

CONGREGATIONAL COLUMNS

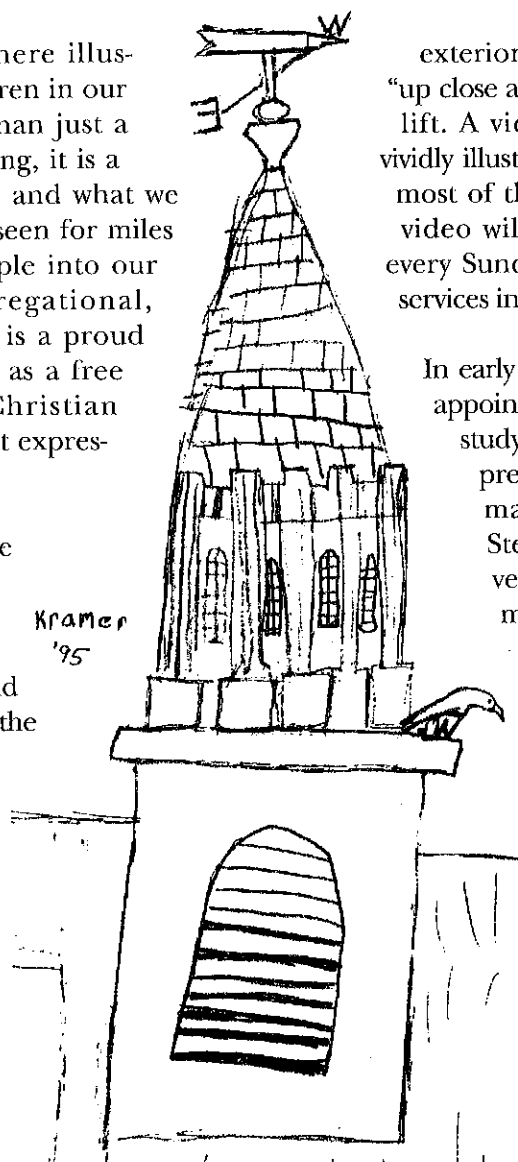
October 29, 1995

Restoring Our Heritage... *Special Edition*

Our beautiful steeple, here illustrated by one of the children in our church, is much more than just a part of our church building, it is a statement of who we are and what we stand for. It is a beacon, seen for miles around, that invites people into our midst, into our Congregational, Christian community. It is a proud symbol of our 150 years as a free and independent Christian church. It is a magnificent expression of . . . *Our Heritage*.

However, as most everyone knows, our steeple is not so magnificent right now. In fact, it is in pretty bad shape. You only have to stand on the sidewalk in front of the church and look up at the steeple to see that we have a problem.

Your Board of Trustees and your Church Council have been aware of this problem for the last couple of years. When the water dripping into the balcony on rainy days was traced to the steeple, it was time to take action. In 1994, a contractor was hired to examine the



exterior condition of the steeple, "up close and personal" from an aerial lift. A video was produced which vividly illustrates the poor condition of most of the exterior surfaces. (This video will be available for viewing every Sunday in November, between services in the Resource Center.)

In early 1995, your Church Council appointed a Steeple Committee to study the problem in detail and prepare a plan and a cost estimate for renovation. The Steeple Committee has been very active over the last nine months thoroughly investigating this problem. They reviewed numerous options for renovation, including replacing the steeple with aluminum or fiberglass replicas. They interviewed several different contractors and traveled around the Milwaukee area and into Illinois to examine examples of their work. They have studied the many options of conducting the renovation and obtained cost estimates on the various aspects of the project.

Please read carefully and consider the series of articles in this issue focusing on "Restoring Our Heritage." Then don't miss the Congregational Meeting set for Wednesday, November 8 at 7:30 p.m.

(continued on page 2)

Restoring Our Heritage...

The Steeple Project

The Steeple Committee has now developed a plan for the renovation and has presented it to the Church Council. It will be presented to the entire congregation for your consideration at the all-member meeting scheduled for **Wednesday, November 8, 1995**. In order that everyone can be as well informed as possible before the meeting, the following is a summary of the major elements of this project and the estimated cost:

1. It has been determined that the internal, structural members of the steeple are generally in good condition and, as much as possible, they will be preserved.
2. Most of the entire outer structure is in very poor condition and will be removed and replaced.
3. Because of the historical significance of the steeple, and our

entire church building, the entire reconstruction will be done in wood and our objective will be to create an exact replica of the present design.

4. Significant effort has gone into the selection of the type of wood and the best type of paint and finishes to create an outstanding product and minimize future maintenance costs.
5. The committee has determined that the present steeple can probably be removed in three sections and set down in the parking lot for disassembly and renovation.
6. If our fund raising is successful, the plan is to begin this project in the Spring of 1996 with completion targeted for late Summer or early Fall of 1996.
7. After carefully interviewing several candidates, the Steeple

Committee, with the approval of the Church Council, has retained Selzer-Ornst Company as the Construction Manager for this project. As a part of their contract, Selzer-Ornst has, at no charge, been working with the committee for the last 3 months to finalize the construction details and estimate the costs.

8. The Committee has estimated the cost of the steeple project to be \$250,000—\$300,000.00.

While the steeple is the largest component, and certainly the most visible, in the *Restore Our Heritage* project, it is not the only one. There are several other areas in our beautiful but aging building which the Board of Trustees has been concerned about for several years and now believes require action. These are described in the following article. ■

Restoring Our Heritage...

The Social Hall & Other Projects

The windows in our upstairs Social Hall are more than 50 years old. They have been repaired and repainted countless times. They are rotting, they leak, they are far from "energy efficient"... in short, they are old and tired and need to be replaced. This is a project that has been of concern to our Board of Trustees for many years. Due to budget constraints, it has been put off time and time again until it can really be put off no longer. The Board has investigated several options and has developed a plan for replacement of these 11 very large windows along with all of the associated exterior fram-

ing, masonry work, and interior window treatments. It is hoped that we'll be able to open the third section of these windows to allow more light into the Social Hall. Also the Social Hall ceiling is deteriorating and needs to be replaced. The plaster ceiling above the drop tile ceiling is breaking apart and causing the tiles in the drop ceiling to buckle and break. (Similar to the steeple, you only have to go up into the Social Hall and look closely at the windows and the ceiling to realize that we have a problem.) The estimated cost of the Social Hall project is \$89,130.00.

(continued on page 5)

CONGREGATIONAL COLUMNS

Editor, Beth Linscott
Communications Committee
Beth Andersen - Chairperson,
René Klumb, Joyce Orr,
Sandy Rose, Karl Stieghorst

♦
Rev. Lonnie Richardson, Senior Minister
Rev. Dr. Steven A. Peay, Associate Minister
Denise O'Meara, Director of Education Ministries
Carrie Payette, Director of Youth Ministries
Rani Gusho, Financial Administrator
Debby Wakefield, Director, Lay Ministries
Rev. Norman S. Ream, Minister Emeritus
Lee Jacobi, Director of Music
Betty Dethmers, 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. 4, Issue 10.

From the Pastor

Every Need Is a Sign of Life

We are in the process of a major renovation and capital program to better do what we are called to do as a church. It takes commitment and faith to grow a church and fund it's outreach. There may be some of us who have grown tired of annual stewardship campaigns and the constant renovation initiatives an older facility requires. When I start to feel this way I remind myself that every need is a sign of life.

The president of a Christian liberal arts college had this to say when people complained about the school always asking for support: "Let me tell you a personal story. I had a little boy — my first-born. He was a delight to our hearts, but he was always costing me something. He needed clothing, shoes, food, and had special needs that I gladly provided, for he was my son. Then one day he died. It was an experience that I hope you will never have. He does not cost me a dollar now."

Every need is an unfailing sign of life and growth. Body, mind, and soul have their needs and they must be met continually. A ministry that is constantly in need of funds is alive and growing and going somewhere. A dead ministry has no need, and will not bother you.

Our stewardship campaign and renovation projects are a sign of healthy growth and life. As you consider your response, be thankful we are blessed with a live church. ■

*In Him,
Lonnie*

Rev. Dr. Steven Peay Joins the Staff as Associate Minister

As we continue to move steadily into the exciting future of First Congregational Church, we are thrilled to meet and welcome our new Associate Minister, Rev. Dr. Steven A. Peay. Steve and Rev. Lonnie Richardson have been friends since high school and became colleagues shortly after, serving their first church as student co-pastors.

As Lonnie stated in his letter to the congregation, Steve then became a Benedictine monk for seventeen years. During that time, he was involved with a wide variety of churches, serving parishes ranging in size from 500 families to 2300 families; worked as a college and seminary professor; and was an academic dean of St. Vincent Seminary. He was also quite busy earning a Ph.D. in Historical Theology and Masters degrees in Rhetoric and Communication, Systematic Theology and Divinity, and is near completing an Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration.

Steve has always been driven by his interest in history—especially church history—and is concerned with historical authenticity. This is one of the reasons that Congregationalism, with all its rich tradition, appeals to him. He said that one of his great loves is to "open tradition" so we can all see what it means and understand that it is alive and well, not something of the past. Steve also said he has no interest in research unless it can be used to teach and interact with others. He loves to share ideas and talk about faith and tradition—or just about anything else for that matter. He hopes people will feel free to come and chat over coffee as well as talk with him about any spiritual matters.



Associate Minister, Steven Peay

As the Associate Minister here at FCC, Steve said the job description sounded so wonderful that it could have been written for him. He will be in charge of Pastoral Care; helping to develop Lay Ministry; developing and coordinating the Adult Education Ministry, and providing overall assistance to the Senior Minister. He said that he needs a little time to assess the Adult Ed. programs, but very soon will have some new programs developed.

On the personal side, Steve loves to read, enjoys all things historical (he finds Wauwatosa exciting because of that), enjoys the symphony and opera, likes cooking (especially Italian and German - he spent some time in Germany), relaxes with golfing and chess and very much loves to talk!

As he begins his position here at FCC, Steve sees his life and career as having come full circle. "As T. S. Elliot wrote, 'In my end is my beginning,'" said Steve. He is very anxious to share with the people here all that he has to offer. ■

Sarah Ornst Participates in Mission to Moscow

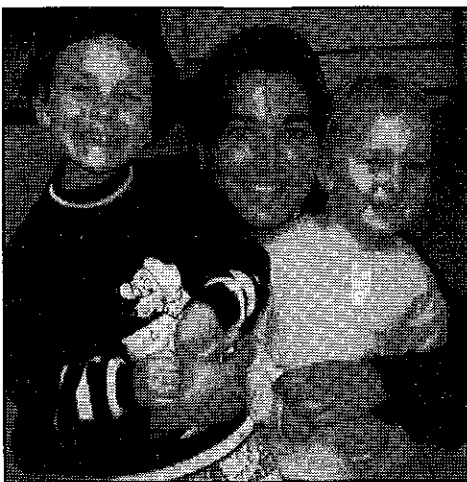
Devoted to the Christian way, Church member Sarah Ornst, 19, along with several others of like mind, raised the funds necessary for a recent youth evangelism trip to Russia. These caring believers in God traveled to Russia in July for a two-week experience they will always remember.

Established by the Elmbrook Church in Brookfield, the mission program's participants had the choice of going to several countries. Following training retreats early in the year, Sarah, an advisor to our church's PF group, chose Russia.

In her first week, Sarah was located in an agricultural trade school on the outskirts of Moscow, while the second week was spent in Podolsk, a rural setting a short distance from Moscow.

Sarah, a sophomore at Mt. Mary College, noted that many Russians, especially the younger generation, have a great interest in Christianity. She said their group met with the area's Vice Minister of Public Education, who is working toward putting the Gospel into their schools.

Because of this interest, there is a shortage of Bibles in Russia.



Shown here in the arms of Sarah Ornst are Bellinia (L) and her younger sister, Veronica, two children with whom Sarah grew close in her recent visit to Russia.

However, Sarah said, "There is a dark shadow over the country." The countryside and facilities are not clean. It is generally run-down and many older people are having difficulty adjusting to a political scene of freedom, having been "cared for" under the rule of communism. Alluding to this malaise, the Vice Minister of Education said to Sarah's group, "The only thing that can save this country is God."

Although the typical Russian on the street appears to be somber and unfriendly, Sarah indicated that once you penetrate that exterior of shyness and concern, the Russian citizen is warm and friendly.

Sarah believes hope for a brighter future lies in the country's youth, who may "bring it out of the doldrums." For the most part, they need a more positive outlook; however, it would appear spiritual growth is slow. Morals, generally speaking, appear to be lower than in the United States, especially among the teenagers.

On a personal basis, Sarah gained God's love, feeling totally accepted while in Russia. She did not miss any of the conveniences we have in America that don't exist in Russia. Her warm relationships more than overshadowed the drab conditions. It was an experience that was challenging, hard, exhausting...but most rewarding. At the end of our interview, she said, "I want to go back." ■

J. Fred Rennebohm

College Scholarship Available to Students from FCC

Our church will award a \$1,500 scholarship, per academic year, renewable annually, pending the continuation of the recipient's satisfactory academic and good-citizenlike achievement in the college community. The scholarship is for students who choose to attend our NACCC/Congregational-affiliated college, Piedmont College, located in Demorest, Georgia.

In addition to our own scholarship funds (available exclusively for members of First Congregational Church), Piedmont College has agreed to

award matching scholarship aid to our scholarship recipient. Thus, our scholarship student(s) attending Piedmont will receive a minimum total of \$3,000 annually in scholarship assistance. This total of \$12,000 in awards to each winner of our annual scholarship over the student's 4-years of college makes this a program which should be of interest to any student who is interested in attending a fine liberal arts college which has Christian principles and also has a strong affiliation with Congregationalism.

Piedmont is located in mountainous north Georgia. Students interested in applying for the scholarship should be seniors in high school and should write to Piedmont College soon to begin application procedures. Application for the scholarship given by First Congregational Church should be made through the church office after December 1, 1995. More information about Piedmont can be obtained from the church office or from Piedmont. ■

David Swanson, Board of Benevolences and Church Relations

Restoring Our Heritage...

The Social Hall & Other Projects

A brief summary of the other critical projects that must be addressed is as follows:

- Tuckpointing the chimney - cost estimate is \$3,610;
- Painting and maintenance of the exterior of the church building - cost estimate is \$2,000; (Note: This estimate is based on utilization of volunteer help for the basement and first floor levels and professional painters for the second level and above.)
- Upgrade of the office computer systems and replacement of the copier. The computers are more than ten years old and obsolete creating a lot of extra work and inefficiency in the office - cost estimate is \$28,000;
- Installation of a church security system. It is a sad, but true necessity in our world today - cost estimate is \$2,850;
- Sealing and striping of the park-

ing lot (to be done after the steeple project is complete) - cost estimate is \$2,250;

- Relocation of the "Sound Board" to the nave. This is something many of us don't even think about, but many of the recurring audio difficulties we have in the nave is due to the fact that the entire control system is located in the office. It should be relocated to the balcony in the nave near the video camera - cost estimate is \$600;
- Cement repairs for safety reasons - cost estimate is \$1,200;
- A 5% variance on the Trustees' estimates due to price changes that may arise before projects are all completed \$6,437;

This is not a "wish list" or even the entire "needs list." These are all critical projects that have been postponed for years and really must be addressed.

In the spirit of our new beginning, we are just completing a very inspiring Stewardship campaign in which we focused on *Renewing Our Commitment*. As we discussed in the August edition of this publication, that was the first step forward into our future. The second step begins now. The article below explains how we can all be a part of *Restoring Our Heritage*. ■

"The Origins of The Protestant Reformation"

A SUNDAY MORNING ADULT
ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITY

Join Julius Ruff, Ph.D., Professor of History, on November 5 & 12 between services in the Social Hall for an enlightened discussion on the Reformation. Come discover the personalities and situations leading to the Reformation. This class is sure to give an insight to where we, as part of the Protestant tradition, have come from.

Restoring Our Heritage... How Do We Do It?

The previous two articles have attempted to outline the challenges we are facing and present the proposed solutions and the cost estimates. Many members of our congregation have been working very hard to develop this information. All of them, along with many more volunteers will be needed to accomplish these tasks. This is no small undertaking. The total cost estimate of the *Restoring Our Heritage* project is \$441,372.

Over the next 6 weeks, there will be many opportunities to learn more about what needs to be done and

how you can help. For example, beginning on Sunday, November 5, 1995, representatives of the Steeple Committee and the Board of Trustees will be available between services in the Resource Center to discuss these projects. As mentioned earlier, you will also be able to view the video of the steeple.

On Wednesday, November 8, 1995, an all-member Congregational Meeting will be held. At that meeting, all of these projects will be discussed in detail and ample time will be made available for questions and comments. At that meeting, we will

also discuss our Growth and Development Fund, its history and its future. Finally, all of our members will have an opportunity to vote on proceeding with the *Restore Our Heritage* project and how to fund it.

What all of us can do right now is to participate in the process. Consider carefully, and prayerfully, the information you have just read. Come to the information sessions and ask questions. Above all, come to the November 8th Congregational Meeting and be a participant in the decision making and a participant in *Restoring Our Heritage*. ■

NOVEMBER 1995

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Once again, please try to have any articles for the Nov. <i>Columns</i> in at the beginning of the month (by Nov. 5th). If you need more time for an article, please contact the editor. Thank you. (Beth Linscott, 258-1410)						
8:40 am: Chapel Communion 9 & 11 am: Worship Svc., Sunday School, Nursery 10 am: Coffee Hour, Ruff Adult Ed 10:40 am: Chapel Communion	7:00: Bd/ Fellowship, Bd/ Christian Ed. 8:00: Alcoholics Anon.	9 am: Retired Men's Club 7:00: Boy Scouts 7:00: Bd/ Deacons at Cong. Home	9:30 am: Moms' Group 11 am: Circle 12 4:45: Pre-PF 6:00: All-Church Supper, Jr./Sr. PF Meetings 7:00: Budget & Finance	6:45 Pilgrim Choir 7:00: Boy Scout/Cub Scout Roundtables, Resolve 7:30: Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir	8:30, 4:15: St. Vincent Meal Program	8:45 am: Meet to carpool to Habitat for Humanity 9:00 am: Quilters' Workshop
9 & 11 am: Worship Svc., Sunday School, Nursery 10 am: Coffee Hour, Ruff Adult Ed 6:00: Covenant Class	10 am: Sr. Women 7:00: Bd/ Trustees, Bd/ Benevolences 8:00: Alcoholics Anon.	7:00: Boy Scouts, Resolve, Wauwatosa Historical Society 7:30: Church St. Singers	9:30 am: Moms' Group 4:00: Personnel 6:00: Jr./Sr. PF 7:00: Twin Blessed Moms 7:30: All Church Mtg.	6:45 Pilgrim Choir 7:30: Handbell Choir, Chancel Choir	10 am: Artists' Group	
9 & 11 am: Worship Svc., (New Members) Sunday School, Nursery 10 am: Coffee Hour, Ruff Adult Ed, Member Orientation 6:00: Covenant Class	8:00: Alcoholics Anon.	9 am: Retired Men's Club 7:00: Quilters' Group, Boy Scouts 7:30: Bd/ Cong. Care	9:30 am: Moms' Group 10 & 7:30: Landis Bible Class 6:00: Jr./Sr. PF 7:00: Budget & Finance	6:45 Pilgrim Choir 7:30: Handbell Choir, Chancel Choir	10 am: Artists' Group	
9 & 11 am: Worship Svc., Sunday School, Nursery, Children's Chapel 10 am: Coffee Hour, Member Orientation	10:30 am: 20th Century 7:00: Z Schaefer Adult Ed. 8:00: Alcoholics Anon.	9:00 Retired Men's Board 7:00: Church Council, Boy Scouts	9:30 am: Moms' Group 10 & 7:30: Landis Bible Class 6:00: Jr./Sr. PF	6:45 Pilgrim Choir 7:30: Handbell Choir, Chancel Choir		<i>Event notices and reminders may be dropped in the Newsletter mailbox for inclusion in the Calendar.</i>

Christmas Seminar Offered

Do you find the holiday season stressful and difficult at times? Do you feel like the true meaning of Christmas has become buried in a mound of materialism, commercialism, and over-consumption? Or, do you just need a spark of joy in your life at this time of year? Then, come and experience an evening of reflection with "Z" Schaefer on **Monday, November 27**, from 7:00 - 9:30 as she brings the "5 R's For Christmas" to our Church.

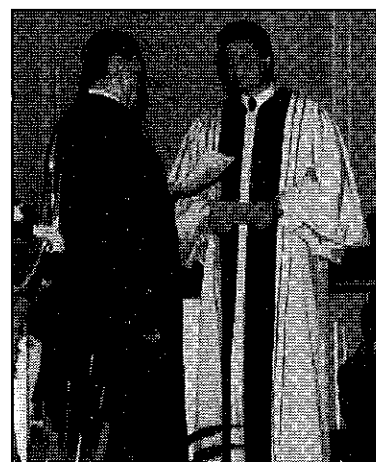
The seminar offers participants the chance to *Reflect* on the traditions and memories surrounding their Christmas celebrations and a chance to lessen the stress associated with this time of year. The focus will be on the three traditional parts of Christmas - Advent, Christmastide and Epiphany.

When we *Reconcile* our expectations, we can choose a *Response* which is in keeping with what the Lord would want us to do. As a result, we will be *Renewed* and we will *Rejoice* because of the birth, life and death of our Savior.

There will be music, poetry, incense and food as we share with each other, and reflect on this wonderful, magical, glorious time of year. Please register by calling the church office or signing up on the bulletin board outside the C.E. office. As always, friends and relatives are more than welcome to attend. There will be a free will offering taken that evening. ■



Installation Service— A Traditional, Joyful Celebration



Two past Senior Ministers, the first Executive Director of the NACCC, 14 past Moderators, a combined choir of 40, a full house of Church members, and a host of others including some NA officials gathered in a tremendous show of unity for the Installation Service of Rev. Lonnie Richardson on October 8, 1995.

The day was filled with tradition beginning with a meeting of the Ecclesiastical Council of the Vicinage earlier in the day. After the service ended in the evening a reception was held and the Right Hand of Fellowship was truly extended to the Richardsons as members of the congregation all stood in line late on a Sunday evening to formally welcome the new Senior Minister. ■

Book Review

Mutant Message Down Under, written by Marlo Morgan, is a fictional story of the spiritual odyssey of an American woman in Australia. I bought this book for my 18-year-old daughter, who really liked it. I grabbed it as I was going out the door on a flight to the west coast. I found it to be one of the best books I have ever read.

Morgan answers a summons by a remote tribe of nomadic Aborigines, the (Real People), to make a four-month-long journey through the Outback. As she travels, she learns how they live and thrive in natural harmony with the plants and animals that exist in this barren, rugged desert region. Morgan is challenged by the physical requirements of her journey. The Aboriginal tribe welcomes her as one of its own and they

become her compassionate teachers. She learns to celebrate the gifts and inner spirit of each tribal member. She discovers a new awareness of what it means to be alive.

Mutant Message Down Under is a very timely message for us all. It is a message about all living things, plants, animals, human beings and our interdependence upon each other. It is a story about simplicity and spiritual lessons that touch each of us. It is a book to be read and shared. ■

by Sandy Rose

We are interested in adding a book review such as this as an occasional interest piece in the Columns. If you've read a good book and wouldn't mind writing a brief review, please contact the editor or just submit the review. Thank you.

In Brief

Sr. High P.F. Fundraiser

A Fall work day is available on **Sat., November 3**. Please call Suzi Moore, 259-0763, to schedule yard work and other small jobs to be performed by our Senior High Pilgrm Fellowship members.

Circles to Meet

Circle 8 - Tue., November 8, at 11:45, at Congregational Home. Have lunch with Health Care residents.

Circle 12 Wed., November 1, at 11:00
Meet Mercedes Richardson; guests are welcome. Call Lila Brenner, 774-7787, by Oct. 29.

The Editor Thanks: J. Fred Rennebohm, Doug Jacobson, Sandy Rose and David Swanson for written materials; Gordon Petersen for photographs; and the office staff for their assistance.

Kouples Klub

On **Saturday, November 4**, Kouples' Klub will be gathering at the home of Steve and Nancy Fisher, 7132 Hillcrest Drive, Wauwatosa, for a casual evening of fun, food, and fellowship. Please join us at 6:30 P.M. We ask that you bring either an hors d'oeuvre, a salad, or a dessert. The Fishers and the Bergums will provide sandwiches and beverages.

Please R.S.V.P. to Pam at 797-9550 or Nancy at 771-3879. (Note to new members: We welcome you.)

Adult Education Interest Survey

Sunday, November 5 we will be handing out an Adult Education Interest Survey. Please fill it out and return it to the church office as soon as possible!

Dated Material - Please deliver immediately.

The First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa
1511 Church Street
Wauwatosa, WI 53213-2593

USPS 010-493
Second Class
Postage
PAID
Milwaukee, WI
53203-9998