



724 E. South River Street  
Appleton, Wisconsin 54915  
Church Office (920) 733-7393

Fax number (920) 733-7022  
Website: [www.firstcongoappleton.org](http://www.firstcongoappleton.org)

Jake Close, Interim Senior Pastor  
Siri K. Witt, Church Administrator  
Lyssa Fish, Director for Teen Ministries  
Deb Burich, Director for Volunteer Ministries

Jane B. Anderson, Co-Pastor

Kevin P. Gregory, Co-Pastor  
Kara J. Woodford, Director for Children's Ministries  
Phillip A. Swan, Interim Director for Music Ministries  
Maynard E. Beemer, Pastor Emeritus

## WORSHIP CALENDAR

**SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 2007**

**COMMUNION SUNDAY**

**8:45 and 10:30 a.m.**

Sermon..... Reverend Jake Close

**SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2007**

**8:45 and 10:30 a.m.**

Sermon..... Reverend Jake Close

The 8:45 a.m. worship service is broadcast over radio station WECB 104.3.FM.

## WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

**SUNDAY, MARCH 18<sup>th</sup>**

Since 1949 churches across North America have been giving to the annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering, expressing God's love to our neighbors far and wide. One Great Hour of Sharing offerings help not only those affected by major disasters, but also people affected by chronic disasters that repeat themselves each and every day. Gifts to OGHS support programs that help people build lives and communities that are healthy, safe and sustainable.

Enclosed in this newsletter is the One Great Hour of Sharing 'placemat'. On this placemat are 22 photos of people that OGHS gifts help. On the backside of the placemat there is short background information that relates to each picture. You will notice that the map shows no political boundaries. Rather, it represents the world as God created it and reminds us of our interconnectedness.

Please use this placemat as a daily 'moment of mission and prayer' for the next 22 days. This can

be either a family activity or an individual one. Spend some time looking at the faces in the pictures. Look into the eyes and allow your imagination to enter the world of the person you are seeing. Pray for them and their community and reflect on 'Who is my neighbor'. (Luke 10:25-37)

On Sunday, March 18 we will receive our One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Together we can make a world of difference!  
*Deb Burich*

## DIRECTOR FOR MUSIC MINISTRIES SEARCH UPDATE

The Director for Music Ministries Search team has been very busy the last several months advertising the position, developing an interview/selection process and receiving resumes from candidates. We are happy to report that we have had a very good response. To date, we have received over fifty resumes from across the nation and beyond. The search team is currently conducting phone interviews with a number of promising candidates and will follow up with on-site interviews with a select few. Our intent is to have a selection made for the Director for Music Ministries by the end of March. At that time we will begin the search process for the part-time organist position. During this search process, we will seek a candidate whose skills best complement the skills of the new Director for Music Ministries and will help us realize our vision of a multi-generational, integrated music program that has Excellence, Expansion and Engagement as its themes. If all goes according to plan, both positions will be filled in June. We hope they will begin their service at First Congregational UCC on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

*Paul Eggen – Chair  
Director for Music Ministries Search Team*

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE:



One of my favorite pastimes when shopping is to look for greeting cards, especially humorous ones that have a bit of an acerbic wit to them are a real joy. I keep a stash of these to mail to family and friends on their birthdays. I also shop for cards that have beautiful photographs; ones which speak to the heart, more than words could say, and allow me the blank space to write a personal message. I keep a supply of these on hand to drop a word of comfort, encouragement or appreciation to a family member or friend as the need arises. As I was shopping for cards the other day, I was noticeably dumbfounded by how many occasions greeting card companies have discovered they can mark with a greeting card beyond the obvious ones celebrating a birthday, a rite of passage or a holiday. There are cards for occasions that even I wouldn't want to get a card for like celebrating your child being potty trained or your dog being housebroken or heaven forbid "Good luck with your mastectomy." It's interesting to me that we have cards and, of course, T-shirts, to mark more occasions in our lives than we have other means.

In the church, we mark our faith journeys with the sacraments (Baptism and Holy Communion), rites (Services for Confirmation, Marriage, Ordination, Commissioning, Installation, Membership, Reconciliation and Healing, and Funerals and Memorials) and rituals (such as anointing, lighting of candles for special occasions, foot washing, vigils and imposing of ashes.) Our faith journeys are marked and celebrated by services of worship in which we tell and re-tell the faith stories of those who have gone before us and those who are the witnesses in our midst to how God is still speaking to us here and now.

The church year celebrates a variety of seasons in which the stories of our faith are marked and celebrated. But other than Christmas and Easter, there are no cards which speak of our faith story and the connections our own lives make with those stories. I've yet to find a card that speaks of Lent and the Lenten journey we make each year to the Cross. So, it has set me to wonder what if anything I would put on or in a card to each of you as you

enter this Lenten Season. What would my hope be for you as you journey with Jesus throughout his ministry and to the Cross?

I'm not sure I could create a card that would capture my hopes for you, as I dare not cross the line between being pastor and playing God presuming to know what is in your hearts and minds as you make this year's journey with Jesus. But, my hope for all of you would be that you enter the season with an open heart and mind to receive what it is that Jesus has to offer you as you journey with him. I also pray that you enter this Lenten journey with the intention and discipline to create room for God to speak to you and to mold and shape your life in ways you may have never anticipated or hoped for. To do that, I encourage each of you to spend time in devotion, study, prayer and worship—practices which will yield spiritual depth and renewal to your faith journey.

May your Lenten season be blessed!

### WINTER FARMERS MARKET

A winter Farmers Market is being held March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church Oshkosh school gymnasium – located at 605 Merritt Ave., Oshkosh. Ten percent of all proceeds will be donated to Harvest of Hope Farm Emergency Fund, which is helping Wisconsin farm families through times of crisis. Products available will include: grass-fed beef, pork, lamb, bison, several cheese varieties, eggs, honey, maple syrup, jams, goat milk soap, yarn and wool products.

*Deb Burich*

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE  
OF THE OPEN DOOR IS 9:00 A.M. ON  
MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2007.**

## JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH

If you have particular joys or concerns that you would like lifted up please call Pastor Jane Anderson.

### **Those who need our prayers:**

Vivian Applegate  
Katie Behl  
Florence Bender  
Esther Bruyette  
Janice Carroll's father, Sylvester Sawicki  
Ruby Cotter  
Arlene Danz  
Pam Davis  
Trudy Dunham, sister of Pat Streur  
Elaine Foth  
Darlene Fritz, wife of Rev. Tom Fritz  
Steve Furstenberg's brother, Michael  
Connor Hardy  
Jean Harkins  
The family of Bill Haselow on his death  
Carol Huebner and family on the death of her mother  
Mark Kessler's father  
Glenn Knaack  
John Laabs  
Steve Munz and family of the death of his grandfather  
Patti Murphy  
Sandy Nichols, mother  
Sarah Paul  
Betsy Rosner's grandmother, Muriel  
Joyce Spurlock  
Nancy Steinike's brother-in-law  
David Strom  
Nissa Syverson's friend, Cathy  
Floyd and Joyce Wadel  
Joe Wells  
Gary Wisneski  
Kevin Worm  
Helen Wright

### **PROJECT PROMISE**

Project Promise is raising awareness about poverty in the Fox Cities. Over the next four months, several activities are planned to engage people in education, awareness and action around poverty.

Area libraries are hosting book talks on "*Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America*", Barbara Ehrenreich's best selling book detailing one woman's story of working three low-paying jobs and trying to make ends meet. Read the book, join one of the talks scheduled and share your thoughts with co-workers, friends & others in our

### **TANZANIA GLOBAL VILLAGE TRIP**

congregation. (Many members have read or are presently reading this book. Ask someone at coffee hour about it and begin some discussions!).

Diversity Circles on poverty are being held. Groups will meet five times and are organized and facilitated by the Fox Cities Rotary Multicultural Center.

Poverty simulations will also be held at various places. These are unique opportunities to put yourself in the shoes of a family in poverty – learn what it's like to make decisions for a family living on a very limited income.

For more information check out the website: [www.projectpromisefoxcities.org](http://www.projectpromisefoxcities.org)

Together we can learn and share. Together we can strive to make changes. Together we can make a difference!

*Deb Burich*

### **2007 LU Art Scholars**

The members of the Arts and (A)esthetics (A&E) Task Force, a subcommittee of the Memorials and Special Gifts (MSG) Committee, are pleased to announce the second year of the LU Art Scholars Program. The program is an opportunity for college students to exhibit and present original art at First Congregational UCC, Appleton.

The **2007 LU Art Scholars** are **Gabrielle (Gabby) Prouty** and **Nicholas (Nick) Olson**. Each of these students will receive an honorarium from the Jeanne Olson Memorial Fund.

Nick and Gabby will show their work at church from **February 23 to March 30**. They will also discuss their art on **Sunday, March 4**, between services (9:45 am) in the Chapel. All are welcome to attend and greet these new LU Art Scholars. Gabby and Nick introduce themselves and write about their work on another page in this issue.

Andrea Tatlock is coordinating this endeavor with LU Assistant Professor of Art, Rob Neilson. Members of A&E include: Sarah Boge, Gayle Brygger, Jean Detjen, Scott Kranzusch, Marge Rosebush, Andrea Tatlock, Lynn VanVreede, Mary Willems, Mary Gray Zimmerman, Siri Witt and Pastor Jake Close. Members of MSG include: Paula Chandler, Kris Hietpas, Mary Sturtevant, Andrea Tatlock, Siri Witt and Pastor Jake Close.

During the first two and one-half weeks of January I had the pleasure of joining 14 others from the Fox Valley and Green Bay areas on a Habitat for Humanity Global Village build in Korogwe, Tanzania. Following our “build” we had the pleasure of spending three days on a photo safari in three national parks. It was, to say the least, the experience of a lifetime.

We arrived in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on the coast of the Indian Ocean on New Year’s Eve after a day in London. We were met by the local representative of the Habitat affiliate. On New Years day we were given an orientation and tour of the city and left the next day for Korogwe, our building site. Korogwe is located in the northeast of the country, about 50 miles from both the ocean and the Kenyan border. We visited the work site, met the local staff and some volunteers. The next morning, after buying some tools and lots of bottled water, we went to the building site.

The site is located about three miles outside the city on a large tract leased from the government by Habitat. It is a beautiful spot in rolling hills with sharply rising mountains nearby. There were about fourteen homes located there when we arrived—all of brick construction with concrete foundations, concrete floors, wooden roof trusses (painted with used motor oil to protect against insects), and corrugated metal roofs.

We found three new foundations each with about one course of brick already laid. We broke into teams, received some brief instructions on mixing mortar and laying brick, and went to work. Friend Paul and I have laughed since then that essentially none of our local Habitat construction skills were of any use. Only on the last work day were we able to use a few hand-building roof trusses.

We were guided at each house by our “Fundu,” or craftsman, and his assistant. As the walls rose, they constructed scaffolding of wood poles lashed with twine (no OSHA reps in sight). I stayed on the ground.

Each home is about 350 square feet in size, with a sitting room and two bedrooms. All cooking is done outside and each home has a brick latrine in the “back yard.” There is no power or running water at the site. Women and children carry buckets of water, on their heads, about a half mile for mixing mortar (and for their homes).

We did not finish the homes in the brief time

available, but we did raise the walls of all three to the roof line. Others installed trusses and roofs after we left.

The culture shock was intense. So lacking in what we consider necessities, the people were nevertheless wonderful, extremely hard-working, friendly, and appreciative of our help. As the oldest coot on site, they greeted me each morning with “Jambo Babu”—“Greetings Grandpa.”

We ended our build with a delightful celebration, including a home dedication, native dancers, a big feast, and lots of hugs. The U.S. ambassador to Tanzania, Mr. Michael Retzer, joined us along with local and national Habitat representatives.

The next day, we boarded our bus and drove to Moshi, at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro, where we began our safari. We saw almost every imaginable animal, some so close to our open-topped vehicles that our telephoto lenses were totally irrelevant. What a great time!

There are too many wonderful images and memories to recount here, but I will never forget the wonderful people, their gracious treatment of us, and their extraordinary efforts to provide a better life for themselves and their families.

We were greatly blessed by this wonderful experience.

*Jim Parker*

### **FOR SALE USED CHURCH EQUIPMENT**

Simplicity Snow blower, 8hp, 2-stage, 24”, Electric Start, Cab Protector, Excellent Condition. Asking \$495.00. Contact Bob Gresens, Building and Grounds, Cell number—(920) 841-0783



### **EASTER LILIES**

Fill the Sanctuary with color and celebration on Easter Sunday by remembering someone special or a special event with a contribution to the Flower Fund for our Easter morning floral display. Call or stop in the Church Office and sign up in the Flower Book located on the counter. Following the 10:30 a.m. Easter service, you may take your Easter lily home. This is a special way to remember loved ones and meaningful events in your life. The cost of each lily will be \$15.00.

**ART AT THE CONGO**  
**SECOND LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY ART SCHOLAR PROGRAM**  
**FEBRUARY 23 TO MARCH 30**

**LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY ART SCHOLAR GABBY PROUTY**

I am from Mineral Point, Wisconsin, and I am currently a senior at Lawrence University. My studio art focus is printmaking, though I also enjoy painting and drawing. While I'm not entirely sure what I want in terms of a career after Lawrence, I am certain that art and exploring new ideas through art will always be a huge part of my lifestyle.

The process of making prints is extremely important to me. I love the smells and sounds of the ink, the way it looks in different stages both on and off the paper. The reason I am so drawn to printmaking --- lithography and monotypes in particular --- is simply because of the labor in the process involved. Monotypes can be extremely particular, and each one is individual. While lithographs can be duplicated any number of times, the process has a certain intimacy that appeals to me. A method I am currently exploring in monoprinting is printing with a chemical solvent, which creates both unpredictable and delicate images.

A theme that has consistently appeared throughout my prints is the relationships between people and nature. There are questions I would like to explore, concerning humans in nature and the very existence of nature itself: is it possible for humans to be separate from nature, or is nature simply evolving with humans? I am very interested in the effect science and technology has on nature, the duality of rural and urban, and the artificiality of overlooked, everyday man-made objects.

**LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY ART SCHOLAR NICK OLSON**

I am a student attending Lawrence University, majoring in Art and minoring in psychology. Although being an artist is more of a lifestyle than something you learn in school, having the urge to create is essential. Being a student I challenge myself to explore all the different mediums instead of limiting myself to any specific one, although I have found myself becoming more involved in photography and painting than some of the others. Recently I have enrolled in a sculpture class and learned that there is a whole different experience to creating expressions in a 3-dimensional medium. With sculpture the viewer can really feel the presence of the object in their environment. It's a different experience than looking at a scene in a photograph.

The sculptural piece that I am displaying here appears to be a handcrafted ladder, which at a very basic visual level it is. The sculpture is also an experiment in how perspective can be incorporated into objects to exaggerate the feelings caused by perspective. The object appears to be a ladder but at the same time it converges to a single point at the top. This causes it to have somewhat of a triangular shape and as ladder makes it useless. The converging lines have the effect of drawing the viewers' attention to the point at the top. If the viewer has a sense of curiosity they might wonder, what is up there and have the urge to climb. There is then a tension between the object and the viewer because while they desire to climb and find out what's up there they also realize that the ladder is functionless, and the climbing effort would be futile and only destroy the ladder.

Readers should realize that this is only one person's interpretation of the piece. Every individual has their own personal experiences and thoughts and shouldn't let this one guide their own if they feel differently. Others have also interpreted it in a religious sense of looking up towards the heavens and the unknown. So I encourage you to look at it with an open mind and draw your own conclusions.

## Our New Members

Received into membership on  
February 25, and March 4, 2007

**Jennifer Diermeier:** 170 W. Seymour St., Appleton, WI 54915 920-730-0402

Jennifer is a veterinary student at UW-Madison. She and Kraig Knorr plan to be married at First Congregational in June. Jennifer grew up in Shiocton, Wisconsin. She and Kraig enjoy spending time outdoors, hiking, biking and boating. They also love visiting with family. Jenny is involved with Christian Veterinary Mission.

**C.J. Grafwallner:** 27 Continental Ct., Appleton, WI 54911 920-733-1683

C.J. is a specialist in the Call Center for Humana. He enjoys movies, walking, eating out with friends and is a fan of anything about dinosaurs. He grew up in Milwaukee and has lived in the Fox Cities area for 17 years.

**Mark & Helen Holmes:** 815 S. Pierce Ave., Appleton, WI 54914 920-739-0207

The Holmes family moved to Appleton from Texas 7 months ago. Mark is the staff chaplain at Theda Clark Medical Center. Helen has taught English and is now seeking a graduate degree at UW-Oshkosh and is a stay at home mom. They have two children, Caroline (6) and William (2). Mark grew up in Gulfport, Mississippi and Helen in Fort Worth, Texas.

**Kraig Knorr:** 170 W. Seymour St., Appleton, WI 54915 920-730-0402

Kraig is an engineer and works in research and development for Kimberly Clark. He and Jennifer Diermeier plan to be married at First Congregational in June. Kraig and Jenny enjoy spending time outdoors, hiking, biking and boating. Kraig grew up in Menasha, Wisconsin.

**Craig Miller:** N9675 Hopfensperger Rd., Appleton, WI 54915 920-996-0543

Craig is a principal at Mapleview Intermediate School in Kimberly. He has 3 children: Bridget, Tim 17 and Kelly 15. Craig enjoys reading, travel & music. He grew up in Wisconsin and has lived in this area for 9 years.

**Robert (Nate) Miller:** 1102 E. Northwood Dr., Appleton, WI 54911 920-997-9649

Nate is a self employed financial advisor. He has one son, Blake 12. He is interested in social justice & politics, is a history buff, fluent in Spanish and enjoys reading.

**Sharon Miller:** 1102 E. Northwood Dr., Appleton, WI 54911 920-585-3251

Sharon is a sales agent recruiting consultant at Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. She has one son, Blake 12. She enjoys gardening, reading, walking, photography & sewing.

**Steve & Jaime Munz:** 1400 Briarcliff Dr., Appleton, WI 54915 920-257-4274

Steve & Jaime moved to Appleton from Aurora, Illinois 1 ½ yrs ago. Steve is employed in sales with Praxair. Jaime has a degree in Multinational Business and Spanish, previously worked in sales and recruiting and is presently a stay at home mom. Evelyn was born in Sept. '06 and was recently baptized at First Congregational. They enjoy outdoor sports, swimming, golf and fishing. Steve grew up in Illinois, Indiana and Ohio and Jaime in Illinois.

**Dave & Heather Murphy:** 8039 Saquaro Ct., Neenah, WI 54956 920-836-0281

Dave is an engineer with Plexus and Heather is a RN manager at Theda Clark Medical Center. Isabelle is 3 ½ and they are expecting another child in June. Dave enjoys woodworking, broomball, ice skating and movies while Heather enjoys scrapbooking, decorating, reading and movies. They both grew up in Wisconsin.

**John Nichols & Craig Henke:** 1309 E. Harriet St. # 3, Appleton, WI 54915 920-364-0318

John is assistant manager at the Fox Valley Thrift Shoppe. He enjoys fresh water fish aquariums, gardening, cooking, biking, walking and music. Craig is weekend night relief at Villa Phoenix. He enjoys antiques, cooking & reading. John grew up in Southington, Connecticut and Craig grew up in both Wisconsin and Connecticut.

**Jane Recker:** 41 Arthur Court, Kimberly, WI 54136 920-687-2273

Jane is a guidance secretary at Appleton West H.S. She has 5 daughters: Emily, Maria 19 – attending UW-Platteville, Laura 17 and Amy & Andrea 14, attending Kimberly H.S. Jane enjoys reading, traveling, her children's activities and is involved in the WI Early Autism Project. She has lived in this area all of her life.

**Mike & Mary Ross:** 1127 Irish Rd., Neenah, WI 54956 920-886-3697

Mike is the band director at Appleton West H.S. and Mary is a self employed artist. They have 4 grown children: Ann (a member of First Congregational), Thomas, Peterson & Joseph (Joe is our interim accompanist for the choir). Mike enjoys biking, golf and reading. Mary enjoys gardening, sewing and reading. Mike & Mary both grew up in Wisconsin and have lived in the Fox Cities for 16 years.

**David & Melissa Schanke:** 1812 Lakeshore Dr., Menasha, WI 54952 920-731-1827

David works in sales at Strategies & Melissa is an account manager at Bemis in Oshkosh. Jameson is 9 months old. They enjoy boating and spending time with friends and family. David grew up in the Fox Cities area while Melissa grew up in East Troy.

**Chuck Schroeder:** 1001 Manor Place, Little Chute, WI 54140 920-788-2206

Chuck is a manufacturing supervisor at Bemis-Curwood. His wife, Gina, is a long time member of First Congregational. Chuck has three daughters, Ali 16, Taylor 14 & Hannah 13. Chuck enjoys golf & travel and was a member of the Little Chute volunteer fire dept. He grew up and has lived in this area all his life.