

# Church Family

## Death

Arthur Kletti died June 11, 2010

## Baptisms

William Frederick Krause, IV,  
son of Bill & Amanda Krause,  
baptized June 13, 2010

Holly Lenore Henry,  
daughter of Peter & Amy Henry,  
baptized June 20, 2010

The deadline for submitting articles for the next issue of the Columns is  
Friday, July 9 at noon.  
Please email articles to Anne Callen at callena@firstchurchtosa.org.  
Hard copy may be brought to the church office  
and left in the Columns mailbox.

# Lectionary Readings

## Texts Used in Worship

July 4 . . . . . **Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**  
New Testament . . . . . Galatians 6:1-16  
Psalmody . . . . . Psalm 30  
Gospel . . . . . Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 11 . . . . . **Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**  
Old Testament . . . . . Amos 7:7-17  
Psalmody . . . . . Psalm 82  
New Testament . . . . . Colossians 1:1-14  
Gospel . . . . . Luke 10:25-37

July 18 . . . . . **Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**  
Old Testament . . . . . Amos 8:1-12  
Psalmody . . . . . Psalm 52  
New Testament . . . . . Colossians 1:15-28  
Gospel . . . . . Luke 10:38-42

July 25 . . . . . **Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**  
New Testament . . . . . Colossians 2:6-19  
Psalmody . . . . . Psalm 85  
Gospel . . . . . Luke 11:1-13

Dated Material - Please deliver immediately.

Wauwatosa, WI 53213-2593  
1511 Church Street

The First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa

USPS 010-493  
Periodical  
Postage  
PAID  
Milwaukee, WI  
53203-9998



July 2010

# CONGREGATIONAL COLUMNS

A newsletter of First Congregational Church – Wauwatosa

## New Sunday School Leadership!!

### In This Issue

#### Page 2

Column from Rev. Szymanski  
Tailgate Picnic

#### Page 3

Calendar

#### Page 4

Column from Rev. Kwiatkowski  
Theology Uncorked  
2010 Confirmands

#### Page 5

Family Camp  
Pictorial Directory  
Softball Schedule  
“The Creator’s Playground”  
Operating Statement

#### Page 6

Church Family  
Lectionary

We want to welcome our new Sunday School Director, Tonia Wallner, to the staff. Tonia has been a member of the church since early 2004. She and her husband, Steve, were married here in August of the same year.



Tonia has a degree in physical education and health administration and is currently a physical education teacher and the Athletic Director at Catholic East Elementary School, located on the east side of Milwaukee.

She had previously worked at UWM for five years as the assistant basketball coach. It was during her tenure there that she discovered she wanted to direct her skills towards working with young people, rather than teaching adults.

Tonia said she had been trying to find a way to connect with the church and with the young people and their families. She had already committed to going on the Mission Trip as a way

to accomplish that goal, and then this opportunity came along.

Tonia believes that volunteers are the lifeblood of the church. She anticipates working with the teachers in the Sunday school because she feels they are a strong component of volunteerism at First Church. Tonia is enthusiastic about being able to teach our youngsters about the love of

Jesus, the Bible, and how Congregationalism works. She has already witnessed the excitement and innocence (and fun?) they can have while doing so, and looks forward to being part of that educational process. Tonia is anxious to get to know you, so drop by the Sunday school office and introduce yourself one day soon!

—Cindy Payette

## Search Process Update

Here is a quick update on the search process and a solicitation for help. The initial timeline that I shared with you has slipped a bit; however, this will not affect our objective of having a new Senior Minister in place by no later than June 1, 2011. I am in the process of selecting a facilitator to help us through the process and I expect that listening sessions will occur within three or four weeks after the facilitator is identified. Our goal is to hold roughly six or seven sessions with 10 - 12 participants per session. For a church of our size, this is a good representative sampling.

A handful of you have expressed interest in being on the Search Committee. I am in the midst of identifying prospective committee members in order to create a 12-person committee that represents a cross-section of our membership. Most of the people who approached me did so in brief hallway conversations after a service, and I admit that I may not have a complete recollection of each person who has offered to serve on the committee. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please e-mail me at [mblazich@yahoo.com](mailto:mblazich@yahoo.com) or give me a call on my cell at 414-530-0455 so that I will be sure to include you in the list of prospective committee members. If you have already e-mailed me, I have you down, so there is no need to re-confirm.

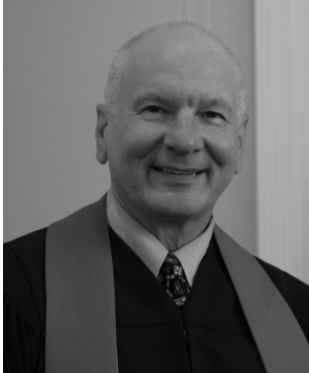
—Marc Blazich, Moderator

Members of the ASP Mission Team were commissioned during the June 13th worship service.



# Freedom

Freedom is an elusive concept. For some, it is freedom to commit a crime. For others it is freedom to abuse their bodies, for example, with drugs. For others, it is freedom to be able to do more good in the world. Paul, in his letter to the Corinthian Church community reminded them to “take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.” And later asked them rhetorical questions about himself, “Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord?” Paul stated that his freedom was not to take liberties, but to serve God. John the Baptist, when asked who he was by the priests and Levites who went to him from Jerusalem, “confessed and did not deny it, but freely announced, ‘I am not the Messiah.’”  
*John 1:20.*



As humans we have freedom. Freedom is from God himself. And the freedom we have is to make choices. Grow or petrify. Learn or become dull. Enter into relationships or become isolated. Continue to turn toward God or simply turn away from God. Be happy regardless of the circumstances or roll in discontent. When John the Baptist said he was not the Messiah, he was stating the obvious to himself, he was not a

god – but he also told them, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord.’” John’s choice in freedom was to announce to people that the Lord God was coming and that their minds and hearts should be ready to accept the incarnate Word, the Messiah.  
*John 1:23.*

Both John and Paul showed their complete surrender to God. They were both brutally honest with themselves. They tossed their self-esteem aside, and in doing so fully invited God’s Holy Spirit to enter into their lives. This, I believe, is what Jesus meant when he told those who believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”  
*John 8:31-32.*

As we commemorated Memorial Day by honoring those who gave their lives for our country’s freedom, and as we celebrate the 4th of July and the birth of our country’s freedom, let us remember that the source of freedom is God himself, and the sacrifice of Jesus in giving us true freedom. Therefore, let us freely live and work in accord with our prayer, that “Thy Kingdom come and Thy Will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” That is what John the Baptist and Paul did. That is what our great country is capable of – fulfilling God’s Will in this world. Let us play our parts in His work.

—Rev. Barry W. Szymanski, J.D.  
*Minister of Pastoral Care*

## First Congregational Church Tailgate Picnic

Tuesday, July 27, 5:15 PM @Hart Park

Come cheer on FCC’s Softball Team at the annual Church Tailgate Picnic to be held on Tuesday, July 27. Join us at Hart Park at 5:15 PM (the game starts at 6:00) for a delicious meal. Chef John Sgarlata will prepare the tailgate fare; we just need some volunteers to bring desserts!

The menu includes: Brats, Hot Dogs, Italians with sauteed peppers, Green Olive Salad, and Italian Pasta Salad.

Please sign up at the Gathering Table in the Atrium or contact the church office at [callena@firstchurchtosa.org](mailto:callena@firstchurchtosa.org). Reservations must be pre-paid. Cost: age 10 and up/\$6, age 6 – 9/\$4, 5 and under/free. Please sign up by Thursday, July 22.



## Congregational COLUMNS

[www.FirstChurchTosa.org](http://www.FirstChurchTosa.org)

Tel: (414) 258-7375

Fax: (414) 258-1688

Rev. Jan Kwiatkowski, M.S., M.F.T.,  
Minister for Family Life and  
Christian Formation

Rev. Barry Szymanski, J.D.,  
Minister of Pastoral Care

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

Congregational Columns (USPS 010-493) is published monthly by The First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa, 1511 Church St., Wauwatosa, WI 53213-2593, (414) 258-7375. Periodical Postage Paid at Milwaukee, WI 53203-9998. Postmaster: Send address changes to Congregational Columns, 1511 Church St., Wauwatosa, WI 53213-2593.

Vol. 25, Issue 7



# 2010 Family Camp

**Dates: August 6 - 7**

**(Friday evening thru Saturday afternoon)**

**Location: Lutherdale Ministries Camp in Elkhorn, WI  
([www.lutherdale.org](http://www.lutherdale.org))**

•Yurts (wooden floors with canvas tops and sides) sleep 8 people for \$10/person

•Tent camping is \$20 per tent (you supply the tent)

•A campfire where we can bring and cook our own food

•A lifeguard (at a cost of \$30 per hour) from 12:30 - 4:30 PM on Saturday

•E-mail Rev. Jan at [kwiatkowskij@firstchurchtosa.org](mailto:kwiatkowskij@firstchurchtosa.org) by June 30th if you plan on coming.



Bring the **WHOLE** family!

## New Pictorial Directory Plans

Plans are under way for our new pictorial directory. Pictures will be taken at the church, starting September 19th and will run through early October. Additionally, the photographer will travel to shut-ins' homes and to Congregational Home. Watch for specific dates in future publications.

Schedule a time in the church Atrium beginning Sunday, July 18 and continuing through August 15<sup>th</sup>. For those families who can not make the September/October time-

frame or those who would like to include their college-age child in the picture before school starts, please contact Moments and Memories directly at 262-560-

0787 to schedule a picture to be taken at their studio. They are located at 1809 Summit Avenue, Oconomowoc.



We will need volunteers to manage the reservation table, make telephone reminder calls, and act as hosts/hostesses when pictures are being taken. This is a short and fun fellowship opportunity. Please contact the office, 414-258-7375. Thanks!

—Sue Boettcher

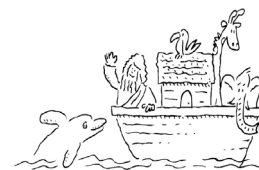
## Tuesday Night Church League Softball Schedule

Date	Time	Location
July 6	7:40 PM	Whitman Field
July 13	8:30 PM	Hart Park
July 20	9:20 PM	Whitman Field
July 27	6:00 PM	Hart Park
August 3	6:50 PM	Whitman Field

## "The Creator's Playground"

This summer's Vacation Bible School will take place the evenings of August 2nd, 3rd and 4th from 5 - 7:30 PM, and our theme will focus us on the Creation Story. Rev. Jan Kwiatkowski and Tonia Wallner are in the process of creating the curriculum, format and activities for the program. We will begin with a family meal each evening from 5 - 5:30, and the programming will begin following the meal. **ANY and ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH ARE WELCOME TO COME AND EAT WITH THE CHILDREN.** It's important that they know the entire church supports the time and energy our children give to learning what it means to live as a Christian person.

We will be looking for adults, tweens and teens to help with food, art, activities, teaching the stories, and general support wherever needed. You may contact Tonia Wallner at [wallnert@firstchurchtosa.org](mailto:wallnert@firstchurchtosa.org) about volunteering for these three nights.



**Join Us At VBS!**

We are looking forward to these three evenings with the youngest members of the church community. Registration forms may be found on our website <http://www.firstchurchtosa.org/documents/registrationform.pdf> or on the Welcome Table in the Atrium. *Please return completed forms to Tonia by July 23rd.*

Vacation Bible School is for children entering JK through entering 6th grade. The cost is \$10/first child; \$5/each additional child; \$20/maximum per family. Don't forget to ask your friends, family, and neighbors to come too!

Happy Summer!

—Jan and Tonia

## Operating Statement Summary Year-to-date as of May 2010

	Current Year	Prior Year
Pledge Base Received	34.2%	39.5%
Pledge Income	\$268,678	\$317,987
Total Income	\$360,032	\$380,554
Total Expense	\$344,990	\$326,246
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$15,043</b>	<b>\$54,308</b>

*Detailed financials are available at the office.*



# A Good and Holy Thing



As I write this, it is obvious that God is always calling us out of our comfort zones and to get out of our own way. This is nothing new for God's people. It is not new for some to be excited, dreaming big dreams, angry, sad, ambivalent or apathetic. God has certainly called a mixed bunch. And as Steve would say: "That is a good and holy thing." I'd like to highlight several places where I have seen and experienced the good and holy evidence that God is in our mixed midst.

I've had many one-on-one conversations with people of all ages. There is a

hunger here to know how to live a Christian life in the context of very busy lives. Consistent questions are: "What does it mean to be a Christian today?", "I don't know if I believe anything, anymore and what do I do about it?", "I never really learned how to pray, is what I am doing OK?", "I am so angry at God and I don't want to be...will I go to hell?" Those are good and holy questions.

Several families at all stages have had the courage to wrestle with some hard personal and family concerns, wanting to be the best people, the best family they could be. These are soft, vulnerable places to be invited into. That tells me of the safety and trust we are beginning to experience with each other. And that is a good and holy thing.

Church members of all ages have a sense of play: whether it be at a Circle 7 luncheon, the Pizza Supper,

the family programming sessions, Family Camp, the Christmas Play and Workshop, pumpkin carving, or Faith and Film. And as you know, the list goes on. Play keeps us from taking ourselves and our role in God's kingdom on earth too seriously. Play reminds us to be spontaneous and let go, even within the rules of the game. Play reminds us we play by God's rules and not ours. And that is a good and holy thing.

The authenticity of so many conversations about PF, the Christmas Play, worship, Christian Education from nursery to adult, at staff meetings, in extending the right hand of fellowship and the holy waters of Baptism, at weddings, funerals and pastoral visits is life-giving. It's experienced in the sung and life-giving "conversations" offered during worship by our magnificent choir and in small group meetings with

our youth at Starbucks. Again, these are good and holy things.

The time of transition that is upon all of us is a good and holy thing. Some are excited, embracing and dreaming of new things. Some are angry, sad, ambivalent or apathetic. But the reality is that God is always calling us to do a new thing. . . just as God is always doing a new thing. Pulling together all that I have heard, experienced, learned and prayed about, I am (we are) in the process of trying on and tweaking for the new program year, so that this mixed bunch may more effectively be the church in this time and place. Stay tuned. All this is in God's hands and that is a good and holy thing.

—Rev. Jan Kwiatkowski,  
M.S., M.F.T.  
Minister for Family Life and  
Christian Formation

## Theology Uncorked



Join members of First Congregational, Trinity Episcopal, and Wauwatosa Avenue United Methodist at VINO 100 for an informal discussion about how our understanding of theology influences our response to the world we live in. The Rev. Gary Manning of Trinity Episcopal, The Rev. Jan Kwiatkowski of First Congregational, and The Rev. Sue Burwell of Wauwatosa Avenue United Methodist will facilitate the discussions. We'll gather at 7 PM on July 21st ("Do we need Jesus in order to be Christians?") and August 18th ("Why prayer?"). VINO 100 is located at 1442 Underwood Avenue. In an increasingly pluralistic culture (not to mention in the global village), the historic Christian claim that Jesus is the Son of God presents challenges to ecumenical dialogue. Is it possible to be a "Christ-less Christian"? This is the topic for discussion on July 21st. Join us!

## Covenant Class 2010



2010 Confirmands: (Top) Andrew Duszynski, Alex Probst, Matthew Simpson, Stuart Vander Velde, Nick Galfano (Middle) Rev. Szymanski, Barb Holtz, Bobby Russ, Emily Dueker, Rev. Kwiatkowski, Dr. Peay (Bottom) Will Blazek, McCall Hoerz, Amanda Cummings, Hayley Sawyer, Jack Peterson, Zoe Harmon

# July 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 9 AM Big Band 10 AM Sidetracks	<b>2</b> 8:15 AM Cook for St. Vincent's 4:15 PM Serve at St. Vincent's	<b>3</b> 9:30 & 10:30 AM Music Jamboree
<b>4</b> 8 AM Worship in the Chapel/Communion 10 AM Worship in the Nave/Communion/Children in Church/Summer Sunday School/Nursery 11 AM Coffee Fellowship	<b>5</b> 4th of July Holiday - church closed	<b>6</b> 9:30 & 10:30 AM Music Jamboree 7:40 PM @Whitman Field - Men's Softball	<b>7</b> 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 9 AM Staff Retreat (church closed from 9 AM - 1 PM) 6 PM Debtors Anonymous	<b>8</b> 9 AM Big Band 10 AM Sidetracks	<b>9</b> 10 AM @CH - Hug-a-Tot	<b>10</b> 9:30 & 10:30 AM Music Jamboree
<b>11</b> 8 AM Worship in the Chapel 9 AM Bd/Fellowship 10 AM Worship in the Nave/Children in Church/Summer Sunday School/Nursery 11 AM Coffee Fellowship 3 PM WCA Summer Camp begins	<b>12</b> 7 PM Bd/Trustees 8 PM AA	<b>13</b> 9:30 & 10:30 AM Music Jamboree 8:30 PM @Hart Park - Men's Softball	<b>14</b> 6:30 AM Men's Ministry 9 AM Cream City Rug Club 4:30 PM Personnel 5:30 PM Bd/Stewardship 6 PM Debtors Anonymous	<b>15</b> 9 AM Big Band 10 AM Sidetracks, Church Directory mtg.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9:30 & 10:30 AM Music Jamboree 12:30 PM WCA Summer Camp ends
<b>18</b> 8 AM Worship in the Chapel 9 AM Directory Picture sign-up 10 AM Worship in the Nave/Children in Church/Summer Sunday School/Nursery 11 AM Coffee Fellowship	<b>19</b> 8 PM AA	<b>20</b> 9:30 & 10:30 AM Music Jamboree 2 PM @CH - Alzheimer's Support Group 5 PM Tosa Quilters 9:20 PM @Whitman Field - Men's Softball	<b>21</b> NO Men's Bible Study 6 PM Debtors Anonymous 7 PM @VINO 100 - Theology Uncorked	<b>22</b> 9 AM Big Band 10 AM Sidetracks	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9:30 & 10:30 AM Music Jamboree
<b>25</b> 8 AM Worship in the Chapel/Communion 9 AM Directory Picture sign-up 10 AM Worship in the Nave/Communion/Children in Church/Summer Sunday School/Nursery 11 AM Coffee Fellowship	<b>26</b> 8 PM AA	<b>27</b> 9:30 & 10:30 AM Music Jamboree 5:15 PM @Hart Park - Tailgate Picnic 6:00 PM @Hart Park - Men's Softball 7 PM Governing Bd	<b>28</b> 6:30 AM Men's Ministry 6 PM Debtors Anonymous	<b>29</b> 9 AM Big Band 10 AM Sidetracks	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 9:30 & 10:30 AM Music Jamboree