

CONGREGATIONAL COLUMNS

April 24, 1994

First Congregational Church Pays Tribute to Betty Dethmers, Rani Gusho and Lee Jacobi for 20 Years of Service

On Sunday, May 1st, there will be a celebration for the whole congregation to enjoy. We will honor Betty Dethmers, Rani Gusho, and Lee Jacobi as they each complete their 20th year of service to First Congregational Church.

This special musical service is a dedication to the three honorees. You will hear the combined choir of 60 voices sing. This musical celebration will be performed at both the 9:00 and 11:00 services. It will be a truly festive and rejuvenating experience. This is one Sunday you surely will not want to miss. Between services there will be a reception held in the Social Hall where you will have a chance to meet with Betty, Rani, Lee, and their spouses.

Many members of this church have had contact with Betty, Rani, and Lee over the last 20 years. How can we measure the amount of good they have brought to our church and its congregation? It is very hard to come up with the words that would adequately thank them for all their hours of dedication, loyalty, and hard work. Their work has been a Ministry to us all.

Betty, Rani, and Lee have touched many lives, each extending a helping hand to those who have a special request. They are always there to listen ... they are always there to make our lives richer. And their smiles, ever present, give us all a feeling of warmth



From left: Rani Gusho, Lee Jacobi, and Betty Dethmers. which radiates beyond the walls of the church building.

At this transitional time in our church, we are very fortunate to have Betty, Rani, and Lee leading us in the right direction. We know we can count on these three individuals who have had flawless tenures. The Church has grown under their leadership and we pray we will have many more years of their genuine caring and love for First Congregational Church and its congregation.

We gratefully thank you, Betty, Rani, and Lee for your everlasting contributions to our church and prayerfully wish you continued success in your lives, the best health, and as much happiness as one can have bestowed. ■

by Cindy Trask

Membership Committee Welcomes New (and Old) Members

Julie Strandt, Steve Russ, Rick Lokken, Beej Wakefield, Don Hensch and Kathy Collis comprise the Membership Committee. Their ongoing mission is to seek out new members and make them feel welcome.

Becoming Involved

As each new member joins the church, they are paired with a sponsor with similar interests. (The Membership Committee is always happy to hear from anyone interested in being a sponsor.) New members are currently accepted twice per year - once in the Fall and again in Spring. The next Membership Sunday is right around the corner on May 8, 1994. The Monday evening following the service, new members and sponsors are invited to a dinner as a way to get to know

others in the church, and to get more information about what is available at First Congregational Church. New members are encouraged to attend an informational forum before joining the church, but it is not required.

The Membership Committee also tries to get new and old members alike more involved with church activities. Julie Strandt, chairperson, says that they try to follow up with new members who have expressed an interest in an activity, but haven't gotten involved. "We don't want to be pushy, but we want to be sure they feel welcome to get involved," said Julie.

Membership Committee Goals

Julie said that the goal of the Membership Committee is to try

and get all members more active by letting them know they have the opportunity to participate whenever they want. The committee will try to help make those connections. They wanted to stress the point that anyone can contact any of the committee members at any time if they have questions about availability of activities in the church. In the future, we can probably expect to see more events like "Bring-a-Friend-to-Church" Sunday.

The membership committee consists of three members of the Board of Fellowship and three members of the Board of Deacons. They usually meet on the third Monday of each month, and Rev. Strassburger is serving as the ex-officio member. ■

New Member Sunday - May 8!

Happy Mother's Day

The Joys of Motherhood

Dear Christian mothers, sing your praise
Through all your busy, happy days
To God our Father, kind and good,
For all the joys of motherhood.

For blessings often mixed with tears
As they mature through passing years;
And that deep joy that naught can dim,
When children give their hearts to him.

For that wee babe with smiling charm
That softly nestles on your arm;
For childish laughter gay and sweet,
And sounds of little scampering feet.

Fear not the coming day to face,
For God will give you strength and grace-
And hers shall be a great reward
Who trains her children for the Lord.

~Margaret K. Fraser

For that young precious merry mite
Who walks with hand in yours held tight;
And for the others older grown,
Who've learned to proudly walk alone.

CONGREGATIONAL COLUMNS

Editor, Beth Linscott
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◆
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Lee Jacobi, Director of Music
Betty Dethmers, Organist

◆
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Vacation Bible School, June 13-17

Vacation Bible School will be held June 13-17 at First Congregational Church from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.

The program is geared for primary/elementary children (ages 3+), but middle and high school students are needed to assist. "We're planning on lots of fun activities and music to help enrich the program," said Denise O'Meara, co-coordinator of Vacation Bible School. Pam Parker will be working with Denise. "We're looking for many patient, enthusiastic and helpful hands to bring this week of fun learning to our children," said Pam.

There are many opportunities for volunteers: classroom teachers or

aides, games, arts and crafts, snacks and more. If you can lend a hand for this week (mornings only!) of fun-filled, educational programs, please contact: Ddg Wakefield, Director of Christian Education at 258-7375. ■

by Pam Parker



Vacation Bible School

Your Help is Needed to Repair Organ

In the February issue of the *Columns*, we had a feature article about our Moëller Organ which mentioned the necessity for some major maintenance work. The Board of Trustees and the Church Council have authorized the work.

The church organ was installed in 1967. Routine maintenance of the organ is budgeted by the Music Committee and is maintained for a cost of approximately \$450.00 per year. The last time major repair work was necessary was in 1983, costing approximately \$5000.00.

Fabry Inc., the service technicians who have maintained the organ for many years, notified us that we need to do some major repair work on the organ. A total of 14 wind supply reservoirs need releathering at a cost of \$9259.00. The work would all be done by employees of Fabry Inc. There is a 10-year warranty on all parts and a one-year warranty on labor.

The work will be completed in July and there will be no weekends that we will be unable to use the organ.

We all appreciate the beauty that is added to our worship services through music. The organ adds greatly to our music program and we must take care of it properly to preserve it.

The Board of Christian Stewardship and the Music Committee are appealing to members and friends of First Congregational Church to support their request for donations to finance this project. There will be no pledge cards mailed; but, if you wish to contribute, please send a check to the church office marked "Organ Repairs." Your donation will be listed on your contribution statement as a Special Gift and is tax deductible. We have already received approximately \$1000.00 in donations from concerned members and we are confident that we can successfully fund this project with your help. ■

Question and Answer

We have had a good response to the financial "Question and Answers." It seems to have sparked some interest, so we thought we would provide you with some updated information.

Q What were the utility bills for the church for the first quarter of 1994?

A	Water	\$427.00
	Gas	\$6640.00
	Electric	\$3577.00
	Telephone	\$1398.00
	Snow Plowing of Parking Lot	\$1500.00
	Total	\$13542.00

Sure Signs of Spring

Last Fall, Denise O'Meara's 11:00 combined-grade Sunday School class took part in a project that we can all enjoy this Spring. In a lesson tied into Jesus' parable about the Good Seed, the group planted 60-70 tulip bulbs of various shapes and colors.

As Spring begins to bloom we can all keep an eye on the west end of the parking lot and remember the significance of rebirth as well as the parable. And thank you to the 11:00 Sunday School class for brightening the church property. ■





Rani Gusho

Celebrating Twenty Years At

Surely if you talked with any of the church staff, or any of the many church members who work with Rani Gusho, you would hear nothing but glowing comments about her. She is a wealth of knowledge on any topic relating to the church; but, probably more importantly, she is a pure delight to work with. Simply stated, she always makes time to help and she does so with a smile.

This church as a whole has certainly benefitted tremendously from Rani's 20 years of service. Two of the people who work with her most agreed to share some of their thoughts about Rani-

Our church is blessed with fine people in "all walks of life." Having been a member for many years before I began working in the church office, I was fortunate to have already made many friends. However, having worked with and for Rani Gusho for almost 13 years, I feel that I have made another good friend. Rani, as office manager and financial secretary, has many responsibilities, but always has time to listen, to help, and to find solutions to problems. Because family is very important to both of us, we sympathize, commiserate, and expound on our children and grandchildren. (She's ahead of me, though, with three children to my two, and six grandchildren to my four!)

We are all fortunate to have Rani Gusho as a part of our church and our lives. Congratulations, Rani, on 20 years of dedicated service to First Congregational Church!

Betsy Aspinwall

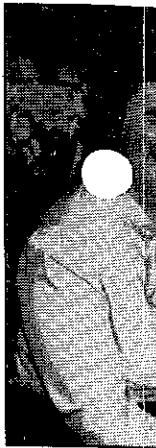
What to say about Rani?!

These kinds of letters are always difficult for me to write, so I started by jotting down some things that come to mind when I think of Rani~

- The first thing that stands out in my mind is that she's always extremely helpful and friendly to everyone who comes into the church office.
- She almost always has something positive to say, which these days, is very refreshing.
- She is extremely organized (although you'd never know it to look at her desk!)
- Finally, I guess what I appreciate most about her in her role as my supervisor, is that she is sensitive to what's going on in the rest of my life outside of work.

I really couldn't ask for a better supervisor and the church has been richly blessed these past 20 years to have such a dedicated, caring person on its staff.

Nancy Gross



Betty Dethmers

If you were to ask any choir member why they sing and organ accompaniment by Betty Dethmers, they would be delighted in the music field and they expect no less.

When gathering information for this article, a chance to know Betty and Lee and they wanted to know more.

A common thread was woven through many of the letters. Betty and Lee, the letters written by Dulcy Miller.

To say that Betty Dethmers is a fine organ teacher and director of Church Street Singers makes Betty's presence so remarkable a part of the church.

Her qualities of endearment are indeed the arena of musical performance where she shines. Betty's gracious and honest interest in the church is a true blessing.

Her capable, competent, reliable support as a friend, never wavers.

Her gentle nature and tranquil exterior make her a favorite among the best performers and seasoned veterans at the church.

She shares, volunteers, and plays during the week. She no longer has an avenue for musical expression.

Not one to be complacent, she continues to seek out many venues, attending seminars and giving her time to stage rock-n-roll with the Church Street Singers.

Lest you believe Betty to be perfect, she is a player of games. Forcing guests at her home, she has even been known to travel to pajama parties cajoling innocent others into her gaming.

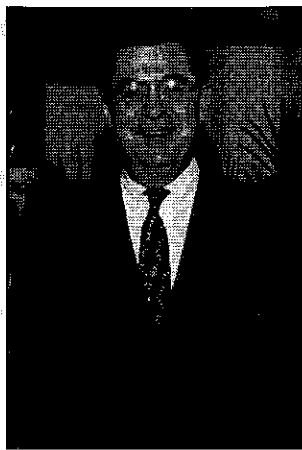
She seizes every opportunity to see the church members known to loose control completely, such as chamber music concerts.

If I had been given a sister, I would want to be like Betty.

~ A kind and thoughtful,



Betty Miller



Lee Jacobi

First Congregational Church

enjoy singing in our church choir, the most popular reason would surely be...singing under the direction of Lee Jacobi and enjoying the piano accompaniment. These two individuals, through their years of working together as a team, have created beautiful music. Both Lee and Betty are immensely talented from those who sing under their direction. It is the congregation who benefits every Sunday as they hear the fruits of their labor.

A number of individuals were asked to write a little something to share with the congregation. During rehearsals the choir members get the opportunity to share with the members of First Congregational Church why they feel their Ministry through Music touches them so deeply.

Of the articles, but one letter spoke so eloquently and included all which could be said. We offer to you the congregation, and especially to you Betty Miller.

As a pianist, soloist, accompanist, Betty Miller doesn't begin to encompass what she brings to First Congregational Church. Her talent is as obvious as her musical ability. In her performance, nerves, ego, and aggrandizement are absent. Integrity adds class to any performance. Her support, whether in accompanying musical-

or help to quiet the qualms of junior concertgoers alike.

She works with senior musicians who no doubt have a long session.

She continues to stretch her musical prowess in various venues and recently tackled a little vinyl with the young-lingers.

One should be aware she is a voracious reader and comes to play tournaments by the hours, sometimes bringing her own amusement and entertainment.

Her sense of humor in her surroundings and has been giggling discretely, in sedate environments.

I want her to be Betty.

She is, true friend~

Dulcy Miller

How does one begin to describe Lee Jacobi, a man who contributes such musical integrity to First Congregational Church?

One begins with a fine musician focused on what the musical outcome should be. His definitive approach forces all of us to grow musically. He instructs: gives insight to the depth of musical understanding: emphasizing phrasing, vocal technique, proper pronunciation, historical background, and style.

One begins with a creative energy that not only selects inspiring, appropriate music literature, but also composes introits and responses, and, lest we forget, acts as soloist on the conch shell at Thanksgiving.

One begins with a rehearsal atmosphere that combines humorous anecdotal incidents, so human and universal we all laugh, with definite purpose to get the job done right.

One begins with a loving nature that acknowledges and validates all of us as unique and contributing choir members, whether he engages us in conversation or plants a kiss on the cheek.

One begins with a man who has afforded me personal musical opportunities and gives all of us who have had the privilege of his direction a truly unique encounter.

How does one begin to describe Lee Jacobi... You begin with a good man.

Dulcy Miller

MAY 1994

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9 & 11 am: Worship-20th Anniv. Celebration for Rani, Lee, Betty; Sun. School, & Nursery 10 am: Reception Junior Choir 10:10 am: Adult Ed. 1	7:00: Board Fellowship, Bd. Christian Ed. 8:00: Alcoholics Anon. 2	7 am: Early Christians 7:00: Bd. Deacons, Life Education, Handbell, Boy Scouts 7:30: Alcoholics Anon. 3	11 am: Circle 12 6:30: Sr. PF 7:00: Boy Scout Committee Twin Blessed Moms 4	4:00: Jr. PF 6:45: Pilgrim Choir 7:00: Boy/Cub Scout Roundtable 7:55: Chancel Choir 5	8:30 & 4:00: St. Vincent Meal Program 10 am: Artists' Group 6	All Day: PF Workday 7
NEW MEMBER SUNDAY 9 & 11 am: Worship: Sun. School, & Nursery 10 am: Coffee Hr., Handbell, Cherubs 10:30: Jr. Choir Book Sale 5/8 - 5/15 8	9 am: 20th Century Club 10 am: Sr. Women 6:00: New Mem. Dinner 7:00: Bd. Trustees, Bd. Benevolences 8:00: Alcoholics Anon. 9	7 am: Early Christians 4:30: Pre-PF 6:00: Brownies 7:00: Handbell, Boy Scout Comm., Boy Scouts 7:30: Resolve, Alcoholics Anon. 10	10 & 7:30: Bible Class 6:30: Sr. PF 11	4:00: Jr. PF 6:45: Pilgrim Choir 7:55: Chancel Choir 12	10 am: Artists' Group 13	14
9 & 11 am: Worship, Rev. Harry Clark, Sun. School, & Nursery 10 am: Cherub Choir 10:10 am: Adult Ed. 10:30 am: Jr. Choir Book Sale ends 15	7:00: Membership Com. 8:00: Alcoholics Anon. 16	7 am: Early Christians 9 am: Retired Mens' Club 5:30: Quilters' Potluck 7:00: Handbell, B. Scouts 7:30: Bd. Cong. Care, Alcoholics Anon. 17	6:30: Sr. PF 7:00: Resolve 18	4:00: Jr. PF 6:45: Pilgrim Choir 7:55: Chancel Choir 19	10 am: Artists' Group, 12:00: Bridge Marathon 20	21
YOUTH SUNDAY 9 & 11 am: Worship, Sun. School, & Nursery 10 am: Cherub Choir 10:30 am: Jr. Choir 22	8:00 Alcoholics Anon. 23	7 am: Early Christians 9 am: Ret. Men's Board 7:00: Council, Handbell, Boy Scouts 7:30: Alcoholics Anon. 24	10 & 7:30: Bible Class 6:30: Sr. PF 25	4:00: Jr. PF 6:45: Pilgrim Choir 7:55: Chancel Choir 26	10 am: Artists' Group 27	28
9 & 11 am: Worship Guest Tom Rondeau Sun. School, & Nursery 10 am: Cherub Choir 10:30 am: Jr. Choir 29	MEMORIAL DAY office closed 30	7 am: Early Christians 7:00: Handbell, Boy Scouts 7:30: Alcoholics Anon. 31				<i>Event notices and reminders may be dropped in the Newsletter mailbox for inclusion on the Calendar.</i>

Special Services

YOUTH EVENTS

Scheduled

This time of transition in the church has presented the Board of Deacons with the perfect opportunity to try some new types of services.

Chairperson, Chris Ellis, said that the Deacons are hoping to get feedback from the congregation about the alternative services, so they will know what types of services people would like to see more often.

In March, Rev. Denise Tracy preached and in April, Chris Ellis and Julie Strandt handled one of the services. The Deacons went to the Church Council and received some funds which can be used for guest ministers when necessary; however, many of the services lined up for the near future involve members of our congregation. The upcoming schedule is as follows:

- May 1 Musical Anniversary Celebration for Rani Gusho, Betty Dethmers, and Lee Jacobi
- May 8 New Member Sunday - Rev. Rick Koch and Rev. John Strassburger
- May 15 Rev. Dr. Harry Clark
- May 22 Youth Sunday
- May 29 Sermon and service led by Tom Rondeau
- June 5 Communion Sunday - Rev. Rick Koch and Rev. John Strassburger
- June 12 First 10:00 Only Service - Children's Sunday

The next few months promise to be exciting and different, offering much variety. So don't miss these opportunities, and feel free to contact any of the members of the Board of Deacons to let them know what you think! ■

While most other activities around the church are starting to gear down for the summer months, the youth program is in full swing.

Rally

Senior Rally was held April 15-17 at First Congregational Church of Beloit. The theme was "Signs of the Times" and focused on Christian symbolism. Six of the State Officers (three of whom are from FCC-Wauwatosa: Brian Rosenthal, president; Liz Gold, vice president; and Sarah Edens, secretary/treasurer) and co-advisors Rob Fredrickson and Lisa Johnson led the group through three programs.

The first focused on road signs and how they might be reinterpreted in a spiritual sense. The second program looked at Christian symbols and their meanings. And the third program studied life signs- pivotal events or crises when we can most easily recognize God's guidance.

The church is located two blocks from Beloit College and the group was lucky enough to have free use of the gym, locker rooms, pool, tennis courts, etc.

The Rally which had an attendance of approximately 45 students also included games, a dance and singing at the Sunday worship service. Elections were also held, but the results were not available in time for the printing of this publication.

Youth Sunday

Youth Sunday will be May 22. Members of the Youth Groups will lead the entire service, serving as liturgists, preachers, choir members, ushers, readers, and prayer leaders. Approximately 20-25 youth will participate.

Not much information is available about the particulars of the service at this time; however, you can probably expect something a little different from the past.

Fundraisers

A "Rock-a-Thon" is tentatively scheduled for mid-May. It combines a fund raiser with a service function. This addresses comments made in the past about events like the Bowl-a-Thon. Members stated they would rather have their pledge money accomplishing something positive.

For the Rock-a-Thon, Senior PF'ers will go to area hospitals to rock, change diapers, and generally care for crack babies and babies with other problems (often abandoned by their parents.) Hospital nursing staff doesn't have the extra time to spend with these needy infants and they appreciate the volunteers.

In addition, Sr. PF Work Day is scheduled for Saturday May 7 and Jr. PF Book Sale begins on Sunday, May 8 - Mother's Day and New Member Sunday.

Dates to Remember

- NAPF registration deadline is Friday May 13 or a \$25 late fee will be added.
- Jr./Sr. Camp Early Bird registration fee is due June 1 to avoid an extra \$25 fee.
- The last PF meetings of the year are the first week in June. Pre-PF's final meeting is May 10.
- NAPF is June 26 - June 30
- Jr. Camp is July 10 - 16
Sr. Camp is July 31 - August 6 ■

In Brief

The Editor Thanks: Cindy Trask for written materials; Rani Gusho, Chris Ellis, Denise O'Meara, Pam Parker, and Julie Strandt for article information; Sally Schulenburg for photographs and the office staff for their assistance.

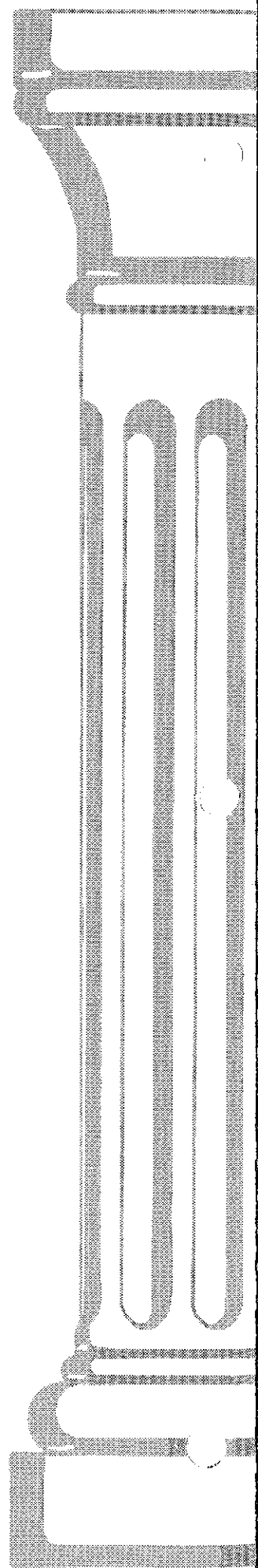
Correction

The contact people for 39'ers are Gordon and Marion Petersen, 774-7628.

Our Church Family

Death

Richard N. Vandekieft died on April 8, 1994 in Columbia, SC.



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

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