

C O N G R E G A T I O N A L C O L U M N S

May 26, 1996

WE HAVE "LIFT-OFF"

On Monday, May 13, a bright, clear day, the crew arrived before 7 a.m. and began the process of dismantling and removing the steeple. "Even though I knew this was the scheduled day, it was a shock to see the crane but not the spire of the steeple as I came over the hill toward Menomonee River Parkway," said Rani Gusho.

The process on that day only took approximately seven hours as the steeple was dismantled according to plan. It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The thrill of seeing the sections being removed and carefully settled on the ground is something you can't describe. Watching the crane operator hook sections and bring them down without so much as broken window pane amazed the group of people who had gathered to watch. It was obvious to all that much thought and planning had gone into this process long before the actual day of lift-off. Each worker knew exactly where to be and what to do. It seemed as though these people removed steeples every day. It was a smooth operation.

Immediate inspection showed even the untrained eye that the condition of the wood was worse than we had expected. The rotting condition of the wood was extensive. There were numerous old and new birds' nests throughout the sections. Word from one of the experts is that the steeple was 3° out of plumb, tilting toward the east.

The bell frame structure which houses the four bells was brought down, loaded on a truck and is being stored until it can be replaced in the new steeple. The four bells,

(continued inside cover)

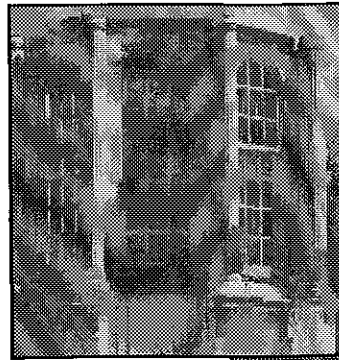


Lift Off (continued)

which include our original bell and the three bells added in 1974 in memory of Ruth Godfrey Davidson, are a combined weight of approximately 2000 pounds not including their support structure.

Many of the wood pieces have been measured or actually taken to the mill to insure reproduction as close as possible to the original steeple. The weather vane has been taken for close inspection to see if it is possible to refurbish and replace the original vane. A water tight cap has been placed over the steeple base for the time of construction. We are off and running on this very important project in the life of First Congregational Church.

We will have many snapshots and a detailed video available for members to view soon and we will store many of these for future generations to track this historic event. ■



Moderator's Remarks

The Long-Range Planning committee chairperson, Peter Holtz, and Chris Ellis have been working many hours getting ready for the BIG LAUNCH. I hope by this time many, many of you have signed up for one of the two dates set aside for planning our future.

This is one of the most exciting times in our church. Now is our opportunity to really make a difference. I have often heard from people wanting to have a say in where we are going, and how we will get there - **Now** is our chance to DO IT.

I feel that just thinking about the year 2000 is exciting. I remember as a child I couldn't even imagine

what the year 2000 would be like and here we are nearly there. Wow! We can plan the future of our own direction. That is being true Congregationalists.

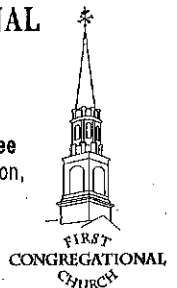
So, PLEASE, if you haven't already, make an effort to be at one of the launch dates. Do so without delay so you can help us get into the future with the greatest of ease.

After collecting all the data, ideas, hopes and dreams, the Long-Range Planning Committee will compile a report for the Church Council to review before passing it on to the Congregation for their review, discussion and acceptance. ■

by Marion Petersen, Moderator

CONGREGATIONAL COLUMNS

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A Word From Lonnie...

Is This Bowling?

The other day I went bowling with our children. When we received our alley assignment, the manager asked if we wanted to have bumpers installed in the gutters. He said this would let the kids have more fun since every ball would make its way to the pins. It sounded like a good idea and so I answered "let's do it."

We had an enjoyable time knocking pins down but I am not sure we learned to bowl. We ended up doing what I call "pool-bowling." Elements of geometry were implemented as balls were launched not towards the pins but the gutters. We would watch them spring from the bumpers and angle into the pins. It was fun, but we did not learn to bowl.

What if in real life when one goes towards the gutter they would be forced out and never experience the actual gutter. This, of course, is not reality. We will and should realize the results of our actions. It is in feeling the pain of a wrong decision that we may learn from it and adjust our approaches accordingly. When we are not responsible for our actions we can never learn from them. A game is played which never helps to learn the real thing...

Next time you fall in a gutter, remember God may have something for you to learn from it. Realize it's a gutter, resolve to do it differently and change your approach. ■

*In Him,
Lonnie*

Benevolences Approves Donations

The Board of Benevolences and Church Relations approved the following donations at their April meeting.

NACCC Fund for shared ministries	\$7,100.00
NACCC Congregational Development Fund	\$2,130.00
Honduran Congregational Mission	\$3,145.00
Mayfair Interfaith	\$2,000.00

The NACCC's shared ministries fund issued to help finance their operating costs. The NACCC's development fund's purpose is to assist new Congregational churches.

Our donation to the Honduran Mission will help them with the expenses of their medical supplies and feeding stations. They are in special need at this time because of the death of Edsel Bodden.

Mayfair Interfaith is made up of a group of churches in the Wauwatosa area. Their purpose is to help area citizens in need of such things as food and transportation. ■

by Sharon Koenings

WCA Met April 26, 27

The 36th meeting of Wisconsin Congregational Association was held at Plymouth Congregational Church, Racine. Eighteen of twenty-four active member churches attended. Representing our church were Rev. Richardson, Dr. Peay and John and Eunice Erdahl.

Lakeshore Congregational Church of Milwaukee has withdrawn from WCA. State Chairman of Youth and Camp Committee, Rob Fredrickson, reported Junior and Senior High Camps are scheduled July 21-27 at Camp Whitcomb-Mason, Hartland. The Clayton Wakefield Memorial Fund provides scholarships for camp attendance. Contributions totaled \$285 this past year. Sound equipment is needed at youth camps and rallies. Purchase of this equipment was approved, not to exceed \$1500. The WCA Communion Service offering, totaling \$287, was designated for this.

A Fall Retreat of Wisconsin Congregational Women's

Fellowship is planned at Cedar Valley Retreat Center, West Bend, October 18-20.

Dr. Steve Peay proposed formation of a Congregational Theological Society for discussion of issues and concerns facing the Congregational Way. Dr. Peay will prepare a plan for this society to present to WCA.

Chris Rygh, Youth Director of NACCC, presented a program focusing on the need for preparing young people for modern society by having adult role models and guidance by youth ministries.

The meeting closed with Communion and Installation of Officers. The 37th Annual Meeting will be held on April 25-26 at First Congregational Church, Oshkosh. ■

*Respectfully submitted,
John Erdahl, Delegate*

Covenant Class Members Become Church Members

Congratulations to each of these Covenant Class members who recently joined the church.

Andy Capes is a sophomore at Wauwatosa East High School. He is on the football, basketball, track and baseball teams. He also participates in Science Club and Spanish Honor Society. He would like to go on to school after high school. Mercedes Richardson was his Covenant Class Mentor.

Cindy Davis presently attends Brookfield Academy. Her hobbies include playing field hockey, skiing and basketball in her free-time. Her favorite subject in school this past year was Algebra. Cindy's Covenant Class Mentor was Georgia Kletti.

Kristin Grubanowitch is a sophomore at Brookfield East High School. Kristin works at Super Saver, when she's not busy with school. Her favorite subject in school is Biology and her favorite television show is the Simpsons.

Sara Gruebling from Wauwatosa East High, enjoys the Spanish Class she is currently in. Sara's hobbies include swimming and playing softball which she also plays at school. Sara hopes to go on to college after High School. Her Covenant Class Mentor was Mercedes Richardson.

Elizabeth Henry is a student at Brookfield Central. She stays very busy by playing basketball and soccer. Elizabeth is involved in many clubs including the Key Club, Soccer Club of Milwaukee and LEAP, a group that works with younger kids. Her favorite hobbies are sports and drama.

Max Millen goes to Wauwatosa East High School. Max stays busy playing soccer, hockey and tennis for his school and in his spare time he enjoys water skiing and downhill skiing. Gym is his favorite class in school. Max plans to attend college after high school.

Jeremy Niederjohn is also a sophomore attending New Berlin West High School. Jeremy enjoys playing sports, football and basketball. His favorite subject in school is Science. Jeremy's Covenant Class Mentor was Kent Granberg.

Leah Sawnor goes to Wauwatosa East High School and enjoys ceramics and sculpture. At this time, she hopes



Front row: (from left) C. Davis, K. Grubanowitch, J. Jacobi, S. Gruebling, E. Lewis, M. Millen
Back row: L. Sawnor, J. Niederjohn, C. Wakefield, A. Capes, E. Henry, Rev. Peay

Elizabeth plans on going to college after high school.

Julia Jacobi is a sophomore who attends high school at New Berlin West. Her favorite subject in school is French. She enjoys playing soccer, singing, playing violin and piano. Julia would like to go to college and her Covenant Class Mentor was Kent Granberg.

Elizabeth Lewis attends Wauwatosa East High School and enjoys playing sports in her free-time. Her favorite subject is Science and her favorite television show is "Friends." Elizabeth will go on to school after completing high school. Elizabeth's Covenant Class Mentor was Cindy Payette.

to go on to school to teach Elementary Education.

Chappie Wakefield is also a Tosa East student and participates on the soccer and basketball teams. He hopes to go on to college and to continue with sports. He also enjoys tennis and skiing. Cindy Payette was his Mentor. ■

In Brief

Did You Witness the Accident?

If anyone witnessed the accident on Church Street & Menomonce River Parkway at approximately 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 12, please call the church office. One of our members was involved.

The Editor Thanks:

John Erdahl and Sharon Koenings for articles; Sally Schulenburg and John Bockhop for photography; and the office staff for their assistance.

Our Church Family

Memorial Service

A memorial service was held on May 11, 1996, for Katherine M. Millen

Dated Material - Please deliver immediately.

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The First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa

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