

CONGREGATIONAL COLUMNS

September 25, 1994

No Budget is Set for Stewardship Campaign

As of yet, no budget has been set for 1995, which means there is no target to reach with the Stewardship Campaign. It's not because a committee is behind on setting the budget, it's because it was planned that way. For the first time in a long time, First Congregational Church will have a true **Stewardship** campaign rather than a fund raiser. The Stewardship campaign is based on a program brought to the attention of the Stewardship Committee by Rev. Bob Wilch.

The difference between fundraising and stewardship is subtle, yet quite significant. But it's a very important difference. Fundraising is financial act, while Stewardship is spiritual. The importance of Stewardship is in the giving of the giver.

As Christians, we have faith in God always being there to help us. And that faith is taught by our Church. Stewardship is our way to give back some of what the Church has given us. It is our way to demonstrate the blessings we have been given. The act of giving should be more important to the giver than to the church.

When we set a budget, and try to meet that budget, we ask people to give their portion. How is that possible when we have no idea how many members there are, and where we stand financially? If you gave \$50 per week last year, and the budget was raised \$50,000, do you give \$52 per week this year? Fundraising to meet budgets is important at times, for example we refurbished the organ this year from specific fundraising. However, that is not what

Stewardship is all about. So, this year, you'll notice some changes, and hopefully, this will be a very positive, rewarding experience rather than an annual event which everyone dreads hearing about.

Consecration Sunday is October 30. All members will be invited to attend Church for either the 9:00 or 11:00 service and attend a catered brunch following each service. Rev. Wilch will speak at each service. At the end, rather than a final hymn, members will be asked to take some time to fill out an Estimate of Giving Card and bring it to the front of the altar. Those who are uncomfortable with this are welcome to send their cards to the office. After each service, Rani and a few volunteers will work on totalling the cards while members enjoy a lunch provided by Pancakes by R & R. By the end of the brunch, Rani will have totals to report.

Any member who misses the services on Consecration Sunday will receive an Estimate of Giving Card in the mail. There will be no further "push." Again, the Stewardship Committee wants this to be an uplifting experience in which it feels good to give, so they will be trying very hard not to make anyone feel pressured.

This is a genuine effort to try and help members become good stewards, it is not a new twist to get money. The only goals are to have 100% attendance on Consecration Sunday and to help people raise their levels of giving. ■

Off to a Great Year with Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday meant a return to Sunday School on September 11th for more than one hundred children at First Congregational Church. The students watched as more than thirty of their teachers were commissioned in church on a beautiful Indian Summer Sunday morning. Boys and girls came with pencils, paper, notebooks, and pens to donate to the Next Door Foundation which is the Sunday School Benevolence of the month. Following the 9:00 and 11:00 services, children were led in song by Rob Fredrickson in the Social Hall. They were then dismissed to their rooms and had a chance to get acquainted with their new teachers. This year's teaching staff includes many young and energetic first-time teachers as well as a crop of "seasoned professionals."

The children's Junior Choir practice also commenced on Rally Sunday under the direction of

Roxanne Trump-Miles. Rehearsals for children in grades 3-6 are scheduled between services at 10:00 in room B-5. Anyone with a desire to sing is invited to participate.

Rehearsals for the Cherub Choir (for younger children) are yet to begin. ■

by Denise O'Meara

9:00 Teachers

3-year olds:

Fall Doug & Nancy Hoerz
Winter Emily Lewis, Julie Hayes & Jana Sorum
Spring Carolyn Kielma & Libby Kielma

4-year olds:

Fall Carolyn York & Cindy Davis
Winter Sarah Madeska, Kristin Kuss, & Tina Kiel
Spring Lynn Gruebling & Lori Hassett

5-year olds:

Year Jenny Granberg

Grades 1-2:

Fall Liz Thoke
Winter Scott & Carol Wittig
Spring Joan Schultz & Beth Kelling

Grades 3-4:

Fall Julie Anheuser
Winter Mary Kraus
Spring Carrie Payette

Grades 5-6:

Fall Patti Wehr
Winter Joan Schultz & Beth Kelling
Spring Jane Hilycord

Grades 7-8:

Year Sally Schulenberg, Nancy Hayes, Barb Holtz, & Gae Lach

11:00 Teachers

Grades K-2:

Year Kathy Jacobi & Jean Reuss

Grades 3-6:

Year Denise O'Meara

Communicating with the *Columns*

If you have ever asked about the purpose of the *Columns*, perhaps you were told that it is a directive of the Long-Range Planning Committee. While this is true, the Communications Committee thought that a further explanation might be of interest.

The main purpose of the *Columns* is to provide a means of personalization in such a large church. It is impossible for the ministers of FCC to provide all of the types of individual ministries which are important - there are simply too many people. Many Boards and Committees within the Church recognize that and have developed or are

developing ways in which to provide more individual attention. The Congregational Care Board, for example, is studying models of Lay Ministry and Ddg Wakefield's new position is devoted to the topic. The *Columns* attempts to provide in-depth views of the people and happenings throughout the Church so that members can stay in touch with all that is happening and, through personal profiles, get to know other members they may not otherwise have met.

In addition, it is an extremely effective tool for outreach. While we don't like

(continued on page 3)

CONGREGATIONAL COLUMNS

Editor, Beth Linscott

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Beth Andersen, Dick Clark,
Tom Gold, Pam Parker, Sandy Rose



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Rev. John H. Strassburger, Minister
Robert C. Fredrickson, Director, Christian Education
and Youth Ministries

Rani Gusko, Financial Administrator
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Lee Jacobi, Director of Music
Betty Dethmers, Organist



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Upcoming Retreat to Focus on Spiritual and Emotional Renewal

Last October, approximately 14 members of First Congregational Church made an autumn pilgrimage to the Ridgewood Retreat Center at beautiful Camp Lucerne in central Wisconsin for this church's first **Adult Spirituality Retreat**. While there are many wonderful words that have been used to describe that weekend, one that stands out in my mind is *Renewing*.

And renewing it was. A nice mix of activities gave our minds, bodies, and spirits a feeling of renewal. We sang and laughed around the campfire (and around the fireplace in the Retreat Center, too; it got a little brisk at night), we played cards

Pictures from the first annual Adult Retreat



and table games, we drank a lot of coffee and hot chocolate, we shared four program times that drew our attention to both the Bible and our own life journeys, we hiked and admired the autumn scenery, we celebrated communion on Saturday evening, and we worshiped together on Sunday morning. We grew closer to God, closer to one another, and even closer to, and more in touch with, ourselves. We left with a feeling of being renewed and refreshed - more ready to tackle the everyday routine that awaited us back home.

Sounds pretty terrific, huh? You may be wondering why you didn't come to the Retreat last fall, or maybe you're wondering when another one will be held. Well, get that calendar out and mark the weekend of October 21 through 23 . . . the weekend of our second annual Adult



Spirituality Retreat! This year, the program times will be led by our own Dr. John Strassburger, centering on the theme, "Faith and Work in the 90's." Like last year, we'll inhabit the Ridgewood Retreat Center at Camp Lucerne, and like last year, we'll laugh, sing, pray, discuss, play, stroll, and drink coffee.

The cost of the weekend is \$61.00 per person, and only the first 22 checks can be accepted, due to sleeping capacity. So don't delay. Stop by the church office and get yourself registered soon! If you have any questions about the Retreat, contact Rob Fredrickson for more information. ■

by Rob Fredrickson

Question & Answer

Q: Is the Search Committee looking for a minister to replace Rick as well as a Senior Minister?

A: No. It is the Search Committee's responsibility to find a new Senior Minister. Rick's position will not be filled before that time because organization of personnel will be somewhat dependent on the new Sr. Minister's ideas.

Communicating continued

to think of a church as a business, some of the same rules apply and the June, 1989 issue of *Financial Planning* states that self-published newsletters are the most effective and cost efficient marketing tool available. In other words, it is a highly effective means to recruit new members and maintain current members. It is a form of consistent contact. And while it cost \$10,279 to produce the *Congregationalist* alone in 1991, it is only estimated to cost \$15,475 to pro-

duce **both** the *Congregationalist* and the *Columns* this year. That's an increase of only 34% for the addition.

The Communications Committee has watched their finances very carefully, and at the same time has responded to the congregation's request for more frequent and in-depth communication. Anyone wishing to make use of it can contact Beth Linscott, 258-1410, or drop ideas or articles in the *Columns* mailbox in the office. ■

New Best Friends At Summer Camp

by Jimmy Donaldson, age 4

Family Camp was a lot of fun. Mommy, Daddy, Scott and me went there last month. There was a big lake and we got to swim and when we went out on a canoe across the



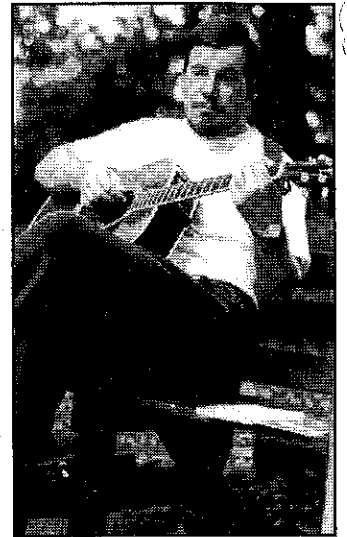
lake, we saw a fallen tree that had ten big turtles on it. It was really cool and Scott was so excited that he almost tipped us over, but it would've been O.K. because we had our life jackets on.

There were about 14 kids at Family Camp, plus six counselors. One of the counselors, Mike (Rosenthal), is my new best friend. He gave me lots of piggy-back rides and helped me during the scavenger hunt - I was having a little trouble keeping up with the bigger kids, so Mike was really nice to me. A lot of people were really nice at Family Camp, even the grown-ups, and there were about 13 of them around.

All of the counselors were neat (I already told you about Mike). Besides him, Katie Mesheski, Katie & Betsy Holtz, Joe Richer, and Leah Sawnor, also helped with the scavenger hunt and the art projects and singing and games and keeping me out of trouble. (I'm pretty sure the grown-ups made them do that part.)

Mommy said I should tell you about my favorite part of Family Camp. Well, that's easy. I like the singing teacher by the campfire best of all. He played guitar and Mommy said I should tell you his name - it's Rob Fredrickson. If you don't know him, you should - for a grown-up, he's really neat. He let me touch his guitar and when Mommy made me my own out of paper and a stick, I got to sit right next to Rob, my other new best friend, and help everybody sing songs around the campfire. We sang "Puff the Magic Dragon" and "Kum Bayah" and "I've Got Joy Like A Bubbler" (that was a fun one!) and Mommy kept taking pictures, but nobody seemed to mind and I told Mommy that I had a lot of fun at Family Camp and I want to go again soon. Mommy said I should tell you all about it and you should try to come next year too. I think you'll have fun, even if you're a grown-up. I

know little kids can have fun, cuz I was the littlest kid there and I think I had just about the best time of all, but even really old people, like my Daddy, had fun too.



A note from Mommy: Six families participated in Family Camp at Lake Lucerne from August 19 to 22. Despite a damp opening day, the Donaldsons, Holtzs, Kebbekus', Kellings, O'Mearas, and Schultz's, joined together in a relaxing and peaceful weekend of sharing, fun and fellowship. While Jimmy's memories of Family Camp don't specifically refer to God or faith, his memories are joy-filled and loving - one day he will view them and recognize God's love in them. This was our family's first experience at Family Camp and I only wish we could've stayed longer. Please think about participating next year. As Jimmy said, "I think you'll have fun, even if you're a grown-up." ■

with help from Pam Parker



Staff Position Changes Approved

In an effort to fill some of the gaps and additionally, provide some much needed new services to the church, the Church Council has approved the following personnel changes.

Rob Fredrickson assumed the responsibilities for Christian Education and Covenant Class in addition to Youth Ministry. Ddg Wakefield took on the new position of Director of Lay Ministries. Rani Gusho now has full responsibility for administration of the Church, including those responsibilities previously held by Rick. And Kim Bockhop will report directly to the Senior Minister.

The only new position is held by Ddg, the rest are simply shifts in responsibility. The overall goal of her position as she states it is to 'enable all to use their skills, talents, and spiritual gifts to fulfill Christ's Will.' As a part of this, she will be interviewing new members and trying to get them involved in activities immediately. In addition, she will be surveying current members and trying to get everyone involved - in some way using their spiritual gifts. As she compiles a database, she will be able to provide lists of volunteers as needed by Committees and groups. And Volunteers will be needed now more than ever.

The whole base of this plan rests on the ability to "beef up lay assistance," as Rob states it. With many of the staff members taking on more responsibilities, they will have to cut their time, necessitating help. So if you're interested in Youth Ministries, Christian Ed. or anything else, let someone know. We'll be happy to have you. Aristotle wrote that we feel truly happy when we are using our natural talent and abilities in the accomplishment of something that is bigger than we are.

Good luck to all these staff members with increased duties! ■

Church Activities Back to Full *SPEED*

Autumn is here and activities are definitely up to speed. Following is a run-down with brief descriptions of **some** of the education and fellowship events scheduled for youth and adults.

September 20 was the **Covenant Class orientation meeting**. If you missed it, make sure to contact the church office. Covenant Class has been totally revamped this year. It will be one Sunday evening per month rather than every Sunday between services. Second-year members will be introduced to a mentor program in which they will complete outside projects with an adult volunteer. Watch for an article in a future *Columns* issue detailing more of the exciting changes of Covenant Class.

Bible Study led by Phil Landis resumed on September 21. It doesn't matter if you missed the first one, you're welcome to join any class. They're led every other week at 10:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

September 25 is the first **Children's Chapel Sunday**. Children should report to their classes to walk down to the Chapel together. (This is for 9:00 grades 1-6, 11:00, both classes.) This will be a 15 minute mini-worship for kids. Rob and some lay people will organize the worship monthly and kids will even get a chance to do some readings. Afterward, Rob will go to the classes of the younger children with his guitar and play a couple of songs. This is all part of a plan to add more music and worship to the Sunday School program. In addition to this, Suzi Moore will be available on a "Special Assignment" basis to help provide music in the classrooms at the teachers' request.

September 25 is also the first of three **P.F. Parent Forums**. The meetings were monthly last year; however, it was decided that was not necessary.

September 25, a very busy day, is also the kick-off for **Adult**

Education. On the 25th and Oct. 2nd, Congregational Home will present information on retirement planning including legal issues and financial planning.

October 16 will be the first **Adult Sermon Forum**. Discussions will be led by Rob Fredrickson and John Strassburger regarding the 9:00 sermon. This is something that has worked well at other churches. The preacher will not be the one leading the discussion, so attendees can feel free to ask questions and even disagree. Sermon Forums will be scheduled according to demand.

Bible Sunday is **October 16**. Third graders will receive Bibles and children will attend the first part of the service in the nave before returning to their classrooms.

Adult Retreat at Camp Lucerne will be held **October 21-23**. See the article in this issue of the *Columns* or call the church office for more information, 258-7375. ■

OCTOBER 1994

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9 & 11 am: Worship Serv. & Communion, Sunday School, Nursery 10 am: Children's Choir, Bible Class 10:10 am: Estate, Health & Finan. Plan. 2	7:00: Bd. Fellowship, Bd. Christian Ed., Budget & Finance, Tosa Historical Society 8:00: Alcoholics Anon. 3	7 am: Early Christians 9 am: Retired Men's Club 7:00: Bd. Deacons, Boy Scouts 7:30: Alcoholics Anon. 4	9:30 am: Moms' Group 10 & 7:30: Bible Class 11 am: Circle 12 4:00: Sr. PF Officers 6:30: Sr. PF 7:00: Bd. Steward., Twin-Blessed Moms 5	4:00: Jr. PF 5:30: Jr. PF Officers 6:45: Pilgrim Choir 7:55: Chancel Choir 6	8:30 & 4:00: St. Vincent Meals 10 am: Church Mailing, Artists' Group 7	1 /
9 & 11 am: Worship Service, Sunday School, Nursery 10 am: Coffee Hour, Children's Choir 10:10 am: Search 9	10 am: Sr. Women 7:00: Bd. Trustees 7:30: Bd. Benevolences 8:00: Alcoholics Anon. 10	7 am: Early Christians 4:30: Pre-PF 7:00: Boy Scouts 7:30: Resolve, Alcoholics Anon. 11	9:30 am: Moms' Group 4:00: Personnel Comm. 6:30: Sr. PF 12	4:00: Jr. PF 6:45: Pilgrim Choir 7:00: Boy Scout & Cub Scout Roundtables 7:30: Chancel Choir 13	10 am: Church Mailing, Artists' Group 14	15
9 & 11 am: Worship Service (Bible Sunday), Stewart Bpt. (11), Sunday School, Nursery 10 am: Children's Choir, Bible Class 5:00: Cov Class I & II 16	7:00: Membership Comm. 8:00: Alcoholics Anon. Deadline for <i>Columns</i> articles 17	7 am: Early Christians 9 am: Retired Men's Club 7:00: Quilters, Boy Scouts 7:30: Bd. Cong. Care, Alcoholics Anon. 18	9:30 am: Moms' Group 10 & 7:30: Bible Class 6:30: Sr. PF 19	4:00: Jr. PF 6:45: Pilgrim Choir 7:30: Chancel Choir 20	10 am: Church Mailing, Artists' Group Adult Retreat - Camp Lucerne 21	22
9 & 11 am: Worship Serv. (Steward. Sun.), Sunday School, Nursery 10 am: Children's Choir, Bible Class 10 & 12: BS Wreath Sale 23	8:00: Alcoholics Anon. 24	7 am: Early Christians 7:00: Church Council 7:00: Boy Scouts 7:30: Alcoholics Anon. 25	9:30 am: Moms' Group 6:30: Sr. PF 26	4:00: Jr. PF 6:45: Pilgrim Choir 7:30: Chancel Choir 27	10 am: Church Mailing, Artists' Group 28	29
CONSECRATION SUN. 9 & 11 am: Worship Service, Sunday School, Nursery 10 am: Bible Class 10 & 12: Brunch 5:00: Spooks Nite 30	8:00: Alcoholics Anon. 31					31

Event notices and reminders may be dropped in the Newsletter mailbox or inclusion in the Calendar.

Thursday Rehearsals Now Include Sitters for Singers AND Ringers

With the change in handbell choir rehearsals to Thursday evenings, bell ringers can share two things with choir members, along with their mutual enjoyment of music:

- Ease of scheduling joint rehearsals when music selections call for both voices and bells
- Babysitting services in the church nursery.

New handbell director Ken Olson said, "It is my hope that by offering babysitting during rehearsals, we can encourage church members with young children to try handbell ringing." Rehearsals will be held every Thursday, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the church basement, room B-2.

Ken, a music teacher with Muskego-Norway schools, is eager to swell the ranks of FCC's handbell choir. He invites everyone - men and women - to come to a rehearsal, or to let him

know of interested potential ringers. "You don't have to have handbell experience in order to ring bells with the group. And while the ability to read music is preferred, it is not absolutely necessary," said Ken.

Ken believes ringing handbells might appeal to members who enjoy creating music but who are not singers, and to those whose schedules might not accommodate the weekly appearances of the Pilgrim and Chancel choirs. With the babysitting service now being offered, Ken points out that one spouse could "ring" while the other

spouse "sings," remedying a problem scenario that has arisen in the past.

The levels of ability of the handbell choir members will determine the ease or difficulty of the music pieces selected. So potential ringers need not feel that their abilities would not fit with the rest of the group.

Joining Ken and the handbell choir is one of the many ways individual members can share their time and talents with the church, while enjoying the special rewards of creating music with others. ■

by Rachael VerDuin

THURSDAY PRACTICES	
6:45 - 7:30	Pilgrim Choir
7:30 - 8:30	Handbell Ringers
7:30 - 8:30	Combined Choir
8:30 - 9:15	Chancel Choir

Search Committee Welcomes Your Input

The Search Committee is excited to report that the profile is in the final editing stage and will be ready to mail out to candidates shortly. A written job description has been completed and was approved by the Church Council on August 23rd. Advertisements have been placed in Christianity Today and Christian Century. As of September 7th forty-two candidates have responded to the ads. Their resumes are being read and carefully considered before we respond. The entire Search Committee is involved in this process.

We are pleased with the response so far, but we realize there are many qualified candidates who haven't seen our ad. Others may not be actively looking for a new position. In order to reach these candidates, we need your help. Research shows that networking is the most effective way to find exceptional candidates. Help us network by calling any member of the Search Committee with the name of a minister you would like to recommend. Or, encourage a candidate to contact us. We appreciate your help and welcome your input.

The monthly Search Update meetings have resumed. The meetings are held on the second Sunday between services in the upstairs parlor. Come, have coffee, and hear about our progress or ask questions. The Search Committee has pledged to protect the confidentiality of applicants and therefore will not reveal names or speak about specific candidates. ■

by Beth Andersen

In Brief

W.C.W.F. Meeting

The Wisconsin Congregational Women's Fellowship will be having their Fall meeting at the Spring Green Cong. Church, at 210 N. Lexington, Spring Green, on **Saturday, October 8**. Coffee and Fellowship at 9 a.m.; Business Meeting at 10; Program and Devotions; followed by Lunch from 12 to 1, for \$5.00; and an Afternoon Musical Program. For reservation information, please see the notice on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Circle Meetings

Circle 8 will meet at 11:30 a.m. on Oct. 4 at Congregational Home for lunch with Health Care residents. **Circle 12** meets Oct. 5 at 11 a.m. Vicky Williams will share her hobby of bird watching and nature.

The Editor Thanks: Pam Parker, Rachael VerDuin, Denise O'Meara, and Rob Fredrickson for written materials; Bob Wilch for article information; Pam Parker for photographs and the office staff for their assistance.

Our Church Family

Baptism

Nicholas Paul Siebnaller, son of Paul & Connie Jarcho Siebenaller, was baptized on September 11, 1994.

Funeral Service

A funeral service was held for John Harry Shirk on September 13, 1994.

Dated Material - Please deliver immediately.

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The First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa

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