

The First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa
1511 Church Street
Wauwatosa, WI 53213-2593

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

Dated Material - Please deliver immediately.

Church Family

Deaths

Nancy Stevens passed away January 11, 2013.

Elaine Wieand passed away January 14, 2013.



Lectionary Reading - Ash Wednesday

February 13 **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

The deadline for submitting articles for the next issue of the Columns is
Friday, February 8 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

February 3 **4th Sunday After the Epiphany**
Old Testament Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalmody Psalm 71:1-6
New Testament 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Gospel Luke 4:21-30

February 10 **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 **1st 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 24 **2nd 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



February 2013

CONGREGATIONAL COLUMNS

A newsletter of First Congregational Church – Wauwatosa

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Just for Youth

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Lectionary

Our youth had fun bowling at Bluemound Bowl for their January Special Event.



Moderator's Comments

I humbly submit my Moderator's Report as a testament not of what one man has accomplished or can accomplish alone, but as an allegory of that which has been and can be accomplished by a greater consciousness.

In October 2011 our congregation could have been characterized as having two conflicting ways of life, and two vastly different ways in which our human minds engaged in the thought process. Logic and emotion were separated into separate sides, or hemispheres, of the collective brain. Finding the balance point between logic and emotion was the challenge that we had to face, and embrace, together. I believe that we have made great strides in that respect, in the way we are working together for a brighter future for First Church and our community. My fondest hope is that we continue to deepen that understanding as we go forward into the unknown.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to First Church for allowing me to be your Moderator for the past year and a half. As a way to put words to my own logic and emotions, I'll quote one of my heroes, lyricist Neil Peart from the final scene of Cygnus X-1 Book II-Hemispheres:

The Sphere: A Kind of Dream

We can walk our road together if our goals are all the same.
We can run alone and free if we pursue a different aim.
Let the truth of love be lighted, let the love of truth shine clear.
Sensibility, armed with sense and liberty,
With the Heart and Mind united in a single... perfect... Sphere.

God Bless you, the future of First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa, Wisconsin!

Sincerely,
Steve Russ, Moderator

Memorials and Special Gifts at Work

It was over three years ago when James Forester, Nancy Hayes, Mary Bero, and Martha Bruss approached our Senior Minister with a gift they wanted to make to the First Congregational Church in memory and honor of their parents, Richard and Grace Forester. Mrs. Forester passed away in 2009, and had been one of our longest active members, having joined the church in 1922. Her husband was a member for almost fifty years.



was rebuilt in 1996, this part of the project was not done, and through the years, people have expressed comments that it seemed "unfinished." After more than eighteen months of trial and error, along with a great deal of perseverance, their vision to illuminate our church throughout the community has become a reality.

We invite you to "look up" when you are in the village area some evening in the near future. You will see the symbol of First Church shining brightly throughout our community. We all extend our special thanks to the entire Forester family for making this possible.

The children designated their special gift to go towards lighting the top slate area of our beloved church steeple. When the steeple

A New Way to Begin the Lenten Journey

The Board of Deacons is excited to announce an evening meditation on Ash Wednesday. Please join the Deacons and Pastor Barry on Ash Wednesday, February 13 at 6 PM for an Ash Wednesday Gathering: "The Beginning of the Lenten Journey." Pastor Barry will facilitate this meditative and discussion session to commence the season of Lent.

Lent is an anticipatory and a preparatory time. We know that Easter arrives weeks after Ash Wednesday. But what are we expecting? How do we plan? Why should we await Easter? Scripture is filled with meditations suitable for Lent. You can certainly start with the parable of the sower. Some seed fell on good ground; some seed fell on rocky ground; some among thorns. How will your soul best nourish the seed of God's Word?

An optional 15-minute offering of the ashes in the Chapel will immediately follow the 45-minute meditation and conversation. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to begin the Lenten season with prayer and reflection.

*Rev. Dr. Barry Szymanski, Minister of Pastoral Care
Tom Schalmo - Chair, Board of Deacons*

Spoons at the Ready: The Chili Cook-off is Coming

Whether your style is "five alarm" or "white bean," you are welcome to enter the Chili Cook-off and Dessert Competition on Sunday, February 10 from 11 AM until 1 PM in the Social Hall. This delicious chili/dessert buffet is only \$5 for adults, \$3 for children age 4-12, and FREE for little ones age 3 and under. Or, take advantage of the family package price of \$15. Sign up on the sheet located on the Gathering Table or contact the church office (414-258-7375) to secure your lunch reservation. We ask that you please pre-pay.

Chili entries: Drop off your crockpot of chili in the Social Hall between 8:30 - 10 AM on Sunday, February 10. Dessert entries: Cut your dessert into small pieces (think one-inch squares), so everyone can have a taste.



The top three vote getters in each category will be announced at the end of the meal. In addition to the taste testing, the menu includes chili by John Sgarlata, rolls, vegetable sticks, hot dogs/buns, chips, and assorted toppings. Take that secret recipe out of the vault and get ready to shine!

—Marianne King

Discovery Hour

•Sunday, February 3, 8:45 AM

**Sunday Symposium -
in the Lounge**
TBD

•Sunday, February 10, 8:45 AM

**Sunday Symposium -
in the Lounge**
TBD

•Sunday, February 17, 8:45 AM

**Sunday Symposium -
in the Lounge**
TBD

•Sunday, February 24, 8:45 AM

**Sunday Symposium -
in the Lounge**

Atty. Steve Hayes

"Abraham, Hagar, and the Wisconsin Supreme Court"
Steve will share his thoughts about placement rights in traditional surrogacy contests.

Lectionary Discussion -

**8:45 AM in the Chapel
Sunday, February 3, 10,
17, & 24**

A discussion of the Lectionary will take place. Folks of all ages are invited to join in the discussion.

Discovery Kids takes place in LL5 and childcare in the nursery is also available during the Discovery Hour time period.

—Tonia Wallner
and
Jennifer Wakefield



Congregational
COLUMNS

www.FirstChurchTosa.org

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Rev. William S. Trump, Jr.
Senior Minister

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

Rev. Joseph Phillips,
Congregational Home Chaplain

Cindy Payette, Administrator

Tonia Wallner, Director of
Christian Education

Michael "Chip" Smith,
Building Superintendent

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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. 28, Issue 2





Sunday School

•Sunday, February 3, 10, 17, & 24

Sunday School, for ages 3 – 5th grade, will be held at 10 AM

Children will begin in church with their families. They will be dismissed to Sunday School during the worship service.

Discovery Kids

•Sunday, February 3, 10, 17, & 24

Discovery Kids meets most Sundays from 8:45 - 9:45 AM in room LL5

Kids enjoy this special time of additional activities, led by Sarah DeYoung, before their traditional Sunday School at 10 AM. Those who rehearse with the choir will join them after practice. Older youth are invited to help lead.

Faith Finders

•Monday, February 11

This is a fellowship group, which is specifically designed for students in first grade through fifth grade. It meets on the second Monday of the month. Our Faith Finders meetings consist of several great activities including singing, fellowship, games, and program time. The meetings begin with an optional dinner at 5 PM, followed by programming from 5:30 - 6:30 PM. Friends are welcome! The cost of the dinner is \$3 per person. This month you'll enjoy Tacos! We'll also have a special Valentine's Day celebration!

Covenant Class I & II

•Sunday, February 3 & 17

Covenant Class meets at 11:15 AM in Friendship Lounge.

Covenant classes will take place on Sunday, February 3 & 17 at 11:15 AM for both groups.

PF Schedule for February

•Sunday, February 3, 10, 17, & 24

Junior PF meets from 10:15 - 11:00 AM

Senior PF meets from 10:15 - 11:00 AM

PF Special Event:

•Sunday, February 10

Curling at Tosa Curling Club (Hart Park) from 4 - 6 PM

Bring your warm clothes, hats, gloves, and a couple of friends to this unique event! The youth will receive a demonstration on how to curl from the Elwing family, followed by the opportunity to try curling for themselves.

We will follow the curling experience with a warm homemade supper. The cost is \$4 per person. Please sign up on the sheet located on the Gathering Table in the Atrium or contact me at toniawallner@yahoo.com. (Consent forms are a MUST.)

30 Hour Famine/PF Spring Rally

Friday, February 22 and Saturday, February 23

The 30 Hour Famine and PF Spring Rally will be held here at First Church on Friday, February 22 and Saturday, February 23. The weekend begins at 6:30 PM on Friday evening and will conclude at 5 PM on Saturday afternoon.



This event is open to youth and teens, from Mini-Kamp to middle school to high school. This would include youth in grades four through twelve.

We will not only fast from food, we will fast from technology as well. The fast from food begins at 1 PM Friday (self-monitoring) and extends until breakfast Saturday morning when we begin the technology fast for the remainder of the 30 hours. Those who choose to fast from food for the full 30 hours are welcome to do so. The theme for the night is "The Hunger Games." Mini Kampers will have their own movie/activities. They are not participating fully in the fast from food, as it is not medically encouraged for children.

Please let me know if you are coming. There is a sign-up sheet located on the Gathering Table in the Atrium, or you can email me at toniawallner@yahoo.com.

—Tonia Wallner, Director of Christian Education

Thank you to all of the dear people who participated in the Giving Tree this year. More than 100 local foster children and orphans received the blessings of gifts and support from the generous members of First Congregational Church. Thank you sincerely!

—Therese Ramseyer,
Volunteer Coordinator for
Children's Hospital Community Services

Operating Statement Summary

Year-to-date as of December 2012

Detailed financials are available at the office.

	Current Year	Prior Year
Pledge Base Received	97.6%	97.8%
Pledge Income	\$547,413	\$667,387
Total Income	\$702,487	\$811,824
Total Expense	\$637,460	\$760,485
Net Income	\$ 65,027	\$ 51,339

Average Worship Attendance: 8 AM - 19, 10 AM - 194

Senior Minister's Report



These last four months have been some of the most exciting times in my life as I have begun my ministry at First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa. It has been a time of change to say the least. Change can be difficult as we let go of what is comfortable and familiar and greet new challenges and opportunities for life and ministry. The gracious and loving welcome of the members of First Church has been truly over-

whelming for Cathy and me. We cannot thank you enough.

In short, the life and ministries of First Congregational Church are healthy, and we should be proud of the good work over the last year. The center of our life together as Christians in one place is worship, and our time together each week is vital to our effectiveness as a Christian fellowship. We are truly blessed with an amazing group of professionals and volunteers. Our adult choir is one of the best I have heard and is complimented by a dedicated group of ringers in our bell choir and an enthusiastic children's choir. We include the children effectively in worship, and we all enjoy the thoughtful stories and lessons in the messages presented by Tonia. The openness and friendliness of the congregation is exemplified by the wonderful enthusiasm each week as we greet one another, and it continues as we share a time of fellowship after worshipping together. I have already made some changes in our worship services that seem to be well-received. Our challenge for the future is to continue to find new ways to keep our worship fresh and responsive to the changing world of our members.

The second major area of our ministry together is Christian Education. It is vital that we continue the level of excellence in the teaching of our faith to the children. We are blessed with amazing leadership and dedicated volunteers who lovingly minister to our children. This is the place for us to invest in the future by providing strong relevant curriculum and programs. Particularly impressive are the efforts to reach out to our young adults in our Covenant Class and Pilgrim Fellowship programs. We have set high standards as we seek to bring these young people from their childhood faith to one of mature understanding of both Christianity and our Congregational traditions. We seek to do this in a way that is relevant to the changing world of our young adults and builds a strong fellowship, as well as a sense of belonging. Adult education draws a loyal following of individuals who seek to grow in the knowledge and understanding of our faith and tradition. Members are given a variety of opportunities to grow including: Sunday Symposium, Lectionary Bible Study, as well as men's and women's study groups on Wednesday mornings and evenings. I urge all of our members to find ways that help them to grow in their faith through these programs for all ages.

I have been particularly impressed by the outstanding programs of outreach embraced by the membership of First Church. Particularly noteworthy is the annual ASP Mission Trip. The dedicated leadership and the effectiveness of this activity not only changes the lives of the participants but brings involvement to the whole church. Ministries such as cooking and serving for the St. Vincent Meal program, supporting the local food pantry, and our ongoing commitment to the National Association's missions, help to foster an increased awareness of the Christian ethic to reach out to those in need. The practice of dedicating 10% of our operating expenses to benevolences is healthy and should be a source of pride. Our goal in this area is to continue to increase awareness of, and connection to, our outreach programs by encouraging wider participation from the congregation.

Finally, the area of stewardship at First Congregational Church is a vital one as we move forward. I am impressed by the generosity of our members in supporting the work of the church. The Trustees do an outstanding job caring for our wonderful facility and enabling the many ministries of the church. It is also the area that will help us grow and provide innovative ways to increase our effectiveness. With continued growth of financial resources we will be able to provide for new program development and the expansion of our ministry to our members and the community that surrounds us.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the wonderful staff I have the privilege of working with. Their level of dedication and commitment impresses me each day, and I thank God for each and every one of them.

Times of growth and change can be difficult for a church. It can also be an exciting time as we seek to respond to God's call. I am excited about what the future holds for us, and I am honored to be in ministry with you.

With love and hope for our future together,
Bill Trump

Rev. Bill Trump
Senior Minister

February 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 8:15 AM Cook for St. Vincent's 9 AM Harmony Singers 4:15 PM Leave to Serve at St. Vincent's	2 9 AM Bach Double Violin Competition
3 8 AM Worship in the Chapel/Communion 8:45 AM Discovery Hour 9 AM Junior Choir reh. 10 AM Worship in the Nave/Communion/Children in Church/PF/Sunday School for ages 3 - 5th grade/Nursery 11 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:15 AM Covenant Class I & II	4 12:30 PM Heritage Garden Club 8 PM AA	5 6:30 PM Bd/Stewardship & Benevolences 7 PM Quilters Anonymous, Boy Scouts	6 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 7 AM Women's Ministry 9:30 AM @CH - Baking Group 6 PM Debtors Anonymous, Yell and Tell 7 PM Evening Bible Ministry	7 9 AM Big Band 10 AM Sidetracks 6:30 PM Jubilation Ringers reh. 7 PM Men's Choir reh. 7:30 PM Choir of First Church reh.	8 9 AM Harmony Singers 10 AM @CH - Hug-a-Tot	9
10 8 AM Worship in the Chapel 8:45 AM Discovery Hour 9 AM Junior Choir reh. 10 AM Worship in the Nave/Junior Choir/Children in Church/PF/Sunday School for ages 3 - 5th gde/Nursery 11 AM Chili Cook-off and Dessert Contest 4 PM PF Special Event - Curling at Tosa Curling Club	11 11:30 AM Wauwatosa Distinguished Citizen Award Council 5:30 PM Faith Finders (dinner at 5 PM) 6 PM Bd/Deacons, Yell and Tell 7 PM Bd/Trustees 8 PM AA	12 12 PM Circle 7 6 PM Ulster Project Bd, Yell and Tell 7 PM Boy Scouts	13 6:30 AM Men's Ministry 7 AM Women's Ministry 9 AM Cream City Rug Club 9:30 AM @CH - Baking Group 6 PM Lenten Gathering, Debtors Anonymous 7 PM Personnel	14 9 AM Big Band 10 AM Sidetracks 6:30 PM Jubilation Ringers reh. 7 PM Men's Choir reh. 7:30 PM Choir of First Church reh.	15 9 AM Harmony Singers	16 7:30 AM MSO Young Artists Auditions
17 8 AM Worship in the Chapel 8:45 AM Discovery Hour 9 AM Junior Choir reh. 10 AM Worship in the Nave/Men's Choir/Children in Church/PF/Sunday School for ages 3 - 5th gde/Nursery 11 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:15 AM Covenant Class I & II	18 10:30 AM @CH - Sing-a-Long w/Marj 7 PM Bd/Christian Education 8 PM AA	19 2 PM @CH - Alzheimer's Support Group 7 PM Boy Scouts, Historic Heights Book Club, Tosa Quilters	20 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 7 AM Women's Ministry 9:30 AM @CH - Baking Group 6 PM Debtors Anonymous 7 PM Evening Bible Ministry	21 9 AM Big Band 10 AM Sidetracks, @CH - Hymn Sing 6:30 PM Jubilation Ringers reh. 7:30 PM Choir of First Church reh.	22 9 AM Harmony Singers 6:30 PM PF Rally/30 Hour Famine begins	23 5 PM PF Rally/30 Hour Famine ends
24 8 AM Worship in the Chapel 8:45 AM Discovery Hour 9 AM Junior Choir reh., Jubilation Ringers reh. 10 AM Worship in the Nave/Jubilation Ringers/Children in Church/PF/Sunday School for ages 3 - 5th gde/Nursery 11 AM Coffee Fellowship	25 9 AM Suburban Women's Club of Tosa Bd 8 PM AA	26 7 PM Church Council, Boy Scouts	27 6:30 AM Men's Ministry 7 AM Women's Ministry 9:30 AM @CH - Baking Group 12 PM Senior Women/Circle 12 6 PM Bd/Fellowship, Debtors Anonymous 6:30 PM Master Gardners	28 9 AM Big Band 10 AM Sidetracks 6:30 PM Jubilation Ringers reh. 7:30 PM Choir of First Church reh.		