

CONGREGATIONAL COLUMNS

January 26, 1997

Nourish Yourself with Our "Soul Food"

As we head into the Lenten season, Wednesdays and Sundays will be filled with opportunities for learning, fellowship, worship and devotion for the entire family. In keeping with last year's well-received schedule, the theme will be "Soul Food."

Ash Wednesday is February 12. Rev. Steve Peay will be conducting both a 10:00 a.m. Chapel service and a 7:00 p.m. worship service in the Nave - Communion at both services.

On **Sunday, February 16**, and continuing over the following five Sundays, Rev. Peay will lead a discussion series, "In Spirit and Truth," a survey of Christian worship which will focus on why we *look* for the *Other*. Questions such as: "How has Christian worship developed?" "What is the future of Christian worship?" "What does *worship* mean?" and "What is unique about *Congregationalist* Christian worship?" will be tackled.

Wednesdays will be filled with various opportunities from morning through night. From **February 19-March 26**, activities will start at 6:45 a.m. with a hot breakfast followed by a study with Rev. Lonnie Richardson and Rev. Peay, "Living the Risen Life: A Study of Colossians." You are guaranteed to be on your way by 7:30 a.m. Rod Schmidt will be helping Steve Peay prepare the first breakfast, but volunteers are still needed for help with the rest of the breakfasts. If you're interested, contact the church office at 258-7375.

The Wednesday evening schedule will begin with a "Meagre Meal," (soup and something) at 6:00 p.m. The meal will be followed at 6:45 by various classes for the entire family. For grades 1-5, Ddg Wakefield will be leading a Bible Story

series, "What If?" Jr. PF will meet for grades 6-8, and Sr. PF will meet for those in grades 9-12. For the adults, there will be several options: Steve will lead a series, "Introduction to the New Testament;" Phil Landis will offer a series of classes studying the final chapters of John; and a third option of some type of practical study will be announced.

Following the other activities on Wednesday evenings, at 7:45 there will be a time for devotion and communion in the Chapel for those who wish to attend. The evening of activities will be concluded by 8:15.

Every other Thursday, you are welcome to join the Brown Bag Study Group led by Steve Peay. The current selection is a study of Richard Foster's *Celebration of Discipline*. The group is discussing how to grow in spiritual life, the topic of this book. There is also an on-going Thursday 2:00 group which reads and discusses classic Christian Spiritual literature. Steve is also open to any ideas for an evening group, so if you're interested, give him a call. More information will be presented as these days draw nearer, but for your calendars -

- **Maundy Thursday** is **March 27** and we will offer **10:00 a.m.** Chapel service and **7:00 p.m.** Nave services - communion at both.
- The **Good Friday** Tenebrae service will be at **7:00 p.m.**
- A special **Saturday Easter Service** for those unable to attend the Sunday service will again be offered at **10:30 a.m.** on March 29.
- **Easter Sunday** is **March 30** - more details will follow in later issues. ■

Michelle Jackson To Begin Internship as FCC Parish Nurse

The Congregational Care Board has extended a three-month, Parish Nurse internship to Michelle Jackson RN who has recently completed Concordia University's Parish Nurse Program. She received her Bachelors of Science/Nursing degree from University of Massachusetts/Boston, MA. Beginning in February, Michelle will be spending approximately six hours per week at the church. Throughout her time here, she will present some classes in addition to being available for questions/contact with members as needed.

Michelle describes herself as a generalist nurse having hospital, family planning, home care, and nursing home experience. As a parish nurse she combines her nursing skills and spirituality with an emphasis on spiritual commitment to Biblical teachings. Michelle has been a Congregationalist for more than 23 years.

Michelle is a member of North Shore Congregational Church, Fox Point. Her husband, Phil Jackson, is Associate Executive Secretary of Pastoral Services and Development, for the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, working out of Oak Creek, WI. They have two children Leslie Anne, 18, and Stephen, 16, who are both enthusiastic PF'ers.

The concept behind parish nursing is a community health role operating in churches to promote wellness by addressing the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of individuals. In addition, parish nurses provide preventive health care ser-

vices and help members access the health care system.

Parish nursing was founded in the United States in 1983 by Lutheran Chaplin, Granger Westberg. It's ori-



Michelle Jackson, Parish Nurse

gins date back to the early Christian church when Phoebe ministered to the physical needs of ill persons in their homes. Jesus' healing ministry serves as a model for parish nurses to assist members in achieving wellness and healing.

Parish Nurses promote health and wellness to prevent disease through utilization of Biblical health principles, sound community health care standards and demonstration of God's love and caring to people. ■

Pancake Breakfast

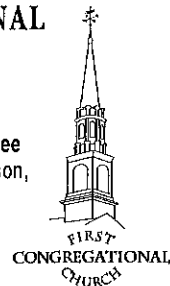
Don't miss the famed pancake breakfast scheduled for February 9, 1997 (New Member Sunday).

Breakfasts of pancakes, sausage and juice will be served from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. The cost is \$4.00 for Adults and Children (ages 3-12) \$2.00.

This is a fantastic opportunity to meet and welcome our new members as you enjoy a delicious, hot breakfast.

CONGREGATIONAL COLUMNS

Editor, Beth Linscott
Communications Committee
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Siberian Missionaries Steve and Heather Godfrey Speaking February 2

On February 2, at 10:00 in the Chapel, Steve Godfrey, a former church member, and his wife Heather will be presenting a small program about their missionary work in Irkutsk, Russia, followed by some time for questions and answers.

Irkutsk is a city, roughly the size of Milwaukee, in the part of Russia known as Siberia. Siberia is actually a huge area - approximately the eastern 2/3 of Russia. While Irkutsk is a city of 600,000 people, Steve described it as a "2/3-world" city. He said the air quality is very bad, shopping is difficult, and crime is a big problem.

On the up side, he said it is also very beautiful. Known as the St. Petersburg of Siberia, Irkutsk was developed before communism came to power. The city is known for its beautiful wooden houses (a sort of cabin look, said Steve) with very intricate designs in the shutters. Geographically, he said it looks much like northern Wisconsin with the rolling hills and forestry. Also, approximately 40 miles from the city is the largest (by volume) fresh water lake in the world. By surface area, it is comparable to Lake Michigan. Winters, however, are very harsh. Throughout the long winter season they can expect only 6 hours of daylight and temperatures of -40°F without the windchill factor. Steve said people go a little crazy and soak up the 18 hours of daylight during the two months of summer.

How did this couple become interested in missionary work in Irkutsk? Steve says his interest actually began when he was in college at Indiana University. After a trip to East Berlin

before the wall came down, he met a man and was very moved by his faith. He decided he'd like to do something to help at some time in the future.

After Steve was working as a systems analyst for a few years and Heather for Bank One, he said they felt a call-



Steve, Nathan and Heather Johnson

ing. So, he left his job and went to seminary. As part of that training he has a one-year internship with Elmbrook Church and during that time he and his wife went, as part of a student ministry group, to Irkutsk. When he finished seminary in 1994, Steve said they began looking for a way back to Irkutsk. They eventually hooked up with Church Resource Ministries (CRM) and with the help of three Tosa-area churches they were on their way back as part of a five-person team of church planters.

They have spent about a year in the field so far, and are working to help

Russians start new churches. One of the team's primary goals in these first two years is to learn the language so that they can be more effective.

More specifically, Steve says that their primary role is to identify and develop people. They start Bible Study groups in homes. He said many Russians have had little or no exposure to Christianity. They try to get these groups to commit or re-commit to their faith. From these groups they hope that some Russian leaders will emerge. As they develop these churches, Steve said that it is "the people, not the steeple that matters."

Steve said that while the work is very challenging (they are raising a 10-month old baby - a second child due in February - without prepared food or disposable diapers to name some of our basics) it is also very rewarding and they wouldn't trade it for anything. "This is an opportunity to see lives changed," said Steve. He believes churches are the key for Russia's future. He hopes the Russians will be able to find their relationships with God to help put their own lives together. At this point, Steve believes, the problems in Russia are spiritual and so are the solutions. ■

Please Note:
THE WEIGHT LOSS GROUP will meet on **January 29th** rather than **February 5th**. **Hope you can make it.** If you have any questions, call the church office at **258-7375**.

Wheaton College Choir Concert at FCC to be Held February 15

On Saturday, February 15, 1997 at 7:30 p.m. the Wheaton College Men's Glee Club, a choir 57 voices strong, will perform at First Congregational Church. This is a free concert and wonderful opportunity to hear this inspiring ensemble.

This Glee Club has toured extensively both throughout the U.S. and abroad. Their repertoire includes anthems, hymn settings, spirituals and other sacred music. The group regularly delights audiences in the Chicago area and on Wheaton's campus with what they describe as, "a unique com-

bination of Christian witness, musical vitality and esprit de corps."

Gerard Sundberg, conductor of the ensemble, is currently Associate Professor of Music at the Wheaton Conservatory of Music. He teaches studio voice and vocal pedagogy.



Wheaton College is a coeducational college of liberal arts and sciences which combines high scholastic standards with evangelical Christian faith and practice. The undergraduate program at The Wheaton Conservatory of Music is grounded in the belief that "making music is an act of worship, that excellence is the norm of stewardship, and that all human creative acts are related to the creatorhood of God."

This is sure to be a truly inspiring and entertaining evening of musical ministry. First Congregational Church is very proud to have the opportunity to support such an event for our members, neighbors and friends.

The concert will be held in the Nave and it is recommended that you arrive early as seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis. ■

Building Updates

Social Hall

The new baseboard heating is in place and the old radiators are out. While the radiators were leaking, rusting and placed higher up on the wall, benefits of the new, far more efficient baseboard heating will be realized quickly. Next on the agenda is the ceiling and lighting. That work is scheduled to begin shortly after the Annual Meeting.

Fire Alarms

Work on the new fire alarm system progressed a little more slowly than we had hoped. The old wiring system was more complicated than anticipated; but, the old system did stay operational during the entire installation process of the new system.

By the time this issue is printed, the new fire alarm system - strobe lights, warning horns and all - should be in place. The one other addition

with this system is that smoke alarms have also been put in each office - areas previously unprotected.

Security System

The new security system is now in place - so if you come to a locked building in the middle of the day - go to the front of the building (hallway entrance.) The outside doors will be open - then you'll need to speak into the intercom to enter. ■

1997 Stewardship Drive Successful

The Board of Stewardship was very pleased with the outcome of this year's fund drive, said Jane Jacobson, chairperson. This year's campaign differed slightly from the past couple of years in that the committee used followup letters for some of those members who had not responded with the first pledge card.

The first week in January, 14 people, who offered to help with the effort, sat down at phones at the Grede Company and took the last step of the effort. People seemed to feel very good about receiving

the calls, said Jane. Whether they had forgotten to turn in their cards, wanted to discuss something with a minister, or a variety of other reasons, they generally appreciated the followup.

The overall pledge base for 1997, to date, is \$560,267. This is approximately a 10% increase over last year's pledge base. Of particular note: 34 members went from no contribution last year to giving a pledge this year; 41 people converted from some contribution to actually pledging this year; 13 mem-

bers doubled (or more) their contributions over last year; and 163 members increased their pledges over last year.

We are very thankful to the Board of Stewardship for all of their time and effort which will certainly be noticed throughout the year. Of course we are also very thankful to you the congregation for your generosity in meeting the needs of the church's operating expenses as well as benevolent projects. ■

Send Forth the Hymns Our Fathers Loved

We recently sang in church the hymn "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart" and the words gave us some food for thought. One of our members said that her grandmother played the organ, and when she hears some of those old hymns that grandmother played, it brings joy to her heart.

We have asked a few people what is their favorite hymn. Here's a sampling of responses:

Jane Doud- "O God, Our Help in Ages Past."

Don Zentner said, "That's easy. 'O Worship the King.' That's always been my favorite. Number 6 in the hymnal, I believe."

Kenney Orr- "Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Bucky Statz and Carmen Berte - "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

Many people responded like Don Hensch, who couldn't off-hand name a favorite because "there are so many good ones."

J. Fred Rennebohm- "He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought."

Ruth Karl says her favorite is "How Great Thou Art," but "don't look for it in our hymnal, because it isn't there."

Barbara Stieghorst- "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Jon Hanson thought about it for a minute, and said, "I'd have to name two." He likes the song "Morning Has Broken" among our non-seasonal hymns, but on Easter Sunday "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" is very special.

Lissa Edens- "The Church's One Foundation"

Sally Wells said, "Oh my! There are so many! But yes, I do have a very favorite hymn, 'Dear Lord and Father of Mankind,' and she softly sang the entire verse. "I live it as a song, and I use it as a prayer. It says it all."

This hymn is also John Erdahl's favorite, but he had an interesting

story about a time when he and Eunice were with a group in Germany, and they all went to a tavern. One of the group started playing the piano and soon everyone was singing the old hymns. When they started "The Battle Hymn of The Republic" the bartender began to sing, and all stopped to listen to his clear, strong voice. "When you hear that song sung so well, you just tingle inside."

Nancy Perry- "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee."

Other favorite hymns people mentioned were "Lead on O King Eternal," "God of Grace and God of Glory," "Faith of our Fathers," "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian," "Nearer My God to Thee," "All Things Bright and Beautiful," and "Holy, Holy, Holy." ■

FEBRUARY 1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9 & 11: Worship Service with Communion, Sunday School, Nursery 10:00 am: New Member Orientation, Steve Godfrey's program on Siberia, Coffee Hr. 6:00: Covenant Class I 7:10: Covenant Class II	10:00 am: Sr. Orchestra 12:00: Heritage Garden Club 7:00: Bd/ Fellowship, Bd/ Christian Ed. 8:00: Alcoholics Anon.	9:00 am: Retired Men's Club, Bible Study Fellowship 9:30 am: Staff Commun. 7:00: Bd/ Deacons, Boy Scouts, Master Singers 7:30: Church Str. Sing.	9:30 am: Young Moms 11:00 am: Circle 12 4:00: Pre PF 5:30: Prayer Service 6:00: All Church Dinner 6:30: Jr/Sr PF 7:00: Twin Blessed Moms	All Day C.F.T.S. 7 am: Tosa Rotary 2:00: Spirituality Class 6:00 Junior Choir 6:45: Pilgrim Choir 7:00: BS/CS Roundtables, Resolve Board 7:30: Handbell Choir 7:50: Chancel Choir	All Day C.F.T.S. & Board 8:30, 4:15: St. Vincent Meal Program 9:15: Harmony Singers 10:00 am: Artists' Group	8:45 am: Habitat for Humanity
1	3	4	5	6	7	8
NEW MEMBER SUNDAY 8-11 am: Pancake Brkfst. 9 & 11: Worship Services with members received at both services, Sun. School, Nursery. 10 am: Coffee Hr.	10 am: Sr. Women, Senior Orchestra 7:00: Bd/ Trustees, Bd/ Benevolence 8:00: Alcoholics Anon.	9 am: Bible Study Fellowship 9:30 am: Staff Comm. 7:00: Tosa Hist. Soc., Boy Scouts, Resolve, Master Singers 7:30: Church Street Singers	ASH WEDNESDAY 9:30 am: Young Moms 10:00 am: Ash Wed. Services. 6:30: Jr/Sr PF 7:00: Ash Wed. Serv.	7 am: Tosa Rotary 12:00: Brown Bag Lunch 2:00: Spirituality Class 6:00: Junior Choir 6:45: Pilgrim Choir 7:30: Handbell Choir 7:50: Chancel Choir	9:15: Harmony Singers 10:00: Artists' Group	7:30: Wheaton College Choir Concert
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9 & 11 am: Worship Svc., Sunday School, Nursery 10 am: Coffee Hour 6:00: Covenant Class I 7:10: Covenant Class II	10 am: Senior Orchestra 7:00: Circle 9 8:00: Alcoholics Anon.	9 am: Retired Men's Club, Bible Study Fellowship 9:30: Staff Communion 7:00: Quilters Group, Neighborhood Books, Master Singers, Boy Scouts 7:30: Care Board	6:45 am: Lenten Brkfst. 9:30 am: Young Moms 6:00: Lenten Supper 6:30: Jr/Sr PF 6:45: Lenten Program 7:00: Weight Loss 7:45: Communion	7 am: Tosa Rotary 2:00: Spirituality Class 6:00: Junior Choir 6:45: Pilgrim Choir 7:30: Handbells 7:50: Chancel Choir	9:15 am: Harmony Singers 10:00: Artists' Group	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9 & 11 am: Worship Services, Sunday School, Nursery 10 am: Coffee Hour 3:30: Blue and Gold Meeting, Pack 142	9 am: Suburban Women's Club 10 am: Senior Orchestra 8:00: Alcoholics Anonymous	9 am: Retired Men's Bd., Bible Study Fellowship 9:30: Staff Communion 7:00: Church Council, Master Singers, Boy Scouts	6:45 am: Lenten Brkfst. 9:30 am: Young Moms 6:00: Lenten Supper 6:30: Jr/Sr PF 6:45: Lenten Program 7:45: Communion	7 am: Tosa Rotary 12:00: Brown Bag Lunch 2:00: Spirituality Class 6:00: Junior Choir 6:45: Pilgrim Choir 7:30: Handbell Choir 7:50: Chancel Choir	9:15: Harmony Singers 10:00: Artists' Group	
23	24	25	26	27	28	

A Word From Lonnie...

A Way to a Deeper and Living Faith

I have had persons come to me desiring to deepen their Christian faith. They want to do something during the week that reflects a decision on Sunday. I often reply by saying one way to do that is by helping another.

I know a man who joined his church in middle life. A short time later his pastor asked him to visit a handicapped older gentleman who had been confined to bed and a rocking chair for many years. The man went with reluctance. To his surprise, he enjoyed the visit. But more than that, he took it upon himself to get the old gentleman a much needed wheelchair. This started a hobby. For many years this man begged scores of wheelchairs from people who didn't need them and gave them to others who did. This simple service helped deepen his faith and made it a living thing.

How could you show love to someone? Consider the prospects where you feel the most reluctance. Your decision to go for it may be the very beginning of a deeper and living faith for you. By all means, pay attention to your "reluctance zone" and make a decision and take action.

*In Him,
Lonnie*

Congregational Foundation for Theological Studies (CFTS) Holding Annual Meeting at FCC

First Congregational Church – Wauwatosa and CFTS, to the benefit of both, have been well connected for a long time. Whether FCC has helped support a student, taken a student on In-Care status, provided an internship or benefited from finding a staff person amongst the CFTS graduates, the relationship has been very positive.

CFTS is what Chris Rygh, our pastoral intern and a CFTS scholarship recipient, calls an academic support group. As Congregationalists have no seminaries of their own, this group raises funds to help students, as well as assists with placements, internships, etc. Each year, CFTS sponsors a meeting which brings together all of the CFTS students from across the country for training. This year, FCC is very honored to be the host site of this gathering of 17 up-and-coming ministers as well as CFTS Board Members.

Each year, the meeting centers around a certain type of church, be it urban, rural, etc. this year it is contemporary ministry and Wauwatosa is considered a great model in all aspects as a thriving church community. CFTS traditionally brings in some of the most respected speakers in their field. This year, our own Rev. Lonnie Richardson and Rev. Dr. Steve Peay will give one of the presentations together – high praise considering the company.

In addition to the four-day gathering of students from February 6–9, nine members of the CFTS Board of Directors will be holding their meeting here. The CFTS Board and students will be joining us for Sunday worship and will also take some time to observe our staff and congregation.

Some of our church's past connections with CFTS include:

John Moore - a member of FCC serving a CFTS internship in Kenosha.

Wendy Sue Earle - a member of FCC who was a CFTS student. She graduated last June and is working on her 3rd Masters degree at Duke University.

Rick Koch - was an associate minister here a couple years ago and also a CFTS graduate (along with his wife Mary).

Rev. Alice Murphy - a former member here is now the pastor at St. Jacobi and is a CFTS Board member. ■

In Brief

Annual Meeting Announcement

Note: due to the date of this year's Annual Meeting, we could not include a summary in this issue of the *Columns*. Watch for it in Feb.

The Editor Thanks:

Karl Stieghorst, Joyce Orr, and Michelle Jackson for article information; and the office staff for their assistance.

Congregational
Home



A wonderful New Year's
lift for Congregational
Home would be a few

volunteers who would transport wheelchair residents to and from special programs, as well as assist in serving refreshments after the program. Call Sally Wells at 781-0550, if this could be part of your New Year's efforts. Thank you!

Our Church Family

Thanks

Henry and Molly Vogel would like to thank the many people at First Congregational Church and Congregational Home for all of the prayers, cards, and thoughtfulness expressed over the past two months during Henry's illness.

Dated Material - Please deliver immediately.

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