

# CONGREGATIONAL COLUMNS

August 25, 1996

## Rally Sunday Kicks Off a Busy Season!

September 8 is Rally Day this year and the start of an exciting new season. There are changes in store for Sunday School and a packed Adult Ed. schedule. On the 8th, services will go back to their regular times of 9:00 and 11:00. On that Sunday, the children will go to the service with their parents, then be excused early in the service for an assembly with Steve Peay before going to their classrooms.

A new ecumenical curriculum, "The Whole People of God," which is used by many different churches today, will be used this year. The Board of Christian Education reviewed 30 different curriculums before deciding on this one. Steve said that while it is not perfect, it's the best he's seen and we can teach around any problems. He said it is both student and teacher friendly. One of the reasons he really liked it was because it has a minister's pack so that the students lessons can be integrated into the lessons for the whole church. As another change this year, students will spend the first part of the service with the whole church two Sundays per month and will have Children's Chapel with Steve or Lonnie once per month and with Chris Rygh on the other Sunday. Afterwards, whoever ran Children's Chapel will be available to the Sunday School classes. This will give more time and contact between the ministers and children.

The Sunday School teachers for the Fall semester are: **9:00**) Cindy Davis and J.B. Koenings (3-4yr olds); Chappy Wakefield and Libby Lewis (5 yr olds); Mike Sgarlata and Sarah Sielba (1st grade); Janet Schalmo (2nd grade); Julie Anheuser (3rd-4th grade); Nick and Carrie Sgarlata (5th-6th grade); Butch and Jane Boyd (7th-8th grade); **11:00)**

Mercedes and Nastassia Richardson (beginners); Jamie Casey (primary); Denise O'Meara (junior); and George Wells (7th-8th grade). The commitment of time and effort from all of these teachers is appreciated. (Steve and Ddg will temporarily be sharing the Christian Education responsibilities until a replacement is found.)

In the way of Adult Education, we have an enticing line-up planned for 10:00 Sunday mornings through December. Beginning on September 15th and running through October 20th, Julius Ruff, a history professor at Marquette University, and Phil Landis, an amateur Bible scholar will present a series on the background of the Bible. They will discuss politics, economy, etc. of that time period to provide some insight into Bible writings. Then, the last weekend in October, Professor Emeritus, Frank Thompson, will give a number of presentations with Lonnie and Steve on the concept of Covenant in the Old and New Testaments. Mr. Thompson was a professor for both Lonnie and Steve, "...one of the best I ever had," said Steve. He is described as engaging, witty and energetic who "knows his material cold." It promises to be an excellent series. November's focus will be the heritage of Congregationalism and December holds in store a series on Christology.

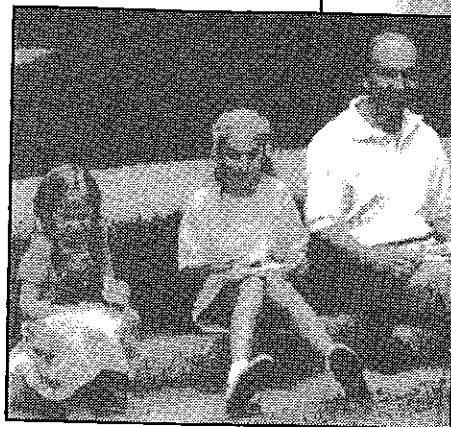
Steve Peay said that historically, one thing that has always made Congregationalists stand apart is that they are very literate, seeing spirituality and intellect as going hand-in-hand. In keeping with our theme to "Restore Our Heritage," lets take advantage of these educational opportunities beginning with Rally Sunday to advance our knowledge and strengthen our faith. ■

# Don't Miss the BRAT FEST!

The 3rd Annual Brat Fest is scheduled for September 1st immediately following the 10:00 service. In keeping with tradition, the Brat Fest will be run by church staff, their families, and friends.

This is the last single service of the summer and the following Sunday is Rally Day. As a "good-bye" to summer, casual dress is emphasized for everyone - so NO TIES to church on the 1st, please.

Weather permitting, tables will be set up outside in the "back yard" of the church so we can all enjoy the tail end of the warm weather! ■



## Wouldn't you Like to Be a Ringer, Too?

You are invited to join in the fun with the Handbell Ringers of First Congregational Church. The Handbell Choir starts its first rehearsal on September 5th, and practices at church every Thursday, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Ringers who can lift the heavier bass clef bells are especially needed, but all brand-new or experienced ringers are welcome.

The Handbell Ringers play during worship on the third Sunday of each month, alternating between 9:00 and 11:00 services. In addition, the Handbell Choir plans to participate in the December Christmas Concert at church, and the Milwaukee Handbell Festival in March.

If you would like to try playing handbells, or if you need more information about the group, call Rachael VerDuin at 475-0097, or leave a message with the church office, 258-7375. ■

## New Weight Loss Support Group Starting

If you might be interested in joining a weight loss support group at the church, call Char Schweitzer, 771-6216, for further information. No gimmicks, no pills, no expense. The first meeting will be Wednesday, September 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor. ■

### CONGREGATIONAL COLUMNS

Editor, Beth Linscott  
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# Topping Off Ceremony To Be Held on September 11

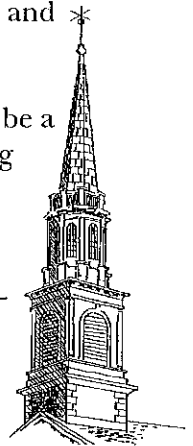
The long-awaited steeple renovations are just about complete and the "Topping Off" Ceremony/Celebration is scheduled for Wednesday, September 11, at 6:00 p.m. The highlight of the event, weather permitting, will take place outside, of course, as the Construction crew places the weather vane atop the steeple with a crane. The rest of the steeple will be mounted and reassembled in late

August or early September. In case of inclement weather, the crew will mount the weather vane at another time, but we will still enjoy the rest of the celebration.

Dinner is scheduled immediately following the replacement of the weather vane, at approximately 6:30 p.m. This will be an all-church picnic-type meal. Like other Wednesday night dinners, the cost

will be \$4.00 per adult and \$3.00 per child.

In addition, there will be a silent auction featuring artifacts and memorabilia from parts of the old steeple. So don't miss out on this event - all are welcome! ■



## Tower Bells

Located in the lower level of the steeple, (the section with the louvers), is a swinging peal of four bells. A peal is a group of two to eight bells that are mounted so they can be made to swing back and forth either manually or electrically. Three or four peals are the most common. The effect of a peal is free ringing sound without a regular pattern or rhythm.

The largest bell in our tower weighs 1000 pounds and sounds the pitch A. It was cast by McNeelys West in Troy, New York in 1855 and has been in use since 1856. The three smaller bells which weigh 407, 290, and 220 pounds and sound the pitches D, E, and F#, were cast by Petit and Fritsen in Aarle-Rixtl, Holland. They were given to the church in 1974 in memory of Ruth Godfrey Davidson by her family and friends.

The bells are pealed ten minutes prior and again at the start of each service to call people to worship, and at 6 o'clock each evening as an Angelus. Pealing is controlled by a clock mechanism or can be initiated manually from one of two control panels. One control panel is located in the acolyte's closet, the

other is located next to the organ console. It is also possible to toll the largest bell.

During the life of Christ, Hebrews were summoned to worship by means of the shofar, or rams horn. Early Christians met in secret, since a public declaration of their meeting would have meant death at the hands of the Roman government. When Emperor Constantine was converted to Christianity in the 4th century, it no longer was necessary to have secret religious gatherings. The Bishop of Campania, desiring to have the Christian Church have its own method of calling worshippers together, declared that bells should be used. The tradition continues to this day.

These early bells were shaped from sheets of metal, typically iron, and did not have a good tone. It wasn't until the 7th and 8th centuries that bronze bells were cast in circular form. Bells were cast as small, medium, or large as the need required. If a church had more than one bell, a fairly musical combination of sound was purely accidental. It was known even in these early times that a bell does not

sound only one pitch but also sounds a series of pitches called overtones. Bells are unique in that the overtones are not harmonic. The principal overtone is the minor third. It is the overtone which gives a bell its unique plaintive quality.

It took another 700 years before the bell founders from the Low Countries in Europe were able to cast bells of the desired pitch and with a pleasing series of overtones. They also found that they could tune the strike tone by chipping some metal away at the lip of the bell. With the advent of the machine age, it became possible to tune not only the strike tone but all the overtones as well. This development made it possible for larger sets of bells to be assembled such as those found in chimes and carillons.

Our bells have been in storage during the renovation of the steeple. They will be remounted during the reassembly of the steeple and once again ring out, calling our church family to worship. ■

*by Ralph Ehlerl*

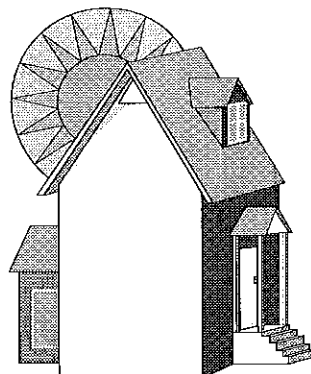
# Habitat for Humanity Needs Your Help

As most of you are aware, First Congregational Church has been directly involved with this very worthwhile project. As with most volunteer programs, it suffers from lack of attention from those who could serve it best. Those members who do participate, usually are the ones who are there on a month-to-month basis.

We would like to include more of you in this great fellowship of serving our community. It does not require much time or specific talent. One Saturday per year (6 1/2 hours) and the ability to use basic carpentry tools will suffice. This invitation is open to anyone over the age of 16, and can count toward your community service projects. All we need on a monthly basis is five to six people. The work that is usually performed is in the area of

installing windows, insulation, wall board hanging, plastering and painting. Just call the church office, 258-7375, for additional information. Someone from the committee will get back to you on what kind of work will be done for the following several months.

In return for this experience, you are enabling a family the choice of own-



ing their own home in which to provide a stable life for their children. Does this project work? We feel that it has done a terrific job. If you travel the area where these homes are being renovated, you will quickly find out that they are starting to outnumber the run-down homes on the same block. The Habitat for Humanity flag is flying proudly from these porches, signifying yet another completed home for a family. As for the stability of the project, I believe only one home has been returned - out of a total of 84.

We hope you consider being a part of our church's success with this program with as little as 6 1/2 hours of service on a yearly basis. ■■

*Habitat for Humanity Committee*

## Nominations Committee Now Accepting Names

The key to our Congregational Church and its governance is **you!** Experience one facet of Congregationalism by considering serving on one of the Boards listed below.

Board of Trustees: 1 opening

Board of Congregational Care: 4 openings

Board of Christian Education: 4 openings

Board of Benevolences and Church Relations: 5 openings

Board of Christian Stewardship: 3 openings

Board of Christian Fellowship: 4 openings

Board of Deacons: 6 openings

Church Council Members-at-Large: 4 openings

Please fill out the form below and drop it off at the Church office. There will also be a sign up table in the hallway for your convenience before and after the following services: August 25 and September 1.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

# Let Your Light Shine

The new church year begins with the replacement of the steeple atop our church – an appropriate symbol of the exciting year ahead! When the steeple is finally lit again, its light will shine for all to see, thanks to everyone who supported the renovations. *New light brings new life.* The challenge for each of us is to ask how we can let our lights shine this new church year.

The Board of Christian Stewardship invites everyone to prayerfully consider the challenge represented by our new steeple.

"We live life best as we give our strengths, gifts, and competencies in the service of God."

Our active participation in the life of First Congregational Church offers opportunities of growing in worship and fellowship, serving the needs of others, and supporting the good deeds of the congregation. In November all members of the church will be visited and asked to consider this challenge. If called upon to help in this campaign, we

hope you'll consider it an opportunity to serve.

Join us this year by giving your strengths, gifts and competencies to our church family. You can make a difference.

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."<sup>2</sup> ■

Jane Jacobson,  
Board of Christian Stewardship

1. Kennon L. Callahan. *Giving Stewardship in an Effective Church*; pg. 3.
2. Matthew 5:14-16, Revised Standard Version

# More Volunteers Needed to Finish Painting

This is to update the congregation on the volunteer/window activities. As with any project, like you have in your own house, it went past just repairing some windows. It included some minor repairs and painting of floors, the bases of the pillars in front of the church, and replacing the shutters as they were beyond repair.

While much work has been done, there is still quite a bit that needs attention before the snow starts flying. Some of you may question why this is being done. The work being done helps defray the costs that are

incurred in running a church. If the costs are kept down, the operating budget of the Congregational church will be kept down. This, in turn, will help stewardship in the need for more giving and allow us to do more outreach and benevolent giving.

I would like to thank the following people for their time and effort in getting this work project started: Pierre Payne, Rich & Christopher Raymond, Gordon & Marion Petersen, David Fraser, Rod Schmidt, Bill Edens, Terri Liska, David Mott, Ken Wittig, Mark Melby, Ken Lindl,

# PF Kick-Off

The Pilgrim Fellowship (youth program) fall kick-off will be held on **Wednesday, September 4th**, at 6:30 p.m. Junior and Senior High PF will again meet on Wednesdays. This year both groups will meet from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. This is a change from last year. Advisors this year to date are:

**Sr. High**  
Sarah Ornst  
**Jr. High**  
Mike Sgarlata  
Sarah Sielba  
**Pre PF**  
Carrie Sgarlata

In addition, Chris Rygh, our pastoral intern, will be working with the advisors and student officers to coordinate the regular meetings and projects.

This promises to be an exciting new year with many familiar activities as well as new ideas. Don't miss the kick-off and your chance to get involved at the planning stages. ■

Keith Harmon, Dick Berger and Peter Holtz. A special thanks to Dave Fraser and his crew for cleaning the strip between the church and parkway along with making the walk safer and more passable. This is our church working together in the Congregational Way.

The church needs your help to finish painting doors and windows on the first floor. Please call Rani at the church office, 258-7375 or Paul Schulze, 695-1059. A time and date will then be arranged which is convenient for you. ■

Paul Schulze

# SEPTEMBER 1996

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9:15 am: Coffe Hour 9:40 am: Chapel Communion 10:00 am: Worship Serv., Sunday School, Nursery 11:00 am: Brat Fest <b>1</b>	LABOR DAY Building Closed <b>2</b>	7:00: Bd/Deacons, Boy Scouts <b>3</b>	9:30 am: Young Moms 11:00 am: Circle 12 6:30: Jr/Sr PF 7:00: Weight Loss Grp.; Twin Blessed Moms <b>4</b>	6:00: Junior Choir 6:45: Pilgram Choir 7:00: Boy Scout Roundtable 7:30: Handbell Ringers 7:55: Chancel Choir <b>5</b>	9:15: Harmony Singers No St. Vincent this month or in October <b>6</b>	8:45 am: Habitat for Humanity 9:30 am: Singles' Group (Baking Cookies) <b>7</b>
RALLY DAY 9 & 11 am: Worship Svc., Sunday School, Nursery 10:00 am: Coffee Hour <b>8</b>	10:00 am: Sr. Women; Sr. Orchestra 7:00: Bd/ Trustees Bd/ Benevolences, Bd/ Christian Ed. 8:00: Alcoholics Anon. <b>9</b>	9 am: Bible Study Fellowship 7:00: Resolve, Boy Scouts <b>10</b>	9:30 am: Young Moms 6:00: Steeple Topping Off Celebration with Dinner 6:30: Jr/Sr PF <b>11</b>	6:00 Junior Choir 6:45: Pilgram Choir 7:30: Handbell Choir 7:55: Chancel Choir <b>12</b>	9:15 am: Harmony Singers 10:00 am: Artists' Group <b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
9 & 11 am: Worship Svc., Sunday School, Nursery 10:00 am: Member Orientation, Coffee Hour, Bible Class 7:00: Holy Land Trip Information Meeting <b>15</b>	10 am: Senior Orchestra 8:00: Alcoholics Anon. <b>16</b>	9 am: Retired Men's Club 9 am: Bible Study Felsbp. 7:00: Boy Scouts 7:30: Quilters <b>17</b>	9:30: Young Moms 6:30: Jr/Sr PF 7:00: Nominating Committee 7:30: at Congregational Home, Bd/Congreg. Care <b>18</b>	6:00: Junior Choir 6:45: Pilgram Choir 7:30: Handbell Choir 7:55: Chancel Choir <b>19</b>	9:15: Harmony Singers 10:00: Artists' Group <b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
9 & 11 am: Worship Svc., Sunday School, Nursery 10 am: Coffee Hour, Bible Class, Member Orientation <b>22</b>	10:00 am: Senior Orch. 8:00: Alcoholics Anon. <b>23</b>	9 am: Retired Men's Club Bd., Bible Study Fellowship 7:00: Church Council, Boy Scouts <b>24</b>	9:30 am: Young Moms 6:30: Jr/Sr PF <b>25</b>	6:00: Junior Choir 6:45: Pilgrim Choir 7:30: Handbell Choir 7:55: Chancel Choir <b>26</b>	9:15: Harmony Singers 10:00: Artists' Group <b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
9 & 11 am: Worship Services, Sunday School, Nursery 10:00 am: Bible Class Evening Steeple Re- dedication <b>29</b>	10:00 am: Senior Orch. 8:00: Alcoholics Anon. <b>30</b>					

# A Word From Lonnie...

## Spirituality and Healthy Religious Faith

I received a note this week from Dave Swanson who was in Oregon working with Dick Bolles, the author of *What Color is Your Parachute*. In the note he included what Dick used as his morning meditation for their workshop. I can see why Dave was excited and sent it to me because it's what you see and hear at First Congregational. We are about a spirituality which surrounds a healthy faith that makes a difference where we live. I have included the article for your reflection. Dave is a church member, professional speaker and author of the book, *The Resumé Solution*.

### SPIRITUALITY

The question today is not, "Do you believe in God?" (94% in America say they do, and 55% of all Americans said they consider their belief in God to be "a very important part of their lives," while 30% of all Americans categorized their faith as "fairly important" – according to a series of Gallup Polls, in which there has been little change since the late 1960's). No the real question is: "Does your belief in God have anything to do with your work?"

#### HEALTHY RELIGION

Is Obsessed with Gratitude

Focuses on the presence of God in the world: sees holiness everywhere

Sees all the world as 'us'

Is closely related to mental health with its emphasis on repentance (metanoia) or "Most of my ills are self-inflicted."

Unconsciously exhibits humility

Treasures the differences in others

Has a high sense of 'all the saints' worshipping God together

Believes in learning from others

Renounces manipulation of others and lets them have their own beliefs

Wants God's forgiveness toward those who have harmed them or follow other gods; forgives readily

Focuses on what one can give, out of faith; anxious to give others benefits

Faith is primarily a matter of actions; words are used only to interpret one's actions.

Is well aware their faith may have some unhealthiness to it

#### UNHEALTHY RELIGION

Is Obsessed with Guilt

Focuses on the presence of evil in the world: sees contamination everywhere

Sees all the world as 'us vs. them'

Is distantly related to mental illness (paranoia) or "Most of my ills stem from what others are doing 'out there.'"

Unconsciously exhibits arrogance

Wants everyone to be like them

Has a high sense of 'the individual alone with his or her God'

Believes in confronting

Desires to manipulate others to accept their every belief

Wants God's vengeance toward those who have harmed them or follow other gods; often has low long-simmering anger, masked beneath a smile

Focuses on what one gets out of faith; anxious to get for themselves the benefits

Faith is primarily a matter of words used as tests of orthodoxy. Shibboleth and sibboleth.

Doesn't even dream their faith may be unhealthy

# Moderator's Remarks

Just a few observations:

- We are a church who likes to share food and fellowship, our Wednesday night supper attendance is growing.
- Because of the generous giving of prizes I am sure we will have a very successful golf outing with the proceeds going to the Honduras project.
- We still have some lower windows that need painting, can you give us a Saturday morning of your time this fall?
- Something a little different this year – we are asking parents to pre-register your children for Sunday School.
- We have had wonderful cooperation with the parking lot this summer. Spaces were left for people who really needed them. Think of all the good exercise we got walking a little further.
- The steeple is progressing on schedule. Plans are in the works to have a re-dedication on Sunday, September 29, 1996.
- Rally Sunday will be on September 8th, let's make it a big one! ■■

by Marion Petersen

**New Member Classes begin on September 15, at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor. All who are interested are welcome!**

August 25, 1996

## In Brief

### NO ST. VINCENT MEALS

Because of other activities scheduled at the St. Vincent Meal Program site, **our church members will not be serving on the first Friday of both September and October.** We will, however, be preparing and serving meals on the first Friday of each month, beginning in November.

### Circle 12 Meets Wednesday, September 4

at 11:00 a.m. in the Lounge. Call Martha Haagensen for reservations. 256-6905

### Holy Land Trip Information

If you are interested in the Holy Land tour, Lonnie will be holding an informational meeting on September 15 at 7:00 p.m.

### The Editor Thanks:

Jane Jacobson, Kent Granberg and Rachael VerDuin for articles; Doug Jacobson, Ed Probst, and Charlie Wakefield for providing information; and the office staff for their assistance.

## Our Church Family

### Senior Orchestra

An orchestra made up of senior citizens meets here on Monday mornings from 10 to 12. Anyone who plays a string instrument is invited to join the orchestra. For more information, call Bill Polley, 476-2693.

### Bridge Marathon - Starting in October

We would like to have some new players join us for our marathon. We will play about six times a year during '96 - '97 and have our playoff here at the church in May. If interested, please call Joan Halvorson, 476-1963.

### Blood Drive

Gail Sherman will be working on organizing a Blood Drive. Anyone who would consider assisting her is asked to call the church office, 258-7375.

### Baptism

Emily Lyn Miles, daughter of David & Roxanne Trump Miles was baptized on August 11, 1996.

Dated Material - Please deliver immediately.

Wauwatosa, WI 53213-2593

1511 Church Street

The First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa

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