

**ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA  
FEBRUARY 5, 2012**

**166<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING SINCE THE FOUNDING OF THE CONGREGATION**

- I. Call to Order
  - Opening Prayer
  - Approval of the Agenda
- II. Approval of Minutes of February 6, 2011 Annual Meeting
- III. Lay Leadership for 2012 and Beyond
  - A. Nominating Committee Report
  - B. Election of Officers, Consistory, Ministry, and Committee Positions
- IV. 2011 Reports on Congregational Life
  - A. Written Reports
    - 1. Pastor's Report (*See January 2012 Tower Notes*)
    - 2. Education/Christian Education Coordinator Report
      - a. Library Report
    - 3. Finance
    - 4. Membership
      - a. Membership Vital Statistics
      - b. Parish Care Report
    - 5. Shared Ministry
  - B. Written Committee Reports
    - 1. Worship Design
  - C. Hands on Community Missions
    - 1. Meals on Wheels
    - 2. Outreach Ministry Financial
    - 3. Wilson Breakfast Club
    - 4. Community Meal
  - D. Wisconsin Conference Minister's Report
- V. Financial Status for 2011
  - A. Acceptance of Financial Reports
    - 1. Kitchen Fund
    - 2. Audit
    - 3. Trust Endowment
    - 4. Memorials
    - 5. Scholarship
  - B. Acceptance of Operating Fund 2011 Report
- VI. Finance Ministry Presentation on 2012 Proposed Budget
- VII. Other Items
- VIII. Adjournment
- IX. Closing Prayer

**\*\*\* Installation of Officers, Consistory, Ministry and Committee Members – Feb. 12, 2012**

## **Minutes of the 165th Annual Meeting February 6, 2011**

President Laura Boettcher called the 165th Annual Meeting to order at 11:21 a.m.

Pastor Wes Bixby offered an opening prayer.

Members were offered the opportunity to amend the agenda for the meeting. No amendments were offered. Dave Schollmeier moved adoption of the agenda as presented. Dave Arndt seconded the motion. Motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

President Boettcher called for additions or corrections to the minutes of the February 7, 2010 Annual Meeting. None were offered. Bill Fitzgerald moved approval of the minutes as written. Mike Rundle seconded the motion. Motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. Minutes put on record

### **Nominating Committee Report / Election of Officers, Consistory, Ministry and Committee Positions:**

Julie Budrow presented the report of the Nominating Committee. The list of nominees appears in the 2010 Annual Report. There are still some vacancies which will remain open until members volunteer. Julie amended the report to add Brandi Spooner to Membership Ministry. Willa Bagley moved to accept the report of the Nominating Committee. Wayne Olson seconded the motion. Motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. Nancy Stabb motioned to approve by unanimous ballot election of officers. Jean Schollmeier seconded the motion. Motion passed by on unanimous voice vote.

### **Reports on Congregational Life**

President Boettcher offered 2 additional reports, the Kitchen Fund and Program Ministry, be entered as addendums. Called for discussion and adoption of all reports on congregational life as presented in the annual report. Roberta Tucker moved adoption of the reports on congregational life. Lynda Olson seconded the motion. Motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. Copies of addendums available from church office.

### **Financial Status Reports for 2010**

John Merz requested that on review of the Financial Status reports for 2010 he would entertain a motion to accept the Audit, Trust Endowment, Memorials and Scholarship reports as written. Bill Fitzgerald moved acceptance of the Financial Status Reports. Dave Arndt seconded the motion. Motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

### **Operating Fund 2010 Report**

Dave Bagley requested approval of the balance sheet for 2010 operating fund. Reported assets included investments which include the building. Ended 2010 with \$6500 excess in revenue. Prepayments are similar to previous years. Would entertain a motion to accept the 2010 Balance Sheet and Operating Budget Report. Greg Anderson moved acceptance of the Operating Fund report. Dave Schollmeier seconded the motion. Motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

### **Finance Ministry Presentation of 2011 Proposed Budget**

Dave Bagley presented the proposed budget for 2011. Dave Arndt moved to accept the 2011 Proposed Budget. Rob Swenson seconded the motion. Opened for discussion. Roberta Tucker proposed a 2.5 %

increase to OCWM as that is the increase providing our staff. Dave reported Finance had discussed reducing OCWM but Consistory decided to hold at 2010 level. Loose offerings and Mission Moment could increase that budget line. Janet Hay also suggested individuals could donate additional funds. Greg Anderson called the question to accept the 2011 budget. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**Other Items Not on the Agenda**

Laura Boettcher thanked everyone. The congregation has experienced so much growth and expressed how much that has meant to her. Thanked Consistory for their good discussion. She wishes Mike an incredibly good year ahead as President.

Jean Schollmeier thanked Laura for her service.

A motion to adjourn was made by Wayne Olson and seconded by Mike Rundle. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joellyn Merz, Clerk

## Nominating Committee Report – 2012

<b>President</b>	Mike Rundle	<b>Treasurer/ Assistant Treasurer</b>	David Bagley/ Doug Newton
<b>Vice President</b>	(elected position)	<b>Clerk</b>	Joellyn Merz
<b>Consistory At Large</b>		<b>term expires</b>	<b>term</b>
	Karen Teubert	2013	1 <sup>st</sup>
	Marlene Gilmore	2013	1 <sup>st</sup>
	Gee Gee Jannene	2014	1 <sup>st</sup>
	Gina Swenson	2014	2 <sup>nd</sup>
	Nancy Restivo	2014	2 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>Education</b>			
	Mary Williams	2013	2 <sup>nd</sup>
	Shelly Bengston	2014	1 <sup>st</sup>
	Ann Hyzer	2014	1 <sup>st</sup>
	Joan Kalweit	2014	2 <sup>nd</sup> (new 2 yr term)
	Joy Prom	2014	2 <sup>nd</sup> (new 2 yr term)
	Meghan Valentine	2014	1 <sup>st</sup> (new 2 yr term)
<b>Finance</b>			
	Dave Arndt	2013	1 <sup>st</sup>
	Victor Krumm	2013	1 <sup>st</sup>
	John Merz	2014	2 <sup>nd</sup>
	Greg Anderson	2014	1 <sup>st</sup>
	Dave Viemeister	2014	1 <sup>st</sup> (new 2 yr term)
	Current Treasurer Representative		
	Endowment Committee members: Dean Jannene and Blake Budrow		
<b>Membership</b>			
	Pat Scott	2013	1 <sup>st</sup>
	Jim Hay	2013	1 <sup>st</sup>
	Linda Stehura	2013	partial
	Jan Hay	2014	2 <sup>nd</sup>
	Matthew Boelter	2014	1 <sup>st</sup>
	Brandi Larson	2014	1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Outreach</b>			
	Sonja Bagley	2013	partial
	Joellyn Merz	2013	partial
	Gary Teuberg	2013	partial
	Cindy Showers	2014	2 <sup>nd</sup>
	Kathy Arndt	2014	1 <sup>st</sup>
	Bonnie Stalker	2014	1 <sup>st</sup>
	JC Bengston	2014	1 <sup>st</sup> (new 2 yr term)
<b>Constitutional Committees</b>			
<b>Nominating</b>			
	Blake Budrow	2013	
	Geri Frase	2014	
	Vacant	2014	
<b>Shared Ministry (2 year term)</b>	<b>**minister to suggest names</b> (consists of at least five member)		
	Marlene Gilmore	2013	
	Wayne Olson	2013	
	Pam Maxson	2014	
	Diane Henrichs	2014	
	Tunde Wilburn	2014	

**Non-Constitutional Committees and Positions:** (All of the following positions have no term definitions or term limits with the exception of the Personnel, Scholarship and Endowment Trust Fund Committees.)

<b>Auditor</b> (1 person)	Jack Biddick		
<b>Delegates to Association</b> (2 people)	George and Roberta Tucker		
<b>Echo Representative</b> (at least 2 people)	Tim Green JoAnne Green Gary Teubert Mary Hunt		
<b>Wilson Breakfast Club Rep.</b> (1 person)	Dave Schollmeier, Bill Fitzgerald, Mike Rundle		
<b>Meals on Wheels</b> (1 person)	Nancy Stabb, Karel Cripe,		
<b>Income Bookkeepers</b> (2-3 people)	Jeannine Fitzgerald Betty Willing Mary Hausner		Becky Kingsbury - substitute
<b>Scholarship Committee</b> (3 people)	Ruth Robinson Ann Hyzer Jean Schollmeier	2013 2014 2014	2 <sup>nd</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>Personnel Committee</b> (3 people)	Lynda Olson Ann Griffiths Dave Griffiths Rob Swenson	2012 2013 2013 2014	1 <sup>st</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup> partial
<b>Safe Sanctuary Coordinator</b>	George Tucker		

**Stewardship Committee:** This committee is a sub-committee of Finance Ministry. It can consist of up to 4 congregational members and 2 Finance members.

Roberta Tucker	2013 (2 <sup>nd</sup> )
Dave Schollmeier	2013 (2 <sup>nd</sup> )
Travis Grossen	2014 (2 <sup>nd</sup> )
Julie Budrow	2014 (1 <sup>st</sup> )

**Memorial Committee:** This committee is a sub-committee of Finance Ministry.

Willa Bagley  
Joan Ogden  
Mary Williams

**Worship Committee:** this committee will undertake the coordination of ushers for service

Mary Hunt	
Willa Bagley	Brian Knutson – ex-officio
Dave Lennox	Joanne Bauman– ex-officio
Carole Kies	Wes Bixby– ex-officio
Lynda Olson	
Dean Jannene	

**Parish Response Group (Wes’ doctoral discussion group):**

Tony Dieckhoff	Mike Rundle	Wayne Olson	Dorothy Swain
Brandi Spooner	Linda Stehura	Ruth Hughes	Carolyn Brandeen

## **Education Ministry 2011 Annual Report**

### **Sunday School:**

- \* Epiphany Celebration, January 9- brunch served and children exchanged small gifts
- \* March Munchies, March 13- played board games with lunch
- \* An Easter Egg Hunt was held on April 24
- \* Sunday School Teachers, choir directors, and volunteers were recognized on Sunday, May 22
- \* The first All Church Talent Show was held May 22
- \* Bibles were given to third graders and new church families
- \* A well attended Summer Sunday School Program explored the “Fruits of the Spirit” from the book of Galatians - 5:22-23
- \* A Sunday School Kick-Off Celebration was held on Sept 4 with a carnival theme and a Backpack Blessing
- \* A Halloween Potluck Party was held Oct 23 with a UNICEF collection for \$300.73
- \* “The Evening News,” the children’s Christmas program, was Dec 4
- \* New Wiseman costumes were purchased by Jean Jensen
- \* Faith Stepping Stones are being painted on the walls by the Sunday School rooms, Thanks to Pastor Wes, the youth group, and Gee Gee Janene
- \* Children and adult volunteers were paired as “Prayer Partners” for the school year
- \* The Children’s Choirs sang in worship on February 20, April 17, May 22, and October 9
- \* Children’s Offering: \$80.10 to Rock County Humane Society and \$80 to church nursery

### **Youth Group:**

- \* Youth conducted a “Pew Penny Competition”, sub sale, and a chili lunch fundraisers
- \* Youth helped with the Community Meal on June 4th and Nov 5th
- \* Visited Cedar Crest on April 10th
- \* Youth trip was canceled due a family illness. Participated in activities around the Church.
- \* Oct 23, corn maze and pumpkin carving
- \* The Summer Mission Trip for 2012 will be local, in Janesville
- \* Recognized graduates on June 12

### **Faith Formation:**

- \* Reception for Faith Formation Students Ian Groth and Daniel Metzler
- \* There are 2 students for 2011-2012, Haley Budrow and Nate Merz

### **Camp Scholarships:**

- \* Camp Sunday was March 6th. Scholarships were awarded to 8 church members.

### **Safe Sanctuary:**

- \* Safe Sanctuary Training was held on May 1st.

## Consistory:

\* Joan Kalweit was our representative at Consistory meetings.

## Sunday School Enrollment:

We have been blessed with another year of growth in our program. As of December 2011 there are 50 children enrolled in nursery through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, an increase of 16% from 2010:

Nursery: 12 (50% increase)  
3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>: 12 (33% increase)

Pre-K: 8 (same)  
6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>: 5 (20% decrease)

K-2<sup>nd</sup>: 13 (30% increase)  
8<sup>th</sup>: 0 (100% decrease)

## Staff and Volunteers:

We continue to be blessed with an amazing group of people dedicated to our church children. Many thanks to: **Karra Land** (nursery); **Laura Boettcher**- spring, **Gina Swenson**, and **Shelley Bengtson**- fall (Pre-K); **Ann Hyzer**- spring, **Joan Kalweit**, and **Brandi Spooner**- fall (K-2<sup>nd</sup>); **Ilah Hartung**, **Ann Hyzer**- fall, and **Brandi Spooner**- spring (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>); **Tony Dieckhoff** (6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>); **George Tucker** (8<sup>th</sup>); **Lynda Olson** and **Mary Williams** (children's music directors); **Kayla Hartung** (aide), and to all of our monitors, summer program helpers, and volunteers throughout the year.

## Curriculum:

**Nursery**: art projects, peer interaction, and play based learning; **Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup>**: *Whole People of God* lectionary based lessons, music classes with Christian themed songs and hymns; **6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>**: *Affirming Faith*, discussion, and Bible story review; **8<sup>th</sup>**: NOOMA video inspired discussion, faith exploration, and Faith Formation preparation.

*Thank you to Joan Kalweit and Gina Bixby for coordinating our Summer Sunday School program while Jamie was recovering after her accident.*

*Thank you to Pastor Bixby for his help to our ministry and serving as Ex Officio.*

*A special thanks to all the ministry members, Shelley Bengtson, Ann Hyzer, Joan Kalweit, Jane Lennox, and Mary Williams.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Joy Prom  
Education Ministry Chair

Jamie Dieckhoff  
Christian Education Coordinator

## **Church Library Annual Report**

The Church Library is quite complete, with most categories represented. Many areas of study are in our collection, but not used to the fullest. Most of the books added in 2011 were popular theology. One was a novel for young readers. One was a study of world hunger from the standpoint of experts in the fields of trade and nutrition. Several of the contributors to that volume are able to see some of the problems from several angles. Two of the volumes were Christian education directed. That is one area we tend to lay out for the teachers, but many aspects can be addressed by parents. We continue to accept donations, but reserve the right to decide whether any title will be catalogues. Quite often we are given books that are already part of our collection, or which for some reason decide against cataloguing. I hope to continue reviewing new additions to the collection, and reminding the congregation of the availability of good reading matter throughout the year. I encourage you all to borrow books that you may not want to buy for yourselves, but want to delve into. Keep reading!

Mary Hunt, Church Librarian

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## **Finance Ministry 2011 Annual Report**

This year we have been blessed with:

- Adoption and implementation of an investment policy for our endowments.
- Gary Teubert for filling a vacancy on the finance ministry during the year; providing leadership and support.
- Financial expertise provided by David Bagley and Jack Biddick.
- Volunteer grounds and work team.
- David Arndt for things property related.
- Stewardship committee for developing a campaign and educating the membership of the needs of the church.
- Dedication of the new lighting in the sanctuary through the Timmy Mork Cullen Memorial.
- Continued efforts to review and reduce expenses.
- The diversity of expertise, volunteerism, and donors has always seemed kept First Congregational a unique place of worship.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Merz  
Chairman

## **Membership Ministry 2010 Annual Report**

The Membership Ministry focuses on matters related to membership, community outreach, assimilation and retention, care of members, and annual review of membership rolls.

The membership roll was reviewed and those who had not participated in the life of the church in any way over the last year were contacted by mail. There is now a category, "friends of the church", which includes those who are members but who are not able to participate either financially or by presence. This action makes our membership numbers more accurate for the Conference reports and for planning of our church future while continuing the connection with those in nursing homes, for example, who cannot participate.

The ministry also coordinates stewardship meetings, new member classes, greeters, and coffee hour hosts. We celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pastor Bixby's ordination in September.

We planned the church directory update due in 2012. After much research and discussion, we decided to do our own rather than hire a professional service. A new feature will be 'yellow pages' that includes our church's many ways that we seek to be a people of worship, mission, and discipleship. It is hoped that you each will use this to acknowledge what our church does plus to realize ways you can serve and connect with others here.

There is also coordination with Parish Care Committee re: concerns of members and Care Packages sent to college students during January and before Thanksgiving. (The Care Packages are usually sent only later in the year; they were sent twice this year because of not being sent in 2010).

We discussed the structure of our church compared with ten years ago. Membership, in general, is less as it is with most mainstream churches. In order to continue to be a viable church, changes will need to be made. What those changes are and how we effectively work through them will be an ongoing discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Scott  
Chair

## Membership Ministry Annual Report 2011

**Adult Members as of 12/31/10..... 319**

2011 Additions:

New Members..... 10  
Faith Formation..... 2

**Total Additions to Adult Membership..... 12**

2011 Losses:

Deaths..... 5  
Transfers  
Resigned Membership  
Removed from rolls..... 26

**Total Losses to Adult Membership..... 31**

**Total Adult Members as of 12/31/11..... 300**

**Total Child Members (of adult Members) as of 12/31/10..... 43**

2011 Additions

Baptized..... 14  
Enrolled..... 0

**Total Additions to Children's Membership..... 14**

2011 Losses

Faith Formation..... 2  
Removed from rolls..... 4

**Total Losses from Children's Membership..... 6**

**Children (of adult members) as of 12/31/11..... 51**

**Total Members (Adult and Children of Members) as of 12/31/11..... 351**

## PARISH CARE 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

As a sub group of Membership Ministry, our Mission Statement is: Following Christ's example of caring for the whole person, the Parish Care Committee will provide for the emotional and spiritual support of First Congregational members and offer educational outreach addressing family needs and health concerns in both the church and neighboring community.

To carry out this mission, we have developed a listing of parishioners who are unable to fully participate in the life of the church. We communicate with them throughout the year via home visits, phone calls, or sending cards. Prayer shawls, Sunday care cards, bereavement cards, and the prayer chain are other ways this group holds our parishioners in care. The blood pressure checks offered each month plus coordination of volunteers to provide rides or meals also address parishioner needs.

In January and November, care packages were packaged and sent to members or relatives of members in college or the military service.

A thank you to all who are on this committee plus those who give their support.

Respectfully submitted

Pat Scott  
Chair

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### 2011 Annual Report from Shared Ministry to the Congregation

The Shared Ministry Committee is this congregation's elected committee to consult with or advise the Pastor(s); the consistory; members of the congregation; and in some instances, others such as the Southwest Association to promote effective an effective relationship on matters involving the work of the Pastor.

The Committee consists of five members who serve two year terms with two members elected each year at the annual meeting. This year Marlene Gilmore and Wayne Olson joined Dean Jannene, David Schollmeier, and Bill Williams as elected members of the Shared Ministry Committee. Members may serve for no more than two successive terms. This year Dean Jannene, David Schollmeier and Bill Williams have completed their second terms and will be leaving the Shared Ministry Committee.

The Committee has had a goal of meeting on a regular basis with Pastor Wes Bixby. This year the Committee met ten times. The Committee did not meet during the month of June with Pastor Wes Bixby continuing in the doctoral program in the Twin Cities, and during the month of December with the busy schedule of pre-Christmas activities.

The meetings provide an opportunity for healthy communications regarding the activities of the church and provides an opportunity for the Pastor to share his/her reflections on the Church.

## Wilson Breakfast Club Annual Report

This is the 22<sup>nd</sup> year of our founding of the breakfast program for the children at Wilson School. It began as a neighborhood project of the Program Commission and Jan Leach. Through arrangements with the Salvation Army, their bus picked up the children and brought them to our church, where they were served breakfast and then bused to school. After several years the program was moved to the school lunch room, where volunteers from five local churches (First Congregational, First Baptist/Faith Community, First Lutheran, St. Paul Lutheran and St. Peters Lutheran) prepare and serve breakfast to the children daily during the school year.

During the 2010-2011 school year we served 26,585 hearty breakfasts to an average of 156 students per day, this represents an increase of about 7% over the prior year.

The cost per meal remained near the same at .245.

Contributions of food and money are greatly appreciated.

### *Verne Vallrath*

Listed below are the statistics covering the last five years:

<u>Years:</u>	<u>2006-07</u>	<u>2007-08</u>	<u>2008-09</u>	<u>2009-10</u>	<u>2010-11</u>
Income:	7799.36	6694.71	6870.04	5014.71	7531.11
Expenses:	5059.99	6783.05	5990.47	6142.12	6513.22
Balance:	2739.37	(-88.34)	879.57	(-1127.41)	1017.89
Average #					
Students per day	144	144	158	146	156
Meals Served	24125	24030	27500	25325	26585
Cost per Meal	.209	.282	.217	.242	.245

## Wilson Breakfast Club Donation 2010-2011

<i>Jan Kinnaman</i>	\$175.00
<i>Anchor Bank</i>	\$62.50
<i>Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church</i>	\$100.00
<i>Wanda Sonnatag</i>	25.00
<i>Chad Karl</i>	25.00
<i>Lyons Mechanical Construction</i>	100.00
<i>Victor &amp; Linda Smith</i>	50.00
<i>Thrivent for Lutheran</i>	100.00
<i>St. Paul Lutheran Church</i>	1,195.00
<i>First Lutheran Church Foundation</i>	1,000.00
<i>St. John Lutheran Church</i>	50.00
<i>First Congregational Church UCC</i>	50.00
<i>Blackhawk Golden "K" Kawanis</i>	400.00
<i>Woodman's Market</i>	25.00
<i>First Baptist Church</i>	150.00
<i>Russ French</i>	40.00
<i>Asbury Methodist Church</i>	50.00
<i>Naomi Hackbarth</i>	25.00
<i>Dorothy A. Ashcraft Charitable Trust</i>	385.63
<i>United Commercial Travelers – Janesville</i>	125.00
<i>Presbyterian Women / Rock Prairie Church</i>	200.00
<i>Mt. Zion United Methodist Church</i>	150.00
<i>William J. Cronin Foundation</i>	250.00
<i>First Lutheran Church Women</i>	250.00
<i>George Tallman Trust</i>	312.50
<i>School District of Janesville</i>	25.00
<i>Esther S. Geffs Advised Fund</i>	500.00
<i>Janesville Morning Rotary Fund</i>	125.00
<i>Walter &amp; Jessie Frandisco Foundation</i>	250.00
<i>CD Anchor Bank</i>	635.48
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>\$7,531.11</u></b>

## Worship Design Committee Annual Report 2011

The Worship Committee worked faithfully this year to plan meaningful worship experiences on Sunday mornings. The Committee works closely with Pastor Wes, Brian Knutson, and Joanne Bauman for both coordination and communication. In 2011, our sanctuary was improved by new brighter lightening underneath the balcony in celebration of Timmy Mork Cullen dedicated on October 9, 2011. We redesigned the chancel/front area of the church with the location of the altar and removal of the pulpit to create an open feeling to the front of our church. Our Lenten services were celebrated with 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian, 1<sup>st</sup> Christian and Faith Lutheran on Wednesday afternoons and evenings; including a joint Maundy Thursday service at Faith Lutheran with our 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade class taking part in the baking of bread and in worship. Several Sundays we were blessed with artistic representation of the scripture lesson including Baptism of Christ Sunday, Lenten services, Autumn/Thanksgiving, and Advent which made a visual impact. Special music was highlighted on several Sundays including Easter Brass coordinated by Dave Lennox and Brian Knutson, Sue Neumann on oboe for special anthems, and Dave Murray on violin for special anthems. We shortened the Preludes of Christmas before the 7:30 pm candlelight service from half hour to fifteen minutes. As Worship Design moves into 2012, we welcome the Head Usher onto the Committee as an important part of our worship planning for Sunday morning. We always welcome new ideas and thoughts around the table.

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### Meals on Wheels 2011 Annual Report

In 2011 thirty-five members of our church volunteered to help with Meals on Wheels, delivering meals to home-bound seniors, disabled persons, and those unable to shop or prepare meals. The program is overseen by the dietary staff at Mercy Hospital and involves volunteers from twenty churches, two services clubs, ten businesses, and weekend deliverers, including several from this church. We deliver for two week periods during every cycle and this year our service was in February, July, and December.

My most sincere THANKS to all the wonderful volunteers who have helped with Meals over the past ten years. They are an amazing group and much appreciated for their dedication, generosity...and courage, as they face Wisconsin ice and snow and sleet. Our next round will be in April 30<sup>th</sup> – May 4<sup>th</sup> and May 7<sup>th</sup> – May 11<sup>th</sup> and the weather will be sunny and mild. Nancy Stabb and I will be working together to coordinate the meals deliveries for First Congregational UCC.

Karel Cripe & Nancy Stabb  
Coordinators

***First Congregational Church & Our Missions***

**United Church of Christ Missions**

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
<b>Neighbors In Need</b>	\$1,127.00	\$1,133.00	\$614.00	\$703.00	\$451.00	\$344.11
<b>Christmas Fund</b>	\$1,750.25	\$2,031.00	\$1,264.00	\$1,118.00	\$707.00	\$454.00
<b>Our Churches Wider Mission</b>	\$1,175.00	\$440.00	\$1,148.00	\$1,116.00	\$105.00	831.00
<b>One Great Hour of Sharing</b>	\$3,293.58	\$2,130.00	\$1,503.00	\$1,266.00	\$3,244.00	\$1,506.30
<b>Strengthen the Church</b>	\$637.00	\$846.00	\$900.00	\$325.70	\$908.00	\$429.10

**Local Missions**

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
<b>Healthnet</b>	\$155.00	\$778.00	\$764.50	\$662.00	\$891.00	\$1,109.75
<b>ECHO</b>	\$1,565.48	\$1,617.00	\$2,517.00	\$1,092.00	\$2,251.00	\$1,639.00
<b>Habitat for Humanity</b>	\$295.00	\$957.00	\$1,134.00	\$232.00	\$1,034.00	\$488.00
<b>Linus Blankets</b>	\$662.00	\$1,519.00	\$1,011.19	\$699.00	\$185.00	\$1,931.50
<b>UNICEF</b>	\$151.00	\$213.32	\$253.13	\$202.28	\$272.50	\$318.87
<b>Wilson Breakfast Club</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00*	\$1,285.00

## **2011 Community Meal Annual Report**

The local mission project of a free monthly community meal began in August, 2010, and has continued on the first Saturday of each month. There are three other church sites providing community meals on three other Saturdays each month in Janesville.

The community meal in our church is supported by individual donations and a Mission Moment in May. Currently the community meal fund has a balance of about \$1100. Total costs per month are usually less than \$100, and guests have numbered between 40 and 70 per meal each month.

Our church has a contract with Second Harvest of Madison to purchase food items at low discounts. Depending on the availability of inventory items at Second Harvest, the menu is completed with items from SAMS Club and Woodmans.

There is a dedicated group of meal prep volunteers supporting the coordinators of Janet Hay, Joan Kalweit, and Brandi Spooner. Meal preparation usually begins on Friday, the day before the meal, and final meal preparation at 2:00 p.m. for the 4:00 p.m. meal on the Saturday meal day.

Starting with the December 2011 meal, we have an agreement with the Sheriff's Department to have two women RECAP people assist at the community meal with set up, take down, clean up, and help wherever needed. It appears to be working well as a win-win situation with the help they provide for us, and for the RECAP women to meet their community service requirement.

Jim and Janet Hay

## **Annual Report of the Wisconsin Conference Minister – 2011**

Grace and hope to you in the spirit of Jesus Christ. Thank you for the opportunity to be included in your congregation's annual report as a means of remaining connected and honoring our covenant through our four Associations, the Wisconsin Conference, national United Church of Christ, and a variety of UCC and ecumenical partners.

2011 has been one of the most challenging years in the now nearly 50 year history of the Wisconsin Conference, as we have lived into significant changes.

**Association Transitions:** The four Association offices have been closed and two regional Associate Conference Ministers now serve where we have had four Association Ministers. Association Moderators and divisions/teams have stepped up to take on much of the Association programming, and staff has begun to work in different ways to provide support to Church and Ministry Committees, Search and Call, and pastoral care. A "Common Life Team" made up of Association and Conference leaders met to provide feedback on changes and suggestions to help Associations work together more effectively. Moderators' conference calls have helped communication.

**Support of Clergy:** New groups were formed for clergy to work together on issues in their ministries and to offer intentional support and accountability. These groups are staffed with facilitators trained through the Samaritan Counseling Center. Two new groups have formed and two Development Groups in the Southwest Association continue. Association clergy are also forming new cluster and interest groups.

**Lay spiritual Growth and Leadership:** Lay Academy continues to draw together lay leaders from congregations to learn from some of the finest teachers in the UCC. We said 'good bye' to Gail O'Neal, who retired this year, but the program hasn't missed a beat under Debbie Payden's leadership. The energy in the building on the Friday/Saturday Lay Academy weekends is inspiring. Online courses in "UCC History and Polity" continue to be very popular. Youth events offer formation in the faith for teens in our congregations.

**Annual Meeting:** The Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Conference brought us speakers from the "emerging church" and challenges to find ways to reach a rapidly changing culture. The Thursday prior to Annual Meeting focused on immigration and was led by UCC professor, Eleazar Fernandez of United Seminary. The 2012 Annual Meeting is June 8-10 at Green Lake Conference Center. The program is on interfaith understanding among Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. The Thursday Seminar is at Pilgrim Center and will feature the UCC General Minister and President, Geoffrey Black.

**Ecumenical Partnerships:** We welcomed Christine Busch and Manfred Rekowski to our Annual Meeting as representatives of the Evangelical Church in the Rhineland in Germany. We signed a new ecumenical partnership agreement with this church that was the home to many of our UCC ancestors in the Evangelical and Reformed tradition. Conference representatives will be at the EKIR Synod in Germany in January 2012 to complete the signing of the agreement.

**Church Development and Renewal:** Training was offered to congregational teams from congregations seeking renewal, including workshops in "Five Practices" for renewal. We continue to support several intentional church renewal projects and the congregation of Grace UCC in Milwaukee. A disappointment

for the year was the closing of the La Vina congregation in Waukesha. We continue to work with some of the members of that congregation in the hope of renewing a ministry with Latino Christians.

**Outdoor Ministry:** Both Pilgrim Center and Moon Beach Camp had full camping programs during the past summer and both sites continue to host full retreat schedules. Look for the camp brochures early in the year and sign up for the 2012 camping season.

**General Synod:** Our delegation represented us in Tampa as the UCC took historic action to move to a "unified governance" model for our national setting. This new structure will provide a more flexible decision-making process and significant financial savings. The Synod also elected three new officers for our church. Invite a General Synod delegate to visit your church and report.

**Staff Transitions:** The church is founded on relationships, beginning with our relationship to Christ and, through Christ, with one another. 2011 has been a year of so many staffing changes and changes in significant relationships in both the Conference and Associations. Two members of our support staff with more than 25 years of service each left the staff, Carol Martell in the Conference office and Carol Mirshak in the Southwest Association. Association Minister, Jeanny House, and Acting Association Minister, Karen Elizabeth King no longer serve with us in those roles. Gail O'Neal, the leader of our education and Lay Academy program, retired in the summer after 14 years of service. Each change brought the grief of loss of relationships.

While he is a member of the staff of United Church Camps, Inc., I want to mention with great appreciation Jeff Puhlmann-Becker, who was, for 26 years, the managing director of Pilgrim Center. Jeff will leave his ministry at the end of the year and will be deeply missed for his leadership and hospitality at the camp. Retiring at the end of 2011 is Southwest Association Minister, Bob Mutton. Bob has served the Conference and Association for 35 years. A lectureship in theology and the practice of pastoral ministry has been established in Bob's honor, and the first event will be in 2012.

We have also been joined by new persons on our staff, welcoming Kent Ulery as the Associate Conference Minister working with the two southern Associations, Debbie Payden as Director of Lay Academy, and Deb Simon as Communications Director. I am very grateful to all of our staff. All have taken on additional work, and all have worked hard to make the new structures work and to continue service to churches.

Thank you for your ministry and especially for your support of Our Church's Wider Ministry (OCWM) and the Special Offerings of the UCC and other special appeals. The heart of our UCC is the congregation, and I am grateful to live in covenant with you. Thank you especially for your prayers as we move forward together.

Wishing you many blessings.

David S. Moyer  
Conference Minister

## First Congregational Church Kitchen Fund 2011

This fund was opened in October of 2008 from monetary donations given in appreciation of the helpers who provide a luncheon and/or reception following a funeral at our church. The money is kept in a checking account at Anchor Bank. The intended use of this money is to supplement donations to keep the kitchen and its supplies updated. The balance at the end of 2010 was \$199.08. In 2011, \$100 was received from a funeral luncheon. \$32.84 was spent on sugar packets, napkins, and cling wrap. A \$10 dormancy fee was charged. There is currently a balance of \$256.24.

Submitted by,  
Willa Bagley & Jean Schollmeier

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### 2011 Audit Report

January 11, 2012

Re: Accounting Records for the Operating, Trust, Memorial and Youth Missions funds of the First Congregational United Church of Christ, 54 South Jackson Street, Janesville, Wisconsin.

As of the above date, I have completed a review of the financial records of the above funds of the First Congregational United Church of Christ for the year ending December 31, 2010.

This consisted of review and various tests of accounting records during the period from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011. I have concluded the records represent an accurate financial condition of the funds.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jack Biddick*

## 2011 Scholarship Report

*First Congregational United Church of Christ is awarding a total of \$32,000 in scholarships to ten members and five UCC affiliated colleges and seminaries.*

Receiving their scholarships from the Bidwell Foundation Fund are Logan Bagley, Jeff Knutson, Jason Knutson, Matthew Knutson, JP Merz and Erin Stalker. Aaron Bagley, Logan Bagley, Garrick Jannene, Jason Knutson, Jeff Knutson, Matthew Knutson, JP Merz, Katie Prom, Chris Seeley and Erin Stalker will receive scholarships from the Saenger, Frick, McBlair, and Lee Fund.

An additional \$4,000 in scholarship funds also from the Saenger, Frick, McBlair, and Lee Fund, will be given to Lakeland College and Northland College at \$500 each, and \$1000 each will go to three UCC seminaries. They are Chicago Theological Seminary, Eden Theological Seminary, and United Theological Seminary.

Financial Reports will be available at the ***Budget Listening Sessions*** –  
***After church on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and at 9:00 a.m. on January 29<sup>th</sup>.***

