



August 2008

# CONGREGATIONAL COLUMNS

A newsletter of First Congregational Church - Wauwatosa

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## Adopt a Piece of the Parkway

In a creative move that builds important relationships in our neighborhood and helps us to be better stewards of God's good creation, our Church Council has approved a partnership between our church and Milwaukee County to restore the 19,000 square feet of park property adjacent to the church.

It is an exciting project for First Church: visible to the public and one that might be a catalyst to inspire other partnerships. We are hoping all the church family will be involved. We need help in two areas:

**1. Fund the project.** Help to restore the parkway by adopting a tree or a flat of plants. The council anticipates that the funding for the entire beautification project will come from individual donations. The estimate for materials is about \$3,000. Any funds donated beyond the cost of this effort will go towards the construction of new signage for the church on the corner of Church Street and the parkway (another example of how we're partnering with the county). Further landscaping and lighting will be a part of the design.

**2. Supply the labor to plant.** We'll need to clear parts of the property, plant and continue to maintain the restoration.

The county does not have the resources to maintain, much less restore, these wonderful green areas. We realized the only way to ensure the beautification of this property would be to work with the county to make it happen. A native species horticulturist from the county extension office made a plan with a list of native shrubs, plants and grasses that would be acceptable.

We agreed to use these plants, to be responsible for their cost, and to supply the labor.

We're already off to a great start. Amy Hawthorne contacted Jim Price, a Wauwatosa gardener, who graciously and enthusiastically offered to donate his expertise and some of his own native plants. He has been active in the native gardens at Wilson School, Jacobus Park, and Hart Park. In addition, a local Boy Scout will rebuild the walkway and steps from the parkway to the church as his Eagle Scout project.

*(continued on page 2)*

Vacation Bible School - Page 2



*Sharon Petrie, Jennifer Wakefield and Jim Price*

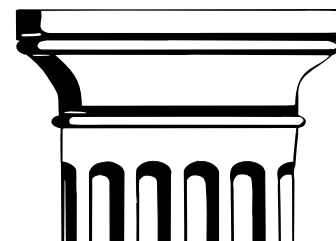


*Cleared county property adjacent to the church*

# Discover Jesus' Miraculous Power at VBS

Vacation Bible School  
August 4-8 – Friends and  
neighbors welcome!

It's not too late to sign up for Power Lab VBS! Fill out this registration form and drop it at the church office. Power Lab will feature all the fun, food, and games of years past, with a crazy science theme that will energize the kids while they learn. Friends and neighbors are welcome too, so spread the word!



Congregational  
**COLUMNS**

www.FirstChurchTosa.org  
Tel: (414) 258-7375  
Fax: (414) 258-1688

## Vacation Bible School Registration Form

August 4–8, 2008 • 9:00-11:45 a.m.  
Complete and return to the church office

Name of child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Grade(s) entering in fall of 2008: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Children entering JK – those entering 6th grade)*

Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent(s) phone \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \$20/first child; \$10/each additional child; \$30/maximum

Yes, I am interested in helping out during VBS. Please check areas of interest.  
*(Childcare will be provided for those volunteers who have children not yet old enough to participate in VBS)*

Teaching  Snacks  Arts/crafts  Games  Preparation  Where needed

Photographic Release: I, (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ give consent  
for any photograph(s) of my child(ren) to be used for promotional purposes.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

## Adopt a Piece of the Parkway (continued from cover)

ing, Susan Godfrey has designated contributions from her husband, Tom's, memorial service to spearhead the effort. We are hoping you will step up and add to that "seed" money. We will also need help with the actual planting and maintenance.

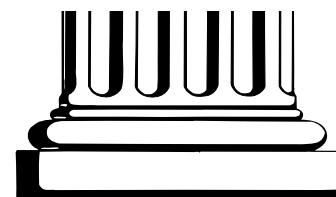
When the project is complete we will have woodland shrubs and plants close to the church—dogwood, serviceberry, witch hazel, Jacob's ladder. Coming out of the trees will be grasses, black-eyed Susans, wild columbine, prairie coreopsis, etc.—all fine examples of the great beauty of God's creation. Watch the parkway and see the progress! Contact Sharon Petrie or Jennifer Wakefield to find out how you can be involved. Direct your donations to the church office.

Rev. Steven Peay, Ph.D.,  
Senior Minister  
Rev. Samuel Schaal,  
Associate Minister  
Rev. Rob Brink, Associate Minister  
Rev. Charles Goldsmith, Ph.D.,  
Congregational Home Chaplain  
Cindy Payette, Administrator  
Lee Jacobi, Director of Music  
Thomas Gregory, Organist  
Anne Callen, Office &  
Administrative Coordinator  
Kelly Turner, Office &  
Financial Coordinator

Columns Coordinator,  
Beth Linscott

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## Change and Growth



“Change” is not a word, concept or reality most of us like. We prefer to have our lives neat, orderly, regular because there is a certain measure of comfort in sameness. Those daily routines give us a sense of security and out of them we’re able to face the ever-changing face of reality around us. What is true for individual humans is most certainly true for communities – and especially for churches. Not long ago I attended a workshop by the Rev. Dr. Gil Rendle, formerly of the Alban Institute, who said, “The chief job of governance in systems is to make sure that tomorrow looks like yesterday.” Thus, change, while necessary, comes slowly and is often difficult.

We’re in the process of change here at First Congregational Church. Our weekend “culture” is going to be quite different in September from what it has been. Let me walk through some of these changes with you, because they are quite exciting and make me quite hopeful for the future of FCC.

- Saturday evenings will have a worship service (“**Come as You Are**” **Worship**) meeting in the Friendship Lounge at

5 PM. It will have many of the same elements of what we’ve always thought worship should have (music, Bible reading, sermon, Holy Communion, etc.), but offered in a much more relaxed and informal manner. Resourced by Reverends Brink and Schaal, this service will offer that “anticipated liturgy” our friends in the local Roman parishes have and open those who attend to new ways of giving praise to God.

- Sunday mornings at FCC will begin in the Memorial Chapel with a **Contemplative Worship** service at 8 AM. These services will follow worship forms that can be described as “ancient-future” because their roots go deep into the history of the church and its worship while offering some things that feel very new. On the first and third Sundays of the month the worship will use forms and music from the Iona Community (an ecumenical community of worship and service begun on the island of Iona, Scotland in the 1930s). The flavor of the music and the prayers reflects the ancient Celtic concept that there are “thin places” all around us – places where God is very close. The second and fourth Sundays will use music and liturgy from the Taizé Community (another ecumenical community, this one in France) which draws the mind into the heart and places the

worshipper in the quiet presence of God. These services will have me as their primary leader, but in time I hope there will be others who will come forward to help.

- **Discovery Time** will open for all at 9 AM. There will be a number of offerings for spiritual growth and for fellowship for adults (for example, I will be leading a book group in the fall on a fascinating book, *The Spiritual Brain*) and activities for children of all ages (orchestrated by Rev. Brink and Carrie Sgarlata). Coffee will be available in the Atrium beginning at 8:45, so there will be time for fellowship, as well as time for learning and growing together.
- The hallmark of FCC-Tosa is our **Traditional Worship Service**, which we will offer at 10 AM. Our outstanding choirs (Chancel, Pilgrim, Junior, Cherub and the Jubilation Ringers) will help to highlight our offering of praise to God. Our excellent Sunday School program will be offered at this time.

The changes described above have come as a result of a great deal of surveying, planning and preparation by members of our Church’s leadership and staff. Over several years we’ve asked questions, listened to each others concerns and hopes for our church, and done a great deal of research on how church communities grow and change. What we have

tried to do throughout the process is be absolutely transparent.

Another change in the works pertains to the structure of our church governance. Right now it takes not quite one hundred people to fill all the slots on boards and committees. The Governance Committee (appointed by the Church Council) has been looking at our structure, along with historic models of Congregational governance and contemporary materials on how boards, etc. should govern themselves. Good work by good people will bear fruit in the near future and you’ll be hearing more about this after the beginning of the Program Year on Rally Sunday: September 7.

Yet another change is that for this academic year I have accepted an adjunct appointment to teach Church History at Nashotah House Seminary (with permission of the Personnel Committee, of course). It will be good for me to get back into a classroom for a bit and a change of pace never hurts. John Henry Newman is one of my spiritual/intellectual heroes. In *Development of Doctrine* he wrote, “In a higher world it is otherwise, but here below to live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often.” Things are very much alive at First Church and change – for all the right reasons – is underway. I look forward to a great year!

Yours on the Way!  
Steve  
Rev. Steven A. Peay, Ph.D.  
Minister

# AUGUST 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>9:00 a.m. History of the New Testament</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion/ Summer Sunday School (age 3 through entering 6th grade)</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Jr. PF</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Joint Jr./Sr. PF</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Sr. PF</p> <p><b>3</b></p>	<p>9:00 a.m. Vacation Bible School</p> <p>8:00 p.m. AA</p> <p><b>4</b></p>	<p>9:00 a.m. Vacation Bible School</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Board of Deacons</p> <p>9:30 p.m. @ Hart Park - Men's Softball</p> <p><b>5</b></p>	<p>6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Vacation Bible School, Chapel Devotions</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Debtors Anonymous</p> <p><b>6</b></p>	<p>9:00 a.m. Vacation Bible School</p> <p><b>7</b></p>	<p>8:15 a.m. Cook for St. Vincent's</p> <p>4:15 p.m. Serve at St. Vincent's</p> <p><b>1</b></p> <p>9:00 a.m. Vacation Bible School</p> <p>10:00 a.m. @ CH - Hug-a-Tot</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Faith and Film</p> <p><b>8</b></p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Music Jamboree</p> <p><b>2</b></p> <p>10:00 a.m. Music Jamboree</p> <p><b>9</b></p>
<p>9:00 a.m. History of the New Testament</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Worship/Summer Sunday School (age 3 through entering 6th grade)</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Jr. PF</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Joint Jr./Sr. PF</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Sr. PF</p> <p><b>10</b></p>	<p>7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees</p> <p>8:00 p.m. AA</p> <p><b>11</b></p>	<p>No events scheduled</p> <p><b>12</b></p>	<p>6:30 a.m. Men's Ministry</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Cream City Rug Club, Chapel Devotions</p> <p>4:30 p.m. Personnel</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Debtors Anonymous</p> <p><b>13</b></p>	<p>9:00 a.m. Big Band</p> <p><b>14</b></p>	<p>6:00 p.m. Drive-in Movie</p> <p><b>15</b></p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Music Jamboree</p> <p><b>16</b></p>
<p>9:00 a.m. History of the New Testament</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Worship/Summer Sunday School (age 3 through entering 6th grade)</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Jr. PF</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Joint Jr./Sr. PF</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Sr. PF</p> <p><b>17</b></p>	<p>7:00 p.m. Board of Fellowship</p> <p>8:00 p.m. AA</p> <p><b>18</b></p>	<p>5:00 p.m. Tosa Quilters</p> <p><b>19</b></p>	<p>6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Chapel Devotions, Retired Men's Club mailing</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Debtors Anonymous</p> <p><b>20</b></p>	<p>9:00 a.m. Big Band</p> <p><b>21</b></p>	<p>7:00 p.m. @ Lake Lucerne - Family Camp starts</p> <p><b>22</b></p>	<p>@ Lake Lucerne - Family Camp</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Music Jamboree</p> <p><b>23</b></p>
<p>9:00 a.m. History of the New Testament</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Worship/Summer Sunday School (age 3 through entering 6th grade)</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>1:00 p.m. @ Lake Lucerne - Family Camp ends</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Jr. PF</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Joint Jr./Sr. PF</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Sr. PF</p> <p><b>24</b></p>	<p>9:00 a.m. Suburban Women's Club of Tosa Board</p> <p>8:00 p.m. AA</p> <p><b>25</b></p>	<p>9:00 a.m. Retired Men's Club Board</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Church Council</p> <p><b>26</b></p>	<p>6:30 a.m. Men's Ministry</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Chapel Devotions</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Debtors Anonymous</p> <p><b>27</b></p>	<p>9:00 a.m. Big Band</p> <p>2-7:00 p.m. Blood Drive</p> <p><b>28</b></p>	<p>9:00 a.m. Harmony Singers</p> <p><b>29</b></p>	<p>No events scheduled</p> <p><b>30</b></p>
<p>9:00 a.m. History of the New Testament</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Worship/Summer Sunday School (age 3 through entering 6th grade)</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Jr. PF</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Joint Jr./Sr. PF</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Sr. PF</p> <p><b>31</b></p>						

## Church in a Digital Age



Sound familiar? For many of you, this list reflects some of the reasons you chose to become a member of FCC, reasons you stayed when others drifted away. But where could we do better? Here are a few brainstorms about sermons to get you started.

As long as there's been a church, naysayers have foretold its imminent death. Today, some say the church will be abandoned in favor of on-line communities, in the same way that CDs are being abandoned in favor of MP3s. They're partly right, but even in a world where all digital information is effectively free, some things will never be. They cannot be copied and sent over a wire. A few are obvious: time, attention, reputation, prestige, fulfillment, or expertise. Some are less so.

1. Embodiment: A church yearbook with pictures and sermons from the whole year.
2. Immediacy: Watching the sermon live over the net while you're in the hospital. (Because obviously only hospitalization could keep you away!)
3. Priority: Sneak previews of the sermon.
4. Personalization: You give me the topic, I'll write the sermon.
5. Authenticity: Call me on it when you see me not living up to my own sermons.
6. Interpretation: Interrupt my sermon and ask for clarification (only if you're under 18).

But that's just sermons, what about all the other things we do as a church? Hymns, visitation, board meetings, classes, etc. E-mail me (brinkr@firstchurchtosa.org) your ideas for tweaking the church in a digital age.

—Rob Brink  
 Associate Minister

1. Embodiment: A book, a concert, a touch.
2. Immediacy: Quick is good; instant better.
3. Priority: Being first in line, or first to know.
4. Personalization: Made to order, with my name all over it.
5. Authenticity: Knowing the real you.
6. Interpretation: Sure I can see it, but what does it mean?

**Donate So Others Might Live**

Blood Drive

Thursday, August 28, 2:00 – 7:00 p.m.

### Drive-In Movie: Nim's Island

August 15, 6 p.m.

August's movie (a week earlier from its usual spot to avoid conflicting with Family Camp) is *Nim's Island*. Common Sense Media says, "Parents need to know that this kid-friendly adventure movie has some intense moments of peril but is ultimately a positive story with a great role model for 'tween girls (and boys!)" Three dollars gets you pizza, popcorn, and lemonade. The movie, as always, is free.

## PF Place

### PF Podcast Premier

What's a podcast? It's like a radio show for the net. You get some friends together, make a recording, and publish it. The cool part is that everyone who subscribes to your show gets the new episodes automatically, whenever you post. It's great advertising, but that's just the start. It trains us to mind our words and to work together. It builds life skills. It forces us to focus on what we really want to say to the world. And best of all, it's as fun to create as it is to listen. Want to subscribe? E-mail brinkr@firstchurchtosa.org and I'll walk you through the process.

### Family Camp: Aug 22-24

Sign-up deadline for family camp is August 10. There is still room for overnight campers, but not much, so get your registration fee in right away to reserve your spot. We're also offering a one-day-only option. On Saturday Aug. 23, you can spend the day with us swimming, playing games, hanging out, and enjoying supper around the grill. Please sign up in the atrium so we know how much food to prep.

## Faith and Film:

### A Comedy 'Odyssey'

#### O Brother, Where Art Thou? (2000)

Friday August 8, 7:30 p.m., Lounge

Loosely based on Homer's *Odyssey*, this comedy blockbuster (nominated for two Academy Awards) follows the adventures of Everett Ulysses McGill and his companions in Depression-era Mississippi. Sprung from a chain gang and trying to reach Everett's home to recover the buried loot of a bank heist, they are confronted by a series of strange characters including a blind prophet, who warns the trio that "the treasure you seek shall not be the treasure you find." Amid the laughs, look for themes of prayer, hypocrisy, faith, forgiveness and baptism. Stars George Clooney, John Turturro, Tim Blake Nelson, John Goodman. Rated PG-13.



# Our Church Family

## Wedding:

Amy Marie Kraus and Joseph James Hoff married July 12.

Death: Thomas Godfrey died July 8.

## Operating Statement Summary

Year to date as of June 2008

	<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>
Pledge Base Received	56.8%	49.0%
Pledge Income	\$434,658	\$371,719
Total Income	\$493,745	\$439,925
Total Expense	\$423,765	\$385,219
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$69,979</b>	<b>\$54,707</b>

*Detailed financials available at office*

The deadline for submitting articles for the next issue of the *Columns* is **Monday, August 18 at noon.**

Please email to Beth Linscott at [ddinc@wi.rr.com](mailto:ddinc@wi.rr.com) or

Sam Schaal at [schaals@firstchurchtosa.org](mailto:schaals@firstchurchtosa.org).

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

# Lectionary Readings

## Texts Used in Worship

**August 3 . . . . . 12th Sunday after Pentecost**  
 Old Testament . . . . . Genesis 32:22-31  
 Psalmody . . . . . Psalm 17:1-7, 15  
 New Testament . . . . . Romans 9:1-5  
 Gospel . . . . . Matthew 14:13-21

**August 10 . . . . . 13th Sunday after Pentecost**  
 Old Testament . . . . . Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28  
 Psalmody . . . . . Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b  
 New Testament . . . . . Romans 10:5-15  
 Gospel . . . . . Matthew 14:22-33

**August 17 . . . . . 14th Sunday after Pentecost**  
 Old Testament . . . . . Genesis 45:1-15  
 Psalmody . . . . . Psalm 133  
 New Testament . . . . . Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32  
 Gospel . . . . . Matthew 15:(10-20) 21-28

**August 24 . . . . . 15th Sunday after Pentecost**  
 Old Testament . . . . . Exodus 1:8-2:10  
 Psalmody . . . . . Psalm 124  
 New Testament . . . . . Romans 12:1-8  
 Gospel . . . . . Matthew 16:13-20

**August 31 . . . . . 16th Sunday after Pentecost**  
 Old Testament . . . . . Exodus 3:1-15  
 Psalmody . . . . . Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c  
 New Testament . . . . . Romans 12:9-21  
 Gospel . . . . . Matthew 16:21-28

Dated Material - Please deliver immediately.

Wauwatosa, WI 53213-2593  
 1511 Church Street

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