

JANUARY 2020

Volume 35 - Issue 1

The Congregational COLUMNS

Senior Minister's 2019 Annual Report

I had certainly not planned to end 2019 with by-pass surgery, but as I recuperate it has given me a chance to step back and look at our ministry together. I have appreciated the church's understanding and support during my recuperation.

We have completed our seventh year of ministry together and the time has flown by as we have shared both joys and sorrows. The focus of our life as a community of faith is our worship together and the most important as we seek God's will for the life of our church.

We are truly blessed in this church with dedicated members. This year has been one of strong member participation and leadership. Three areas deserve special note:

First, I must express my deepest thanks for the generosity in underwriting the church operating costs. While there are still a number of pledges to come in to fund the budget, I am pleased to say that the average amount pledged this year was over \$3,000 for the first time in the history of our church. Thank you so very much!

The second area to mention is a group of members last spring, in an effort to offer additional worship opportunities and build up our membership, began leading a casual worship service Saturdays at 4pm in the Chapel. The service has been led by a wide variety of lay persons of the church under the guidance of Pat Reddy, Peggy Griffith, and Maddie Sgarlata, among others.

The third area where members stepped up this past year was to take on the capital campaign to raise money to replace the elevator and remodel the Chancel. Their technical knowledge has helped move this important project forward. I was truly amazed at the efficiency of the capital campaign last September and even more astonished at the level of generosity of our membership. The campaign resulted in pledges of more than \$400,000.

The elimination of the administrator position has presented many significant challenges. Barry, Jill, Marianne, and Mark have all taken on additional duties and work together to ensure continued smooth operation of the church. We have been challenged with the need to update parts of our computer system and have begun to centralize the vendors we use to streamline operations.

There are many who make the work of our church so successful. When we work with one another always holding our actions and words to the standard of Christ's love, we are an effective witness for God in our community. I want to express my thanks for the hard work and commitment that make our ministry successful.

As I have said so often, I feel we must learn to address the unique needs and concerns of our day and the changing structure of society if we are to move effectively into the future. People have a diminishing amount of time to give to the church due to the demands on their time and energy. We must find new ways to respond to the changes in our world. The world has changed, and so must the church.

I am truly grateful to all those who have been so caring and supportive during this past year. God bless you all.

William S. Trump, Jr.
Senior Minister



THE COLUMNS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
IN WAUWATOSA

Enlightenment & Fellowship



Purloins of Wisdom

10^{am}-12^{noon} in the Library

We will meet the first Saturday of each month through the month of May.

Casual Worship

SATURDAY
UNDER THE STEEPLE

Saturdays at 4^{pm} in the Chapel

The Saturday service is a comfortable, "come as you are" worship time - whether it's right from running errands or before your evening plans. If you or someone you know might be looking for a new worship opportunity like this, please feel free to check it out and share with friends.

Taize-inspired Worship at FCC



We are pleased to once again offer Taize-inspired worship during the 8am services in our Chapel during the upcoming church year:

Jan. 19, Feb. 16, Mar. 15, May 10, and June 14.

We invite you to join us for a time of reflection, meditation, and prayer through song and scripture.

Chancel Flowers for 2020



Floral arrangements are needed for several dates during the coming year. Consider giving flowers in honor of or in memory of someone special in your life. Please sign up on the board in the Atrium or call the Church Office at 414.258.7375 to schedule a date to provide flowers for the 10 am Worship Service.

It's the Ladies' Turn to Sing



The women of First Church are invited to join the Women's Chorus, which will sing for the 10^{am} Worship Service on Sunday, March 1st. It's an exciting opportunity for women who don't regularly sing with the choir to be a part of our music ministry.

There will be three Sunday rehearsals in the Choir Room from 9:00 - 9:30^{am}: February 9, 15 and 23. Please contact Dr. Patrick Dill at dillp@firstchurchtosa.org if you have questions. We're looking forward to seeing you in the Choir Room for our first rehearsal on February 9th.

Discovery Hour



Adult Learning Hour

Sundays, 8:45 am in Room 107

We continue to follow Jesus through the four Gospels as he approaches the cross and resurrection. All are welcome and can come join us whenever your schedule permits. For more info, contact Pat at 414-771-8292.

Women's Ministry

Tuesday's 7:00 am in the Parlor

The group is working through the Book of Psalms and discussing how these ancient writings are still applicable in our modern world. Please bring your Bible and join us.

Men's Bible Study

January 15 in Room 107

Wednesdays, 6:30 am

Led by Bruce Milne, the group is currently studying the Book of Romans. Men's Bible Study meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month. They do not meet on the 5th Wednesday of the month when it occurs.

Men's Ministry

January 8 & 22 in Room 107

Wednesdays, 6:30 am

Annual Meeting



Sunday, January 26, 2020

Immediately following

10 am Worship Service

Please join us for the Annual Meeting. The meeting will propose the 2020 budget for approval, and we will vote on the slate of Board and Committee nominees. Your input is very important, and we hope to see you there. If you are joining a board or committee you will be asked to stand as the slate of nominees is read aloud. Coffee Fellowship will immediately follow the meeting.

CONGREGATIONAL COLUMNS

A monthly newsletter produced by the First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa to keep members and the community up to date on activities at the church.

www.FirstChurchTosa.org

Office Telephone
414-258-7375

On-Call Minister
414-258-7378

Rev. William S. Trump
Senior Minister

Rev. Dr. Barry W. Szymanski,
Minister of Pastoral Care

Tonia Wallner
Director of Christian Education

Dr. Patrick Dill
Director of Music

Rhonda Kwiecien
Keyboard Musician

Roxanne Trump-Miles
Dir. of Jr. & Cherub Choirs

Jillian Bruss
Financial Secretary

Marianne King
Office Coordinator

Cindy Walsh - Staff Support

Mark Lund - Custodian

Mark Saeger - Part-Time Custodian

Kari Leon - Nursery Supervisor

Cathy Denny - Columns Coordinator
sdenny1-cathy@wi.rr.com

First Congregational Church
1511 Church Street
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(414) 258-7375

Like us on Facebook!

Officers, Boards and Committees for 2020

Church Officers:

Moderator - Harry Collis - 2020-21
 Vice Moderator - Jim Santell - 2020-21
 Past Moderator - Jim Harris - 2020-21
 Treasurer - Rick Nowacki - 2020-21
 Asst. Treasurer - Cindy Walsh - 2020-21
 Church Clerk - Scott Masloroff - 2020-21
 Year-Round NACCC Delegate
 - Dick Berger - 2020-21

Church Council At-Large:

1. David Swanson - 3rd year
2. Sallie Meyer - 2nd Year
3. Mary Kay Olston - 2020-22
4. Arlette Lindberg - 2020-22
5. Sharon Raymond - 2020-22
6. Scott Rondeau - 2020-22

Board of Congregational Care:

1. Pat Reddy - 3rd Year
2. Sharon Nortman - 3rd Year
3. Janet Schalm - 2nd Year
4. Jeff Daly - 2nd year
5. Connie Little - 2020-2022
6. Jackie Hipke - 2020-2022

Board of Stewardship/Benevolences:

1. Carol Hudson - 3rd Year
2. Mike Huitink - 3rd Year
3. Jim Forrester - 3rd Year
4. Ann Harris - 2nd Year
5. Barb Wells - 2nd Year
6. JC Moore - 2020-22

Board of Christian Education:

1. Patty Bartholf - 3rd Year
2. Julie Wills - 3rd Year
3. Ardith Moore - 3rd Year
4. Peggy Griffith - 2nd Year
5. Tori Raddemann - 2020-22
6. Jon Stern - 2020-22

Board of Fellowship:

1. Marybeth Stevenson - 2nd Year
2. Randy Goelzer - 2020-22
3. Jane Boyd - 2020-22
4. Keith Harmon - 2020-22
5. Carmen Berte - 2020-22
6. Debbie Hayden - 2020-22
7. _____

Nominating Committee:

1. Mary York - Yes - 2020-21
2. Steve Russ - Yes - 2020-21
3. Ed Probst - Yes - 2020-21

Board of Trustees:

1. Randy Sitzberger - 3rd Year
2. Frank Sturbin - 2nd Year
3. David York - 2nd Year
4. Phil Callen - 2020-22
5. Sharon Petrie - 2020-22
6. Charlie Wakefield - 2020-22
7. Steve Houriet - 2020-22
- 8.* _____

Personnel Committee

1. Moderator - Harry Collis
2. Vice Moderator - Jim Santelle
3. Cindy Davis - 2020-22
4. Nick Sgarlata - 2020-22 (2nd Term)
5. Jennifer Wakefield - 2020-22
6. Merrill York - 2nd Year
7. Lisa Mauer - 2nd Year

Board of Deacons:

1. Mary Berger - 3rd Year
2. Debbie York - 3rd Year
3. Diane Miller - 2nd Year
4. Merrick Wells - 2nd Year
5. Butch Boyd - 2nd Year
6. Paige Galfano - 2nd Year
7. Jeff Saeger - 2nd Year
8. Cathy Trump - 2020-22

Operating Statement Summary

Year to Date as of November 2019

	Current Year	Prior Year
Pledge base received	86.0%	70.3%
Pledge Income	\$422,177	\$479,449
Total Income	\$569,778	\$606,599
Total Expense	\$543,763	\$582,166
Net Income	\$26,015	\$24,432

Detailed financials available at office.

Something for Everybody at the Chili & Dessert Cook-off & Bake-off

Nothing beats a bowl of chili on a cold winter day! On Sunday, February 16th, you can eat chili until you radiate more heat than asphalt in August. Once again, Fellowship will host the ever-popular Chili Cook-off / Dessert Bake-off in the Social Hall immediately following the 10 am worship service. The top three winners in both the chili and dessert categories will be chosen by the diners. In addition to taste-testing the competing chilis, you are invited to enjoy a bowl of chili and all the fixings provided by Fellowship.

Watch for the sign-up sheet on the Gathering Table in the Atrium. Whether you eat or compete, you won't want to miss this tasty event!

Paris Flea Market 2019 Raised \$8,000 for the Elevator Fund!

In case you missed the original announcement, this Fall's Paris Flea Market earned \$8,000 -- more than ever before!

Thanks to the 70+ volunteers who created a successful Paris Flea Market and rummage sale by donating the wonderful and diverse items for sale, making the delicious goodies for the bakery, cooking and serving lunch in the Café, setting up and staffing the flea market and rummage sale. . .or purchasing items.



Minutes of the 176th Annual Meeting

Meeting was called to order @ 10:46AM by Moderator Marianne King

- Moderator King thanked all for being in attendance

The Congregation began with the reading of the Covenant

Moderator King began by thanking Scott Masloroff and Jim Santelle. She also thanked Chip Smith, Cindy Walsh, Jill Bruss, and others for putting together today's programs. Also recognized were the individuals who put together today's coffee hour.

Approval of the Minutes from the 174th Annual Meeting

- Motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes with one change.
 - Minutes stipulated meeting was adjourned by Past Moderator Sgarlata. Moderator Sgarlata's term will not end until March 2018.
 - Minutes were amended to reflect the change.
 - Motion PWE with the amendment.

Treasurers Report: Report given by Rick Nowacki

- At the end of 2018, the church had \$2,191,583 in total assets. Net assets were \$2,073,858. Net assets were behind due to a reduction in the Congregational Investment Trust and the contributions made to facilities projects.
- Our accounts payable balance is \$33,010
- Our Operating Statement shows pledge income total exceeded budget but was off approximately \$13,000 from 2017's total.
- Total Income for 2018 was \$727,665 which was above budget.
- Plate offerings were within \$36 between 2017 & 2018.
- Total expenditures were \$33,253 below budget
- Did not make a transfer to Facilities Renewal Fund this year due to 2019 budget requirements
- Year End Net Income was \$55,508 which will be carried over into the 2019 budget
- Operating Fund Expense Detail – Schedule III gives a detailed breakdown of each board's expenses. Each board was recognized for coming in under budget sans the Communications Committee which used the extra monies for additional mailings to promote our capital campaign presentation.
- Total benevolences are targeted as 10% of the operating expenditures and was 10.6% this year.
- Statement of Changes in Fund Balances – Schedule IV. Many of the fund balances reflect losses. End of the year fund balances were \$2,073,858 compared to January 1, 2018's balance of \$2,258,938. Congregation Investment Trust yielded a net return of -5.5% for 2018. When 2017 and 2018 are both compared our total investments are approximately \$100,000 to the positive.
- A number of significant disbursements were made in 2018 as shown in Major Expenditures – Schedule V. \$72,974 was paid out of Facilities Renewal and \$17,580 was paid out of Memorial & Special Gifts Fund.

Questions were called for; none were put forward.

In closing, Rick thanked Jim & Cindy Walsh for putting all of the financial schedules together this year and for being a significant resource throughout the year. Chip Smith was also recognized for his help in review of the annual numbers.

Board of Stewardship & Benevolence: Report given by Dylan Thomas

- In 2018, the church distributed \$67,861 in benevolences, locally, nationally, and internationally. Special offerings make up the largest part of \$29,822.
 - Internationally, monies went to Haiti, United World Mission and NACCC Missions in Cameroon and Kenya. Locally, monies were given to St. Vincent Food Program, Tosa food Pantry, Sojourner Family Peace Center, and Fisher House amongst others. Nationally to the Craig Memorial Cong. Church.
 - Educational scholarships for college and seminary students also received offerings
- In closing, Dylan thanked the Congregation for the opportunity to serve on the Board as well as the Congregation's generosity in helping others.

Budget & Finance: Report given by Jim Harris

Before presenting the budget, Jim gave an overview of our decreasing pledge base and plans for the restructuring of the office.

- For 2019, pledges dropped \$66,000 from 2018.
- Since 2008, pledge units have dropped from 358 to 180.
- Personnel costs have risen from 80% to 85% of our budget.
- As of Christmas 2018, the church was facing both a decrease of pledge units for 2019 and a shortfall in pledges from 2018. However due to the generosity of the Congregation, the year finished in a positive position as a number of members

stepped forward and over contributed to replace members lost in 2018. In addition, after Christmas, an extra \$12,000 in individual contributions came in. The net result of these items and budget control by the boards resulted in a surplus that will carry into 2019 and will help reduce the \$66,000 pledge shortfall from 2018.

- Going into 2019, board budgets will be tightened and the office structure will be revised. As such our pledge base no longer can support a full-time Administrator and had Chip not been called to the ministry, cuts would have needed to have been made in personnel, programs and salaries.
- Reorganizing of the office will entail a new part-time Financial Secretary. Bill Trump has stepped forward to take on the role of Administrator and Trustees will take a more active role in contracts. Cindy Walsh will continue to provide her services as needed. Mark Lund will continue as lead custodian with help from Rich Raymond and Charlie Wakefield. In addition, Jill Bruss is looking to reduce her hours to help care for her father. Scott Mason and Cathy Denny will head up The Columns. Jane Boyd and Jim Harris will print and assemble Sunday's Order of Worship. Other positions hope to be filled with members of the congregation.

With that in mind, Jim presented the 2019 balanced budget which represents the following:

- Reduction of personnel costs. Retention of our ministers. Keeping our Christian Education & Music Programs in addition to maintaining our benevolence giving.
- The balanced budget reflects the reduced pledge base, a carryover 2018 surplus of \$55,000 and an increase to the Heritage Fund transfer. The budget also projects an increase in 2019 plate offerings.

Questions were called for; none were presented.

Jim asked for a motion to accept the 2019 Balanced Budget as presented. The motion was seconded.

Discussion was opened. Paul Kwicien asked to speak and added the following statements.

- There aren't any main line churches that are not contracting right now. He commended the work that has been done in order to present a balanced budget. When hearing how the membership has reduced by half since 2008, the question is what does the congregation do to address that one issue. This Church is rich in ministry, music, Christian education and interpersonal relationships between members. Simply giving more money will not fix the issues. The most effective thing each member of the congregation can do is in the next 3 months invite somebody to see what the church is about. We all own the future of the church.

Discussion closed.

A vote was called on the motion to accept the balanced budget as proposed. Motion passed without exception.

Board of Trustees. Report given by John Griffith.

- Update on capital projects; elevator and nave remodeling
 - Have done some preliminary architectural work in order to get drawings for the projects. While the campaign had been set to launch, due to the budget deficiencies, the Trustees felt it was not prudent to move forward at this time.
 - The Trustees still feel both projects are viable and will continue to move them forward in order to attract members to the church and to move the facility forward.
 - Information on fundraising will become available.
- Fabric covering the organ pipes has been damaged by water and the Trustees feel they can address that at this time without doing a full remodel of the nave.
- Trustees are trying to figure out how the church can become a hub for the community.
 - Art fairs, informative meetings, etc.

Questions were called for; none were presented.

Recognition of Retiring Officers, Board & Committee Members.

Moderator King recognized retiring members for their service to the church.

Presentation of Candidates for Election.

Moderator King presented the list of nominations for 2019. The nominating committee was thanked for their efforts.

Moderator King presented a motion that the slate of candidates be accepted. The motion was seconded.

Additional nominations were asked for.

- Jim Daly was nominated to serve on the Congregational Care Board.
 - Two openings on the Nominating Committee are also looking to be filled.
- The vote was called for. Motion of accepting all of the slated nominations and those added was voted on. Motion passed without exception.
- The list of all nominated was read and all were recognized by the congregation.

Congregation Home Report: Report given by Merrill York.

- The Congregational Home was founded in 1974 and the home continues to offer excellent care and continues to stand on a strong financial footing.
- The Home's Board of Directors continue to be members of our church.
- Tesha Urban currently serves as the Home's chaplain.
- The Home continually improves and expands services. Today the home offers independent living, assisted living, memory care, short term care, occupation therapy and speech therapy.
- The Home has been awarded for the 5th year in a row, the Journal Sentinel's top choice award for facilities located in SE Wisconsin.
- Ratio of 1 staff member to every 6 residents. The national average is 1 staff to 12 residents.
- Home is competitively priced to others in the area.
- Kris Sprtel is available as a resource to give advice and knowledge of the Home.

NACCC Year-Round Delegates: Report given by Dick Berger

- Thanked Marianne King for making the Congregational Magazine terrific.
- National Association began in 1955 by 200 churches that decided to pull away from the UCC. Now there are over 400 members in the association.
- The National Association works on pastoral search and helping member churches in times of need; i.e., churches caught in California wildfires.
 - Help seminarians such as Chip Smith and Joel Boyd.
 - Building and loan opportunities for churches, i.e. new roof, new boiler, etc.
 - Mission outreach

Moderators Comments: Report by Marianne King

- Last few months of 2018 were difficult times for this church. In December it appeared that this church's income would have a serious budget deficit. At one point it looked as though we would not be able to even cover personnel costs for 2019.
- Chip Smith resigned as Administrator to pursue his ministry studies. Chip has done an extraordinary job in his role of guiding the church, and Marianne offered her thanks.
- Everyone's hard work and generosity has resulted in a surplus carryover into 2019. What once looked like disaster looks more like a blessing.
- Thank you to everyone who has helped.
- We need to make a concerted effort to reach out to our community and invite them to join us in our covenant.
- FCC held two Leadership Retreats in 2018. Many ideas were generated by these meetings. Some of the unique things are...
 - The Casual Worship Service.
 - Progress has been made in the establishment of a daycare center at the church.
 - Thought provoking workshops have been available to the congregation and the community.
 - Community Through Understanding
 - Cultivation of the music offerings.
 - Our ministers are injecting energy and opportunities for Christian learning.
 - New ways for our youth to become engaged.
 - Communications Committee is marketing the church and building awareness in the community,
 - Paris Flea Market is returning
- Moderator King acknowledge that it has been a pleasure and an honor to serve the church.
- Thanked the ministers and office staff for all of their help and support.

Call for New Business -None

Moderator King entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion was seconded. Motion passed without exception

175th Annual Meeting of First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa adjourned @ 11:41^{am}

In closing the Congregation sang 'Go Now In Peace'

Respectfully submitted, Scott Masloroff, Church Clerk

This season's 4 O'clocks Concert Series continues the First Church tradition of bringing unparalleled musical performances to Wauwatosa.

Discover what devoted audiences from our congregation and the community already know – First Church is a center for musical excellence.



You'll want to put the season's upcoming concerts on your calendar:

FEBRUARY 16, 2020
Molinari and Yarmel Duo

The Romance of the Flute and Harp

The duo of Kelsey Molinari and Heather Yarmel, members of Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, celebrate Valentine's Day with an afternoon of intimate serenades for flute and harp by Mozart, Rossini, Saint-Saens, and more.



MARCH 15, 2020
Elina Chekan, Guitar

From Rock to Baroque

Enjoy the expressive, delicate, versatile sounds of a classical guitar. Born in Minsk, Belarus, and educated at Yale, UWM instructor Elina Chekan will amaze you with her prowess.



APRIL 5, 2020
Palm Sunday Concert at FCC

Dr. Patrick Dill, Music Director

The FCC Choir and Soloists of First Congregational Church present Mozart's three-movement offertory, Benedictus sit Deus, KV117, and the sublime Requiem of Fauré to commemorate the observance of Holy Week.



MAY 17, 2020
Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble

Lights, Camera, Handbells!

Kaethe Grabenhofer, Director

The Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble takes you to the movies for a star-studded musical trip to Hollywood!



All concerts are at 4:00^{pm} followed by a reception.
There is no charge; however,
free-will donations are gladly accepted.

JUST FOR YOUTH

January 2020



Sunday School

Sunday, January 5, 12, 19, and 26
for ages 3 – 5th grade

Children will begin in church with their families during 10^{am} worship. They will be dismissed to Sunday School during the service.

Discovery Kids

Sunday, January 5, 12, 19, and 26
for kids of all ages in LL5

Kids enjoy this special time of additional activities led by volunteers at 9^{am}, 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.

Junior Choir

Sunday, January 5, 12, 19, and 26
for grades 2-8

Meet at 9:00^{am} in LL4

Sing on Sunday, January 26

Faith Finders

Monday, January 13
for grades 1 – 5

This group meets on the second Monday of the month for singing, fellowship, games, and program time. They begin with an optional dinner at 5^{pm}, followed by programming from 5:30 - 6:30^{pm}. Friends are welcome! Come enjoy hot dogs, mac and cheese, and fruit this month. No cost, but donations for the meal are appreciated.

Covenant Class

Sunday, January 5 and 19

Group meets at 8:30^{am}
in the Conference Room.

Pilgrim Fellowship (PF)

Sunday, January 12, 19, and 26
for grades 6 – 12

Teens will begin in church with their families during 10^{am} worship and will be dismissed to PF during the service. Next PF Outing TBD.



Pictures from the
Christmas Pageant,
Junior Choir Performance
& Christmas Workshop

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

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