

CONGREGATIONAL Rally Issue MINIS

August 28, 1994

Nominating Committee Wants To Know Your Interests - September 11 & 18

On September 11 & 18, you will have the opportunity to indicate the Board(s) or Committee(s) on which you would be interested in serving. Following is a very brief description of the duties. If you want further information, contact the church office.

Trustees (9 members/3 needed): meets the second Monday of the month, twelve months of the year. Responsible for the church's property and monies.

Deacons (18 members/5 needed): meets the first Tuesday of the month. Responsible for spiritual activities.

Christian Fellowship (12 members/4 needed): meets the first Monday of the month. Responsible for fellowship activities, including Pilgrim Fellowship.

Christian Education (12 members/4 needed): meets the first Monday of the month. Guides our Educational functions.

Christian Stewardship (9 members/4 needed): meeting date is re-set each year, usually on a Tuesday or Wednesday. Promotes and secures the giving of time, talent, and possessions.

Congregational Care (12 members/4 needed): meets the third Tuesday of the month. Responsible for congregational caring ministry programs of the church.

Board of Benevolences and Church

Relations (9 members/3 needed): meets the second Monday of the month. Investigates, correlates, and promotes benevolent projects. Sends delegates to religious gatherings. Monitors Christian service beyond our own membership. All of its funds are used for the benevolent purpose of this Board.

Church Council (23 members/4 needed):

meets the fourth Tuesday of each month. Correlates the work of the individual Boards and gives an overall view to church planning. It's sub-committees* are:

- Budget and Finance
- Communications and Public Relations
- Music
- Nominating
- Personnel
- Executive

* Church Council membership is not necessarily required to be a sub-committee member.

This is your chance to indicate your interest in becoming more involved. Take some time to think about it, then stop by on the 11th or 18th and let us know!

All Board positions are for three years. Committee position terms vary. ■

Staff Highlight

From California to New York, Wisconsin to Florida, people filled First Congregational Church as Betsy Aspinwall, FCC's clerk/secretary/receptionist, married Ted Isenberg on July 23, 1994. In addition to their families and other friends, many members of the



Church (all Church members were invited) also attended the beautiful ceremony which was performed by Rev. Rick Koch and Rev. John Strassburger. Betsy's children and grandchildren and Ted's daughter were a part of the wedding party. Betsy and Ted would both like to thank all of you who attended, making their day so special. The reception was held right after in the Social Hall which was prepared by



Betsy's grandchildren all took part in the ceremony.

Betsy's son Keith. It was obvious from the attendance that Betsy and Ted's kindness and love has touched many, all who wanted to wish the couple well.



Above: Betsy and Ted say their vows - their children stand up with them.

Left: The couple cuts the cake at the reception in the Social Hall.

After all of their family was headed home, the couple set out on their honeymoon. After a shaky start with a dead battery, the rest of the trip was wonderful. Driving to Michigan, Betsy and Ted saw a concert by the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra from New York, spent some time touring Macinac Island by foot and carriage, took a train to Agawa Canyon in Canada, and drove through Michigan viewing a lot of beautiful scenery and, in general, having a good time.

Congratulations to Betsy and Ted - best wishes from First Congregational Church and may God bless you both. ■

Columns in the Columns

Be sure to take notice of the bright white columns, doors and shutters at the front of the church. Kim Bockhop and Hans Knoff spent a week scraping and re-painting, refreshing the look of First Congregational Church.

As a bit of trivia - the job took approximately three gallons of paint and they reached the top of the columns with scaffolding.

The appearance of the church is one of the first impressions given to visitors and people passing by. We want to thank Kim and Hans for all of their hard work, keeping the entrance to the church looking great! ■

CONGREGATIONAL COLUMNS

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

♦
 Rev. Robert S. Wilch, Interim Senior Minister
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 Betty Dethmers, Organist

♦
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Search Committee Is Making Progress

Since our all-church meeting on Thursday, May 5, 1994, when we unanimously voted Bob Wilch as our Interim Senior Minister, the Search Committee has been moving forward, as approved by the Church Council, in the process of seeking a Senior Minister.

The Committee has been working on a profile book which will be shown to prospective candidates as an overall view of First Congregational Church. The profile is now in a rough draft form with a completion target date set for the first part of September. The profile is quite an impressive picture of our church and will be available to the membership to view. We believe the profile will be quite a beneficial tool in the search process.

In addition, advertisements for the position have been placed in several publications. Suggestions of qualified candidates are most welcome from the congregation. Contact Jim Walsh or any of the other Search Committee members with any comments, questions, or suggestions. ■

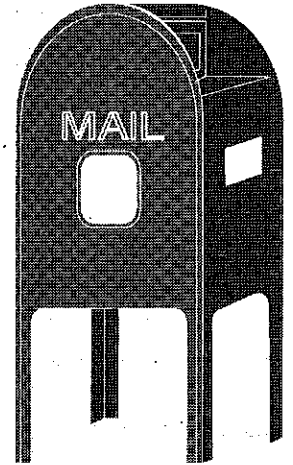
Mailing Is Underway to Clarify Membership Roster

The Membership Committee recently began a mailing designed to identify and define the membership of First Congregational Church. The project was initiated when the Search Committee was trying to determine the number of members for the Profile Book. The church enrollment indicated 1700 members which is not accurate.

The mailing is being sent to people on the enrollment list whose membership status is questionable. The mailing is certainly not meant to offend or exclude anyone. It is simply designed to identify members and it will be an ongoing process. While not everyone will receive the letter, some people who are obviously active members will undoubtedly receive one - please accept the apologies of the Committee. While the mailing is intended to target grown children who have moved and no longer desire membership, we **do not** want to remove shut-ins or

other members from the roster!

In addition, there is a financial benefit to "cleaning up" the membership roster. The church's cost of mailing to each member is approximately \$50.00/year. Obviously, deleting people who are no longer members from the mailings could result in significant savings.



The Committee wants to thank those who have already responded and again emphasize that this is not meant to exclude anyone. Your cooperation is very much appreciated! ■

Someone Else Will

We are saddened to learn this week of the death of one of our most valuable members: Someone Else. Someone's passing created a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else has been with us for many years. Someone did far more than a person's share of work. Whenever there was anything to do, one name was on everyone's list - "Let Someone Else do it," they would say.

Someone Else was a wonderful person - sometimes appearing superhuman. But a person can only do so much. Were the truth known, every-

body expected too much from Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone! What are we going to do? Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things Someone Else did?

When you have a chance to participate or get involved, remember that we can't depend upon Someone Else anymore.

May Someone Else rest in peace!

Author unknown

Ministers Cannot Fix Churches

I often hear church members say that if they could get a good minister, their church would turn around. They are saying two things: They believe their church is going in the wrong direction, and they believe a new minister can fix what is wrong. They might be right on the first count, but they are wrong on the second. Ministers can't fix churches.

This is not to say that ministers cannot make a difference in a church's life. They can make matters worse, and they can help improve a bad situation. Churches need good leaders, and good leaders make a big difference in a church's life. But even the best leader cannot fix a church that has problems. Ministry does not

work that way because people don't work that way. People are the source of the problems in the churches, and no one can "fix" people.

...Troubled churches have a troubled spirit. The way they can experience renewal is to recognize that they need to do the hard work of spiritual formation and development.

...Ministers can do many things, but the one thing they cannot do is "fix" a church. Those who expect them to, and those who want to do it, are dealing with symptoms rather than the disease.

...Problems are part of living because living has to do with people trying to

reprinted excerpts from The Congregationalist

find meaning and purpose in their lives. Wrestling with problems is a part of growing and maturing, not only emotionally and psychologically, but also spiritually.

...Church members joining together to work on problems can itself be a source for renewed life in a church. When lay people and the ministerial leadership recognize that there are no easy solutions to the problems they face, but that together they can have a significant ministry working on them, a new spirit will be sensed. That church will have vision and direction. ■

Get to Know What's Next Door

In 1969 the Next Door Foundation, an idea conceived by members of Our Savior Lutheran Church, began operation as a youth center. As the neighborhood changed, so did Next Door. Their programs are adaptive to the changing social climate of the area.

Early On & Home Start - reaches into the homes of little children.

Genesis - offers new beginnings to those chemically dependent, teenager through adult.

Family Literacy - offers high school equivalency tutoring.

Read With Me - pairs volunteers with pre-school children.

Cornerstone Center and Achievement Academy - operates a summer day camp and tutoring programs.

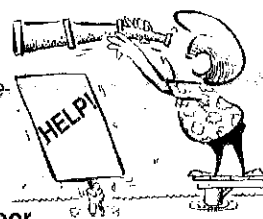
New Frontiers - is an employment program for adults 17-35 years of age.

Books for Kids - is a clearing house for new and used books.

Next Door Foundation functions because area residents are working to help themselves and others. The Foundation has also become a partnership of local businesses, individuals, and religious organizations working to make a difference, promoting self-worth, dignity, and moral values.

On September 18th between services, Next Door Foundation will be featured in the hall. We encourage all Church members to stop and learn more about Next Door, one of the many agencies and foundations supported by the Board of Benevolence. ■

"I'm looking for someone in need."



The Need Next Door

I said, "Yes, Lord, I'll go where you call me
And I'll do what you want me to do."
But how could I know as I knelt there,
That he'd ask me to stay here with you?

I thought surely he'd call me to China
Or to Africa's far away shore.
I would gladly have sailed o'er the ocean,
But he whispered, "I need you next door."

It's the faraway task that seems brightest
And the grass seems more green o'er
the way;
But how can he use me afar off,
If I fail those I meet every day?

It's so easy to look past my neighbor
Who has needs only God can supply;
God forgive me if I, like the Levite,
Have been passing some suffering one by.

- Author unknown

1994 Stewardship Campaign Asks Us to Focus on the "Need of the Giver to Give"

As summer winds down, we begin to look toward all of the Fall activities which are about to begin again for another year. While October sounds like a long time off, it's already time to begin planning for the activities of that month.

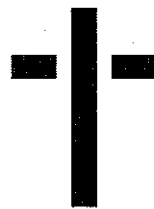
The Stewardship Committee anticipates beginning their pledge campaign in early October this year, and ending it on October 30th with Consecration Sunday. While the budget has been an issue in the forefront at First Congregational Church for

the past two years, the Stewardship Committee does not want us to concentrate on giving to meet a budget this year. Rather, they would like all of us to begin focusing on the "need of the giver to give" for his or her own spiritual development. The Committee will ask us to look inside ourselves and think about the good God has given to us and our families, then look to that when we make our stewardship pledge.

Let's take some time over the next month to think about the ideas that

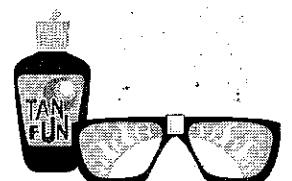
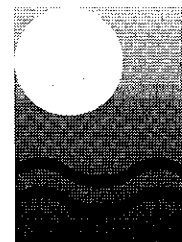
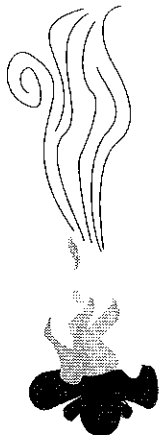
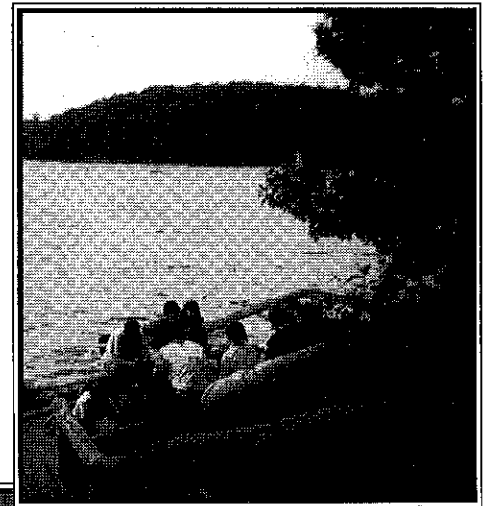
the Stewardship Committee is presenting. God has helped all of us to lead very blessed lives and it is important to remember that at all times. As many activities are re-starting over this next month and volunteers and participants are needed, we can all give of our time and talents. While it is "better to give than receive," we certainly get much more back in return when we give of ourselves. ■

Scenes from Summer PF Camp




DON'T MISS THE FIRST MEETING OF THE YEAR!!

Sr. P.F.	September 7
Jr. P.F.	September 8
Pre-P.F.	September 13



SEPTEMBER 1994

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9:40 am: Chapel Communion 10 am: Worship service (Wilch), Sunday School, Nursery 11:00: Brat Fest 4	LABOR DAY Church Building Closed  5	7 am: Early Christians 7:00: Bd/ Deacons, Boy Scouts 7:30: Alcoholics Anon. 6	11 am: Circle 12 6:00: Search Comm. at Congregational Home 6:30: Sr. P.F. 7:00: Bd/Stewardship, Twin Blessed Moms 7	4:00: Jr. P.F. 6:45: Pilgrim Choir 7:00: Boy Scout, Cub Scout Round Table 7:55: Chancel Choir 8	8:30, 4:00: St. Vincent Meal Program 9 am: Moms' group 2	3
RALLY SUNDAY 9, 11 am: Worship serv. (Wilch), Commission Teachers, Sunday School, Nursery 10 am: Coffee Hr., Jr. Choir 11	7:00: Bd/ Christian Ed., Bd/ Trustees, Bd/Fellowship 7:30: Bd/ Benevolences 8:00: Alcoholics Anon. Deadline for Columns Articles 12	7 am: Early Christians 12:30: Circle 7 4:30: Pre P.F. 7:00: Boy Scouts 7:30: Alcoholics Anon., Resolve 13	4:00: Personnel 6:00: Long-Range Plan. 6:30: Sr. P.F. 14	4:00: Jr. P.F. 6:45: Pilgrim Choir 7:55: Chancel Choir 15	10 am: Artist's Group 16	7:00: Jr. P.F. Lock-In 17
Jr. P.F. Lock-In, Bake Sale 9, 11 am: Worship serv. (Strassburger), Commission P.F. officers, Sunday School, Nursery 10 am: Jr. Choir 18	7:00: Membership Committee 8:00: Alcoholics Anon. 19	7 am: Early Christians 9 am: Ret'd. Men's Club 7:00: Quilters, Boy Scouts 7:30: Bd/ Cong. Care, Alcoholics Anon. 20	10 am: Bible Class 6:30: Sr. P.F. 7:30: Bible Class 21	4:00: Jr. P.F. 6:45: Pilgrim Choir 7:55: Chancel Choir 22	10 am: Artist's Group 23	24
9, 11 am: Worship serv. (Wilch), Sunday School, Nursery 10 am: Jr. Choir, P.F. Parents 25	8:00: Alcoholics Anon. 26	7 am: Early Christians 7:00: Church Council, Boy Scouts 7:30: Alcoholics Anon. 27	6:30: Sr. P.F. 28	4:00: Jr. P.F. 6:45: Pilgrim Choir 7:55: Chancel Choir 29	10 am: Artist's Group 30	<i>Event notices and reminders may be dropped in the Newsletter mailbox for inclusion in the Calendar.</i>

Jon Hansen Examines the Vision of First Congregational Church

Late last fall, as Dr. Muth was leaving First Congregational Church and Denise Tracy was conducting the small group meetings, Rev. Rick Koch and Rob Fredrickson led a small group discussion about the meaning of Congregationalism. Jon Hansen became interested in some of the ideas presented at the discussion from a book, *The Congregational Way*, written by Arthur Rouner and he took off from there.

Jon read and re-read the book, recognizing a lot of relevance to First Congregational Church and its future. The start of Jon's "Think Piece," as he calls it, was a means for him to summarize the book, providing a better understanding for himself. He began writing what he believed to be the basic concepts of Congregationalism and Christianity and the implementations for the Church. This was the beginning for his re-thinking the vision of the Church.

Referring to several books, Jon kept writing until he had approximately a 150-page typed document. He says he often referred to the Congregational Way as a basis for his vision. The document provides background information, asks what Congregationalism is all about, and asks us to discuss and re-think who we are as a Congregational Christian Church. Jon describes the "Think Piece" as quite different from the document written by the Long-Range Planning Committee a few years back. "It's not a set program, but more of a basis for discussion," said Jon. He believes that it is important that Church members have a common understanding of

what Congregationalism is, so that we can move forward with unified vision for the church.

Jon finished the first draft of the document in February and decided to present the document to a couple of groups in the Church to get their feedback. Both groups of 15-20 agreed that the "Think Piece" was well researched and gave a good feel of the meaning of Congregationalism. Jon also met with Mary York, Vice Moderator. Mary was also interested in the "Think Piece" and believes it could be a good tool for helping to educate people (especially those who come from other, hierarchical denominations) on the meaning of the Free Congregational Way and its implications for churches.

Those who have had the opportunity to read Jon's document recognize the amount of research and work that was involved in writing the piece and are thankful to Jon for all of his time and effort.

Jon's hope for the "Think Piece" is that it will ignite discussion and involvement among members of the church and begin to energize the congregation.

The work Jon did on the "Think Piece" was a natural interest and method of work for him as he is an attorney. He works as a sole practitioner researching insurance matters. His clients are companies, trade associations, government agencies and academic associations. Jon said that he's never had a client from Wisconsin, so working out of his house, he has the luxury of not

wearing shoes and stopping in the kitchen or den on his way to the office in the morning.

Jon was married for 30 years; however, his wife passed away unexpectedly approximately three years ago. He has three sons: Eric who is working on his PhD., Bryan who recently graduated from Eau Claire and just got married, and Sean who graduated from Brookfield Central in June.

Jon coaches a couple of soccer teams which keeps him quite busy. Other than that, he enjoys sports, his work and Church. He was married at FCC, and has been a member for approximately 30 years. He is just finishing his third year on the Board of Christian Education and has been quite active in reviewing and overseeing the Covenant Class curriculum (he taught Covenant Class for a couple of years prior to his time on the Board.)

The Church would certainly like to thank Jon for all of the time and work he has committed to FCC and for sharing his vision for the Church. With caring members like Jon, FCC is sure to have a bright, strong future. ■

In Brief

The Editor Thanks: Kay Bowman and Sue Barth for written materials; Jon Hansen for article information; Rob Fredrickson and Betsy Isenberg for photographs and the office staff for their assistance.

First Annual Brat Fest!!!

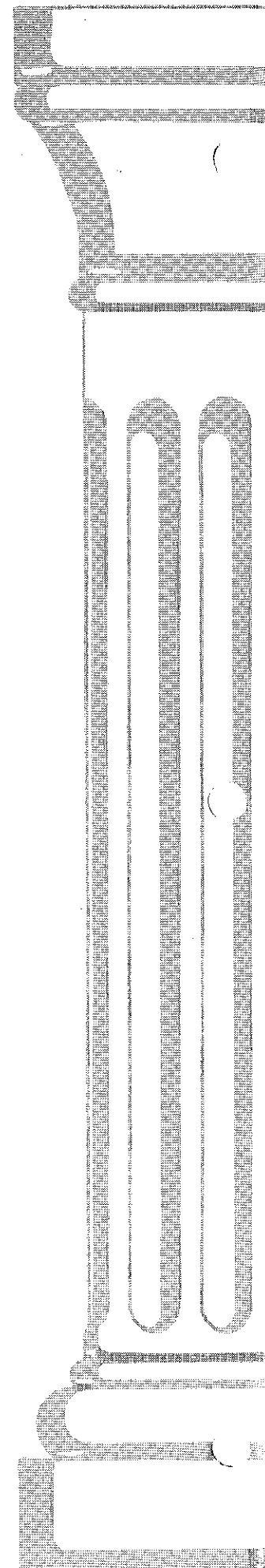
Don't miss the opportunity on September 4 to be a part of the founding group for this new venture at First Congregational Church. Brats, hot dogs, chips and soft drinks are available for your dining pleasure. Attend Church at 10:00 to nourish your soul, stay for brats at 11:00 to nourish your body! ■



Our Church Family

Marriage

John Hyatt Lund, Jr. and Shawn Lejean Lempke were married on August 20, 1994.



Dated Material - Please deliver immediately.

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