

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

October 30, 1994

Don't Miss The Very Special Thanksgiving Service

Each Thanksgiving, First Congregational Church holds a special service, reminiscent of our Pilgrim Forebears. Congregation members are greeted by "pilgrims," a sounding of the conch shell calls together worshippers, and we are reminded of the many blessings we have today compared to the Pilgrims. The meaning of Thanksgiving is truly brought into focus.

As a Congregationalists, Thanksgiving is especially meaningful. So take a break from your busy Thanksgiving Day to remember what it is all about and give thanks. ■

Pictures are from past Thanksgiving Services.

Left: Call to worship with the conch shell.

Below: Pilgrims greet entering worshippers.



All Church Night, Mark Your Calendar

Tired of cooking for the family every night? Tired of eating alone? Looking for a night out to change the routine? This event is for you!!

A new idea at First Congregational Church...join your friends (bring a friend?) for spaghetti supper and socializ-

ing on Wednesday November 16th at 5:30 p.m. All ages are welcome.

PLEASE help us plan by making your reservations by Sunday, November 13th. Call (258-7375) or stop by the church office.

Board of Benevolences Invites Rev. Dr. Michael Halcomb to preach on November 13

On November 13 we are fortunate to have the Rev. Dr. Michael Halcomb presenting the sermon at both the 9:00 and 11:00 services. Dr. Halcomb's sermon will revolve around mission work and what role we play as Congregationalists.

Dr. Halcomb serves in the national office of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches located in Oak Creek, Wisconsin. Dr. Halcomb is Secretary of Missions and Church Development.

He was born and raised in Mansfield, Illinois and is a graduate of Wheaton College in Illinois. He received the Master of Divinity degree from Bethel Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. His Doctor of Ministry degree was completed at Bethel Theological Seminary in 1983.

Dr. Halcomb has pastored churches in Detroit, Michigan; Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The Halcombs have traveled widely. They have led tours to the Middle East and Europe and have visited mission fields on several continents.

Dr. Halcomb currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the Cook College and Theological School in Tempe, Arizona, which is the only training school in the U.S. which prepares native Americans for ministry in their own culture. While in Africa, he was honored by being made an honorary chieftain of the Annang tribe in West Africa.

Dr. Halcomb has preached in churches, mission conferences, and retreats across the nation. He travels regularly to monitor activities on mission fields in Central America,

Europe, Africa, Asia, and India. Dr. and Mrs. Halcomb conducted a three-week tour of churches in Eastern Europe on their most recent trip.

He and his wife, Bonnie, reside in Whitefish Bay. The Halcombs are members of Mayflower Congregational Church of Milwaukee, where Dr. Halcomb served as minister for eight years. ■

by Ed Probst

Closing Complete on Parsonage

The closing date for the sale of the church-owned parsonage on Rogers Street was October 13. Next month's *Columns* will have a detailed financial report on the sale.

During the summer months, both Luanne Williams, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, and Tom Ganey, Vice Chairperson, moved from the area. Mark Lemke was elected at the September meeting to be the new Chairperson for the remainder of 1994 and the 1995 year.

The Trustees are working on their budget requests for 1995. Theirs is

one of the three largest budgets in the church. They are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the building and grounds. They also pay all utility bills, insurance on the building and contents, all office and custodial supplies, garbage collection, various fees such as state inspection of the boiler and elevator. Many of their expenses are hard to predict such as snow plowing, and building repairs.

They are also reviewing the policies that govern the use of the building by outside groups. ■

CONGREGATIONAL COLUMNS

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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. Sec'y
Class Postage Paid at Milwaukee, WI 53203-9998. Postma's.
Send address changes to *Congregational Columns*, 1511
Church St., Wauwatosa, WI 53213-2593.
Vol. 3, Issue 10.

Habitat for Humanity "Theology of the Hammer"

Mr. Millard Fuller, the founder of Habitat For Humanity, visited Milwaukee recently. Mr. Fuller (not an ordained minister) is traveling the country preaching his Theology of the Hammer. "Our entire Judeo-Christian tradition mandates that we do more than just talk about faith and sing about love," he said. "We must put faith and love into action to make them real, to make them come alive for people. True faith must be acted out." Mr. Fuller's mission has been extremely successful. Since its beginning in 1976 Habitat has grown to become the 17th largest home builder in the U.S., according to the National Association of Homebuilders, with Mr. Fuller predicting it will be the largest within three to four years.

Our church is forming a service group to work at various Habitat projects. Starting November 5, we will be working the first Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The group will meet at church at 8:30 a.m. and car pool to the work site. We will be helping on projects assigned to us by the Habitat office. We must let the Habitat coordinator know the size of our group in advance each month. Please call the church office (258-7375) if you are able to help. This is an open group to anyone who wants to help and it is not necessary to be there every month. If you have any questions, call Art Kletti, 771-8436.

A question and answer meeting with general information on Habitat and the service group will be held between church services on Sunday, November 6.

Byron and Mary Johnson family update: (First Congregational Church sponsored Habitat For Humanity project) Mary and BJ Johnson and six of their eight children have just passed their second anniversary (August

23) of home ownership at 2212 N. 36 Street. Mary is in her last year of nursing school at Cardinal Stritch College and is scheduled to receive her diploma in May, 1995. BJ has a welding job at Super Steel since May of this year and is working many hours of overtime.

This summer Mary and the children started their first vegetable garden in their backyard. They all enjoyed planting it, watching it grow and eating the results.

Mary is involved with the Habitat Homeowners' Association and a 36th Street neighborhood association made up of Habitat and non-Habitat owners. They are working to make their neighborhood safer and cleaner. Early this summer, Mary also was ordained a lay minister in her church, the Agape Love Deliverance Center. ■

by Art Kletti

"Loss and Your Caring Presence" Workshop

Scheduled

Death is not the only loss an individual may grieve. Loss of a career, a limb, good health, a spouse through divorce, an alienated child, or even an addiction can present more pain than an individual thinks he or she can bear.

Caring is not something offered to the weak by the strong. Rather, caring grows out of common life, where both weakness and strength are part of each life, honored and valued without judgment. In order to care, we need to accept at the very center of our being, that all

feelings are legitimate. There are no good or bad feelings. There are only feelings. Painful feelings may lead to more growth than pleasurable feelings. In pain there is the impetus for change.

You are invited to come hear Ms. Shirley Jeffrey speak about loss and how you may grow through your own caring presence. Ms. Jeffrey is a retired Grief Therapist, author, and lecturer. Her most widely read work is a chapter in the best-selling book by Elisabeth Kübler-Ross, Death: The Final Stage of Growth. Ms.

Jeffrey has a vision for a Center of Loss, and we, the church, have an opportunity to grow in Christ's ministry and as individuals. A seminar and discussion will be held November 16 at 7:30 p.m. Come and find out how your caring presence could make a difference. ■

Verna Van Uxem, 28 Years of Volunteer Work - And Still Counting

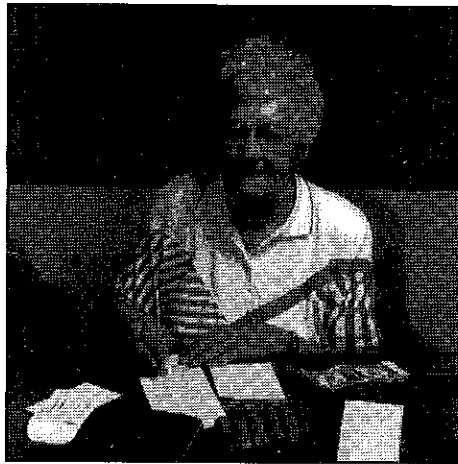
Once each week for the past 28 years, Verna Van Uxem has volunteered at the church as a money counter. Rani Gusho said that the few weeks she misses are when she is visiting relatives in Iowa. Verna has a daughter, Harriet, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Verna Van Uxem came to be a member at First Congregational Church in 1943. Her husband had already passed away and her daughter was attending this church and belonged to the youth group with some of her friends. Verna decided to join her daughter and First Congregational Church has benefited from her presence ever since.

Marian Halmstad, a long-time friend of Verna's, who also volunteers as a money counter, said of Verna, "She's a sassy old lady - I'm just kidding. She's a wonderful woman who will help anyone." The

two women liven things up first thing in the morning with their witty rapport.

Due to her husband's early passing, Verna worked and raised her daughter from an early age by herself. Marion said that Verna did a wonderful job, raising a beautiful person. Verna worked for 36 years and retired as a Vice President of a bank. Shortly after, she traveled around the United States with a



Verna Van Uxem as she counts money.

friend and began her work here as a money counter. "We used to run out of straps, there was so much money," said Verna.

Verna used to do a lot of other volunteer work, also. One of the things she did was to help care for older women by helping with shopping etc. Now she still does some volunteer work and enjoys knitting, crocheting, and playing Bridge. She participates in Bridge marathons both here at the church and at Luther Manor where she lives.

At 91 years of age, Verna is in excellent health. After a hip replacement in 1991, she said she doesn't have a pain to speak of.

Verna is another member who makes First Congregational Church the very special group that it is. We thank her for all her years of service and look forward to seeing her each week. ■

Question and Answer

Q: Where is the lot line on the south side of the church?

A: There is a narrow sidewalk on the south side of the building and our property line is just beyond the sidewalk. The rest of the land, including the bushes and trees, between the church and Menomonee River Parkway, belongs to the County.

Attention Women

Join in fellowship with the women of our church on Tuesday, November 29 at 12 o'clock. A selection of Christmas readings will be presented by Claudine Mc Ginley following the luncheon in Friendship Lounge.

Please make your reservations at the church office, 258-7375 or call Lissa Edens, 786-6196.

Gather your friends and fellow church members. All are welcome. Reservations must be made by Friday, November 25. ■

Thanksgiving Psalm

O come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also. The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land.

O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker. For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Psalm 95:1-7

Watch for Upcoming Youth Events

November and December are always busy months at the Church. Following are a number of the upcoming youth-related events along with brief descriptions.

Spooks Nite Out



Scheduled for Sunday, October 30, from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m., Spooks Nite Out is for all ages. The time is convenient in that it immediately follows the closing of Wauwatosa's Trick or Treat. So bring the kids in their costumes and enjoy carnival-type games, food, and a haunted house, all sponsored by Jr. High PF.

While admission is free, each of the games, etc. will cost tickets which you will have to purchase.

Children's Chapel is also October 30. All classes meet in their rooms first. 9:00 is 1-6 graders and Rob will visit classes of the younger children during the second half of the hour. All 11:00 classes go to the chapel.

Second Teachers Roundtable Meeting will be from 10:15 - 10:45 on November 6. This will be a monthly event. While there is no set program for these discussions, Rob will moderate and this month's theme is "Creative Discipline."

November Covenant Class is November 6th from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. First-year students will get an overview

of the Old Testament, presented by Phil Landis. Second-year students will receive an overview of various Christian denominations, given by Rev. Wilch and Rob Fredrickson.

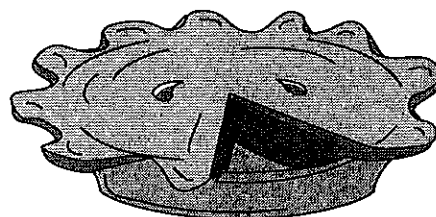
December 11th is the next Covenant Class meeting. First-year students will take a look at the Epistles of the New Testament while second-year students will discuss, "What Difference Does Prayer Make?" with Rob and Rev. Strassburger. Second-year students should also remember that their papers on the Gospel of Mark are due on this day.

P.F. Dates to Remember

Pre-PF meets November 8.
Sr. PF doesn't meet on November 23.
Jr. PF doesn't meet on November 24, Thanksgiving Day.

Sr. PF State Rally is November 18 - 20 at First Congregational Church - Oshkosh. The theme will be "Wings." The three programs will be based on the songs, "Broken Wings," "Wind Beneath My Wings," and "On Eagle's Wings." FCC-Wauwatosa has two state officers: Sarah Edens, President, and Mike Rosenthal, Southeastern WI Representative. Rob Fredrickson is also a Co-advisor.

Jr. PF Bake Sale will be held on November 20 between services. This is a great opportunity to save yourself some baking and get dessert for Thanksgiving.



Kids go to worship for the beginning of the service on November 27. They will see the lighting of the first Advent Candle then head to their classrooms.

LOOKING AHEAD TO DECEMBER (more details to follow next month)

Rehearsals for the Sr. High Christmas Play begin on December 3. They will be from 10:00 am until noon for the first three Sundays in December.

PARENTS - Mark Saturday, December 3 on your calendars From 1:00 - 5:00 p.m., Sr. PF will sponsor "Parents Day Out" as a fundraiser. Parents can drop off their children and do some Christmas shopping. Contact Rob or a P.F. officer for more details.

Sr. P.F. will again be volunteering to ring bells for the Salvation Army at Mayfair Mall the week before Christmas as a community service.

Christmas Workshop is December 4 As in the past, this is an event for all ages. There will be approximately 15 different craft opportunities. Babysitting is available and dinner follows.

Friendly Beasts is a new program for younger children. It will be December 10. Kids come in their pajamas and bring their favorite stuffed animal to lay by Jesus in the manger. A pancake breakfast will follow.

- **Young Children's Christmas Pageant** is December 11.
- **Sr. PF Bake Sale** is December 18.

NOVEMBER 1994

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
8:40, 10:40 am: Chapel Communion 9 & 11 am: Worship, Sun. School, Nursery 10 am: Bible Class, B.S. Wreath Sale 3:30: New Member Forum 5:00: Cov. Class I & II	7:00: Bd. Christian Ed. 8:00: Alcoholics Anon.	9 am: Retired Men's Club 7:00: Bd. Deacons, Boy Scouts 7:30: Alcoholics Anon.	9:30 am: Moms' Group 10 & 7:30: Bible Class 11 am: Circle 12 6:30: Sr. PF 7:00: Twin-Blessed Moms	4:00: Jr. PF 6:00: Resolve 6:45: Pilgrim Choir 7:30: Chancel & Handbell Choirs	8:30 am: St. Vincent meal preparation 10 am: Artists' Group 4:00: St. Vincent carpool to serve at site	9 am: Quilters
	7	1	2	3	4	5
8:40, 10:40 am: Chapel Communion 9 & 11 am: Worship, Sun. School, Nursery 10 am: Bible Class, B.S. Wreath Sale 3:30: New Member Forum 5:00: Cov. Class I & II	7:00: Bd. Christian Ed. 8:00: Alcoholics Anon.	11:30 am: Tosa Ministers 4:30: Pre-PF 7:00: Communications, Resolve, Boy Scouts 7:30: Alcoholics Anon.	9:30 am: Moms' Group 4:00: Personnel Comm. 6:30: Sr. PF	4:00: Jr. PF 6:45: Pilgrim Choir 7:00: Boy Scout & Cub Scout Roundtables 7:30: Chancel & Handbell Choirs	10 am: Artists' Group	
	7	8	9	10	11	12
9 & 11 am: Worship, Sunday School, Nursery 10 am: Children's Choir, Coffee Hour 10:10 am: Search Comm. 12:00: New Member Forum & Lunch 1:00: WI Fed. of Music	10 am: Sr. Women 7:00: Bd. Fellowship, Bd. Benevolences, Bd. Trustees, Circle 9 8:00: Alcoholics Anon. Deadline for Columns articles	9 am: Retired Men's Club 7:00: Quilters, Boy Scouts 7:30: Bd. Cong. Care, Alcoholics Anon.	9:30 am: Moms' Group 10 am: Bible Class 5:30: Spaghetti Supper 6:30: Sr. PF 7:30: Bible Class, Grief Seminar	4:00: Jr. PF 6:45: Pilgrim Choir 7:00: Budget & Finance 7:30: Chancel & Handbell Choirs	10 am: Artists' Group	
	14	15	16	17	18	19
NEW MEMBER SUNDAY 9 & 11 am: Worship Serv., Sunday School, Nursery 10 am: Bible Class, Children's Choir, BS Wreath Pick-up	7:00: Membership Committee 8:00: Alcoholics Anon.	9 am: Retired Men's Bd. 7:00: Church Council, Boy Scouts 7:30: Bd. Cong. Care, Alcoholics Anon.	9:30 am: Moms' Group 6:45: Pilgrim Choir 7:30: Chancel & Handbell Choirs	THANKSGIVING DAY 10:30 am: Worship Service 12:00: Thanksgiving Dinner	10 am: Artists' Group 5:00: Building Closed	Building Closed
	21	22	23	24	25	26
FIRST SUN. IN ADVENT 9 & 11 am: Worship Service, Sunday School, Nursery 10 am: Bible Class	10 am: 20th Century Club 8:00: Alcoholics Anon.	12:00: Bd. Fellowship Luncheon and Book Review 7:00: Boy Scouts 7:30: Alcoholics Anon.	9:30 am: Moms' Group 10 am: Bible Class 6:30: Sr. PF 7:30: Bible Class			<i>Event notices and reminders may be dropped in the Newsletter mailbox or inclusion in the Calendar.</i>
	28	29	30			

Congregational Ministry Missions Abroad

Leading the Good News about Jesus Christ through the support of existing foreign churches and the planting of new ones is the business of our Congregational Mission Project of the NACCC. The projects are chosen with an interest in missions that are Congregational in nature.

Twenty-nine mission projects in eleven foreign countries and the United States receive support through our NACCC Missionary Society. These missionaries serve Christ and the Congregational Way in ministries such as evangelism, medical and educational missions, and relief efforts. The Missionary Society supports only national missionaries who have been reared in the language and culture where they are serving.

On November 13 the Board of Benevolences has invited Dr. Michael P. Halcomb (see the article about Dr. Halcomb also in this issue) from the NACCC to preach at our 9:00 and 11:00 services. He is Secretary of Missions and Church Development and has personally visited and evaluated most of these mission fields.

First Congregational Church sends monetary support to eight of these missions. Two have been selected for the following update in preparation for Dr. Halcomb's visit.

Greek Protestant Churches

Rev. Panos Litsikakis and his wife Roe continue the vital mission that Pastor Phil Zikas began more than 47 years ago. Northern Greece is a strategic location in terms of Christian missions because of the large Moslem population in the area. Literally, this is the place where the Christian world and the Moslem world meet! Panos and Roe oversee three church-

es and a Christian camp for families, known as Camp Charis. These churches are spread over an area of 45 kilometers. Operating an ancient car in need of repairs is an ongoing need.

These young leaders have vision and high energy levels but our commitment and prayers are needed.

Recently, an influx of Russian immigrants into Greece has caused much growth of these three churches, and a bilingual has been hired to work with the new immigrants to Greece. The Eastern Orthodox Church is not friendly to this free church group and is trying to stamp out the free church movement.

Christian Mission in the Far East

This spring, First Congregational Church was visited by Rev. Paterno and Febe Majo of Manilla, Philippines during their visit to the United States. It is important that we have a personal relationship with missionaries and that we become familiar with their ministry.

The Christian Mission in the Far East, led by the Majo team, is a ministry in the Philippines that touches on many areas of human need. Through programs of discipleship, evangelism, church planting, and pastoral training, CMFE ministers to people in sixteen Philippine provinces. The Mission also operates elementary schools, high schools, and a Bible school.

Four orphanages, called Gethsemane Homes, help children who would otherwise be unfortunate statistics. The Mission provides them the opportunity to grow into productive adults and to hear the Gospel of Christ.

Recently, several mission buildings,

23 - 30 years old, have fallen into disrepair. Of particular concern is the orphanage building in Mabetac outside Manilla. Three orphanages are currently operating.

News from the missions will be a focus of Rev. Halcomb's visit on November 13. ■

"May our faith have feet and hands, a voice and a heart, that it may minister to others, that the Gospel we profess may shine in our faces and be seen in our lives." - Peter Marshall

by Barbara Zaiser

Search Update

The Search Committee continues to receive resumes from candidates seeking the Senior Minister position. So far 60 candidates have applied. Twelve out of the 60 have received letters from the Search Committee requesting additional information, such as: video tapes, written copies of sermons, and theological statements. When this information is received and screened, the interviewing process will begin. It will include travel to the applicant's home church or listening to him/her preach in a "neutral" pulpit in our area. A careful and thorough check of references will take place before any candidate is given serious consideration. The committee hopes to be ready to present a final candidate by next spring. There is still plenty of time to recommend candidates. The most promising recommendations usually come through church members and friends. The Search Committee welcomes your input. Let us hear from you! ■

In Brief

Daylight Savings Time goes into effect on Sunday, October 30. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour!!

The Editor Thanks: Beth Andersen, Art Kletti, Cindy Payette, Betty Davis, Barbara Zaiser, Ed Probst, and Rani Gusho for written materials; Rob Fredrickson and Verna Van Uxem for article information; and the office staff for their assistance.

Our Church Family

Births

October 11: Elizabeth Grace Larget, daughter of Bret and Ann Laubenheimer Larget.

September 20: Peter Michael Jakus, son of Gordon and Barbara Charleston Jakus.

Marriage

October 15: Brian David Maahs and Margaret Stolley Moore

Baptism

October 16: Alec Roy Stewart, son of Gregory and Christine Taggett Stewart.

Dated Material - Please deliver immediately.

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