

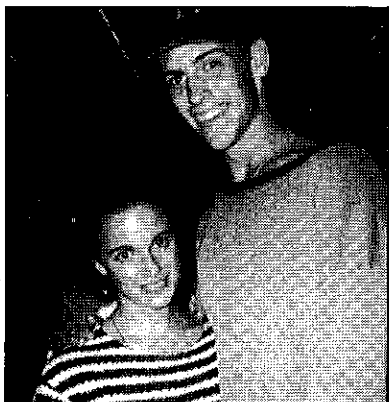
C O N G R E G A T I O N A L C O L U M N S

July 31, 1994

1994 N.A.P.F. Conference Celebrates God in Our Lives

The cozy but largely deserted campus of Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa suddenly came to life on the afternoon of Sunday, June 26, when approximately 230 high-school-age Congregationalists from around the country converged for the 1994 N.A.P.F. conference. Over the three and one-half days, the PF'ers shared a spectacular experience of spiritual and social renewal.

The conference theme was "God is the Gift within Me," focusing on the many and varied gifts that God has given us, and on how God is constantly present and active in our lives. Chap Clark - a nationally known speaker, authority on youth ministry, professor at Denver Theological Seminary and author of The Next Time I Fall in Love and several other youth ministry volumes - was the featured speaker. His talks helped stir PF'ers to take a fresh look at their relationship with God and Christ, their level of commitment, responsibility, compassion, service as disciples, their relationships with peers and their own giftedness. Small discussion groups (of approximately eight PF'ers and one to two



counselors) provided PF'ers with an opportunity to further process Chap's remarks by talking through some of the issues and

questions he raised, while at the same time allowing them to learn from and grow closer to one another.



The core ideas behind the theme were also communicated through the morning watch and vespers services, led by N.A.P.F. officers including Kate Frkovich of FCC- Wauwatosa. These devotional times included a dramatic re-enactment of the Prodigal Son parable, skits that emphasized the importance of never being too busy or too self-absorbed to make time for God and your neighbors, "in-character" monologues from the viewpoints of biblical figures, and an emotionally and spiritually super-charged sharing by the officers of their personal faith pilgrimages.

A number of other special activities added yet another dimension of fun, fellowship, and excitement to the conference. Monday evening featured performances by Christian comedian Scott Gregory and Christian recording star Ken Medema. Tuesday evening included a casual yet meaningful time of inter-generational fellowship with the adults attending the delegate meeting, plus the annual N.A.P.F. Talent Show. Wednesday evening featured the banquet; a bidding of

(Continued on back cover)

Five Days of Fun and Learning

"But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air; and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you..."

Job 12:7-8

"Ask the animals." That's just what our children did at this year's Vacation Bible School. During five days



of fun, the children met a different animal puppet each day to discuss a variety of bible stories and themes. From a dove, lamb, snake, fish and rooster, the children learned of God's love and forgiveness, Jesus' teachings, temptation and more.

Following our daily assembly as a large group, the children were divided into classes by age groups and attended class time, art, music and snack. With eighty children participating, a large crew of volunteers



assisted with classroom teaching, snack preparation, arts and crafts, games and babysitting. We owe a lot to our enthusiastic crew of helpers: teachers - Julie Anheuser, Cathy Kebbekus, Carrie Payette, Joan Schultz and Carolyn York; assistants -



Sarah Edens, Liz Gold, Jenny Granberg, Laurie Kadunc, Leah Sawnor and Joe Sorum; games and babysitting - Sarah Gruebling, Amelia Hahn and Betsy Holtz; snacks - Amy Kielma, Sue Rowbottom, Valerie Blazich, Jane Hilycord and Jamie Casey. Nancy Hoertz was our art coordinator, helping busy hands to make necklaces, birds' nests, fish, snakes and fantastic costumes for the final program.

With enthusiastic direction from Amy Ryan, music teacher at Benjamin Franklin School in Milwaukee, the children performed for their parents and grandparents on the last day of Bible School. With their animal costumes (designed by Ddg Wakefield) and the nave still adorned with flowered arches from Children's Sunday, the atmosphere was festive as the children shared their songs and smiles. Taking with them paper-plate fish and hand-made beaded necklaces, we hope the children will also keep good memories of happy times learning about God by "asking the animals." ■

by Pam Parker & Denise O'Meara



Want to be a Shepherd?

"Hello, may I hold the door for you?" "How are you today?" Have you wondered what these friendly, accommodating Church members are doing lately and why they wear those snazzy green ribbons? You too can get in on the action. We're just doing what comes naturally at First Congregational Church - extending warmth and friendship.

If you would like to come to church a bit early; wear a green ribbon, a nametag and a smile; and open the church doors (front or back) for Church members and guests, just call the church office at 258-7375 or stop in to sign up. Sign up alone, with a spouse, with a friend, or as a family. We need you! So, give it a try - be a shepherd. ✓

by Sue Baran

CONGREGATIONAL COLUMNS

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 Vol. 3, Issue 7.

Bob Van Lanen - A Cornerstone in FCC's Foundation

Bob and Doris Van Lanen have been members of First Congregational Church for 37 years. From the beginning, Bob was interested in the physical structure as an architect. He says he has a very good feeling for the Georgia Colonial style of which FCC is a good example. However, when Rev. Norman Ream first approached Bob about doing some work with the church, Bob and Doris didn't think it was a good idea, they didn't want to mix work with church. But after a little "arm twisting," Bob agreed and the rest is history.

Bob has worked on several church projects, the biggest of which involved the remodeling of the kitchen and Friendship Lounge. He also worked with a group from the church as the project architect when a new entrance to the church from the parking lot

was needed. Additionally, Bob was one of a group of five at the church (Dan Christiansen, architect was also involved) who hired a firm from Kenosha for some renovations. He has also done other miscellaneous remodeling. Most recently, he helped with some preliminary work on the steeple.

Besides FCC, Bob has also helped

with some work at Congregational Home, including the gazebo, and the building of the N.A. facility in Oak Creek.

Bob has also served on the Board of Trustees (chairperson) at FCC. In his spare time, he enjoys golfing and trips to the Symphony and Repertory Theatre where he says he often enjoys seeing other FCC members. ■

Columns is #1 Says NACCC

Hooray, hooray - a round of applause and a hearty thank you go to Beth Linscott, editor of the *Congregational Columns*, and to everyone else who has contributed to the *Columns*. The National Association of Congregational Christian Churches awarded the *Columns* a first place fin-

ish for presentation and layout in its newsletter competition.

Brooks Boyce, our official church delegate, accepted the award at the annual June NACCC meeting in Des Moines, Iowa on behalf of the Communications Committee, Beth

Linscott and the church. The criteria to enter included submission of three separate issues of the newsletter from June, 1993 - June, 1994. Rani chose three issues which presented as many different areas of design as possible.

We are so proud of you Beth, our editor, who is responsible for layout and design. Thank you and keep up the good work. ■

by Sue Barth

AUGUST 1994

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			7:00: Board of Stewardship 7:30: Bible Class - Healey		8:30 : St. Vincent food preparation 4:30: Carpool to help serve at St. Vincent Meal Program	
	1	2	3	4	5	6
10 am: Worship, Svc. (Wilch), Communion, Sunday School, & Nursery 7	7:00 Board of Trustees 8	9:00: Retired Men's mailing 9	7:30: Bible Class - Healey 10	11	12	13
10 am: Worship, Svc. (Wilch), School, & Nursery Deadline for submitting Columns articles 14	7:00: Communications 15	7:00: Quilters 16	7:30: Bible Class - Healey 17	18	19	20
10 am: Worship, Svc. (Wilch), Sunday School, & Nursery 21	22	7:00 Church Council 23	7:30: Bible Class - Healey 24	25	26	27
1 am: Worship, Svc. (Fredrickson) Sunday School, & Nursery 28	29	30	7:30: Bible Class - Healey 31			Event notices and reminders may be dropped in the Newsletter mailbox for inclusion on the Calendar.

In Brief

The Editor Thanks:

Pam Parker, Denise O'Meara, Sue Barth and Rob Fredrickson for written materials, Rob Fredrickson and Ddg Wakefield for photos, and the office staff for their assistance.

Our Church Family

Birth

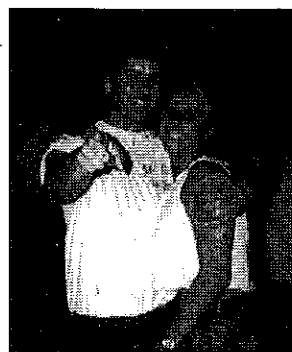
Alexander Aldrich Probst, son of Ed and Lisa Mauer Probst, born July 12, 1994.

Death

Mr. Raymond E. Wry, passed away July, 14, 1994.

N.A.P.F. Continued

fond farewells to outgoing officers Bethany Claus and Steve Black and resigning N.A. Youth Director, Mary Koch; the installation of incoming officers Sarah Koch and Becky Wulff; the communion service; the presentation of the slide show; and the dance.



God most certainly is the Gift within each PF'er, officer, co-director, counselor and guest leader and God was the ultimate Gift within the whole spectacular experience that was N.A.P.F. 1994! ■■

by Rob Fredrickson

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