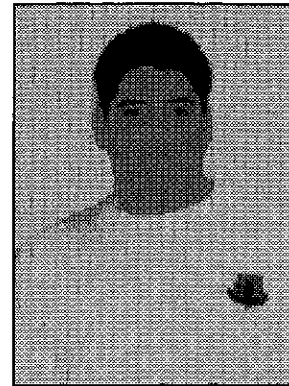


Maureen McDonald

Maureen McDonald is another class member who goes to Wauwatosa East. She is in the band there and plays tennis and soccer.

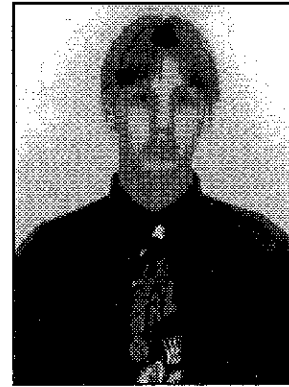
She wants to study Spanish in col-

lege, although she has no idea yet where she will attend. Hobbies include playing the piano, traveling, tennis, soccer, listening to all kinds of music, and playing the French Horn.



David Montguire

David Montguire is a student at Tosa West. He plays football and participates in weightlifting there. He plans to go to college but is presently undecided about a career. Hobbies include woodworking and building models.



Erik Schulenburg

Erik Schulenburg attends Pius XI High School. Next year he hopes to be a member of the volleyball team there. After graduation, he is thinking about attending a technical school and has an interest in studying architecture. At church, he has ushered frequently and also helped his mother when she teaches Sunday School. Hobbies include playing the guitar, karate, and playing basketball.

Jana Sorum is involved with tennis, pom poms, and track at Tosa East. After college she wants to pursue a career in physical therapy, sports medicine, or the education of

(continued on page 7)

# APRIL 1994

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>Event notices and reminders may be dropped in the Newsletter mailbox for inclusion on the Calendar.</i></p>					<p><b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> 12:30-3:00: Good Friday Worship Service 8:30 &amp; 4:00: St. Vincent Meal Program</p>	
<p><b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> 7:30 am: Chapel Service 8 - 11 am: Easter Bkfst 9 &amp; 11 am: Nave Easter Communion Services, Sunday School Nursery</p>	<p>7:00: Board Fellowship 8:00: Alcoholics Anon.</p>	<p>7 am: Early Christians 9 am: Retired Men's Club 7:00: Boy Scouts 7:30: Alcoholics Anon.</p>	<p>11 am: Circle 12 7:00: Boy Scout Committee Twin Blessed Moms</p>	<p>7:00: Boy Scout/ Cub Scout Roundtable</p>	<p>10 am: Artists' Group 5 - 10:00: Dave Swanson Career Seminar</p>	<p>8 - 5:00: Dave Swanson Career Seminar</p>
<p>9 &amp; 11 am: Worship, Sun. School, &amp; Nursery 10 am: Coffee Hour Junior Choir 10:10 am: Search Update 2:00: Partners Pgm.</p>	<p>10 am: Sr. Women 7:00: Bd. Christian Ed., Bd. Trustees 7:30: Bd. Benevolences 8:00: Alcoholics Anon.</p>	<p>7 am: Early Christians 4:30: Pre-PF 6:00: Brownies 7:00: Handbell, Bd. Deacons, Boy Scouts 7:30: Resolve, Alcoholics Anon.</p>	<p>6:30: Sr. PF 7:00: Bd. Stewardship</p>	<p>4:00: Jr. PF 6:45: Pilgrim Choir 7:55: Chancel Choir</p>	<p>10 am Artists' Group, Weekend: Sr. High Spring Rally at Beloit</p>	<p>Weekend: Sr. High Spring Rally at Beloit</p>
<p>9 &amp; 11 am: Worship, Sun. School, &amp; Nursery (9 am - Job's Daughters' "Go to Church Sunday") 10 am: Jr. Choir, Sr. Rally Ends</p>	<p>7:00: Communications Committee 8:00 Alcoholics Anon.</p>	<p>7 am: Early Christians 9 am: Ret. Men's Club 12:30: Strwbry. Lunch-CH 7:00: Quilters, Handbell Boy Scouts 7:30: Bd. Cong. Care Alcoholics Anon.</p>	<p>6:30: Sr. PF</p>	<p>4:00: Jr. PF 6:45: Pilgrim Choir 7:55: Chancel Choir</p>	<p>10 am: Artists' Group 4:30 - 10:30: WI Cong. Assoc.</p>	<p>8 am - 1:00: WI Cong. Assoc.</p>
<p>9 &amp; 11 am: Worship, Sun. School, &amp; Nursery 10 am: Junior Choir 3:00: New Member Orientation</p>	<p>8:00: Alcoholics Anon.</p>	<p>7 am: Early Christians 9 am: Ret. Men's Club 6:00: Brownies 7:00: Council, Handbell, Boy Scouts 7:30: Alcoholics Anon.</p>	<p>6:30: Sr. PF</p>	<p>4:00: Jr. PF 6:45: Pilgrim Choir 7:55: Chancel Choir</p>	<p>10 am: Artists' Group 12 - 4:00: Bridge Marathon</p>	

# Search Committee Reports Progress

Now that the surveys have been returned, the Search Committee is busy compiling data. Thanks to everyone who took the time to fill out and return a survey. The results will be shared with the congregation in the near future.

The data collected from the survey will be used to write our church profile. This document will describe our church organization and membership to candidates for permanent senior minister. The Profile Committee reports that a rough draft of the profile is under way.

Merrill York reports that the

Interim Search Committee is hard at work reviewing several candidates for Interim Senior Minister. A number of candidates' names have been submitted by members of the congregation and the Committee appreciates this valuable input.

A monthly update meeting describing the progress of the Search Committee is held on the second Sunday of every month in the parlor at 10:15 a.m. Please plan to attend. The Search Committee wants to answer your questions and hear your suggestions. ■

*by Beth Andersen*

# Covenant Class

young children with special needs. She has volunteered at Curative Rehabilitation Center, Habitat for Humanity, and St. Vincent's. She assists with teaching



1994 Covenant Class

*individual photos by John Bockhop  
group photo by Sally Schulenburg*



Jana Sorum

Sunday School and Bible School, and is active in PF. Other hobbies include playing the piano and running.

Cade Wakefield (not individually pictured) plays soccer at Tosa East and also participates with IBA/Intramural Basketball. He would like to go to college in Utah or someplace in the Rocky Mountains. Cade is involved with the PF at church and his hobbies include: water skiing, snow skiing, and soccer. ■

*by Cindy Payette*

# Building Use Benefits Both FCC and Outside Groups

Every week the church's building is used by many groups as a meeting place. While the church doesn't require payment by these groups, many contribute money for use of the building. There are also some additional perks such as that from the Young Artist's Group which tunes all of the pianos once a year. Following is a list of the contributing groups and First Congregational Church would like to thank each of them for their generosity.

- Two Alcoholics Anonymous Groups
- Friday Artists' Group
- Cornish Society
- MacFadyen Club
- Retired Men's Club
- Senior Women
- Twin Blessed Mothers
- Resolve Support Group
- MacDowell Club
- DAR
- Young Artist's Auditions
- Celiac Sprue Support Group
- 20th Century Club
- P.E.O. Groups
- Wisconsin Federation of Music Clubs
- Wauwatosa Newcomers ■

# In Brief

**The Editor Thanks:** Beth Andersen and John Erdahl for written materials; Mary York and John Strassburger for article information; Sally Schulenburg and John Bockhop for photographs and the office staff for their assistance.

## Circles to Meet

**Circle 8:** Tuesday, April 5, 11:30  
Congregational Home - lunch with residents.

**Circle 9:** Friday, April 1, 4:00  
Help serve at St. Vincent Meal Program.  
Meet at church and carpool to the site.

**Circle 12:** Wednesday, April 6, 11:00,  
Friendship Lounge. Call Helen Schroeder for reservations, 259-0444. Also, save your "white elephants" for our May 4th Auction.

**Early Christians:** plan to meet in the Parlor every Tuesday, 7:00-8:00 a.m.

# In Brief

## Spring Cleanup

**Saturday, April 16, 9:00 - 12:00**

Mayfair Interfaith is offering spring yard cleanup. If you are over 60 and need help replacing storms with screens, washing windows, cleaning gutters, planting gardens or general yard cleanup, call Dawn Stallworth, 453-5750, to reserve time before **Friday, April 8th**. Services are provided on first-come, first-served basis.

## Garden Club?

Are you interested in gardening? The church is in need of a "gardening club" which would plant and maintain flowers both inside and out.

If you are interested, call the church office and leave your name. If there is enough interest, a group can be formed for Spring planting.

USPS 010-493  
Second Class  
Postage  
**PAID**  
Milwaukee, WI  
53203-9998

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