

# Lent is Just Around the Corner!

**February 17:** Ash Wednesday Services at 10 AM (Memorial Chapel) and 7:30 PM (Nave).

**February 21:** Sunday Morning Offering Begins

Rev. Dr. Steven Peay will look at personal spirituality and the practical side of how we approach food during Sunday Symposiums on February 21 and March 7, 14 and 21. The presentations will be based on Joel Soza's book that looks at how we are to relate our faith to how we eat. Coming to the understanding that our spiritual life affects every aspect of our lives is a growth tool many of us can use to good effect.

**February 24:** Wednesday Evening Offering Begins

Rev. Jan Kwiatkowski will facilitate **Living Compass** on Wednesday evenings beginning at 6:30. **Living Compass** is a 5-session Whole-Person Wellness Program to assist **YOU** in making the changes you decide are right for you. The program is a combination of education and life coaching that maximizes the success of making positive changes. Research has shown that there is only a 10% chance of change when we simply hear a 'good idea.' There is an 85% chance of success when we generate the idea for change ourselves, make a plan for the change, speak the change out loud to others, and receive the accountability and support of others who are working on their own positive changes.

The deadline for submitting articles for the next issue of the Columns is Friday, February 12 at noon.

Please email articles to Anne Callen at [callena@firstchurchtosa.org](mailto:callena@firstchurchtosa.org).

Hard copy may be brought to the church office and left in the Columns mailbox.

# Lectionary Readings

## Texts Used in Worship

**February 7 . . . . . 5th Sunday after the Epiphany**  
 Old Testament . . . . . Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)  
 Psalmody . . . . . Psalm 138  
 New Testament . . . . . 1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
 Gospel . . . . . Luke 5:1-11

**February 14 . . . . . Transfiguration Sunday**  
 Old Testament . . . . . Exodus 34:29-35  
 Psalmody . . . . . Psalm 99  
 New Testament . . . . . 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2  
 Gospel . . . . . Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

**February 17 . . . . . Ash Wednesday**  
 Old Testament . . . . . Joel 2:1-2, 12-17  
 Psalmody . . . . . Psalm 51:1-17  
 New Testament . . . . . 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10  
 Gospel . . . . . Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**February 21 . . . . . First Sunday in Lent**  
 Old Testament . . . . . Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
 Psalmody . . . . . Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16  
 New Testament . . . . . Romans 10:8b-13  
 Gospel . . . . . Luke 4:1-13

**February 28 . . . . . Second Sunday in Lent**  
 Old Testament . . . . . Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18  
 Psalmody . . . . . Psalm 27  
 New Testament . . . . . Philippians 3:17-4:1  
 Gospel . . . . . Luke 13:31-35

Dated Material - Please deliver immediately.

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 1511 Church Street

**The First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa**

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February 2010

# CONGREGATIONAL COLUMNS

A newsletter of First Congregational Church - Wauwatosa

## Chili Cook-off and Dessert Bake-off

Tuesday, February 16 is the date! 6 PM is the time!

Join us for our annual Chili Dinner!

*Cooks and Bakers* - Now is the time to enter your favorite (and possibly winning!) chili or dessert recipe. For those of you who love to eat... help us judge who will be the 2010 First Church Champions!



Dinner will include chili, salad and dessert. Please sign up at the Gathering Table in the Atrium or contact the church office (414-258-7375) by Friday, February 12.

Cost: Adults/\$5 (contestants, too), Children (4-12)/\$3, Family/\$15, Three and under/free.

### Contestants:

Please arrive between 5:30 - 5:45 PM.

*Cooks* - Bring your chili hot and ready to serve.

*Bakers* - Bring your dessert cut into small, bite-size pieces.

—Margie Idzikowski

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Lectionary

Logan Breitzmann enjoys a chocolate dipped strawberry at the Fellowship Brunch.



## Breakfast with the Girls

Saturday, February 6

9 AM

Friendship Lounge



Breakfast with the Girls resumes on Saturday, February 6 when Gail Overholt, of the UW Extension, will be our guest speaker. Gail is the Milwaukee River Basin Educator for Natural Resources. She is going to speak about the wetlands in Milwaukee County, particularly "Ephemeral Ponds." These spring wetlands are especially important for plant, animal and reptile habitats, and they are rapidly disappearing in Southeastern Wisconsin. Gail will share with us what is being done to preserve and protect these valuable habitats.

Please sign up at the Gathering Table in the Atrium, or contact the church office at 414-258-7375. Donation: \$5. Breakfast treats are always welcome!

—Jennifer Wakefield

Church members reviewing the budget at the Annual Meeting held on Sunday, January 17



## Your Ministers

### PASTORAL CARE:

Rev. Barry Szymanski, Associate Minister of Pastoral Care & Spiritual Formation, is available to discuss spiritual, personal or any other concerns you wish to talk about. He is willing to meet with you at church or at your home. Please contact him by e-mail [szymanskib@firstchurchtosa.org] or by phone at 414-258-7375 ext. 226.

### SPECIAL OCCASION WORSHIP SERVICES:

Would you like to have a special service in your home to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion? Please notify Rev. Barry Szymanski as he would be happy to help you plan a special service for your celebration.

### VISITING AND COUNSELING:

Rev. Jan Kwiatkowski, M.S., M.F.T., Interim Associate Minister for Family & Youth Ministry, is happy to visit with those seeking pastoral care or counseling regarding family concerns. Those who are experiencing challenging times for life transitions, parenting issues, or for whatever reason may contact her. Jan's schedule is flexible so she can meet you at work, for coffee or at the church. The best way to get in touch with her is via e-mail [kwiatkowskij@firstchurchtosa.org] or leave her a voice mail at 414-258-7375 ext. 228. While Rev. Jan does have a Marriage and Family Therapy background, in her role as Associate Minister, she cannot assume a dual role of long-term counselor alongside the role of church minister. Generally, ministers with this kind of background will meet three to five times with people and if ongoing or more intensive counseling is desired, Rev. Jan will suggest others you could contact outside the church.

## New Members



### Tom and Sue Connor

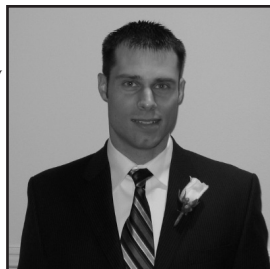
Tom and Sue reside in Brookfield with their three children, Sean, Michael and

Caitlin, triplets, who are age 9. Tom is an ophthalmologist/retinal surgeon and Sue is a CPA, who is currently a stay-at-home mom.

### Rob Dummer

Rob and his wife, Mary, who is already a member of First Congregational, were married here in 2008.

Rob is a Senior Project Manager for Horizon Retail Construction, which builds retail stores across the country. Rob and Mary live in Greendale and are the proud parents of eight week-old William.



### Dawn Kleinke

Dawn is an ICU nurse at Children's Hospital. She resides in Wauwatosa and has six sons, Matt 23, Paul 20, Alex 15,

Trent 14, Reid 12 and Jack 9.

—Lucy Hantzsch

## Coffee Hour in Four Easy Steps:

1. Cookies and Pastries: Arrange cookies and pastries on a big plate. Kids are especially good at creating patterns.
2. Coffee: This one's easy because the coffee is made for you! People are especially happy if you remember the extras, like sugar and cream.
3. Kids' snacks: Fill a couple of baskets with Goldfish, pretzels or Oreos. If you're really nice, you can fill them up again. And again.
4. Clean-up: Stand by a big garbage can and smile irresistibly. This task is perfect for cute kids.

Interested? Contact Ninveh Neuman, Fellowship Chair.

—Natalie Wysong



## Congregational COLUMNS

www.FirstChurchTosa.org

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Rev. Steven Peay, Ph.D.,  
Senior Minister

Rev. Jan Kwiatkowski, M.S., M.F.T.,  
Interim Associate Minister

Rev. Barry Szymanski, J.D.,  
Associate Minister

Rev. Charles Goldsmith, Ph.D.,  
Congregational Home Chaplain

Cindy Payette, Administrator  
Lee Jacobi, Director of Music

Thomas Gregory, Organist

Anne Callen, Office &  
Administrative Coordinator

Kelly Turner, Office &  
Financial Coordinator

Columns Coordinator,  
Anne Callen

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# Delicious Brunch Followed the Annual Meeting

A BIG Thank you to the Fellowship Board for all their work!

Folks enjoy the wonderful food at the Fellowship Brunch held on January 17.



## February 1st is the Last Day

to purchase tickets for the **APPALACHIAN MISSION TRIP DINNER & AUCTION**. Only 150 tickets will be sold. The high school mission trip team will be holding a Mardi Gras dinner and auction from 5:30 PM until 9:30 PM to raise funds for their 2010 summer trip to Appalachia on **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6**.

Join us for our celebration as John Sgarlata and his culinary team serve a four-course Cajun and Creole dinner including Acadian Peppered Shrimp, Sauteed Scallops with Andouille & Baby Greens, Chicken Jambalaya and King Cake. (Get the piece of cake with the baby inside, and you'll win a fabulous prize!)

There will be door prizes, a silent auction, a voice auction and musical entertainment. The cost for the dinner is **\$20 PER PERSON**. You may purchase tickets at the church office.

Some of our fabulous donated items include: a framed digital photograph by Rev. Barry Syzmanski, a nine-day stay at the lake home of Marc & Val Blazich (June 11-20) (sleeps 20 in beds), a framed print by artist Susan Rowbottom of the Wauwatosa Village, designer jewelry, purses, Packer tickets, Badger tickets, Brewers club seats, golf for four at Bluemound Country Club, long week-end stay at the Hayes condominium in Ephraim, long week-end stay at the McCanles/LaPorte home on Pickerel Lake in Eagle River (4 bedrooms + a loft), a week's stay in Sanibel Island, Florida at the Probst's ocean front condominium, homemade quilts, manicures and spa items, and many more wonderful items just waiting for your bid!

We hope you'll show your support for the students by coming to this fabulous event, which they have planned just for you! You will *not* be disappointed!

—Carla Cummings

# Sunday Symposium

**Sundays, 9 AM in Friendship Lounge**

**February 7:** *The Covenant Concept and its influence on the development of the Congregational ideas of the Church*  
Rev. Steven A. Peay, Ph.D.

**February 14:** *The Covenant Concept and its influence on the development of the Congregational ideas of the Church cont'd.*  
Rev. Steven A. Peay, Ph.D.

**February 21:** *Food and God: A Theological Approach to Eating, Diet, and Weight Control* by Joel Soza  
Rev. Steven A. Peay, Ph.D.

**February 28:** *Milwaukee Rescue Mission*  
Tom Griffey

## Drive-in Movie

**"Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian"**

**Friday, February 26, 6 PM**

**Friendship Lounge**

Something incredible is stirring at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C. Larry, the former night guard, must save his friends from being shipped off to storage. With the help of his historical friends, he finds that happiness is doing what you truly love. \$4 gets you all the pizza, popcorn and lemonade you can eat! Please sign up at the Gathering Table or contact the church office at 414-258-7375. Bring a friend or two with you!

—Mike Meyer

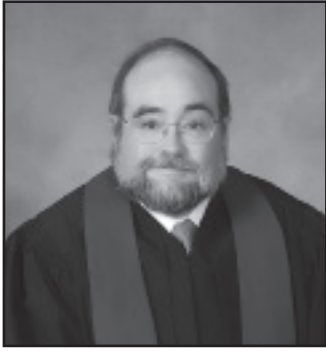
## Operating Statement Summary

**Year-to-date as of December 2009**

	<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>
Pledge Base Received	99.6%	102.7%
Pledge Income	\$801,388	\$793,184
Total Income	\$905,228	\$920,065
Total Expense	\$836,794	\$885,065
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$68,434</b>	<b>\$35,001</b>

*Detailed financials are available at the office.*

## Living Together in Unity



Psalm 133 begins: “How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!” Anyone who was present at the Annual Meeting of the Church on January 17<sup>th</sup> could have used those words and been quite accurate. We gathered, we worshipped, we received four new members into our fellowship and then we continued in a worshipful attitude as the business of the Church was done. The year that is past was reviewed, reports were received, the financial situation of the community (sound) was heard and we approved a balanced budget. Then many of the folk went up to the Social Hall and enjoyed a spectacular brunch that had been lovingly prepared by the members of the Board of Fellowship. Good and pleasant all the way ‘round!

Now, however, we have to move from the reportage and stock-taking to putting what we’ve learned into practice. One of the first areas where that can be applied relates directly to our Fellowship Board. Seven people cannot – and should not – be expected to do coffee hour week-in and week-out. Part of the

rationale for our new governance model was that we would empower (the good kind of ‘enabling’) our church members to move from “volunteering” to “owning” the activities of the Church. In other words, if we want things to happen here WE (that is ALL of us and not just boards or staff) need to make it happen. I’m looking forward to seeing a goodly number of folk signing up to help make coffee hour happen.

That said, we can talk about the season that comes upon us pretty quickly once February comes around: Lent and its effect on our lives. Remember the nursery rhyme: “Ring around the rosy/Pocketful of Posey/Ashes/Ashes/We all fall down!” When I found out what it really meant years later I was shocked. That innocent rhyme really has to do with the bubonic plague that more than decimated late medieval Europe. The rhyme, like so many things including ‘dark humor,’ was a means to overcome devastation and panic. It was a way to bring an unmanageable world to some kind of manageable state.

Like the rhyme, the seasons of the Church Year are also a means for us to bring some sense and order into our world. We have come through a season of expectant waiting (Advent) to one of joy and hope fulfilled (Christmas) and of new relationship revealed (Epiphany). Now we are poised to enter a season that is itself somewhat dark, one that calls us to serious

self-reflection – Lent.

As we know, the word ‘lent’ actually comes from the Old English word for ‘spring’ or the lengthening of the days (lencten). It is a period of forty days that is to symbolically remind us of the forty years of Israel’s wandering during the Exodus event and of Jesus’ period of temptation before he began his public ministry. (It is actually a little longer since the Sundays are not included in counting the season since they’re each a “little Easter.”) Traditionally it has provided Christians an occasion to take stock of their spiritual life and practice. It’s also an opportunity to examine our priorities and, perhaps, to find some ways to re-align them in such a way that they better fit our profession of being “followers of Jesus Christ.” That’s why people talk about “giving something up for Lent.” A beneficial form of “give up” can be what one teacher of the early Church talked about – giving up selfishness by doing some sacrificial act of kindness for someone else. Almsgiving, the giving of money for the benefit of the poor and disadvantaged, is an ancient and honorable tradition practiced during Lent.

I would argue that while “give ups” can be good, especially if it is a “give up” that helps your spiritual life, your relationships, or your health, “take ups” can be even better! If you don’t take the time to pray, read the Bible, or do some sort of spiritual exercise each

day – take it up for forty days. “As with any exercise, as I am discovering on a personal level, it only has an effect when we actually DO IT. So those spiritual exercises, like prayer and reading and study-group, have to get the same kind of use as that stationary bicycle or the treadmill or the gym membership. Lent is the time to take them up – spiritual and physical exercise alike and both/ and rather than either/ or! There will be ample opportunities for re-prioritizing and growing in our spiritual exercise during this season here at First Congregational Church, as you can see elsewhere in this issue. One of the “take-ups” we can do is to “take-on” a coffee hour, be an usher, a greeter or a communion server. Lent is a great time to make the adjustments in our priorities that help us to make a difference as we become different, renewed and united to the Lord.

Lent soon gives way to Easter and all the way along we see “how good and how pleasant it is” to be God’s people.

Yours in the Lord’s service,  
Steve

*Rev. Steven A. Peay, Ph.D.  
Senior Minister*

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## Church Family

**Death**  
**Jean Morton,**

died December 13

# February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 8 PM AA	<b>2</b> 9 AM Retired Men's Club of Tosa 10:30 AM Music Jamboree 7 PM Boy Scouts	<b>3</b> 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 7 AM Women's Ministry 9:30 & 10:30 AM Music Jamboree 6 PM Debtors Anonymous	<b>4</b> 9 AM Big Band 10 AM @CH - Sidetracks 6:30 PM Jubilation Ringers reh. 7:30 PM Choir of First Church reh.	<b>5</b> 8:15 AM Cook for St. Vincent's 9 AM Harmony Singers 4:15 PM Serve at St. Vincent's	<b>6</b> 9 AM Breakfast w/the Girls 9:30 AM Music Jamboree 5:30 PM ASP Dinner & Auction Fundraiser
<b>7</b> 8 AM Worship in the Chapel/Communion 9 AM Discovery Adults, Discovery Kids, Junior Choir reh., Breakfast Club, Jr. Breakfast Club 10 AM Worship in the Nave/Communion/Sunday School 11 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:15 AM Covenant Class #1	<b>8</b> 9 AM @CH - Sub. Retired Men's Club 5:30 PM Faith Finders (dinner at 5p) 7 PM Bd/Trustees 8 PM AA	<b>9</b> 10:30 AM Music Jamboree 12 PM Circle 7 5 PM Music by the Lake Auditions 7 PM Boy Scouts	<b>10</b> 6:30 AM Men's Ministry 7 AM Women's Ministry 9 AM Cream City Rug Club 9:30 & 10:30 AM Music Jamboree 4:30 PM Personnel 5 PM Music by the Lake Auditions (snow date) 6 PM Debtors Anonymous	<b>11</b> 9 AM Big Band 10 AM Sidetracks 6:30 PM Jubilation Ringers reh. 7:30 PM Choir of First Church reh.	<b>12</b> 9 AM Harmony Singers 10 AM @CH - Hug-a-Tot	<b>13</b> 9:30 AM Music Jamboree
<b>14</b> 8 AM Worship in the Chapel 9 AM Discovery Adults, Discovery Kids, Junior Choir reh., Breakfast Club, Jr. Breakfast Club, Jubilation Ringers reh. 10 AM Worship in the Nave/Jubilation Ringers/Sunday School 11 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:15 AM Covenant Class #2 4 PM Joint Jr./Sr. PF 6 PM Ulster Project	<b>15</b> 8 PM AA	<b>16</b> 9 AM Ret. Men's Club of Tosa 10:30 AM Music Jamboree 6 PM Chili Cook-off and Dessert Bake-off 7 PM Boy Scouts, Historic Heights Book Club, Tosa Quilters	<b>17</b> 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 7 AM Women's Ministry 9:30 AM Music Jamboree 10 AM Ash Wednesday Worship 10:30 AM Music Jamboree 6 PM Debtors Anonymous 7:30 PM Ash Wednesday Worship	<b>18</b> 9 AM Big Band 10 AM Sidetracks 6:30 PM Jubilation Ringers reh. 7:30 PM Choir of First Church reh.	<b>19</b> 9 AM Harmony Singers	<b>20</b> 9:30 AM Music Jamboree
<b>21</b> 8 AM Worship in the Chapel 9 AM Discovery Adults, Discovery Kids, Junior Choir reh., Breakfast Club, Jr. Breakfast Club 10:00 AM Worship in the Nave/Sunday School 11 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:15 AM Covenant Class #1	<b>22</b> 9 AM @CH-Sub. Retired Men's Club, Sub. Women's Club of Tosa Bd 8 PM AA	<b>23</b> 9 AM Retired Men's Club Bd 10:30 AM Music Jamboree 7 PM Governing Bd, Boy Scouts	<b>24</b> 6:30 AM Men's Ministry 7 AM Women's Ministry 9:30 & 10:30 AM Music Jamboree 11 AM Senior Women/Circle 12 6 PM Debtors Anonymous 6:30 PM Lenten Programming - Living Compass, Gilbert Society	<b>25</b> 9 AM Big Band 10 AM Sidetracks 6:30 PM Jubilation Ringers reh. 7:30 PM Choir of First Church reh.	<b>26</b> 9 AM Harmony Singers 6 PM Drive-in Movie	<b>27</b> 9:30 AM Music Jamboree
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