

CONGREGATIONAL COLUMNS

January 28, 1996

Annual Meeting Filled With Exciting News and Exchange of Ideas

The 1996 Annual Meeting of the Congregation was filled with thought-provoking discussions, information, and even a bit of entertainment.



Following the dinner was a musical presentation which was the theme of the evening. Shortly following, outgoing Moderator, Mary York, addressed the group highlighting some of the year's events. They included two all-church meetings, the program by POW Captain Charlie Plumb, the special Easter service for the handicapped, Bob Wilch's farewell service, Lonnie's installation service, the hiring of Dr. Steve Peay and more. She emphasized that 1995 was an exciting year of transition and we have a new, growing, invigorated church. After Mary's remarks, Rev. Lonnie Richardson gave the Minister's Report.



Lonnie announced that we will now begin long-range planning as a church-wide endeavor. On April 27 & 28, there will be an opportunity for all members to share their input. As the information is gathered and assessed we will be looking at 12 areas - some of which include: specific missional long-range objectives, pastoral and lay visitation in the community, the instigation of more special music, the building of more strong relational groups, strong leadership resources, and the understanding of our heritage as Congregationalists. Lonnie also announced the exciting news that Steve Peay is going to work on becoming a Congregational Minister (rather than an ordained minister in a Congregational Church).

A special presentation was then given by Lee Jacobi and Nancy Hayes which celebrated the outstanding music program in our Church. Of special note were the soloists, who have all been with the Church for many years, and Ralph Ehlert who has been a very dedicated back-up organist for more than 25 years.

Joe Berte then gave the Treasurer's Report and answered a few questions (fully prepared



(continued on page 3)

Lenten Schedule Has Something For Everyone!

It is difficult to believe, but the Lenten season is approaching rapidly and there are a number of excellent programs planned. Following are brief descriptions of some of the Lenten events in store:

Ash Wednesday

Communion Service:

February 21 at 10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS FROM FEBRUARY 28 THROUGH APRIL 3

Breaking the Bread of Life at Breakfast:

Start the day right with a good hot breakfast, at a reasonable price, and a brief, timely study of the Bible all before work! Join Revs. Lonnie Richardson and Steve Peay on Wednesday mornings in the Social Hall at 6:45 a.m. to "break bread" physically and spiritually - the first breakfast will be cooked by Steve Peay. We'll have you out by 7:30 a.m.

Black Bible, Brown Bag: Pack a lunch...and your Bible and join

Revs. Lonnie Richardson and Steve Peay for a time of Bible Study. This session is designed for those who can't get away for breakfast, but would like to have a time of special devotion during Lent. Meet in the Social Hall at 12 noon - out by 12:45. Beverages provided - BYOB (Bring Your Own Bible).

"Meagre Meal": There will be a Lenten Dinner each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. Following each dinner, there will be programs offering spiritual growth opportunities for the entire family.

- Child care provided.
- Grades K-5:
 Lent: A Journey with Jesus
- Grades 6-8: **Junior PF**
- Grades 9-12: **Senior PF**
- Adult programs:

Bible Study:

The Death of the Messiah - survey of the Biblical material on the passion and death of Christ, with a discussion by the pastor and a lay leader.

What is the Congregational Way?:

Recovering Our Heritage - a study of the historical roots, present application and future of the Congregational Way with Revs. Lonnie Richardson, Tom Healey and Steve Peay.

Small Group Studies on Practical Issues

- *Expressing Love in Marriage*
- *Parents of Preschoolers: From Car Seats to Kindergarten*
- *Stress Management: Finding the Balance*

Each of these programs is packed with a lot to offer in terms of spiritual growth, and the variety of times should be able to accommodate any schedule. So don't miss all of these wonderful opportunities. ■

Congratulation

erict

Attendance

The following eighteen Sunday School Students have earned their attendance for the fall quarter

Blake Boyd
David Eggert
Nathan Eggert
Terese Eggert
Katrina Esser
Brianna Esser
Beth Kebbekus
Brain Kebbekus
Avery Moore



Caitlin O'Meara
Eileen O'Meara
Leslie O'Meara
Christopher Pollock
Breanne Sherman
Katherine Schalmo
Sara Schalmo
Catherine Schultz
Laura Schultz

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, Coordinator of Education Ministries
Carrie Payette, Coordinator of Youth Ministries
Rani Gusho, Financial Administrator
Debby Wakelfield, Coordinator of Membership
Lee Jacobi, Director of Music
Betty Dethmers, Organist
Rev. Norman S. Ream, Minister Emeritus

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. Send Class Postage Paid at Milwaukee, WI 53203-9998. Postmaster: Send address changes to *Congregational Columns*, 1511 Church St., Wauwatosa, WI 53213-2593.
Vol. 5, Issue 1.

Annual Meeting Continued

with a hard hat - sorry no pictures). After his report, it was announced that after six years as treasurer, coming in weekly, he is retiring his position and Butch Boyd will be taking over the position.

Next up, Marion Petersen presented the proposed budget for 1996 which prompted much discussion. Of primary concern to many was the reduction in the benevolences budget from past years. The point was made that more money needs to come into the church through contributions before more can be given out; however, others felt that benevolences was just being given too low of a priority. Some people considered this year a step in building - in that we must grow more to be able to give more. Once again, the suggestion was made that people be able to designate a certain portion of their contributions specifically for benevolences. Others noted that that opportunity is already available through special donations such as the holiday offerings. Overall, a good exchange of opinions took place before voting on the budget which passed by a fair margin.

Burleigh Jacobs was next to speak with the Congregational Home Report. He noted that CH had a good year with an average occupancy rate of 95%. He said that the Home

ran a comparison against other Nursing Homes in the area and found CH to be very competitive with superior service. Volunteerism is also still at a very good level.

Next was the *Restoring Our Heritage* campaign report. It was a very "uplifting" report. As Doug Jacobson held up a large sign reading, "WE DID IT!" balloons were released to the ceiling and the song, "Celebration" was played. The campaign which encompassed raising enough money to repair the steeple and a number of projects set forth by the Board of Trustees, raised \$301,595 from 300 families. What a wonderful accomplishment at a difficult time of year to raise money. It is the largest financial undertaking since the building of Congregational Home. Doug also noted the generosity of a couple individuals who have said they would cover the costs of replacing the weather van and adding special lighting - the lighting cost alone is \$10,000 and beyond the \$450,000.

The following motion was a proposal by the Associate Ministers. It passed, yet some discussion as to whether or not the whole congregation would be involved in that hiring process.

Out-going Board members were then thanked for their service and new officers were voted in.

After Marion Petersen took over as Church Moderator,

she remarked on the upcoming year. Marion said that she will focus much of her attention on the church properties and will encourage all to claim ownership of our ministries. She encouraged the idea of completing more of the physical work needed at the church ourselves rather than hiring out. She also invited the membership to speak out more about what we do want, focusing on the positives, rather than only about what we don't want.

After Marion's remarks, there was a little more discussion regarding benevolence budgeting as New Business before the meeting was adjourned.

Thank you to all of you who attended and shared your ideas, actively participating as Congregationalists. ■



ALL-CHURCH CHILI DINNER



Wednesday, February 7, from 6-8 p.m.

All-U-Can-Eat Chili, sponsored by the Sports Teams and P.F.

Raffle and Speaker following dinner

Raffle tickets: \$1.00 or 6/\$5.00

Adults - \$4.00, Children under 12 - \$3.00



First Congregational Church W

We are very proud to welcome another large group of new members into our family at First Congregational Church-Wauwatosa.



Jeff and Amy Duening

Jeff and Amy Duening live in Wauwatosa and were happy to find a Congregational Church so close to home. Jeff was formerly a member of FCC in Eagle River and Amy belonged to the United Church of Christ in West Bend. Jeff works for UPS and Amy is a physical therapist at Cedar Haven Rehabilitation Service. They have three children: Ellie, age 2 1/2; and twins Jacob and Andrew, age 5 months. Jeff and Amy say they are looking forward to raising their children and growing as a family in FCC.



Gary and Kathy Immel

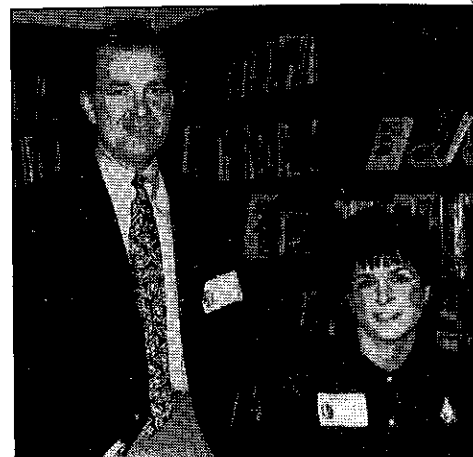
Gary and Kathy Immel were attracted to the friendly atmosphere and the warm, welcoming people at FCC. Gary is Tree and Shrub Manager at Barefoot Grass and Kathy is a doctoral student in Clinical Psychology at UWM. The Immels live in West Allis.



Don Mahaffy

Don Mahaffy is a Chemist for Racine Industries. He was baptized and confirmed at the Congregational Church in Racine but said he went to Catholic school. He was exposed to both, he says, and he is looking forward to being an active participant. He feels FCC is a place that he can really grow spiritually. Don considers himself an outdoorsman and a handyman and enjoys running.

Joe and Suzy Olson live right on Church Street. They were attracted to the friendly people, the Sunday School program, the style of the service and were impressed with Rev. Richardson. Suzy is an accountant and came to FCC as a little girl. Joe is a computer consultant. They have two boys: Alex, 3 1/2 and Nick, 2. Joe plays basketball in a men's league and Suzy enjoys cross-stitch. Both say



Joe and Suzy Olson

they are glad to be members and are looking forward to getting to know more people here.

Bill and Nancy Quinn - Bill is part owner of Grove Investments, an investment business, and Nancy is a mother of three and interior design freelancer. Nancy, daughter of Donald and Janet Doud, grew up in the church and says it was a very important part of her life. After moving back from Chicago, the Quinn family has been attending church for some time, but has just rejoined. Nancy said that she thinks the church will be a very special place for children - Wills, 10, and Caroline, 6. Bill and Nancy, as a result, they will be attending church between the 9:00 and 11:00



Bill and Nancy Quinn

Welcomes These New Members!!

services. You can also watch for Nancy to be singing in the Ladies' choir in February.



David and Karen Simon

David and Karen Simon came to FCC after Roman Catholic upbringings. They said that they had become turned off by the hierarchy and for the past few years have felt that their church can't fit with their beliefs. From the start, they both felt very comfortable and welcome here and said that was very important because it was a big decision for them to find a new church. They also liked the services, sense of community, and governing system as a good fit for them.

Karen is the Director of Communications at State Central Credit Union and David is an attorney for Federal Judge Robert Warren in Milwaukee. David enjoys gourmet cooking and learning about wines. Karen is on the Board of the Education Foundation in Wauwatosa (where they live). Both read a lot for enjoyment.

Tom and Karen Syburg have their hands quite full with 8-month-old triplets - Jennifer, Daniel and John - who were baptized here recently. Tom is a paramedic and firefighter



Tom and Karen Syburg

and Karen will be returning to work in Spring as a flight attendant. In addition, they have an accepted offer on their house in Wauwatosa, so are preparing to move.

The Syburgs said they both feel very at home at FCC. Tom was raised Catholic and likes the self-governing operation of the Congregation in comparison. They are comfortable with the variety of services available here. Tom is in a golf club and enjoys biking. Karen likes crafts and neither has any more.

David and Rachel Wagner are a family of five. David is a 5th grade special ed. teacher, but plans to stay home



David and Rachel Wagner

once the baby is born. (They are also new homeowners.) David is an engineer for AO Smith.

They first tried out FCC because Rachel used to sing in a high school choir directed by Lee Jacobi. They immediately felt welcomed and welcomed, said Rachel, and loved the minister. Rachel, naturally, has joined the choir. David enjoys computers and sports, and Rachel likes spending time with her family.



John and Suzanne Welker

John and Suzanne Welker were first attracted to FCC by the beautiful building, then liked the friendly congregation. John is a General Sales Manager for Modine Manufacturing in Racine. Suzanne is the Director of Human Resources for Hartford Memorial Hospital, Aurora Health Care. They have two daughters: Amanda, 19; and Gretchen, 17. The family moved to Wisconsin from South Bend, Indiana, two years ago. John likes to play golf. Both enjoy traveling. ■

photos by Sally Schmitt

FEBRUARY 1996

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>6:45 Pilgrim Choir 7:00: Spirituality Group, Resolve Board 7:30: Handbell Choir 7:55: Chancel Choir</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<p>8:30, 4:15: St. Vincent Meal Program 9:15 am: Harmony Singers 10 am: Artists' Group</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>	<p>8:45 am: Meet to carpool to Habitat for Humanity</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>
<p>9 & 11 am: Worship Svc. & Communion, Sunday School, Nursery 10 am: Coffee Hour, Member Orientation, Bible Class w/ Covenant Class, Women's Choir, Jr. Choir</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>	<p>9 am: Bible Study Fellowship Teachers 10 am: Spirituality Group 7:00: Bd/Fellowship, Bd/Christian Ed. 8:00: Alcoholics Anon.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p>9 am: Retired Men's Club, Bible Study Flwshp. 9:30 am: Communion 7:00: Bd/Deacons, Boy Scouts 7:30: Church St. Singers</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6</p>	<p>9:30 am: Moms' Group 11 am: Circle 12 4:45: Pre-PF 6:00: All-Church Chili Supper, Jr./Sr. PF Meetings</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7</p>	<p>6:45 Pilgrim Choir 7:00: Spirituality Group, Boy/Cub Scout Roundtable 7:30: Handbell Choir 7:55: Chancel Choir</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8</p>	<p>9:15 am: Harmony Singers 10 am: Artists' Group</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9</p>	<p>9 am-12:00: Congregational Care Visitation Ministries 2:45: Singles' Group outing meet at church</p> <p style="text-align: right;">10</p>
<p>8-11 am: Pancake Breakfast 9 & 11 am: Worship Svc., Women's Choir, Sunday School, Nursery 10 am: Member Orient., Jr. Choir 3:00: Cov. Class I 7:00: Cov. Class II</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11</p>	<p>9 am: Bible Study Fellowship Teachers 10 am: Spirituality Group, Senior Women 7:00: Bd/Trustees, Bd/Benevolence 8:00: AA</p> <p style="text-align: right;">12</p>	<p>9 am: Bible Study Flwshp. 9:30 am: Communion 7:00: Tosa Hist. Soc., Resolve, Boy Scouts</p> <p style="text-align: right;">13</p>	<p>9:30 am: Moms' Group 6:00: Jr./Sr. PF Meetings 7:00: Twin Blessed Moms</p> <p style="text-align: right;">14</p>	<p>6:45 Pilgrim Choir 7:00: Spirituality Group 7:30: Handbell Choir 7:55: Chancel Choir</p> <p style="text-align: right;">15</p>	<p>10 am: Artists' Group 9:15 am: Harmony Singers 2-5:00: Chaplaincy Services</p> <p style="text-align: right;">16</p>	<p>9 am-12:00: Congregational Care - Dealing with Death and Dying</p> <p style="text-align: right;">17</p>
<p>9 & 11 am: Worship Svc., Sunday School, Nursery 10 am: Coffee Hour, Member Orientation, Jr. Choir</p> <p style="text-align: right;">18</p>	<p>9 am: Bible Study Fellowship Teachers 10 am: Spirituality Group 8:00: Alcoholics Anon.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">19</p>	<p>9 am: Retired Men's Club, Bible Study Flwshp. 9:30 am: Communion 7:00: Boy Scouts 7:30: Bd/Cong. Care, Quilters</p> <p style="text-align: right;">20</p>	<p>ASH WEDNESDAY 9:30 am: Moms' Group 10 am: Chapel Serv. 6:00: Jr./Sr. PF 7:00: Lenten Service</p> <p style="text-align: right;">21</p>	<p>6:45 Pilgrim Choir 7:00: Spirituality Group 7:30: Handbell Choir, Chancel Choir</p> <p style="text-align: right;">22</p>	<p>9:15 am: Harmony Singers 10 am: Artists' Group</p> <p style="text-align: right;">23</p>	<p>9 am-12:00: Congregational Care - Dealing with Death and Dying</p> <p style="text-align: right;">24</p>
<p>1st Sunday of Lent 9 & 11 am: Worship Svc., Sunday School, Nursery 10 am: Coffee Hour, Member Orientation, Jr. Choir, Partners Program 6:00: Cov. Class I 7:00: Cov. Class II</p> <p style="text-align: right;">25</p>	<p>9 am: Bible Study Fellowship Teacher 10 am: Spirituality G 8:00: Alcoholics An.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">26</p>	<p>9 am: Retired Men's Board Meeting, Bible Study Flwshp. 9:30 am: Communion 7:00: Boy Scouts</p> <p style="text-align: right;">27</p>	<p>6:45 am: Lenten Breakfast 9:30 am: Moms' Group 12:00: Brown Bag Lunch 6:00: Lenten Supper, Jr./Sr. PF 6:30: Lenten Programs</p> <p style="text-align: right;">28</p>	<p>6:45 Pilgrim Choir 7:00: Spirituality Group 7:30: Handbell Choir, Chancel Choir</p> <p style="text-align: right;">29</p>		

Words From Lonnie...

No one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. Luke 5:37

Beware of the Active Pew Becoming the Comfortable Pew

I have noticed that an aggressive church can grow for a period of a decade and will start to level off. It is rare to find a church that will grow consistently for two or three decades. There is a book published in the 70's by Elmer Towns called *The Top Ten Sunday Schools in the U.S. in 1970*. When you read the book today, it reveals how churches don't continue to grow. None of the top ten then are on the list today. In fact, I have never heard of them.

The reason, for most, is they ceased to change. They found their

distinction and said this is what we are going to do. When needs, styles, and interests became different they held on to what worked in the past. A comfort level developed and the active pew became the comfortable pew.

This trap is true not only in the church but in other areas as well. A new teacher works hard developing lesson plans for the first year. They are filed away and used again and again. After forty years of recycling, is it any wonder instruction becomes boring and lifeless? A per-

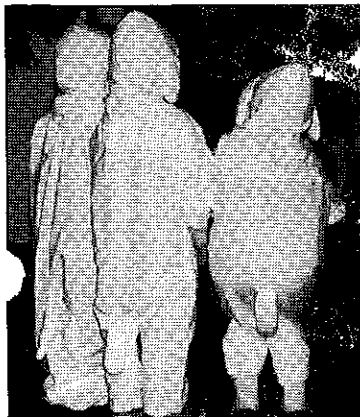
son in sales works hard at first developing prospect lists and servicing accounts. Maintenance becomes easier than cultivating and new business is ignored.

Next time you wonder why a church isn't growing as it once did, or your business is not as strong as it once was, or your profession does not satisfy as it once did, consider what changed and who moved. We can change with the climate to minister and meet the needs of people. The Gospel is always fresh and never boring. ■

Your Help is Needed

One of the highlights of our Christmas Season is always the young children's pageant of the Christmas Story on a Sunday morning during the service. The children come in costumes for Joseph, Mary, shepherds, and various animals. This past pageant was, as always, well received by everyone. However, we found that the costumes, which add to the children's enjoyment, are in need of repair and maintenance. They can't even be washed safely.

If there are several individuals who would like to make new costumes to be ready for the 1996 season, we would be very grateful. The costumes are rather basic and easy to assemble. If you have time and enjoy sewing, please contact Denise at the church office, 258-7375. She will compile a list of names and see that you get organized early in the year so that we are ready for December. ■



Respite Care Available from Congregational Home

At Congregational Home, we are often asked about the possibility of short-term (or respite) care. Often an older person will need a temporary place to stay while family members or other caregivers are on vacation, for example.

For several years, we have offered this type of care in both our assisted living area and in the nursing home. If you know of someone needing such care, please call Carrie Laubenheimer at Congregational Home, 781-0550. ■

Jan. 28, 1996

In Brief

Thank you for your generosity!
The Board of Benevolences and Church Relations wishes to thank everyone for their generous gifts to the special Christmas offering.

A total of \$4,630 was collected and will be used by the Honduran Medical Clinic to purchase medicines and supplies and to support the medical staff.

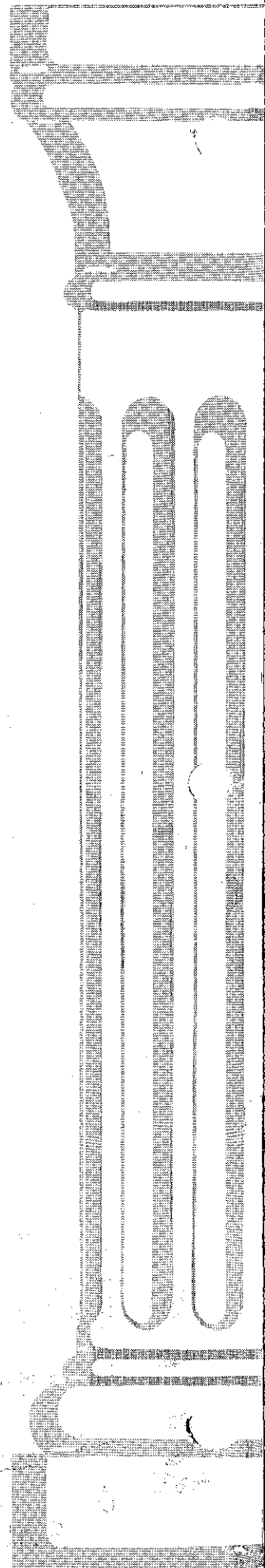
The Editor Thanks:
Sally Schulenburg for photographs; and the office staff for their assistance.

Our Church Family

Baptism
Elizabeth Jeanne Brown, daughter of Margaret Elizabeth Johnson Brown and John Stephen Brown, was baptised January 14.

Birth
Aidan Richard Carleton Moore, son of John Christopher Moore and Ardith Raymond Moore, was born on January 4.

Death
Helene Heinz passed away on January 15.



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

The First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa
1511 Church Street
Wauwatosa, WI 53213-2593
Dated Material - Please deliver immediately.