

CONGREGATIONAL COLUMNS

December 31, 1995

Everything Old Is New Again

Tired of the same old New Year's Eve Parties? Had it with reruns of Guy Lombardo? Seen the ball in Time's Square drop one too many times? Then we have an alternative for you!

One of the more ancient traditions of the Church involves the renewing of one's covenant with the Lord at the new year. Christians kept vigil together and 'waited on the Lord' and watched for the coming of the new year in prayer and song. Time was spent looking over the past year with its failures and successes; those assembled asked God for forgiveness for the failures and praised Him for the successes. The past left behind, the community renewed its covenant with

God, strengthened itself with holy communion and started the new year.

The members of First Congregational Church will be able to join in such a "Watch Night Service" on December 31. The service will begin at 11:00 p.m. in the Memorial Chapel and will follow the outline of the traditional "Watch Night" authored by John Wesley in the eighteenth century. The service will conclude with communion and the "ringing-in" of the new year by the church bells at midnight. Following the service there will be an opportunity for light refreshments and fellowship. ■

Annual Meeting Celebrates Musical Ministry

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 17, 1996. This will be an event you won't want to miss. In addition to critical issues such as the 1996 budget, steeple financing and new officer installation, this year's meeting will focus on four individuals very special to FCC. Gary Back—bass, Roger Jacobi—tenor, Patty Kostreva—soprano and Dulcy Miller—alto, have served this church as soloists for ten, twenty, eleven and seven years, respectively. Said Lee Jacobi of these individuals, "We have a very ambitious choral program and their contributions are indispensable to its success. They provide great leadership." We are all very proud of the music program here at FCC and this will be a great opportunity to highlight these individuals as well as incorporate some music into the evening. So don't miss this important Congregational event. Following are nominations for 1996 offices.

NOMINATIONS FOR 1996

All nominees listed below have consented to serve if elected. Their terms of office are for three (3) years, except where noted. "Additional nominations for any such positions may be made only by petition, signed by ten (10) Active Members and filed with the Clerk at least two (2) weeks in advance of the Annual Meeting; and they shall be published to the Membership at least one (1) week prior to the Meeting."

ModeratorMarion Petersen
Vice-ModeratorPeter Holtz
Treasurer.....Butch Boyd
Assistant Treasurer.....Jim Walsh
Church ClerkBetsy Isenberg

Church Council

Carmen Berte
Dick Vitek
Cindy Payette
Ed Probst

Board of Trustees

Beth Andersen
Doug Hoerz
Ralph Ehlert

Serving one year:

Rod Schmidt
Alan Halvorson

Board of Deacons

Bill Edens
Mark Melby
Serving for two years:
Virginia Hutton
Mariilyn Vitek
Jim Arter
Georgia Kletti
Jim Santelle

(continued on page 3.)

PF Volunteers Play Important Role

Jenny Granberg and Mary Lou Schowalter have been helping as volunteers with the PF program since Carrie Payette became Director of Youth Ministries this Fall. We are very grateful for their contributions and would like to take this opportunity to highlight each of them.

Jennifer (Jenny) Granberg is a junior at Mount Mary College, pursuing a degree in Interior and Architectural Design. In addition to her 17 credits, she plays stopper on the Mount Mary Women's Soccer team. Soccer has been Jenny's sport since she was a young child.



Jenny Granberg

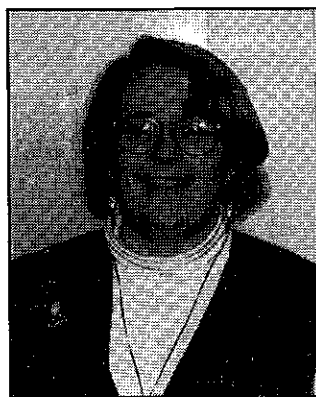
Jenny balances her life well, feeling strongly about giving back to her church by volunteering as a coordinator for the Junior High Pilgrim Fellowship. They meet weekly, plus are involved in community projects at St. Vincent's and Habitat for Humanity. After the soccer season is complete, she will also be teaching first grade Sunday School.

Mary Lou Schowalter grew up in First Congregational Church, participated in and enjoyed her own Pilgrim Fellowship experience and has known Carrie Payette, the director of Youth Ministries, since they were both in junior high school. So when called upon by Carrie to assist in the PF program, Mary Lou says

she was very happy to help and give something back. She is involved in programming and music with the pre-PF group, music with the Junior PF and programming with Senior PF.

Mary Lou earned her undergraduate degree at St. Olaf College in Minnesota and her Masters in Education in Colorado. A first grade teacher at the 37th Street School, she is in her second year of teaching in Milwaukee, having moved back in June, 1994.

She describes PF as an opportunity for young people to grow in faith through discussion, skits and music. She says PF is special in that "you don't have to be a star." PF'ers share and make friends in a comfortable, non-competitive setting. She sees her role as that of a facilitator in that process, and music as an especially important part of the PF experience. Mary Lou began playing guitar when she was in PF as a 15-year-old.



Mary Lou Schowalter

In addition to enjoying a wide variety of music, Mary Lou likes outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, swimming and cross-country skiing. She also enjoys traveling to visit friends and family, and antiquing.

Thank you Jenny and Mary Lou. First Congregational Church is grateful for your gifts. ■

by René Klumb and Sandy Rose

It's a BABY BOOM!!

It's wonderful to see all the beautiful babies coming on Sunday and bringing their families with them. In order to maintain quality care in the nursery, we would like to hire an additional person to be present from 8:45-10:15. We would still have Margie in charge and all the marvelous volunteers. If you are over 16 and would like to help the church and earn a little money (\$10/week), please contact Margie or Rani. If you would like to be responsible for one or two Sundays a month, perhaps we can work out a "shared time" position.



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, Volunteer Ministries
 Rev. Norman S. Ream, Minister Emeritus
 Lee Jacobi, Director of Music
 Betty Dethmers, Organist

◆
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Women's International Bible Study Program Comes to FCC

Beginning on January 9, First Congregational Church will become the new host of Bible Study Fellowship International (BSF). BSF is an ecumenical, in-depth, Bible study program. Its purpose is to help people learn to study and enjoy the Bible to develop a vibrant relationship with the Lord.

The six-year course studies six different topics. They are: Genesis, Matthew, the Life of Moses, John, History of Israel and Minor Prophets, and the Life and Letters of Paul. They are currently in the middle of John. This Milwaukee-area group, which has members representing 50 different churches, outgrew their last meeting place, and would like to keep growing. The group meets weekly from

9:15-11:15 a.m. The first Tuesday of every month is an introductory class. Except for during the intro. class, child care is available. Children ages 2-5 study the same topics as the moms.

Marsha Bolan will lecture each week. In addition, there are daily questions for the women to study, discussion groups, and notes from the lecture distributed each week.

Throughout the world, there are nearly 1000 classes available to men and women, but this is the only class currently available in the Milwaukee area. Any woman who is interested is encouraged to attend to get more information. Questions, call the office, 258-7375. ■

Care Board Begins New Programs

The Congregational Care Board is undertaking some new approaches in its service of our Church family. The Board will approach its ministry from four angles: Ministry of Prayer, Ministry to the Bereaved, Ministry to the Sick and Shut-In, and Ministry to those in Nursing Homes. As the Board works to develop these programs it will also begin to serve as a "clearinghouse" for existing ones so that the various ministries of the Church can be coordinated.

The first of these ministries to be implemented is that of Prayer. The members of the Congregational Care Board are all agreed that this ministry will serve as the foundation for everything else that is done. As Christians we're instructed to "pray always" both by the Lord Jesus (Luke 18:1) and by Saint Paul (1 Thessalonians 5:17), one of the ways

we can accomplish this is by praying for one another. So volunteers drawn from the Care Board and the whole congregation will pray daily for the specific requests of our people.

A special "Book Of Intentions" ('intention' is an ancient way of describing a prayer request) will be available in the narthex before services on Sunday, and in the Memorial Chapel during the week, for people to list their requests. If one wishes to remain anonymous it is suggested that he/she simply put down "For a Special Intention;" God knows - and that's all that matters. The Ministry of Prayer will begin its work with the "Watch Night Service" on New Year's Eve.

If you're interested in the ministry of prayer, please call Sandy Gold (369-5536) or Rev. Dr. Steven Peay. ■

Annual Mtg.

Board of Congregational Care

Don Koch
Gladysmae Preston
Serving one year: Kris Mesheski

Mary Jane Montguire
Molly Vogel

Board of Fellowship

Tim Casey
Terri Liska

Jean Jancovek
Jacquie Quirk

Board of Christian Education

Carla Cummings
Marty Vander Velde
Serving 2 years: Barb Holtz

Sarah DeYoung

Board of Christian Stewardship

Jim Benz
Serving one year Rube Ziehlisdorf

Merrick Wells
Merrill York

Board of Benevolences and Church Relations

Kathy Cohan
Serving one year: Sue Kolaga

Judy Fraser
Jim Haire

Nominating Committee

(all one year terms)

Chris Ellis
Dave Fraser
Janice Wittig

Please see Dinner Reservation form on back cover.

Congratulations

On October 18, 1995, Columns editor Beth Linscott gave birth to a beautiful, blue-eyed baby girl, Mikayla. Luckily Mikayla is a good eater, sleeps through the night, and loves to ride in the car when Beth has to go to the church office and to the printer. Despite an unexpected cesarean section, Beth published the *Columns* right on schedule. A special thanks goes out to all who helped write articles and meet the early deadlines.

Congratulations to Beth and her husband Mike and a big "welcome" to Mikayla from all of us. ■

Communications Committee



Main Course at All-Church Dinner is a Real Treat

The All-Church Dinner of December 6 proved to be a feast for the eyes as well as the palate. A traditional English meal, prepared by Rev. Dr. Steve Peay and his helpers was followed by a slide presentation by noted English art historian, Clare Ford Dean.

Highlighting the menu was roast beef, Yorkshire pudding with plum



pudding and hard sauce for dessert. Everyone received a Christmas stocking containing four gifts. The historic symbolism of each of the gifts was explained by Rev. Steve. The bright color of the orange represents Jesus as Light of the World. The blood-red and snow white of the apple reminds us of Christ as our Savior who died for us. The nuts, as gathered and stored by squirrels for the winter, symbolize the wisdom of nature. The candy cane made of scarce and precious sugar is shaped in the form of St. Nick's staff.

Ms. Dean's presentation, a Celebration of Christmas in Art, began and ended with music. She guided the audience through works by numerous artists spanning several centuries. The featured paintings depicted the Annunciation, the



Nativity, and the two Adorations of Christ. Ms. Dean pointed out the variety in the many ways the artists interpreted and depicted the emotions of Mary, the age of Joseph, and the various settings and backgrounds particular to the time each painting was done. The evening provided a wonderful beginning for our Christmas season. ■

by René Klumb

"The Art of Caring" - A Morning Retreat

Post-holiday blahs on the horizon? "Come apart and rest a while." Join the members of the Congregational Care Board in the Friendship Lounge for a morning retreat on "The Art of Caring: Becoming a Caring Person for Others and Self," January 13, 1996, from 9:00 a.m.

at noon. The program, based on material from the Alban Institute and facilitated by Rev. Dr. Steven Peay, will focus on what it means to care for self and for others, including the psychology and theology of caring. Time for discussion and fellowship (including continental breakfast and coffee break) are built in to make for a meaningful and refreshing morning.

For those interested in working with the Congregational Care Board's outreach programs (ministry to the bereaved, to the sick and homebound, to those in nursing homes, and the ministry of prayer), there will be a series of 'workshopettes' on Saturday mornings. The first will deal with the "Art of Listening" on January 27, 9:00 a.m. *These programs are also open to any member of the congregation who wishes to attend with no obligation to volunteer.*

Do you have questions? Need more information? Please call Dr. Peay at 258-7375. ■

Work & Play

A marvelous opportunity to share your talents with fellow Congregationalists in Central America - in work and play - on a team of ten. Share your experience in sewing, carpentry, the kitchen, children's games, garden and lawn care and other fields.

The dates are Friday, Nov. 1-10, with sightseeing and recreation preceding and following a week of service at Honduras Congregational Mission.

Scheduled airline service at group fares from Milwaukee to San Pedro Sula, Honduras near the Mexican vacation area of Yucatan.

For information on how to join the First Team, please call our church office at 258-7375. ■

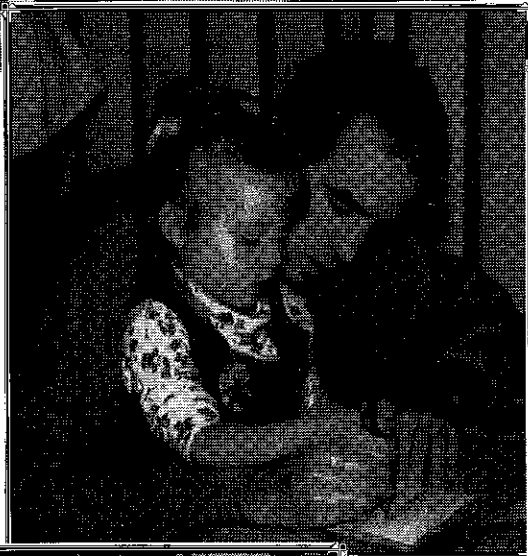
Bruce Smith

It's Been a Busy Christmas Season!

FRIENDLY
↓ BEASTS ↗



CHRISTMAS
↖ WORKSHOP ↓



photos by Gordon Petersen



CHILDREN'S
PAGEAUNT

JANUARY 1996

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Event notices and reminders may be dropped in the Newsletter mailbox for inclusion in the Calendar.	HAPPY NEW YEAR!! Building closed all day.	7:00: Boy Scouts	9:30 am: Moms' Group 4:45: Pre-PF 6:00: Jr./Sr. PF Meetings	6:45 Pilgrim Choir 7:00: Boy Scout/Cub Scout Roundtables 7:30: Handbell Choir 7:55: Chancel Choir	8:30, 4:15: St. Vincent Meal Program 10 am: Artists' Group	8:45 am: Meet to carpool to Habitat for Humanity
8:40 & 10:40 am: Chapel Communion 9 & 11 am: Worship Svc., Sunday School, Nursery 10 am: Coffee Hour	10 am: Senior Women 8:00: Alcoholics Anon.	12:00: Circle 7 7:00: Resolve, Boy Scouts 7:30: Church St. Singers	9:30 am: Moms' Group 4:00: Personnel 4:45: Pre-PF 6:00: Jr./Sr. PF Meetings 7:00: Twin Blessed Moms	6:45 Pilgrim Choir 7:30: Handbell Choir 7:55: Chancel Choir	10 am: Artists' Group	9 am: "The Art of Caring" Retreat 5:00: Post-College-Age Singles
9 & 11 am: Worship Svc., Sunday School, Nursery 10 am: Coffee Hour 6:00: Cov. Class I 7:00: Cov. Class II	8:00: Alcoholics Anon.	9 am: Retired Men's Club 7:00: Boy Scouts 7:30: Quilters	9:30 am: Moms' Group 6:00: Jr. PF, Annual Mtg Reception 6:30: Annual Mtg Dinner 7:30: Annual Meeting	6:45 Pilgrim Choir 7:30: Handbell Choir 7:55: Chancel Choir	10 am: Artists' Group	
9 & 11 am: Worship Svc., (New Members) Sunday School, Nursery 10 am: Coffee Hour, Member Orientation	7:00: Bd/Trustees, Communications 8:00: Alcoholics Anon.	9 am: Retired Men's Board Meeting 7:00: Boy Scouts 7:30: Church St. Singers	9:30 am: Moms' Group 6:00: Jr./Sr. PF	6:45 Pilgrim Choir 7:30: Handbell Choir 7:55: Chancel Choir	10 am: Artists' Group	8:30: Cong. Care
9 & 11 am: Worship Svc., Sunday School, Nursery 10 am: Coffee Hour, Member Orientation 6:00: Cov. Class I 7:00: Cov. Class II	8:00: Alcoholics Anon.	7:00: Church Council, Boy Scouts	9:30 am: Moms' Group 6:00: Jr./Sr. PF			

Personnel Committee Kept Busy in '95

During the past year, the Church's Personnel Committee has been very busy. In addition to being actively involved in all the staff changes which have occurred recently, the Committee has been working hard behind the scenes as well.

After several years of effort, the Committee completed the writing of a 27-page Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual, which contains sections on employment, compensation, benefits, training, and general information. The Manual consolidates all of the Church's personnel practices into one document, the receipt of which is acknowledged in writing by each employee of the Church.

Also, in consultation with the Church staff, the Committee has developed written Position Descriptions for each and every paid position. These descriptions

detail the duties and responsibilities of each position, as well as its ecclesiastical and payroll status. Each Position Description is approved by the Senior Minister, the Chairperson of the Personnel Committee and the Moderator.

Finally, Performance Evaluation procedures and forms were developed and designed in order to establish a formal appraisal process for all paid Church staff members. The procedure calls for all staff members to receive a written performance evaluation from their supervisors between May 1 and June 30 of each year. The performance of the Senior Minister is to be evaluated by a special Evaluation Committee, consisting of the Moderator, Vice Moderator, Past Moderator, and Chairpersons of the Board of Deacons, Board of Trustees, and Personnel

Committee. All evaluations will be reviewed by the Personnel Committee and stored in the Church's personnel files.

The Personnel Committee is a standing committee of the Council, the functions of which are to advise, inform, recommend to Council, Officers, Boards, and Committees on all matters pertaining to administrative personnel procedure and policy, and to confer and counsel with the staff on matters pertaining to their relationship with the congregation and each other. Appointed by the Moderator subject to ratification by the Council, members of this year's committee are Stew Davis - Chairperson, Gary Kebbekus, Jeff Kelling, Chuck Krull, Cathy Lewis, Bob Ornst, and Mary York. ■

by Stew Davis

1995 Christmas Offering

The Board of Benevolences and Church Relations has selected the Honduran Congregational Mission as this year's recipient for the special Christmas offering. The mission is directed by Rev. Edsel Bodden who has visited our congregation the last two years. This mission continues to serve the Honduran people with the medical clinic, the sewing and carpentry schools, the feeding stations for pregnant women and young children and other programs and services which improve the living conditions of the people. Local families are given practical teaching in cooking, nutrition and hygiene.

In 1988, our congregation funded the construction of the medical clinic. The clinic operates five days a

week to bring medical treatment to an area where such treatment was almost non-existent. Patients pay the equivalent of one U.S. dollar for medical care from the clinic. The latest addition to the medical clinic this year has been a dental clinic which our Sunday School children supported with the collection of toothbrushes during October.

To date, the results of this new clinic have been outstanding, but such a venture is costly. Funds are needed to purchase medicines and supplies and to support the medical staff at the clinic. In the near future, the Board of Benevolences hopes to sponsor a trip to Honduras to participate in the mission's various projects and see our funding at work. ■

by Sandy Davis

A Letter of Thanks from Honduras

Dear friends:

May the blessings of our Lord Jesus be upon you.

Thank you for writing us, First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa has been for many years one of the most faithful supporters of the Honduran Congregational Mission, they have supported almost every program within our mission but specifically our medical clinic and Sunday School.

Your gift of toothbrushes is very timely, we usually give a new toothbrush to every child coming to our church, this is done during Christmas. Our supply of brushes has dropped to zero, we were wondering what we would do for Christmas, your gift is an answer to our prayers. Thanks to your effort and benevolence. Please convey our gratitude to all your Sunday School children.

Thank you for your gift.

May God richly bless you.

Edsel Bodden, Field Director

In Brief

Senior Women Ring in 1996

Monday, January 8, at 10a.m., a local chiropractor will speak on back pain, back care and exercising. All are welcome.

Attention: Post-College-Age Singles

Join the fun as resident chef Steve Peay leads us in preparing a dinner and discussing the issues of career-age singles. Cooking starts at 5:00 at the church, Saturday, January 13th. We will conclude with plenty of time for you to catch a late movie. Please respond to Sarah DeYoung 453-3652 by Monday, January 8th. Feel free to bring a friend.

The Editor Thanks: Beth Andersen, René Klumb, Sandy Rose, Sandy Davis, and Stew Davis for written materials; Gordon Petersen and René Klumb for photographs; and the office staff for their assistance.

Thanksgiving Offering

The Board of Benevolences and Church Relations wishes to thank everyone for their generous gifts to the special Thanksgiving offering. \$2,894 was collected and will be divided between the Tosa Community Food Pantry and Joy House, part of the Milwaukee Rescue Mission.

Church Postcards

Postcards which feature a beautiful color picture of the church are available for purchase from the church office at a cost of 25¢ or 5/\$1.00.

Annual Dinner Reservation Form

Wednesday, January 17, 1996 at 6:30 p.m.

Name(s) _____

Reservations _____, \$8.00 per plate; must

be prepaid. \$_____. Reservations must be

received no later than Mon., January 15.

If you cannot be present at the dinner,
plan to attend the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Dated Material - Please deliver immediately.

Wauwatosa, WI 53213-2593

1511 Church Street

The First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa

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