

CONGREGATIONAL Rally Issue

August 27, 1995

Our Heritage, Our Commitment... Our FAITH

As we approach September and the beginning of a new church year, you can feel the excitement within the congregation. In just a few weeks our new Senior Minister, Lonnie Richardson, has inspired us all with his energy, enthusiasm and tremendously positive attitude. Reverend Richardson has been working tirelessly with the Boards, Committees and lay leadership to focus our energy and enthusiasm on the important tasks ahead. We are beginning not only a new year, but a new era in the long history of our church. Now that we have been blessed with new leadership in Reverend Richardson, we must turn our minds and hearts to the important tasks ahead. The tasks of **Renewing Our Commitment and Restoring Our Heritage**. This is the first of several articles and letters which will explain what Reverend Richardson and your elected lay leaders believe are the tasks to be done and how we can do them.

We will begin by discussing stewardship and the **Renewal of Our Commitment** to maintain the financial health of the church so that it can continue to be a strong and positive influence in each of our lives. We will be discussing this year's stewardship campaign; what our needs are; and how your money will be used. We will also be discussing the importance of commitment and a spirit of giving in each of our lives.

We will be reviewing the financial history of the church and highlighting some of the more significant uses of our funds during

the past several years. We will discuss the church's *Growth and Development Fund* including its governing charter and policies. We will be asking the membership to consider the relevance of these policies and the future use of this fund.

We will also be discussing the physical state of our church, this beautiful and historic building that symbolizes who we are and what our mission is. By now, most of the members of our congregation are aware of the fact that our spectacular church steeple is in need of a complete renovation and that work has begun to plan this restoration and determine what it will cost. However, many of our members are probably not aware of the many other parts of this beautiful, but aging, building that are seriously in need of repair or replacement. During this series of articles we will be discussing these issues and the mission to **Restore Our Heritage** of more than 150 years as a proud, free, Christian congregation.

Look for these future articles in the *Columns*, the *Congregationalist* and in the mail. Read them and carefully consider the issues. We encourage everyone to get involved, ask questions and give us your ideas. Let's all join together to **Renew Our Commitment and Restore Our Heritage**. ■

Denise O'Meara, A Great Contribution to Christian Ed.

Denise O'Meara and her husband John have four children, ages 7-12, in Wauwatosa Public Schools. Denise is active in the "Parents Raising Educational Standards in Schools" group. She has been a Sunday School teacher for the past several years. She was on the Board of Christian Education, serving as the chairperson in 1994. She and Pam Parker ran the Vacation Bible School Program last year. And she worked closely with



Rob - helping with record-keeping last year. So when First Congregational Church

needed someone as Director of Education Ministries (at least temporarily), Denise seemed to be the natural choice.

Over the past four years as a Sunday School teacher, Denise said that she's grown very fond of the kids and looks forward to teaching again this year. As she was finishing recruiting teachers for the Fall Semester, she said that she tells teachers who are not sure about their own knowledge of certain subjects that it's their opportunity to learn what they always wanted but haven't had a chance. As a teacher she said, "We grow in the knowledge of Christ together."

Denise and John have also made great role models for their own children through Sunday attendance. Denise said that they all enjoy their Sunday ritual and never question the thought of going to church each Sunday.

In addition to the Sunday School program, Denise is also in charge of the Adult Education program. As a preview for that, she said that we can expect to see Tom Healey leading one of the first sessions this Fall. In addition to church, Denise is involved in P.T.A., was involved with Girl Scouts for the past five years, and enjoys spending time with her children and helping them with homework. She also likes tennis, swimming, watching movies, and reading but has trouble finding time for those activities.

As regular office hours at church, Denise will be available from 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Mon. through Thurs.

Through her experience with FCC and her natural caring and involved nature, Denise is a wonderful attribute to the Educational Ministry program here at church. ■

Scholarship Requests Reviewed

The Scholarship Committee, composed of the Minister, Moderator and Chairman of the Board of Benevolences, recently met to consider scholarship requests from our In-Care seminary students. The recipients for this school year are Wendy Sue Earle and John Moore.

Wendy Sue Earle attends Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. At the completion of this school year, she will have earned a Masters of Divinity towards ordination in a NA church and a Masters in Pastoral Care, Aging. Last year Wendy Sue studied as a Special Student at Duke Divinity in Durham, South Carolina.

John Moore is a student at Garrett Evangelical Seminary in Evanston,

Illinois. While working on his Masters of Divinity he also serves Plymouth Congregational Church in Kenosha as pastor and as Christian Education Director for the National Association of Congregational Churches.

The Board of Benevolences continues to support the Wauwatosa Congregational Scholarship Fund with an annual donation. In accordance with the fund charter, the fund earnings are made available for financial requests. If anyone is interested in donating specifically to the Scholarship Fund, the Board of Benevolences will happily accept such designated donations. ■

by Sandy Davis

CONGREGATIONAL COLUMNS

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♦
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From the Pastor

Break the Small Cage Habit

A friend and professional management consultant, W.H.

Higginbotham, died recently. As I pondered his life and management wisdom I came across one of his notes to me and thought about the opportunities which lie ahead of us. He attributes the story to a radio broadcast sermon of Harry Emerson Fosdick he heard years ago.

The St. Louis Zoo was one of the first zoos to take animals out of cages and put them in big pits. A visitor to the zoo saw a big polar bear in the pit pacing forward about twenty feet swinging its long white neck in beautiful rhythm as it paced, then backing up about twenty feet still swinging its long

white neck in rhythm - then pacing forward again for twenty feet and back again. The visitor asked the keeper, "Why does the animal pace forward and backward like that when it has this great big area to run around in?" The keeper replied, "He has the Small Cage Habit." The visitor said, "What do you mean by that?" The keeper replied, "The animal was born and raised in captivity in a small cage like the one over there and that's the way it got its exercise."

They moved it into a big pit with lots of room to run around but what did it do? It continued to get its exercise by pacing twenty feet forward and twenty feet back. We do

not have to settle for the small cage habit. We have been set free.

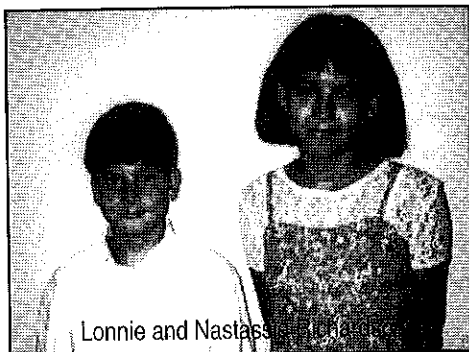
Ephesians 3:12 encourages us with these words: *In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.*

The future presents new possibilities to build on the tremendous heritage of First Congregational Church. We are limited only by Small Cage Thinking or Small Faith Thinking. I am thrilled by your steps beyond the usual "twenty paces". Let's keep moving in step with the freeing power of the grace of God!

*Your pastor,
Lonnie*

Get To Know the Young Richardsons

First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa has had a lot of very exciting things happening lately. Not only did we get a new Minister with his lovely wife, but we also got the addition of three wonderful children. Three more building blocks for the foundation of our church.



Lonnie and Nastassia

Lonnie II, who is the youngest of the three, is ten years old and will be going to Dixon Elementary School. One of his interests is collecting baseball cards and he also

enjoys playing the game and attending the professional sport. Lonnie II also enjoys participation in a good game of basketball. After college, he wants to become an astronaut. Lonnie II admires Frank Thomas because he is an outstanding first baseman.

Nastassia, the Richardson's youngest daughter, is 12 years old. She will be attending Elmbrook Middle School this Fall. Nastassia enjoys swimming and dance. She is also very musically talented. Nastassia is on her way to becoming an accomplished flutist and guitarist. Hopefully some day she will perform for us. Primates are her favorite animal and she hopes to one day become a zoologist. Reading is the subject she most enjoys.

Chantel, Pastor Lonnie and Mercedes eldest child, is 16.

Chantel is beginning her junior year at Brookfield East High School. She has many interests which include

the Opera, drama, going to concerts, and traveling. Chantel hopes to sing Opera professionally. Chantel's idol is Cathlene Battle, an opera singer.

As you can see, we have been very blessed with a multi-talented family. It seems good things do trickle down from the top. ■

by Jonathon Sgarlata



Dinner Groups Starting Through Lay Ministry Program

The Lay Ministry Program is starting a new Dinner Group Program. Based on the interest sheets you have filled out (they are always available if you haven't submitted one), Ddg Wakefield has identified people who said they would be interested in hosting dinners. From there, the church office has compiled information on other church members located in the same geographic area.

Hosts are now receiving letters and being asked to pick a date for their dinner party. They will then receive

a list of a set number of members who live closest to them to be invited to the dinner. Hopefully, Pastor Lonnie will be able to attend each of the initial dinners of these groups. The intention is that these groups will then continue to meet on their own. If the program works well, groups will then be reformed again in another few years. It's a great way to get to know your fellow church members and neighbors.

More hosts are still needed, so please, if you're interested, contact Ddg at the church office, 258-7375.

If your group would continue to meet, the same person would not be expected to host each time. The dinners are not going to be scheduled too closely, so that Pastor Richardson will hopefully be able to attend. It will be quite some time before every member of the church is invited to attend a dinner (only approximately 15 people will be called for each dinner), but make the effort to attend. This has been a very successful program at many other churches across the country and it's a great way to build our church community. Bon Appetit! ■

Nominating Committee Wants to Know Your Interests

On September 10 & 17, you will have the opportunity to indicate the Board(s) or Committee(s) on which you would be interested in serving. Following are very brief descriptions of duties. If you want further information, contact the church office.

All Board positions are for three years unless otherwise indicated. Committee position terms vary.

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/6 needed + 1 person for 1 year): 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 + 1 person for 2 years): meets the first Monday of the month. Guides our educational functions.

Christian Stewardship (9 members/3 needed + 1 person for 1 year): 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 subcommittees* 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 10th or 17th and let us know!

Board members are elected at the Annual Meeting. Committee members are appointed by the Moderator after the Annual Meeting. ■

Get Set For Rally Sunday

September 10 is Rally Sunday - the kickoff to a spectacular new season. Sunday School teachers will be commissioned at each service and there will be a Coffee Hour in the Social Hall between services where parents (and anyone else) will have the opportunity to meet the teachers.

Fall teachers include:

3-year-olds

Katie Mesheski & Mandy Lindbergh

4-year-olds

Janet Schalmo

5-year-olds

Steve Houriet

Grade 1

Jenny Granberg & Mike Sgarlata

Grades 2-3

Julie Anheuser

Grades 4-5

Sue Boettcher

Grades 6-8

Butch & Jane Boyd

11:00, Grades K-2

Kathy Jacobi & Jean Reuss

11:00, Grades 3-6

Denise O'Meara & George Wells

This year, attendance is expected to be more than 100 students total. One Sunday per month, children will continue to attend the opening portion of the service with their parents before going to class. The successful Children's Chapel program will also continue one Sunday per month.

In addition, everyone can look forward to a group mural project based on the theme, "Rainbows are a Symbol of God's Promises." Each class will be making impressions of one band of color of the rainbow with their hand prints.

Younger children's units for the Fall program will include: We are People of God, God's People Help Others, and God's People Praise God. The older children will cover the topics of: God's Leaders, God's Prophets and God's People Live in Hope. Finally, the Middle School Students will be discussing Paul's Letters and the question, "Is God Unfair?" They will also be exploring some Bible heroes.

Students, get ready for an exciting new year and we'll see you on September 10. ■

I'm Glad This Church Needs Money

I am glad this church needs money! If it did not, it would mean it was not supporting missionaries and preaching the gospel in other places. No missionary zeal.

I am glad this church needs money! If it did not, it would mean it was not doing anything to support the homeless, helpless and needy. No compassion.

I am glad this church needs money! If it did not, it would mean it had "lopped out" and was not interested in expanding into other areas of needed service. No vision.

I am glad this church needs money! If it did not, it would mean it was not interested in providing wholesome activities. No concern.

I am glad this church needs money! If it did not, it would mean it was not expanding its outreach. No evangelism.

I am glad this church needs money! If it did not, it would mean it was not interested in teaching children in their impressionable formative years. No future.

Yes, sir, I am glad this church needs money! The fact it does means it has not forfeited its zeal, compassion, expansion, vision, concern, evangelism, (or) future. This church needs my gifts and I am glad of it. I would not want to be a member of any other kind. ■

by Joe R. Barnett

Living in Bible Times at Vacation Bible School

Barb Holtz was in charge of this year's Vacation Bible School Program which had activities, lessons, and games focused around Jesus' life and times. Watch for a story in the next issue of the *Columns* for more details about the program.



SEPTEMBER 1995

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Event notices and reminders may be dropped in the Newsletter mailbox for inclusion in the Calendar.					8:30 am, 4:00: St. Vincent Meal Program	8:45 am: Meet to carpool to Habitat for Humanity
9:40 am: Chapel Communion 10 am: Worship Svc., Sunday School, Nursery 11 am: All-Church Brat Fest 3	LABOR DAY Building closed all day 4	7:00: Bd/ Deacons, Boy Scouts 7:30: Alcoholics Anon. 5	9:30 am: Moms' Group 11 am: Circle 12 4:45: Pre-PF 6:00: PF/All-Church Supper; Jr./Sr. PF Meetings 7:00: Communications 6	6:45 Pilgrim Choir 7:00: Boy Scout/Cub Scout Roundtables 7:55: Chancel Choir 7	10 am: Artists' Group 8	1 2
RALLY SUNDAY 9 & 11 am: Worship Svc. (S.S. teachers commissioned), Sunday School, Nursery 10 am: Coffee Hour, M & SG meeting 10	10 am: Sr. Women 7:00: Bd/ Fellowship, Bd/ Trustees 8:00: Alcoholics Anon. Columns deadline 11	3:00 - 9:30: pictures taken for directory 4:00: Personnel 7:00: Resolve, Boy Scouts 7:30: Alcoholics Anon. 12	9:30 am: Moms' Group 3:00 - 9:30: pictures taken for directory 6:00: Jr./ Sr. PF 13	3:00 - 9:30: pictures taken for directory 6:45 Pilgrim Choir 7:55: Chancel Choir 14	10 am: Artists' Group 15	16
9 & 11 am: Worship Svc. (9 - Commissioning PF Officers/Advisors), Sunday School, Nursery 10 am: Coffee Hour, Membership Orientation 17	7:00: Circle 9 8:00: Alcoholics Anon. 18	9:00 Retired Men's Club 7:00: Boy Scouts 7:30: Bd/ Cong. Care, Quilters, Alcoholics Anon. 19	9:30 am: Moms' Group 6:00: Jr./ Sr. PF 20	6:45 Pilgrim Choir 7:55: Chancel Choir 21	10 am: Artists' Group 22	23
9 & 11 am: Worship Svc., Sunday School, Nursery 10 am: Coffee Hour, Membership Orientation 4:00: Covenant Class Orientations 24	8:00: Alcoholics Anon. 25	9:00 Retired Men's Board 7:00: Church Council, Boy Scouts 7:30: Alcoholics Anon. 26	9:30 am: Moms' Group 6:00: Jr./ Sr. PF 7:00: Nominating Comm. 27	6:45 Pilgrim Choir 7:55: Chancel Choir 28	10 am: Artists' Group 29	30

Take a Look at Program Changes

As we kick off our regularly busy Fall season with Rally Sunday, we can also look forward to a number of new programs and program changes as the fresh ideas of Reverend Richardson and others are put into action.

One immediate difference is **weekly** Sunday Fellowship (Coffee) Hours. Coffee hours were always held once per month, but Fellowship Hour will be weekly to help build the sense of community within the church. Once per month these gatherings will be held on the second floor in Social Hall while Friendship Lounge will accommodate the socials the remaining Sundays of the month. Don't miss out. Each Sunday will be an oppor-

tunity to visit with old friends and make some new ones.

Another exciting change is the frequency in which we will be accepting new members into our congregation. Beginning on October 15, new members will be united with the Church once each month rather than just twice per year as in the past. In addition, beginning September 17 and continuing every other month, Orientation Classes will be held for four consecutive weeks at 10:00 between services. The classes are intended to provide information, evoke discussion and answer questions about Congregationalism and this church. While classes are strongly recommended for people

considering membership, current members may also find them to be quite interesting and informative.

The Pilgrim Fellowship (youth) program is also making some changes. All P.F. groups will meet on Wednesday evenings. Pre-P.F. will meet once per month from 4:45-5:45. Jr. and Sr. P.F. will both meet weekly from 6:00-7:30. Wednesday night dinners will be scheduled on the same nights as Pre-P.F. and open to all church members. Hopefully, parents who drive their P.F.'ers will find this schedule to be more convenient.

Many other plans and programs are still in the works but are sure to become reality soon. So keep watching for changes - and get involved! ■

The Direction of the Congregational Way

In 1955 First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa played an important role at the meeting of 100 Congregational Churches intent on remaining autonomous. They resisted joining a strongly backed merger of Congregational Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Out of this initial meeting the National Association was formed. In October of 1956 at the NACCC's 2nd annual meeting, this group of independent-thinking Congregational Churches met at our church.

This year at the 40th Anniversary meeting of the NACCC in Dearborn, MI, the Rev. Dr. Harry Butman greeted the representatives of a group of Korean churches planning to transfer their current affiliation to the Congregational Way. Dr. Butman, one of the key architects of

the NACCC and one of the most learned and articulate representatives of the Free Congregational Way, shared these thoughts:

Congregationalism is based on the Bible. It is founded on the rock of Scripture. Our great text is Matthew 18:18-20, 'For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them.' From Scripture we claim two principles:

The Headship of Christ: The local church is not ruled by the minister or by the officers, but by Jesus Christ. His will is supreme and should always be sought. Congregationalism is not a democracy, but a theocracy.

The Completeness of the Local Church: Jesus said to the local Church, 'Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye

shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.' (Matthew 18:18) This means that Christ has given each local Church every power necessary for its spiritual work. It does not need the help or authority of a bishop, a pope, or any organization exterior to itself.

From this Scripture, American Congregationalists draw two further principles:

The Autonomy of the Local Church:

This means that the local Church is free to govern itself. It is not under the rule of any outside official or ecclesiastical body.

The Fellowship of the Churches: The Churches are not held together by a book of discipline or by the command of a ruler. The tie that binds the Churches is fellowship: a free relation of affection. We are held together by love, not law.

J. Fred Rennebohm

In Brief

Senior Women

Monday, September 11, 10:00 a.m.

At this first meeting of the Fall Season, our new minister, Pastor Lonnie Richardson, will present our program, giving us a chance to meet him.

Do come and join our group. There are no yearly dues but we collect \$.75 per meeting for coffee and bakery. Yes, YOU are invited!

The Editor Thanks: Sandy Davis, Jonathon Sgarlata, J. Fred Rennebohm, Doug Jacobson and Mary York for written materials; Denise O'Meara for article information; and the office staff for all of their assistance.

Our Church Family

Funeral

Mabel Norcross' funeral was held on Friday, August 11.

Note from the Editor: My husband and I are expecting our first baby in mid-October. I am planning on having some help at my office, but would still like to try and wrap up the October issue early. I would also like to get November articles as early as possible so that I have a little more time than usual to put everything together. Following are Fall deadlines (the earlier the better for all the Fall issues due to space shortage) and I'll be happy to try and work around any challenges you might have. Just give me a call, Beth Linscott, 258-1410, or leave a note in my box at church. Thanks so much for your help!!

September 11

October 1

November 5

December 17

Dated Material - Please deliver immediately.

Wauwatosa, WI 53213-2593

1511 Church Street

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