

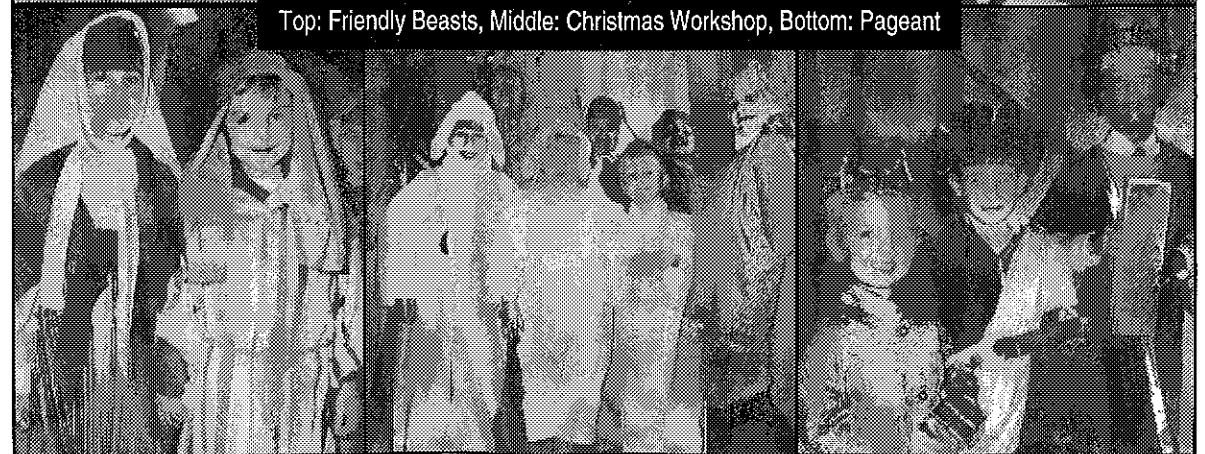
C O N G R E G A T I O N A L C O L U M N S

December 29, 1996

Church Activities Capture the Spirit



Top: Friendly Beasts, Middle: Christmas Workshop, Bottom: Pageant



Butch Boyd - A Church Treasure(r)

Once each month, Mahlon "Butch" Boyd goes to the church office to check over the church's financial books, be sure accounts are balanced and oversee any investments/expenditures of the Church - an exercise which takes him approximately one and one-half hours per month. However, when Butch agreed to take on the task of Treasurer of First Congregational Church, he agreed to a substantial commitment of time and energy as surely any of the past treasurers will attest.

In addition to the bookkeeping - which he is quick to point out is well taken care of by Rani Gusho, Financial Administrator, on a daily basis - the church treasurer is also a Church Council member, placed on the Board of Trustees, and the Budget and Finance Committee. The Budget and Finance Committee also had a sub-committee this year called the Fiscal Task Force which studied the Growth and Development Fund extensively to further define and alter that fund. (See details in last month's Columns.) Between the meetings of all of these groups, Butch spends a good 5-6 hours each month with those activities.

In the rest of his life, Butch works as a planner/buyer for Johnson Controls. He is married - wife Jane is a long-time member. He has three children: Zachariah (24) is a student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Emily (15) attends Brookfield East and Blake (12) is at Elmbrook Middle School. While Butch used to play softball on the church team, enjoys bowling and rooting for the Packers, he admits that most of his recreation is now spent involved with his children's interests and activities.

Butch's involvement with the church began a few years after he was married here in 1980. He previously served on the Board of Deacons - a four-year term as it turned out - but this is his first involvement with many of the other Boards. He says he is amazed at how much you learn on the Board of Trustees about the



Butch Boyd, Church Treasurer

day-to-day running, upkeep, and expenses of the church. He really enjoys his involvement with that Board and thinks it is a great Board for everyone to try and serve on to learn more about our church. He said he has been very happy to work with such dedicated and very knowledgeable people.

Butch also credits Jim Walsh, a past Treasurer and current co-treasurer with invaluable assistance. He also said that once some of the Funds are up and running from the Fiscal Task force, he believes they will be very helpful. Butch jokes that "it will take three years just to understand more about what he's doing," and if

we're lucky, perhaps he'll be in this position for at least that long. The church as a whole is very thankful for his commitment to this tricky-to-fill position. ■

BLOOD DRIVE

A blood drive will be held on January 28th at the church from 3:00-9:00 p.m. Sign up tables will be set up in the hall between Sunday services prior to the drive or you can contact the church office, 258-7375. If you would be willing to bake cookies for the donors we are also interested in hearing from you. Just bring them in or contact the office. Thanks!

CONGREGATIONAL COLUMNS

Editor, Beth Linscott
Communications Committee
Karl Stieghorst - Chairperson,
René Klumb, Joyce Orr,
Sandy Rose, Win Williams,
Mary York



Rev. Lonnie Richardson, Senior Minister
Rev. Dr. Steven A. Peay, Associate Minister/Teacher
Chris Rygh, Pastoral Intern
Rani Gusho, Financial Administrator
Debby Wakefield, Coordinator of Membership
Roy Brouwer, Building Superintendent
Lee Jacobi, Director of Music
Betty Dethmers, Organist
Betsy Isenberg, Secretary
Nancy Gross, Secretary
Rev. Norman S. Ream, Minister Emeritus

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Mission in Focus - Honduras

The Board of Benevolences, which oversees one aspect of the charitable outreach of the congregation, is seeking to better understand the concept of mission. As board members grow in their understanding of mission they hope to share what they learn with the whole congregation. Throughout 1997 there will be articles reflecting on the nature and purpose of the benevolence mission and specifically dealing with those mission programs sponsored by our congregation.

In November the first 'mission team' was sent out from First Church to one of the programs we sponsor: Honduras. Team members experienced life in the mission field first-hand, working alongside the people whom the mission serves. Some were engaged in construction, others in the sewing school, several did some teaching, and those medically trained worked in the clinic. All have commented that it was a positive experience, though often a difficult one.

Those who were on the 'first team' to Honduras have also noted the need to examine the programs sponsored by the congregation firsthand wherever possible. Several commented that the visit had raised some ques-

tions. Chris Ellis stated that while she believed in mission work and that our congregation should be involved she felt that ultimate long-range goals needed to be evaluated. Nancy Harmon, Virginia Mason, Vera Buczkowski, and Sandy Rose all noted the necessity of evaluating the actual needs of the people we're trying to serve. The concern expressed was that we should seek to serve them according to real need and not as we think the need exists. In other words, there must be sensitivity to cultural differences and expectations. A major concern was to improve the delivery of services to the people of the mission through better administrative practices.

The experience of the 'first team' will be an important resource as the Board of Benevolences seeks to evaluate our service in the Honduran Mission. The whole congregation stands to benefit from their experience as well. Sixteen of us have discovered that what we give and what we do can indeed be life changing—for others and ourselves. Reflection, evaluation, and growth can only follow from discovering that there is more to us and to what we do that we have known before. As Sandy Rose

said, "It is essential for our church to evaluate our benevolences and for a group to go and understand first-hand what the needs are. I hope we continue to support this with thought and open-heart."

Thought and open-heart will be key words as the Board of Benevolences begins its study of the Biblical and theological groundwork of benevolence and mission outreach in general during the year ahead. Much work has been done in the field of 'missiology' which seeks to make Christian missionary work more culturally sensitive and adaptive. While the greatest import may be for better understanding of the congregation's support of foreign mission work, there is more than a little significance for 'home missions' as well. The fruits of the study will be shared with the congregation and opportunities should be available in mission activity.

The old proverb says, "the journey of a lifetime begins with a single step." A great journey of discovery for First Congregational Church began with the steps of its 'first team.' The focus on what our mission is as God's gathered, free people should make 1997 a truly 'pilgrim year!' ■

NOMINATIONS FOR 1997

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."

ModeratorPeter Holtz
 Vice-ModeratorKarl Stieghorst
 TreasurerButch Boyd
 Assistant Treasurer.....Jim Walsh
 Church ClerkBetsy Isenberg

Board of Trustees

Harry Collis
 Rod Schmidt
 George Janssen

Board of Congregational Care

Janice Wittig
 Arlette Lindberg

Church Council Member at Large

Jennifer Wakefield (1 yr)
 Roger Laubenheimer
 Ted Klumb
 Jim Petrie (1 yr)
 Stew Davis
 Colleen Foster

Board of Benevolences

Sue Melby (2 yrs)
 Steve Houriet
 Sharon Raymond
 Dale Engstrom (2 yrs)
 Mark Boettcher

Board of Deacons

Winston Williams (1 yr)
 Will Green
 Jon Hanson
 Julie Anheuser
 Susie Daigneau
 Elaine Wieand
 John Stuhler

Board of Stewardship

Ging Moore
 Steve Bergum
 Jack Hughes

Board of Fellowship

Karen Schmidt (2 yrs)
 John Sgarlata
 Pam Parker
 Richard Berger
 Mary Beth Rygh

Nominating Committee

Jay Valde (1 yr)
 Nancy Hayes (1 yr)
 Steve Russ (1 yr)

Board of Christian Education

Cathy Kebbekus (1 yr)
 Lynn Gruebling (2 yrs)
 Amy Kielma
 Mary Kraus
 Margaret Brown (1 yr)
 Carrie Sgarlata
 Lee Eggert

DECEMBER 1996

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9 & 11: Worship Service Sunday School, Nursery 10:00 am: Coffee Hour 10:15: Chapel Communion	10:00 am: Sr. Orchestra 7:00: Bd/ Fellowship 7:00: Bd/Stewardship at Grede Co. 8:00: Alcoholics Anon.	9:00 am: Bible Study Fellowship 9:30 am: Staff Commun. 7:00: Boy Scouts	NEW YEAR'S DAY Church Closed	6:00 Junior Choir 6:45: Pilgrim Choir 7:00: Boy Scout, Cub Scout Roundtables 7:30: Handbell Ringers 7:55: Chancel Choir	8:30 am: St. Vincent Meal Preparation 9:15: Harmony Singers 10:00 am: Artists' Group 4:15: Carpool to St. Vincent Meal Site	8:45 am: Habitat for Humanity (carpool from church lot)
9 & 11: Worship Serv. Sunday School, Nursery 10:00 am: New Mem. Orientation, Coffee Hour- Reception for Bob Hankins 6:00: Covenant Class I 7:10: Covenant Class II	10 am: Senior Women, Senior Orchestra 8:00: Alcoholics Anon.	9 am: Bible Study Flwshp. 9:30 am: Staff Comm. 7:00: Resolve, Boy Scouts 7:30: Church Street Singers Rehearsal	9:30 am: Young Moms 4:00: Pre P.F. 6:00: All Church Dinner 6:30: Jr/Sr PF	6:00: Junior Choir 6:45: Pilgrim Choir 7:30: Handbell Choir 7:55: Chancel Choir	9:15 am: Harmony Singers 10:00 am: Artists' Group	10:00-2:00: Institute of Christian Leadership at Congregational Home 2:00: Church Council meeting at Cong. Home
9 & 11 am: Worship Svc., Sunday School, Nursery 10 am: New Member Orientation, Coffee Hour	10 am: Senior Orchestra 7:00: Circle 9 8:00: Alcoholics Anon.	9 am: Retired Men's Club, Bible Study Flwshp. 9:30 am: Staff Commun. 7:00: Neighborhood Books, Boy Scouts, Quilters' Group 7:30: Church Street Singers Rehearsal	9:30 am: Young Moms ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE: -6:00: Reception -6:30: Dinner -7:30: Annual Meeting 6:30: Jr/Sr PF	6:00: Junior Choir 6:45: Pilgrim Choir 7:30: Handbell Choir 7:55: Chancel Choir	9:15 am: Harmony Singers 10:00 am: Artists' Group	10:00-2:00: Institute of Christian Leadership at Congregational Home 2:00: Church Council meeting at Cong. Home
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A Word From Lonnie...

The Light in Darkness

I received a Christmas card with Rembrandt's painting of The Adoration of The Shepherds on the cover. It is a simple scene in a stable, and there in the foreground are the mother and child, with Joseph in the shadows in the background. Peering over into the manger where the babe is lying are the shepherds, with their sheep scattered around them. Arching above the manger is a ladder which implies, in the shadows it casts, the form of the cross. And on the beam against which the ladder rests is a rooster, the symbol of betrayal. The artist is suggesting that it is by means of the crushing inner agony of betrayal, and the outer agony of crucifixion, that the One in the manger would become the world's deliverer and redeemer.

But the striking thing about the picture is that the light illuminating the whole scene is not coming from outside but from the manger where the babe is lying. There is no halo over the babe, such as medieval painters often employed, but the light which illuminates the faces looking in is streaming from the manger. Their faces are put into sharp relief as they look down, and you can see that the light is coming from the babe himself. That is Rembrandt's very remarkable way of saying that the story of Christmas is the story of light in darkness.

The prophet Isaiah had said that a light would break out upon those who sit in darkness. And through the centuries since, this has been at the heart of the Christmas message. There is a light in the darkness of our experience. All hope shines and gleams from the manger. Let his light shine and follow that light.

In Him, Lonnie

Institute of Christian Leadership Workshop by Rev. Richardson

On Saturday, January 25, 1997 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., at Congregational Home, Rev. Lonnie Richardson will be leading a workshop for all church members who are leaders, or who desire to be leaders. "The workshop," said Lonnie, "focuses on not being a creature of circumstance but a creator of circumstance through assuming leadership and responsibility for one's actions."

The goal of this workshop is to teach participants to:

- understand the differences in religious and secular leadership.
- discover the deepest emotional and spiritual needs of the soul.
- learn how to plan an effective meeting and avoid unnecessary meetings.
- know three questions to ask when considering something

new or different.

- learn why churches do not have money problems only idea problems.
 - know ten aspects of positive leadership.
- and
- understand the leadership challenge today.

Refreshments and lunch will be served and discussions will follow the morning and afternoon sessions.

While attendance is certainly not limited to current Board/Committee members of the church, Board and Committee members are strongly encouraged to attend.

Congregational Home is located at 13900 W. Burleigh Road. Reservations for this event can be made by contacting the church office, at 258-7375. ■

"Congregationalism – An Introduction to a Faith and People"

Orientation Classes begin on January 12 at 10:00 a.m. for those exploring membership. New members will be received on February 9, 1997 at both services.

Super Bowl Sub Sale

Get ready for your 1997 Super Bowl Party! Students from P.F. will be selling Super Bowl submarine sandwiches between services on January 5, 12 and 19. Then pick up your subs between services on January 26, Super Bowl Sunday!!

This is a fund raiser for Senior High PF'ers which will go toward defraying the costs of summer camp 1997.

In Brief

Annual Meeting Announcement

Official notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Church will be held on Wednesday, January 22, 1997, in the Social Hall.

6:00 - Reception in Lounge

6:30 - Prepaid Dinner

7:30 - Annual Meeting

Annual Dinner Reservation Form

Wednesday, January 22, 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 20.

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

The Editor Thanks:

Karl Stieghorst and all those who contributed information to the Hoduran mission article for article information; and the office staff for their assistance.

Our Church Family

Deaths

Mildred Ornst passed away on December 17, 1996.

Hankins Reception

A reception is scheduled for Bob and Mary Hankins on January 12 in recognition of Bob's 24 years with Congregational Home. It will be held between services in Friendship Lounge. We look forward to the opportunity to extend our thanks for all the years of wonderful service.

Christmas Pageant 1984 - Chappie Wakefield & Katie Holtz as Joseph & Mary. Chappie now teaches 5-yr olds & Katties teaches 3 & 4-yr olds who just did this year's pageant!!



Dated Material - Please deliver immediately.

Wauwatosa, WI 53213-2593
1511 Church Street

The First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa

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