

# CONGREGATIONAL COLUMNS

July 28, 1996

## As Ye Sow, So Shall Ye Reap

Next month Congregational Home, Inc. is breaking ground for an addition to its highly regarded facility serving older adults.

Launched in 1972 with financial and moral support of First Congregational Church, Congregational Home was a new and visionary idea proposed by our congregation to aid the elderly population. Original construction began with CBRF (Community Based Residential Facility) rooms and the Health Center (Skilled Nursing Care). In June of 1974, the first of the new residents moved to the Home and in 1986, Congregational Apartments, 24 independent living apartments, were added.

Today, Congregational Home is looking to the future and to the needs of the elderly. The planned addition will include a total of 26 more living areas scheduled to be completed by late 1997. The new structure features ten smaller apartments which will be licensed to provide nursing services (the current apartments can only provide emergency health services due to state regulations). In addition, two eight-room "pods" will be added to provide CBRF or Assisted Living care. Each of the pods will have a shared living room, dining room, and activity center. The individual rooms will be larger than current CBRF private rooms and will provide varying amounts of nursing care as needed.

In addition to the living spaces, the new construction will include a new multi-purpose chapel for services, speakers, music programs, movies and meetings; an activities area for both occupational and physical therapy; and a volunteer center.

The Board of Directors approved the addition as a way to stay on the cutting edge of elder residential care. The increased living options will provide Congregational Home more flexibility in care, a feature believed to be exceedingly important in the future of senior care services. While the addition offers more living spaces, the long-range plan is to provide single care rooms in the Health Care Center which will mean only a minor increase in total living spaces. It is important that the Home retain the personal touches of a smaller facility, said Bob Hankins, administrator of the Home.

*"In 1972 Norm Ream challenged First Congregational Church to extend its services outside the Church and support the development of a facility for older adults. Today we are extending that support to provide six levels of care- all in one location. Truly an exceptional approach. Congregational Home will be at the forefront of personal and caring service as we approach the 21st Century. That is the way Norm Ream dreamed in 1972 and that dream today is highly endorsed by Lonnie Richardson, our Senior Minister."*

*Burleigh Jacobs, President Congregational Home*

Congregational Home is independent, yet has always been strongly supported by First Congregational Church and its volunteers. In fact, the Board of Directors of Congregational Home are all First Congregational Church members. Because of this very close relationship between the Church and Home, we will keep you updated in the Columns regarding this exciting time of expansion at Congregational Home. ■

# Welcome to Our Pastoral Intern, Chris Rygh

Beginning in August, Chris Rygh will serve as a Pastoral Intern. Over the next year, Chris will spend 1000 hours at the church as a requirement of his CFTS scholarship, working primarily with the youth program. However, Chris does not see this position as a requirement, but a terrific opportunity.

Born and raised in Burlington IA, with six other siblings, Chris was introduced to Congregationalism at age four. Chris said he has known of, and been impressed with First Congregational Church-Wauwatosa since 1985 when he came here as a high school student on his way to a Maine NAPF meeting.

Since that time, Chris has earned his BA in Elementary Education from the University of Northern Iowa, his MS Ed. in Teaching from Winona State University, and is currently purs-

## Focus on the Future

The recently held "Launching Into the Future" Seminars have provided us with good information said Chris Ellis, one of the organizers. With an approximate attendance of 20% of the total congregation, planners were also pleased with the turnout.

The seminars were part of a workbook series entitled "The 12 Characteristics of a Successful Church." The program was intended to have members rank our church on a number of characteristics. These include functional characteristics such as the actual building etc... and relational characteristics such as the missions, out-reaches, groups etc... To be a successful, growing church, we need to perceive ourselves as ranking high on 9-10 of the characteristics, with a majority of them being

ing his MDiv degree from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, IL. Along the way he has achieved honor status in many areas and is currently one of four students selected as a Fellow by the Congregational Foundation for Theological Studies (sponsored by the National Association of Congregational Churches NACC).

As far as experience, Chris has worked as the Youth Director for the NACC, taught sixth grade at a school in Minnesota, and held various other positions. As the NA Youth Director, he has worked with all of our youth volunteers as well as worshiped here.

When asked about his strengths for this position, Chris said: 1) a genuine love for the gospel and resistance to bureaucracy; 2) a heart for Congregationalism and a strong

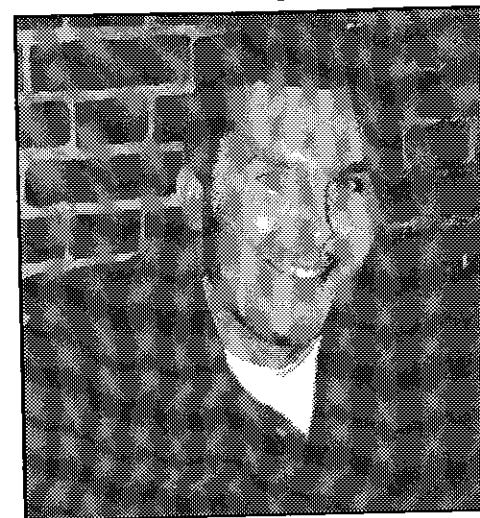
relational. While the answers have not been formally tabulated yet, they have been reviewed and Chris said we have a little way to go. The formula is:  
perception=behavior=destiny.  
So, we need to change a few things.

The Long-Range Planning Committee will be meeting in August and will work on specific ideas about what needs to be done and how - according to the members' answers. Recommendations will then be presented to the Church Council.

The LRP Committee wishes to thank all who participated, and if anyone has any further input since the meetings, call Chris Ellis or Peter Holtz. ■

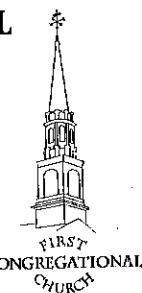
belief in the Congregational heritage ( and tradition; and 3) an excitement about ministering to kids.

Chris' hope for us as a church is that we will be as excited about having an intern here as he is about being here. He sees this as a great opportunity for himself to learn and for us to teach and nurture a future pastor. ■



## CONGREGATIONAL COLUMNS

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# Serving Your Church in a Position of Leadership

Your Nominating Committee is already planning for nominations to the various Boards next January. Although the Annual Meeting may seem like a long way off, it is not too early to consider making a commitment to one of the vacancies available. This is your chance to be active in the planning and decision making process at First Church. There are over 35 positions that need to be filled. Most terms are for 3 years although some may be less.

**The Board of Benevolences and Church Relations** meets the second Monday of the month. Its members investigate, correlate, and promote benevolent projects. The board also sends delegates to religious gatherings and is involved in Christian service beyond our own membership. Barb Zaiser comments: "To see our donated dollars at work spreading the Christian message and being part of the decision making process has meant, for me, a new and enthusiastic partnership with Congregational missions both local and foreign. Meeting and getting to know our foreign national missionaries is a joyful experience."

**The Board of Trustees** meets the second Monday of the month all year. It is responsible for the church's property and monies. Char Schweitzer tells us: "The 3 years I have served on this board have been some of the most informative I have ever spent! I have become aware of our facility - its multitude of uses by our members as well as community organizations and how much it is cared for and cared about by all who use it. This place has a tremendous tradition and I have enjoyed playing a part in its conservation. Serving my church on a board has made it 'real' to me everyday - not just Sundays."

**The Board of Deacons** meets the first Tuesday of the month. Members, together with the ministers, are responsible for activities including communion, baptisms, ushers, greeters, video-taping and other spiritual leadership in the church. Julie Peay said "yes" to serving on this Board shortly after joining FCC. "Being on this Board allows you to contribute directly to the worship service and I feel it enables you to deepen your own faith. It certainly is a GREAT way to

meet and get to know the "special people" from the church!"

**The Board of Christian Fellowship** meets the first Monday of the month. This group is responsible for fellowship activities including Coffee Hours, all-church suppers, athletic teams, and many other programs designed to encourage the spirit of fellowship within the congregation. Dave Karcher has served as chairperson for two years and says, "This is the board where you get to do the fun stuff! I really enjoy the camaraderie at the monthly Coffee Hours and cooking with Steve Peay at the Pig Roast (first annual?) was the absolute BEST!"

**The Board of Christian Education** also meets the first Monday of the month. Together with the professional staff, this Board formulates and administers the educational programs of the church. Responsibilities include Sunday School, adult education classes, Vacation Bible School, Christmas Workshop and the Fellowship programs for Elementary, Junior, and Senior High School youth. The Board is also in charge of reference materials and all instructional supplies used in the C. E. Program. Scott Wittig shared satisfaction in being a part of "assuring that we offer the best Christian education at all levels. The planning and participation for Children's Sunday and the Christmas Workshop are great fun. Finally, I see adult education really growing at First Church and it is exciting."

**The Congregational Care Board**, meeting the third Tuesday of the month, is responsible for the caring ministry programs of the Church through program development and coordination. Committees for these "care givers" include: prayer, bereavement, shut-ins, nursing home, and serving at St. Vincent's. Cathy Schmidt describes her group by saying: "This is an active group

of care-givers! People who serve on this board often have personal reasons for wanting to 'give something back' - they feel they have been blessed in their own lives or helped through a difficult time, and are grateful."

**The Board of Christian Stewardship** has meeting dates that are re-set each year. The task of this board is to promote among the members of the church the systematic and proportionate giving of time, talent and possessions. Jane Jacobson, chairperson, has been on the Board for 2 years. When asked about this commitment her response was: "I was asked if I would be willing to serve and I said 'YES,' of course! It gives me a great feeling of responsibility when I know we are working on programs that will influence and impact the future of our Church."

Last of all, the **Church Council** has members-at-large. The function of the Council is to correlate the work of the individual Boards and give an overall view to church planning. Sub-committees of the Council are: Budget and Finance, Communications and Public Relations, Music, Nominating, Personnel, and the Executive Committee. Nancy Fisher has been a member-at-large for 3 years. "Having served on several other Boards, this is the place where it all comes together. I like to know what's happening at the church and hear about the other Boards. You really are involved in the decision-making of the church. I'd gladly do it again!"

Do any of these sound interesting to you? Fill out the attached form and drop it off at the Church office or call for more information and a member of the Nominating Committee will get in touch with you. Sign-up tables will also be available on Sundays later in August. This is your chance to get involved. ■

*Cindy Payette*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in serving on \_\_\_\_\_

I have an interest in serving on \_\_\_\_\_ but I would be willing to help wherever needed.

I want to be involved on a Board next year. Let me know where I am needed most.

# A Special Man for a Special Project

Critical to the success of any major undertaking is the leadership. Within the Selzer-Ornst company was the "right man" to serve as supervisor of our steeple restoration project, Mr. Walter Wolters. An employee of the Selzer Ornst Company for 36 years, "Wally" is not only very qualified for this position, but is also personally excited by the challenges presented with this unique project.

The son of a cabinet maker from Germany and the grandson of a carpenter, Wally started school in Wauwatosa and continued his secondary education at Boys Tech in order to pursue his interest in car-

(L) Hilbert Ermer (R) "Wally" Wolters



pentry. His brother also joined Wally in this pursuit. At an early age of 14, Wally urged his father to build a workshop at home for woodworking. Early in his career, Wally joined Selzer Ornst, a career match he continues to enjoy. Over his many years, Wally has gained much valuable experience in restoration work. Additionally, he is familiar with our church through Selzer Ornst.

Presently making their home in Menomonee Falls, Wally and his wife Ann have four children, three sons and a daughter. Additionally, Ann and Wally brought up two nieces, left without parents by tragedy. The family has expanded to include five grandkids.

With great pride in his work, enthusiasm for his projects, and a true love for carpentry, Wally brings a most special ingredient to the restoration project. As God leads us through the restoration of our steeple, he has provided us with a "special man for a special project." ■

Gale Tanger

## July Calendar

### Friday August 2-

8:30 a.m.: St. Vincent Meal Preparation  
4:15: Meet to carpool to serve meal at site

### Saturday August 3-

8:45 a.m.: Carpool to Habitat for Humanity

### Sunday August 4-

9:15 & 11:00 a.m.: Coffee Hour  
10:00 a.m.: Worship Service with Communion,  
Sun. School, Nursery

### Sunday August 11-

9:10 a.m.: Adult Ed "Wars and Rumors"  
9:15 & 11:00 a.m.: Coffee Hour  
10:00 a.m.: Worship Svc, Sun. School, Nursery

### Monday August 12-

7:00: Bd/Trustees

### Friday August 16-Monday August 19

Family Camp Weekend at Camp Lucerne

### Sunday August 18-

9:10 a.m.: Adult Ed "A Different Strain"  
9:15 & 11:00 a.m.: Coffee Hour  
10:00 a.m.: Worship Svc, Sun. School, Nursery

### Monday August 19-

7:00: Bd. of Christian Ed at Cong. Home

### Wednesday August 21-

6:30: Evening Women's Group

### Friday August 23-

12:00-4:00: All Church Golf Outing in support of  
trip to Honduras  
5:00: Dinner; Paganica Golf Course

### Sunday August 25-

9:10 a.m.: Adult Ed- "Whither the Nation with  
the Soul of a Church"  
9:15 & 11:00 a.m.: Coffee Hour  
10:00 a.m.: Worship Svc, Sun. School, Nursery

### Tuesday August 27-

7:00: Church Council Meeting, Boy Scouts

### Wednesday August 28-

7:00: Nominating Committee

# Work Underway

As part of the *Restore Our Heritage* project, the Board of Trustees was charged with renovating the Social Hall, working within the budget of approximately \$89,000. The Social Hall Committee, a subcommittee of Trustees, first made an assessment of the activities held in the room throughout the year and the possible uses in the future. As of this date several things are underway.

1. **Windows:** New 3 section sashes of low E insulated glass have been ordered to replace the eleven deteriorating windows. A considerable amount of money will be saved by just replacing the sashes as the frames are still sound.

Outside sills will be clad with aluminum for easy maintenance. The windows will come primed from the manufacturer and will be painted by volunteers before they are installed. The existing plywood valance will be removed revealing the top window unit.

2. **Heating:** It was determined that the wall mounted radiators are rusting and are inefficient because they are mounted high off the floor. The radiators will be removed and replaced with 24" fin and tube baseboard heating units. Considerable energy savings will be realized by the new windows and the new heating units.

3. **Ceiling and Lighting:** Bids have also been received for a new acoustical tile ceiling. Along with replacement of the ceiling, lighting and sound system wiring will be done. The committee is currently reviewing a lighting plan that may include chandeliers, can lights and wall sconces. Every effort has been made to consider future uses of this room, especially in respect to sound and light. If the wiring is in place, equipment can always be purchased at a later date.

4. **Window Treatments:** Designs are being reviewed which will highlight the thirteen foot 3 section windows. Padded upholstered cornices and drapes will add color, help absorb sound, and block light during slide presentations. Once a decision has been made on window treatments, wall and wainscoting colors will be coordinated.

The Committee has been working hard to research many options and consult with experts in order to do the most we can within the budget. Work will begin in early August. Stop in to see the progress.

The Social Hall Committee: Doug Hoerz, Chairman, Dick Koch, Rod Schmidt, Sally Schulenburg, and Beth Andersen ■

# A Word From Lonnie...

## We Decide Where We Go

Somewhere I read about a place in the Swiss Alps where you can throw a piece of wood in one direction and it will float into the Danube River and on to the Black Sea. If you throw that piece of wood in another direction, however, it will float down the Rhine River to the North Sea. Thrown in another direction it will float down the Rhine River to the Mediterranean. Be careful where you start a piece of wood—or a direction for a church.

Our new banner on display in the narthex uses the slogan "Rebuilding First Congregational Church." Around this statement is a drawing of the three sections of the steeple being rejoined. It has become a tangible symbol for this era of the church. The first mission team from the congregation will be in Honduras this November. We are in the process of developing a long range plan from which to build our future. The addition of Chris Rygh to our staff will strengthen many ministries. The renovation of the social hall will house dramatic productions and a more comfortable dining and expanded educational space. We are preparing for the future and have "thrown the wood into the river."

We are positioning ourselves as the historic church with a relevant message. And the relevant message is that people matter to God. Let's trust God for the future and allow God's faithfulness of the past be our confidence for the future. ■■■

In Him,  
Lonnie

# Moderator's Remarks

## Report from the NA Annual Meeting

I have just returned from the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (better known as NA) 42nd Annual Meeting held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It was an interesting and an educational experience. The meeting was chaired by Rev. Dr. Phil Muth and he did an excellent job of filling in for the elected moderator who passed away in February, very unexpectedly.

They had a banner march to open the meeting and I had the honor of carrying our banner into the session. We had a "front" of the hall location for all to see. By the way, the banner, made by our own Kathy Collis, is being displayed at the present time in the hallway across from the church office. Do stop and look at it. It's really great! Thank you, Kathy.

The Credentials Committee reported that there were 681 church members in attendance and 268 NAPF and Hope members present for a total of 949. Eight new churches were recommended for membership into the NA bringing the total of churches to 429. About one-third of the member churches were represented at the meeting. Besides myself and Gordon, Lonnie & Mercedes Richardson, Joyce Orr, John and Eunice Erdahl, Jay Valde, Carolyn Schulz, Jim Walsh and Don Miesbauer were in attendance. Jim Walsh was elected the new treasurer and Don Miesbauer is an assistant to the treasurer.

It was great fun renewing old friendships with many past members and ministers from our church. Besides Phil and Peggy Muth, I saw Rick and Mary Koch, Mark and Diana Dunn, Rich and Joan Liles, John Alexander, Alice

Murphy, John Moore, Wendy Sue Earle and her mom, Nancy Earle Geist, Laurie Valde Patrick, John Doud and Steve Holtan. It would appear that our church continues to have an influence in the NA. It was great seeing everyone again.

I attended all the sessions and absorbed as much as I could. We had a very inspirational speaker, Rev. Dr. Lewis Smedes. He spoke at three of the sessions and his theme throughout was "Keep Hope Alive". It was wonderful to hear him. Much of the meeting time was spent listening to end of the year reports, which, at best, are sometimes long; but, even they were interesting because I got a flavor of what the NA does – a lot.

There was one "hot button" being pushed every time you saw a group of people talking – a proposal for restructuring the NA for the 21st century. It was going to be presented by the Executive Committee with a vote taken at the end of the session. However, that was put on hold. Not enough of us had been given the information in advance to make a good and intelligent vote. I firmly believe the organization will have to make a concerted effort to up-date their mission and ways of doing things in order to attract younger people to become involved.

I also had the privilege of nominating Joyce Orr for the Nominating Committee in 1997. She was elected to serve on that committee.

It was an honor to be the delegate to the Annual Meeting. I tried my best to represent us well. ■■■

by Marion Petersen

July 28, 1996

## In Brief

### Rev. Lonnie Richardson to Host Holy Land Tour

Rev. Lonnie Richardson will host a travel/study program in Israel. Included in the program are several excellent guides and visits to such historic places as Jerusalem and the Old City, Jericho, Masada, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Sea of Galilee, Jordan River and many more. The theme of the program is "Jesus: His Life, His Time, His Land, His Hebrew Faith."

Cost of the first-class 10-day tour is only \$1698 and will depart on February 5, 1997. An extension to visit the wonders of Cairo and Egypt is offered following the tour. Continuing education credits are available. For additional information contact the church office at 258-7375.

### The Editor Thanks:

Cindy Payette, Gail Tanger and Beth Andersen for articles; Burleigh Jacobs for article information; and the office staff for their assistance.

## Our Church Family

### Births

On July 10, TRIPLET sons Nicholas Lyle, Jason James, and Tyler Lawrence were born to parents Ron and Lisa Dobberke Brandt.

### Death

Eleanore F. Scott passed away on July 8.

### All-Church Barbecue

**Wednesday, August 7 at 6:00 p.m.**

Adults \$4.00, Children \$3.00

Call by Monday, August 5 to reserve your plates - 258-7375.

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