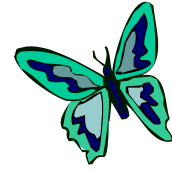




# Wisconsin Congregationalist

A Publication of the  
Wisconsin Congregational Association



Summer  
2010

## *The Moderator's Message*

Our April WCA Annual Meeting was one of the best ever! OK, that is hyperbole. But it was a terrific meeting. We had attendance of about 60 people to hear from people involved in a variety of mission work. We heard about helping hungry people in our own communities, and about helping the people of Haiti learn to rebuild. We heard about a church in Laos that has been burned down, and the homes, and then the tents of its members burned down. Each speaker and situation touched someone's heart. We heard stories that filled our hearts with compassion.

Compassion is an interesting word. The dictionary definition is "sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it". The roots are "com-" meaning "with" and the Latin word "pati", which is the root word for patience and for suffering. So the word "compassion" literally means "to bear with", or "to suffer with". That is what Jesus did. When Jesus wept, He was weeping with His friends, sharing in their grief. When we are moved to compassion, we join with others in their suffering.

Being compassionate means being open to one another, sharing our burdens, and helping to alleviate them. Having compassion means focusing on the other person and situation, not on myself. Every person who talked about missions spoke about going in to help, and finding themselves helped! When we reach out, we are helped at least as much as we help others. When we focus on the other, the two of us together become greater than the sum of our parts.

And that is what "Being Church" is about. Our WCA is a larger church, an association of churches committed to being church together. When we are being church together, we are greater than the sum of our parts. This was the other discussion at the Annual Meeting. We discussed what we do well now, and how we can better serve our churches and do even better at being church together; how can we better live out the Great Commission. We will do this by being more open to one another, by focusing on the other person or situation. When we do so, we, the Body of Christ, truly become greater than the sum of our parts. This is my prayer for our Association.

*"So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. "*  
*Romans 12:5 (NIV)*

Shalom, Carol Taylor  
Licensed Lay Minister, Second Congregational Church, Beloit, WI  
Moderator, Wisconsin Congregational Association



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## WCA Donation Form



In appreciation to the WCA for the opportunities it provides its sister churches and friends to walk together in fellowship, I/we gratefully enclose the following:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Individual or Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to  
 WCA and mail to:**

Mr. Andy Forsaith,  
 WCA Treasurer  
 c/o Heritage Congregational Church  
 3102 Prairie Road  
 Madison, WI 53719

God Bless Your Contributions of Time, Talents, and Resources!

Our NEW Leadership Team

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### **Youth & Camp Chair & Rep**

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North Shore Congregational Church  
[mjohnson1007@gmail.com](mailto:mjohnson1007@gmail.com)

## Wisconsin Congregational Theological Society

### **Hold these future Dates**

*September 16, November 18, 2010  
January 20, March 17, May 19, 2011*

*Now Meeting at  
First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa*

### **WCA - Ministers' Fellowship**

#### **Programs Topics and Host Churches Needed!**

The WCA Ministers' Fellowship concluded its regular meetings in May with a visit to the Milwaukee Public Museum's Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit. Membership is open to those serving in Congregational ministry in a wide variety of capacities. Those who are training to be in ministry are encouraged to seek "in care" status of the WCA and participate in the Minister's Fellowship.

The 2010-2011 schedule includes 8 meetings on the second Wednesday of the month, starting at 10:00AM. For each scheduled date we need a host church that is willing to provide a meeting space and a light lunch (or to point us in the direction of a local restaurant). Coffee is also appreciated! Each gathering includes a time to share prayer concerns and pray together, a discussion of group business, and an educational program and discussion. This is a wonderful resource for those leading ministries in the Congregational Way and we hope to encourage one another, work together and share ideas!

#### **The meeting dates for 2010-2011 are:**

September 8; October 13; November 10; December 8, 2010  
January 12; February 9; March 9; May 11, 2011

If you have an idea for a **program topic** or if your church would be able to **host a meeting** in 2010-2011 please contact Rev. Hillary Bowser: 262-628-3234 or [stjacobi@att.net](mailto:stjacobi@att.net). Thank you!

#### **LEADERSHIP AND LAY-MINISTER TRAINING TO START THIS FALL**

A Leader and Lay-Minister training program has been developed by a few churches within the association seeking to equip individuals to carry out the work of ministry. The program entails three successive but individual one-year modules to be completed in a cohort. A mixture of individual study, reading, and reflection is combined with online communication and monthly gatherings (at a central place to be determined by each cohort) helps provide a blend of convenient distance-education and face-to-face interaction with instructors and other students. Each module ends w/ an overnight retreat as a capstone course.

**Intro to the Scriptures and Theology** Rev. Doug Gray and Pastor Carol Taylor  
Class Runs: August 30-December 4, 2010

**Leadership & Ministry Effectiveness** Rev. Dr. Rick Hartley, D.Min.  
Class Runs: January 3-February 26, 2011

**Spiritual Formation for Self & Service** Rev. Dr. Stu Merkel, D.Min.  
Class Runs: February 28-May 7, 2011 (with Holy Week off)

**Living a Holistic Christian Life**  
Class Runs: May 2-June 3 with 24 hr Retreat Weekend: May 20-21, 2011

Contact Rev Dr Rick Hartley for more information/brochure/application:  
[rick.fcc@gmail.com](mailto:rick.fcc@gmail.com) or 231 Roberts Drive, Mukwonago, WI 53149 - 262.363.7249

## Second Congregational Church of Beloit

Second Congregational of Beloit, "a church that feels like family", has a variety of Bible based activities in addition to our Sunday worship and children's Sunday School. They have recently begun a weekly prayer gathering on Wednesday evenings that is going strong. In August we will hold our Vacation Bible School and an evening carnival for our church family and neighborhood. If you are in the Beloit area this summer, stop by! We would love to have you join us for any of our activities.

## A Couple of Firsts Getting Together for Heifer

First Congregational Churches of Rochester and Mukwonago are holding a Picnic in the Park on Sunday July 25<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds from the sale of hot dogs, brats, and hamburgers (plus all the trimmin's) will go to the Heifer Fund International. The Association is invited to join us from 12 noon to 5 pm on that Sunday afternoon. Prayers for a successful day are appreciated too! May we ALL our association churches combine efforts to bless our communities!

## News from North Shore Congregational Church

The North Shore Church Program year is quickly drawing to a close. It has been a great year and we are looking forward to a wonderful summer of fellowship and spiritual growth. One of the highlights of our year is the confirmation of our youth which took place on May 16. This year, North Shore Church welcomed nine new members on confirmation Sunday followed by the release of nine doves. It was a spectacular day – both spiritually and from a weather perspective. On June 6<sup>th</sup>, we will elect the new board and committee members for the 2010 – 2011 program year who will officially take office on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Following worship and the Annual Congregational Meeting, we will all enjoy a full-church fellowship lunch prepared by our youth. It will be a wonderful day! June 13<sup>th</sup>, our final Sunday of the program year, will feature a special presentation from our choir and bell choir – always an inspirational treat!

June 20 will mark the beginning of our summer worship schedule and format – when our education hour takes a 'summer vacation' and our worship becomes a little less formal. Personally, I love the summer format...our ministers conduct a 'bible study' in combination with the scripture readings which adds depth to the sermon text. We also share in a 'hymn sing' usually singing three hymns chosen by members of the congregation. There is something very intimate about this more relaxed format that I very much appreciate. On June 27<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate summer with an all church pig roast immediately following the worship service. Several members of our congregation will gather in the church parking lot at 3:00 am to begin the process of roasting the pig – praise be to God for these early risers!

My term as moderator is almost over and I value the experiences it has brought me. I encourage all members of our broader faith community to consider involvement in the church...teaching a Sunday school class, serving on a board or helping out on one of the many community mission programs. Faith in action is significantly more rewarding and inspiring than a more passive faith...try it for yourself!

Ann Janikowsky, Moderator

***The time has come for a new editor for the Wisconsin Congregationalist.***

If you have interest, please contact Moderator Carol Taylor or another member of the Executive Committee.