

# CONGREGATIONAL COLUMNS

November 27, 1994

## Make a Reindeer Necklace at the Christmas Workshop

It's an event for all ages - the traditional Christmas Workshop will be held on December 4, from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. in the basement of the church.

For those not familiar with the workshop, it works like this - there are materials available for making different types of ornaments. You buy tickets which are then traded for

materials which you can assemble to create an ornament. (All materials are pre-cut etc., ready to assemble.) You can either receive instructions to make the ornament right there, or simply take a bag home and make the ornament at your leisure. There will be fourteen different ornaments this year. Make one, or make them all. Teens are available to assist the younger kids. In addition, gingerbread cookies will be available for the children to frost.



At 5:00, following the workshop, everyone is invited upstairs for pizza, bread, and salad. The cost will be \$2.50 for adults and \$1.00 for children. ■



## Special Christmas Services Scheduled

This year's Christmas service line-up is different than in the past. The 4:00 service will still be a "Family" service consisting of a play by the PF'ers. However the play will not be repeated at the 7:00 service. The 7:00 service, "A Lesson in Carols," will feature a lot of music and scripture readings. The 11:00 service will follow the same lines. Christmas Day, there will only be a 10:00 service. ■

# What's Happening at Congregational Home

Three well-traveled and generous church members receive A-1 ratings on the travelogue circuit this fall season. Don Zentner has shared slides of his family's wonderful trip to Switzerland and specifically the town of Elm where Zentner's ancestors were born. Dramatic mountain views and villages nestled in valleys brought oohs and aahs from the appreciative residents. Dave Swanson will return with slides of a trip to Australia and New Zealand. Soon Dave will have shown all the countries and continents he has visited. Diane and Marvin Miller's exciting trips to remote spots of the world, tracking a tiger and rhinos in India or gorillas in Africa, often involve daring physical endurance which fascinates and amazes the residents. In November they return for the 6th time with breathtaking slides of a recent trek in Dolpo, Nepal. These programs are delightful armchair trips for the residents. More of the same are requested -

residents would enjoy an armchair trip with your slides or movies. Call 781-0550 and speak to Margaret Brown in Activities.

One of the favorite summer activities at The Home is going for drives - like Sunday drives used to be. This summer we highlighted little-known nooks and crannies in Milwaukee. We explored the newly refurbished 3rd Ward with its attractive boulevard and remodeled buildings, Brewer's Hill with its enchanting cottages and tiny gardens, and the Washington Highlands with well-kept yards and gardens and gorgeous homes. Volunteers provided smooth air-conditioned vehicles and diverting chatter which were appreciated by all.

Twenty teenage volunteers were welcome additions to summer days. They took residents outside for wheelchair walks, played card games, and assisted in other activi-

ties by relating with residents in a friendly way.

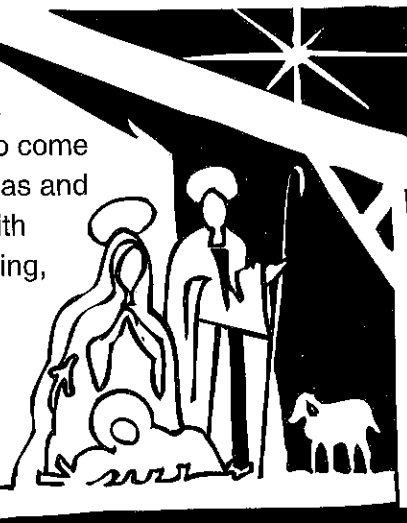
Volunteers are a very precious resource for our Book Club meetings by giving summaries of good books they have read. If anyone who likes to read would be willing to share a book with the resident group, he/she would be rewarded richly by the interest and appreciation of the listeners.

Our Thanksgiving turkeys all will be grilled outside in the courtyard again this year. We look forward to watching this unusual preparation of succulent fare. Christmas is around the corner and the Auxiliary cookie sale and tree trimming will be a welcome flurry of holiday activity for us. Try us - you'll like us at The Home. ■

*by Sally We.*

## Come and Join the Friendly Beasts

On **December 10 at 9:00**, children are invited to come to the church in their robes or pajamas and place a stuffed animal in the manger with Jesus (animals will be returned). Following, a breakfast will be served and everyone will sing Christmas carols. It should all only last about 1 1/2 hours. Prices are \$3.00 for adults and \$1.50 for kids.



### CONGREGATIONAL COLUMNS

Editor, Beth Linscott  
**Communications Committee**  
Susan Barth - Chairperson,  
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Betty Delthmers, Organist

*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. Second Class Postage Paid at Milwaukee, WI 53203-9998. Postmaster: Send address changes to *Congregational Columns*, 1511 Church St., Wauwatosa, WI 53213-2593.  
Vol. 3, Issue 11.

# The Schmidt Family, Generations of Members

First Congregational Church is fortunate to have several multi-generational families among its membership. So for this month's profile, rather than highlighting a single person we thought we would profile a family - the family of Rod and Cathy Schmidt.

Rod's parents became members in 1942; however, both parents have now passed away. Rod was a member as a child and he and Cathy became members 13 years ago. Cathy is on the Board of Congregational Care and Rod has served as a Trustee and was a House Leader for the Habitat project.

Both Rod and Cathy have interesting businesses. Cathy runs PC Learning College located in the Harwood West Shop (which they own) in the village. It is a federally funded program which trains low-income people, mainly AFDC mothers, skills in accounting, computers, and clerical work to get jobs in these fields. PC Learning College is in its 11th year of existence and both Rod and Cathy are involved with it. In addition, Rod has a very unique business - Ivan Systems. The main work of this company is to make prosthetics for cadavers. When people donate parts of their body, the prosthetics maintain the appearance of the body. His company does business all over the U.S., in Canada, and in England.

In his spare time, Rod likes to build things and garden, but Rod and Cathy haven't had an abundance of leisure time on their hands in the past few years. In August of 1993, Cathy had a kidney transplant. She said that issues associated with that took much of their time; however, they are happy to report that she is doing very well now.

Rod's daughter Karen Schmidt is another member of the Church. Karen is a Fine Arts major, studying photography at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and will be graduating in May. Over the past month she had a showing of her photographs at UWM. They were taken in Russia where she spent the summer of 1993 on scholarship. In addition to school, Karen works as a bartender/cocktail waitress.



Cathy and Rod Schmidt

Karen has also found some time to work on Habitat with her dad and she spent some time on the Board of Christian Education. Other than that she said she babysits for her sister's (Sandra) two sons a lot and enjoys sailing in the summer. Karen got involved with PF when she was in junior high, and became a member in high school, approximately 10 years ago.

Sue Melby, another daughter, and her husband Mark are also members. Sue is a Mortgage Banker for CTX Mortgage and Mark is in printing sales. Sue, like Karen, wasn't a member as a child, but started going to PF. Sue and Mark then joined FCC approximately eight years ago.

Sue is currently on the Board of Christian Stewardship for which she was Vice Chairperson this year.

Sue and Mark have two dogs, Caly and Rhudey, Mini Dachshunds. When they are not camping with the dogs, golfing, or doing outside housework, Sue and Mark enjoy Wisconsin sports. They met as students at Madison and still love supporting the teams. They are members of the Mendota Gridiron (booster club) and are avid Badger football and basketball fans.

The entire family has certainly given a lot of themselves and their time to FCC. Each of the family members is an asset to the Church and we are lucky to have them all as members. ■

## Sounds of the Season

The Christmas Concert will be held on **December 18** this year. If you've never been to a Choir concert at FCC, it's something you won't want to miss!

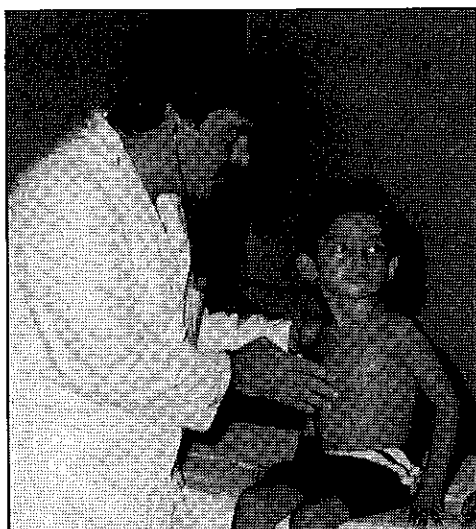
The combined adult choirs, the junior choir (accompanied by Betty Dethmers), and handbell choir will all be performing. The concert this year will be a combination of some traditional favorites combined with some lesser-known, yet beautiful music of the season.

In addition, members of the Adult Choirs will be appearing on Bob Wilch's television show on Channel 12 at 6:30 a.m. on December 11 & 18. Be sure to tune in or set your recorders. ■

# Honduran Congregational Mission Update

Much has happened at the Honduran Congregational Mission since the completion of the medical clinic for which our Church raised funds. In the last year our Church also helped purchase and refurbish an X-ray machine. The machine has arrived at the clinic and plans are now being made to build a room to accommodate it. Mission Director Rev. Edsel Bodden requests prayers for the necessary expertise in construction of the room which will require solid masonry and lead lining.

During his visit to our church this summer, Rev. Bodden reviewed the work that the clinic is doing. It is open Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and can treat up to 25 patients each day. Through the first five months of this year the clinic treated more than 370 children through age 14 and 938 people ages 15 and up. Most of the diseases treated include anemia, diarrhea, malnutrition, hypovitaminosis, and respiratory tract infections. The major cause of the respiratory infections is due to the dirt roads in the area. The children



seem to be the most adversely affected by it. The doctor at the clinic has requested a respiratory therapy device to help alleviate some of the symptoms from which the children suffer. Our Board of Benevolence is looking for a way to fulfill this request.

As with any medical clinic the need for medicine is ongoing. The patients pay the equivalent of \$1.00 for their medical care and as a result medicines are subsidized primarily through donations. Our church helps through annual giving of approximately \$2,500. In addition to the clinic the Mission has established feeding stations for some of the surrounding villages. The primary goal of the feeding stations is to establish proper nutrition for the children. By doing this the Mission can prevent trips by children to the clinic. Here too the need for funding is ongoing. Some of these feeding stations are supported through continual financing by members of other Congregational Churches in the U.S.

The most significant work of the Mission is its spreading the knowledge of the Bible and Congregationalism. The Catholic Church has long been the dominant religion of Honduras and Central America. This is changing however. In the past, the mission had used the radio to broadcast Scripture study. A more effective ministry has been developed through the use of Saturday evening fellowship groups at the villages in the area. Through this, the Mission has grown six Congregational Churches! ■

# Search Update

The Search Committee is hard at work and has already met two times this month.

They are currently in the process of eliminating candidates. After starting with a large number, they are currently looking at nine candidates in the "second phase" of the search. This phase involves reading and studying audio and video tapes, written sermons, and all other material each of the candidates has supplied. Obviously, this is a very time-consuming process.

The Committee feels that they are making good progress, but at the same time, we have an excellent interim minister in Bob Wilch, so they don't want to rush it. They are quite confident that they will find someone when the time is right. They are still accepting applications from candidates and encourage church members to keep networking and get any information to a Search Committee member which might be helpful.

In addition, the profile books, which they will be making available for review by some of the candidates further down the line, are available for viewing in the church office for anyone who is interested.

The Search Committee will continue to hold the informational meetings between services on the 2nd Sunday of each month. The last meeting was very well attended and people are asking good questions. Please continue to stay involved as the committee moves forward with this very important process. ■

# Consecration Sunday - A Good Day

Sunday, October 30, 1994 was a good day. 550 people were in church at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. More than 400 stayed for one of the brunches that followed each service. Almost 250 member units completed an Estimate of Giving Card. Many commented on the good will they felt during the day. Thanks to everyone who was able to attend.

Here is information that will interest you. In 1993, pledges were received from 547 member units with commitments totaling \$536,825 for 1994. As of Monday, November 14, 364 member units have made commitments for 1995 totaling \$483,847. We trust that the remaining member units will provide a significant increase. The commitments

of these member units for 1995 indicate an increase of \$79,874 or 19.8% more than their estimates of last year. Thank you. Each one of us makes a difference. ■

*Rev. Robert S. Wilch*

## Parsonage Sold

The Board of Trustees was instructed at the April 26 meeting of the Church Council to sell the church-owned parsonage. The first accepted offer to purchase was unable to be completed because the buyers were unable to sell their house. The Trustees accepted another offer and the sale has now been completed with the closing on October 13. We received the asking price of \$159,000. Following is a summary of this transaction:

Purchase Price	\$159,000.00	
Expenses related to sale	\$10,017.00	
City of Wauwatosa, street and sidewalk assessment	\$1757.08	
Expenses for upkeep from 1/1/94-10/13/94	\$2718.32	
Cash after expenses		\$144507.60
20% to Norman Ream	\$28,900.00	
20% to Lester Grube	\$28,900.00	
<b>Net to Church</b>		<b>\$86,707.60</b>
<b>Deposited in Growth and Development</b>		

## Let's Talk

From time to time, questions float into the church office indirectly with people reporting what others have asked or directly from the person posing the question. Questions deserve answers. Some questions inquire about issues that have at least two sides to them so some answers are acceptable to some and not to others.

We would like to use space in the *Columns* to make comment on issues that members raise. I hope we will be good enough to cast some helpful light on the subjects. If you should disagree with the comment we make or our reasoning, tell us directly. We will put our names on the article and take responsibility for our view. We will need to know who you are if you disagree, so that we can do what the article suggests - "LET'S TALK." Remember, some decisions have to be made with full awareness that 100% agreement will be impossible to attain. ■

*Rev. Robert S. Wilch*

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Yearly subscription \$18.00.

Second Class Postage Paid at Milwaukee, WI 53203-9998. Postmaster: Send address changes to *Congregational Columns*, 1511 Church St., Wauwatosa, WI 53213-2593.

### Volume 3 Issue 11

The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes has not changed during the preceding 12 months.

Extent and Nature of Circulation	Preceding 12 months	Single issue 11/27
Total number of copies, press run	1100	850
Mail Subscription (paid and/or requested)	18	14
Free Distribution	887	774
Total Distribution	905	788
Copies Not Distributed	195	62
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1100</b>	<b>850</b>

I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

Rani Gusho, Administrator

# DECEMBER 1994

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>Event notices and reminders may be dropped in the Newsletter mailbox for inclusion in the Calendar.</i></p>				<p>4:00: Jr. PF 6:45: Pilgrim Choir 7:30: Chancel &amp; Handbell Choirs</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>1</b></p>	<p>8:30 am, 4:00: St. Vincent Meal Program 10 am: Artists' Group 6:00: Bd. Deacons' Hanging of the Greens</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>2</b></p>	<p>8:30 am: Tosa Newcomers Children's Christmas Party 10 am: PF Play Rehearsal 1-5:00: Parents' Day Out</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>3</b></p>
<p>2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9 &amp; 11 am: Worship/ Comm., Sun. School, Nursery 10 am: Children's Choir, Adult Ed., *Origins of Carols* 3 - 5:00: Christmas Workshop, Pizza dinner follows</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>4</b></p>	<p>9 am: Cookie baking for C.H. 7:00: Bd. Christian Ed. 8:00: Alcoholics Anon.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>5</b></p>	<p>9 am: Retired Men and Ladies' Christmas prgm. 7:00: Boy Scouts 7:30: Alcoholics Anon.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>6</b></p>	<p>9:30 am: Moms' Group, MacFadyn Music Club Coffee &amp; (10:30) pgm. 11 am: Circle 12 6:30: Sr. PF 7:00: Twin Blessed Moms</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>7</b></p>	<p>4:00: Jr. PF 6:45: Pilgrim Choir 7:00: Boy Scout &amp; Cub Scout Roundtables 7:30: Chancel &amp; Handbell Choirs</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>8</b></p>	<p>9 am: Baking for CH 10 am: Artists' Group</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>9</b></p>	<p>9:00: Friendly Beast Breakfast 10 am: PF Play Rehearsal</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>10</b></p>
<p>3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9 &amp; 11 am: Worship w/ S.S. Pageant, Nursery 10 am: Children's Choir, Coffee Hour/Brunch 10:10 am: Search Update 1:30: Choir Rehearsal 5-7:00: Cov. Class I &amp; II 7:00: 39ers Prog. Dinner</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>11</b></p>	<p>10 am: Sr. Women 7:00: Bd. Fellowship, Bd. Benevolences, Bd. Trustees 8:00: Alcoholics Anon. Deadline for Columns articles</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>12</b></p>	<p>4:30: Pre-PF 1-4:00: Cookie Sale at Cong. Home, 13900 Burleigh Rd. 7:00: Resolve, Boy Scouts 7:30: Alcoholics Anon.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>13</b></p>	<p>9:30 am: Moms' Group 10 am: Bible Class 4:00: Personnel 6:30: Sr. PF 7:30: Bible Class</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>14</b></p>	<p>4:00: Jr. PF 6:45: Pilgrim Choir 7:30: Chancel &amp; Handbell Choirs</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>15</b></p>	<p>10 am: Artists' Group</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>16</b></p>	<p>10 am: PF Play Rehearsal</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>17</b></p>
<p>4th SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9 &amp; 11 am: Worship, S.S., Children's Chapel, Nursery 10 am: Adult Ed (Angels), PF Bake Sale 3:00: Christmas Tea 4:00: Christmas Concert</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>18</b></p>	<p>7:00: Membership Committee 8:00: Alcoholics Anon.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>19</b></p>	<p>9 am: Retired Men's Club 7:00: Quilters' Group 7:30: Bd. Cong. Care, Alcoholics Anon.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>20</b></p>	<p>9:30 am: Moms' Group 6:30: Sr. PF</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>21</b></p>	<p>4:00: Jr. PF 6:45: Pilgrim Choir 7:30: Handbell Choir 7:55: Chancel Choir</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>22</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>23</b></p>	<p>CHRISTMAS EVE Services: 4:00: Family (PF Play) 7:00 &amp; 11:00: A Lesson in Carols</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>24</b></p>
<p>CHRISTMAS DAY HOMECOMING SUNDAY 10:00: Worship Service</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>25</b></p>	<p>BUILDING CLOSED ALL DAY</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>26</b></p>	<p>9 am: Retired Men's Bd. 7:00 Church Council</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>27</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>28</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>29</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>30</b></p>	<p>NEW YEARS' EVE</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>31</b></p>

# Christian Education and Youth December Events

The following list includes some of the activities of the Christian Education and Youth programs for the month of December. Also shown are pictures of recent events.

**December 2** is the **St. Vincent's meal program**. This will involve some Jr. High P.F.'ers, but more adults are still needed. Call the church office for details, 258-7375.

**December 3, 10, & 17** are rehearsal dates for the **Sr. PF Christmas Play**. Rehearsals will be from 10:00 - noon. The final dress rehearsal will be at 1:00 on Christmas Eve. The play will then be presented at the 4:00 service also on Christmas Eve.

On **December 4**, Tom Healy will present the "Origins of Christmas Carols," at 10:00 for the adult ed. program. The group will consider how historical periods and the religions of composers influenced carols.

**December 4** is also the date of the **Christmas Workshop**. See the article on the front cover for more details.

**Friendly Beasts Breakfast** is scheduled for **December 10 at 9:00 a.m.** More details of this event are on page 2.

On **December 11**, the Sunday School will put on their **pageant** during the worship service. Following that service

is a **Coffee Hour**. In addition Covenant Classes I & II meet from 5-7:00 that evening.

**December 13** Pre PF meets at 4:30 and there are no PF meetings on the 28th and 29th.

**Children's Chapel** will be held on **December 18** and Sr. High PF will hold a **bake sale** between services.

Finally, on **December 19, 20 & 21** Sr. P.F. will be providing some community service work by **ringing bells for the Salvation Army** at Mayfair Mall from 5-9:00 each evening.



Adult Retreat Group



PF'ers bring supplies to Salvation Army



Adult Retreat Group



Bible School



Spooks Nite



Adult Retreat Group

# In Brief

**The Annual Meeting** is coming up quickly. You are an important member and we want to hear from you. In early January, an informational meeting will be held by the Moderator, Tom Godfrey; Vice Moderator, Mary York; and Treasurer, Joe Berte. This will give you the basics of how to understand financial data so you are more prepared for the meeting. **It is not meant to replace attendance of the Annual Meeting and no specific figures will be given.** The purpose is to help you become better informed before the Annual Meeting. It will be held between services - watch for further details.

**The Editor Thanks:** Sally Wells, Ed Probst, Bob Wilch and Rani Gusho for written materials; Rod, Cathy & Karen Schmidt, Sue Melby, Susan Barth, and Rob Fredrickson for article information; Rob Fredrickson for photos; and the office staff for their assistance.

# Our Church Family

## Baptism:

Morgan Jenna Guenther, daughter of Jennifer and Bruce Guenther, was baptised on November 13.

## Senior Women

**Monday, December 12, 11:00 a.m. - Note change of time!**

Our program will be a Christmas Musical Review, followed by a Christmas luncheon at \$7.00 per person. **Reservations** must be called in to Hilda Jorgensen, 256-8391, by **Thursday, December 8.** All are welcome to join us.

Dated Material - Please deliver immediately.

Wauwatosa, WI 53213-2593  
1511 Church Street

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