

OCTOBER 2019

Volume 34 - Issue 10

The Congregational COLUMNS

Rally Sunday &



On September 9 our First Church family rang in the 2019–2020 program year with a Pig Roast filled with the delicious smell of barbecue from Bunzel's and the sweet sounds of bluegrass from the Big Cedar Bluegrass Band. Performing for the second year in a row, Big Cedar played old favorites that had some folks singing along until the band's set ended at 1pm. Meanwhile out on the lawn, small groups played bean bag toss and ladder toss, and others grabbed some dessert from a table piled high with donations from the First Church family. A cloudburst might have dampened the festive atmosphere for a brief moment, but a little bit of rain didn't get in the way of the fun and fellowship for long!

The Board of Fellowship would like to thank everyone who brought desserts, who pitched in to set up and clean up, and who made the Pig Roast so much fun by being there. We are also very grateful to the Church Office for all of their help and support in organizing the event. We're all looking forward to another great year of fellowship with our First Church family!



THE COLUMNS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
IN WAUWATOSA

Enlightenment & Fellowship

Purloins of Wisdom

Starting October 5 from 10-12 in the Fellowship Lounge

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

Women's Advent Tea



"A Seat at the Table" is scheduled for Saturday December 7th. Please save the date and watch for more information.



Casual Worship

Saturdays at 4pm in the Chapel

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

The upcoming messages will be on the Fruit of the Spirit and the speakers will be:

- 10/5 **Barry Szymanski**
- 10/12 **Pat Reddy**
- 10/19 **Peggy Griffith**
- 10/26 **Julie Smith**
- 11/2 **Hank Collis**

A Beginner's Guide to (Christian) Meditation

Join FCC members on Saturday, November 16, 2019 from 9:00 to Noon for an Introduction to (Christian) Meditation. We will start with very simple techniques to help settle ourselves, then proceed with other calmativ practices. The morning will include a discussion on centering, meditation, contemplation, and mindfulness. The intent is for participants to leave with skills for practicing imagery meditation on the psalms and the Gospel. The facilitator will be Pastor Barry. If you have any questions, please contact him directly. There is no charge. Please sign up as attendance is limited. Bringing a small head pillow and, if possible, one or two throws is recommended. Please, no latecomers!

Discovery Hour

Adult Learning

At 8:45 in Room 107

We are continuing our walk through the Gospels chronologically and using the Book "The True Jesus" by David Limbaugh. All are welcome, and it is not necessary that you attended last year or are unable to participate every week. Books are available if you wish to join us.

Women's Ministry

October 1, 8, 15, and 29 at 7^{am} in the Parlor

Please bring your Bibles.

Men's Bible Study

October 2 and 16 at 6:30^{am}, in Room 107

Led by Bruce Milne, we meet on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month. We do not meet on the 5th Wednesday of the month.

Men's Ministry

October 9 and 23 at 6:30^{am}, in Room 107

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month.

Operating Statement Summary Year to Date as of August 2019

	Current Year	Prior Year
Pledge base received	61.0%	63.5%
Pledge Income	\$297,803	\$353,319
Total Income	\$422,935	\$457,229
Total Expense	\$384,370	\$424,118
Net Income	\$38,565	\$33,112

Detailed financials available at office.

Taize-inspired Worship at First Congregational Church

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

Oct. 20, Nov. 17, Jan. 19, Feb. 16, Mar. 15, May 10, and June 14.

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

CONGREGATIONAL COLUMNS

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

www.FirstChurchTosa.org

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Tonia Wallner
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Like us on Facebook!

Off the Top of My Head

By Rev. William S. Trump, *Senior Minister*

As a pastor greeted people at the door following a stewardship sermon in which he discussed pledging, a disgruntled member asked accusingly, “Where in the Bible do you find anything about pledging?” Like many of us, this man was uncomfortable being challenged to pledge to his church.

Instead of being defensive about his sermon the pastor answered good-naturedly, “That’s a good question. Let’s get together over lunch and talk about it this week.” The gentleman agreed, and time and place were set. Later that week the two of them did get together for lunch. After they had ordered, the pastor brought up the subject.

“You know, your question was a good one.” The pastor said the question had forced him to do some thinking. “The Bible is full of references to pledging,” he told the reluctant church member. But the member remained unconvinced.

“Come on now, Pastor,” he said. He knew that sometimes pastors have a way of exaggerating. This caused the man to rethink his attitude toward stewardship.

The pastor told him that he looked up the word “pledge” in a Bible dictionary. He had written down some of the words he found there that pertain to pledging: “Commit, promise, dedicate, devote, covenant, vow” — very familiar Biblical words. That made the man think more about stewardship. His pastor explained, “Christian stewardship is merely a reflection of our spiritual commitment to Christ. Stewardship is, first of all, our response to God.”

October is the month for our annual stewardship



campaign, a time dreaded by some. Stewardship is an important part of our faith. Jesus dealt with it frequently for he found it to be a wonderful indicator of a person’s dedication to God. Stewardship, as Jesus talked about it, was intended to shape the way His followers would think, feel and act in relationship toward God, self, others, and the earth. He wanted us to recognize the countless ways we have been blessed.

Stewardship is our response to God’s love and a recognition that all we are and all we have been given are gifts from God. Our task is to care for these gifts that have been entrusted to us and use them to serve God and this world. Not only does the church need the financial support, but we need to support this partnership of ministry to which we have been called. Fund raising revolves around finances. Stewardship, on the other hand is one way we live out our commitment to Jesus Christ. Stewardship is what we do with God’s gifts after we say we believe.

It is my hope that, as we make our gifts for the coming year, we each give an amount in proportion to our income and together say “thank you” to God. Experience says growth in stewardship will result in spiritual growth. Martin Luther, the great reformer, said that every Christian goes through three conversions in life – first the heart, then the head, and finally the purse. God’s grace compels us to make a generous response. May our pledges for the coming year reflect the vital role God plays in our lives.

With hope for the future, - *Bill*



Seems Like Yesterday: Plymouth 400

In September 1620, the Mayflower, a merchant ship, set sail from southern England for Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts. Of the 102 passengers who boarded the ship, almost 40 were Protestant Separatists who wanted to separate from the Church of England. Their hope was the establishment of a new church characterized by the total autonomy of each congregation and a purity of worship unencumbered by corruption, hierarchy, and ritual.

This fall, Congregational churches throughout the U.S. are preparing to commemorate the 400th Anniversary of the Pilgrim landing at Plymouth. The celebration will culminate with Thanksgiving 2021.

First Church plans to use this unique opportunity to build community awareness of early Congregationalists and today’s Congregationalism through activities and outreach. The National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC) will offer us a number of resources for promoting Congregational history internally and to the public.

In fact, if you’d like to show your pride in being a Congregationalist, the NACCC is offering tee shirts, jackets, hoodies and more imprinted apparel with its Faith 400 logo. Go to <https://naccc-apparel.itemorder.com> and see what’s in store!

Stay tuned. It’s going to be an exciting year!

Thank You to FCC

A message from the Capital Campaign Committee

THANK YOU to those of you that have committed to the Capital Commitment Campaign. At this writing, A third of September has passed and with a small number of cards submitted by September 10th we have passed the 34% mark of our goal. As you read this, we only can dream of what your commitments can mean. Some of you have stretched to make the early returns fantastic. We look forward to additional commitments during the rest of this campaign.

We ask all our members and friends to help in keeping our facility inviting and useful toward our ministry to this community and the needs of all that visit and join our Church.

Whatever a significant donation means in your life, believe us in the heart felt value of that significance here in Wauwatosa. Whatever you can commit, please do so.



Saturday, October 5, FCC members and Wauwatosa residents can pick up a cup of apple cider and a home-baked cookie when they drop off a donation of full-size hygiene products or personal care items for Tosa Cares. Items will be collected between 9 am and 12 noon in the parking lot.

Tosa Cares has an urgent need for toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, dental floss, hand soap, bath soap, hair products and accessories, facial tissue, laundry detergent, men's shaving supplies and adhesive bandages.

Tosa Cares annually helps hundreds of people in need, many of whom were referred by the Wauwatosa Fire Department, Police Department, churches, and schools. Many needs are caused by a sudden job loss, health problem, house fire or other crisis. Income-qualified seniors also find help at Tosa Cares.

Circle 7's annual collection is Tosa Care's only source for hygiene products. In the last few years, First Church has made some of its largest-ever donations as a result of your generosity.

For more information, contact the Office at 414.258.7375.



FCC has an active prayer shawl ministry that provides shawls to church members, family or friends who are in need of extra comfort. We thank our gracious knitters and crocheters for their beautiful gifts of prayerful love. For those receiving a prayer shawl, it can offer a warm hug and support; a private place to relax and renew; or something to hold on to when things seem to be drifting away.

Would you like to help with this creative mission? Please consider knitting or crocheting a prayer shawl on your own or stop by our "Purls of Wisdom" knitting group. We meet the first Saturday of the month from 10-12, starting October 5th. We share patterns, other service project ideas, and fellowship. Don't know how to knit but would like to learn? Stop on by, we would love to teach you.

Big Band is Back Saturday, October 19th • 5-7:30

The Big Band, which rehearses every Thursday in the Social Hall, offers this special performance as a thank-you for its longstanding relationship with First church. Whether names like Dorsey, Goodman, Miller, and Basie bring back wonderful memories or leave you scratching your head, we predict you'll have a great evening enjoying timeless music and savoring delicious hors d'oeuvres.

The Social Hall will be swinging to the sounds of the Big Band. Sit back and groove to classic jazz and swing favorites or dance the night away. Our own Jillian Bruss is a featured vocalist.

\$10 tickets includes beverages and appetizers!

All are welcome, but space is limited, so don't delay!

Tickets are available from the FCC Front Office.

Please sign up at the Gathering Table.

For more information, call the Office at 414-258-7375

JUST FOR YOUTH

October 2019



Sunday School

Sunday, October 6, 13, 20, and 27

for ages 3 – 5th grade

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

Discovery Kids

Sunday, October 6, 13, 20, and 27

for kids of all ages in LLS

Kids enjoy this special time of additional activities led by volunteers at 9 am, before their traditional Sunday School at 10 am. Those who rehearse with the choir will join them after practice. Older youth are invited to help lead.

Junior Choir

Sunday, October 6, 13, 20, and 27

for grades 2-8

Meet at 9:00 in LL4

Sing on Sunday, October 20

Faith Finders

Monday, October 14

for grades 1 – 5

This group meets on the second Monday of the month for singing, fellowship, games, and program time. They begin with an optional dinner at 5 pm, followed by programming from 5:30 - 6:30 pm.

Friends are welcome! Come enjoy tacos this month. No cost, but donations for the meal are appreciated.

Youth Service Initiative Continues

I am pleased to announce the continuation of the Youth Service Initiative program that was started 2 years ago. The idea for this program began in discussions with our Mission Team, as we realized that our youth want to serve others and are quite good at it. Our high school teens commit their time, talent, and treasure each year on the missions trip, as they travel to help those in need. As our leaders reflected on the trip, there was a realization that our youth can serve people not only in a different part of the country, but here in the Milwaukee area and even closer to home in our own church. The result was our Youth Service Initiative.

The Youth Service Initiative will take place every third Sunday of the month. Our middle and high school students will serve as greeters, ushers, liturgists, special musicians and will help with Coffee Hour. Different youth will fill those roles each month, with many of the roles being filled by our Covenant class. There will be a couple of months when our youth will even bake the treats for Coffee Hour. Our middle and high school students will take part in a presentation for our Sunday School classes, which will allow our Sunday School teachers to stay in Worship one Sunday morning per month. The goals of this program will be:

- to encourage connections (right at the Nave doors)
- to nurture relationships among the generations
- to foster ownership in church life by our youth.

The bottom line is our incredible young people will be in the spotlight on a monthly basis. Our sincere hope is that this will be meaningful for our youth and adults alike.

I am also pleased to share that we have developed a partnership with St. Mark's AME Church for our youth, both for community service and fellowship. We had our first meeting on Sunday, August 18th, as Jim Santelle, Jon Stern, and I drove 8 of our middle and high school students to St. Mark's to make our first connection. We participated in the end of their morning Worship, and then enjoyed ice breaker activities. Wonderful volunteers from St. Mark's provided a delicious pizza lunch, which gave the youth time for fellowship and great conversation, and we finished our time together with the youth sharing their ideas for community service projects that we will do together in the coming months and years. The result of this meeting is that our two groups will work side by side on a neighborhood clean-up on October 19th as our inaugural project. I know that this is just the start of a unique experience for our youth, and that they are excited about it. - Tonia

Covenant Class

Sunday, October 6 and 20

Group meets at 8:30 am in the Library.

Covenant Retreat on October 6.

Pilgrim Fellowship (PF)

Sunday, October 6, 13, 20, and 27

for grades 6 – 12

Teens will begin in church with their families during 10 am worship and will be dismissed to PF during the service.

"Packer" Party

Sunday, October 6 at 3pm until game's end

North Shore Congregational

It's the first of our new tri-church youth events— "Tri-Youth" or "Tri-Y" if you like— uniting 6th-12th graders from Tosa, OCC, and North Shore! The word "Packer" is in quotation marks because in this case it has a double meaning. Not only will we watch the Packer game, but at halftime we'll "pack" personal hygiene kits for the Mac-Canon Brown Homeless Sanctuary. Please consider bringing any of the following needed items: bar soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, lotion (hand/body), and hand sanitizer

Fab Flicks & Halloween Party

We will be watching a movie at 6:00 pm followed by fun Halloween games and activities. All Jr. & Sr. High students are welcome - bring your friends.

If you are interested in signing up for these events or have questions contact: Tonia Wallner: tonia@firstchurchtosa.org

A Note From Pastor Barry

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



Jesus lived his life fully integrated within the culture and society of his time. From his resurrection forward, Jesus expects us to work within the culture and society we find ourselves in: this is how we will unite ourselves with God's Kingdom; this is what we pray for when we ask that His Father's divine will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Some individuals separate themselves from culture to, in their perception, be purer Christians. Their paradigm is that if a person follows Jesus they must make an either/or decision. The choice they create for themselves is an easy one: follow God, or ignore current culture and society.

Another view is that Jesus, a great teacher, was a man who achieved immense human wisdom which he shared with us. Another opinion is held by those who see Jesus as the Second-Member-of-the-Trinity who resides 'up there' for He is the Divine-Christ who is above culture and society.

But there is still another view, and the people who hold this view cause me more alarm: those whose paradigm is that Christianity and culture are opposites of each other, yet they can live part of their life in one 'morality' and the other part of their life in another -- at the same time! In their opinion there is one morality which one lives with in commerce, politics, culture, economics, but a separate and distinct morality in church and family life, which is what is God's. Because of their dual morality, those who hold this view (and there are many), live in tension. Yet they willingly accept and embrace the duality they believe in because it is the way they see life. They strive to live as citizens of both worlds. Life for them is not harmonious, but discordant. In my life as a lawyer and a business owner I have seen many people who live with one set of rules in 'the world-of-business-and-politics', and another set of rules within their church and family lives!

Jesus knew of people like this even in his time, as did the Prophets, for they have all bid us to integrate morality. When people are tempted to covet, lie, steal, and give false witness, they compromise by creating dual 'moralities'. Jesus clearly told us "No one can serve two masters; for we will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other." Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13. Jesus desires that we live justly and love our neighbor. As we follow him we must work to actively integrate his moral teachings in what we say and how we act. If we separate ourselves from culture we will not be following him. If we view Jesus to be simply a wise human, or alternatively, hold him up as solely divine, we are not following who he really is. Further, if we create and live a dual morality, we cannot follow him. However, when we live a loving life in Christ fully involved in the culture and society we live in, then we truly follow Jesus.

- Pastor Barry

Celebrate Worldwide Christian Unity



First Church will join Christian churches around the world when it celebrates World Communion Sunday 2019 on Sunday, October 6. The event, which is always on the first Sunday of October, promotes Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation.

The observance began in 1933 at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh. From there it spread throughout U.S. Presbyterian churches and beyond until it was recognized worldwide.

October 6th is a good time to remember our spiritual connection to all Christians around the globe.

Help Needed Custodian Part-time

The church is looking for an evening/weekend part-time custodian who would be responsible for prep and assisting groups using the building for meetings or events. Responsibilities during the winter months would include: maintaining the parking lot, walkways and entryways for safe entrance and exit of the building. Also, performing assigned cleaning tasks and general maintenance, as directed. A complete position description is available at the office.

**Please contact Rev. Bill Trump
if you are interested!**

414-258-7375, ext. 227


or

email: trumpb@firstchurchtosa.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL


OCTOBER

	1	7 ^{am} Women's Ministry 9 ^{am} YOGA 1:30 ^{pm} Greco Brass Quartet 6:45 ^{pm} Boy Scouts 7 ^{pm} Quilters Anon	2 6:30 ^{am} Men's Bible Study 6 ^{pm} Debtors Anon 7 ^{pm} Personnel	3 9 ^{am} Big Band 10 ^{am} Sidetracks 5:30 ^{pm} BSF 6:15 ^{pm} Handbells 6:30 ^{pm} Financial Peace University 7:30 ^{pm} FCC Choir	4 8 ^{am} St. Vincent Prep 5:15 ^{pm} St. Vincent Serve	5 9 ^{am} Tosa Gares Collection 10 ^{am} Purts of Wisdom 4 ^{pm} Casual Worship
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6 8 ^{am} Chapel/Comm. Worship 8:30 ^{am} Covenant Class 8:45 ^{am} Adult Learning Hour 9 ^{am} • Discovery Kids • Jr. Choir Rehearsal • Nursery 10 ^{am} Worship/Communion PF/SS/Nursery 11 ^{am} Coffee Fellowship 11:15 ^{am} Beny/Stewardship 3 ^{pm} Tri-Y Packer Party	7 9 ^{am} Harmony Singers 12:30 ^{pm} Heritage Garden Club 1 ^{pm} Staff Meeting 7 ^{pm} Al-Anon Meeting 8 ^{pm} AA-Charlie Stone Group	8 7 ^{am} Women's Ministry 9 ^{am} YOGA 12 ^{pm} Circle 7 1:30 ^{pm} Greco Brass Quartet 6:45 ^{pm} Boy Scouts	9 6:30 ^{pm} Men's Ministry 9 ^{am} Cream City Rug Club 6 ^{pm} Debtors Anon	10 9 ^{am} Big Band 10 ^{am} Sidetracks 5:30 ^{pm} BSF 6:15 ^{pm} Handbells 6:30 ^{pm} Financial Peace University 7:30 ^{pm} FCC Choir	11	12 4 ^{pm} Casual Worship
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13 8 ^{am} Chapel Worship 8:45 ^{am} Adult Learning Hour 9 ^{am} • Discovery Kids • Jr. Choir Rehearsal • Nursery • Fellowship Board • LRP 10 ^{am} Worship PF/SS/Nursery 11 ^{am} Coffee Fellowship 11:10 ^{am} Nominating Committee	14 9 ^{am} Harmony Singers 11:30 ^{am} TCTC 1 ^{pm} Staff Meeting 5 ^{pm} Faith Finders 6:30 ^{pm} Deacons 7 ^{pm} Christian Ed 7 ^{pm} Trustees 7 ^{pm} Al-Anon Meeting 8 ^{pm} AA-Charlie Stone Group	15 7 ^{am} Women's Ministry 9 ^{am} YOGA 1:30 ^{pm} Greco Brass Quartet 6:45 ^{pm} Boy Scouts 7 ^{pm} Historic Heights Book Club 7 ^{pm} Tosa Quilters	16 6:30 ^{pm} Men's Bible Study 10 ^{am} Harwood Communion & Chat 6:00 ^{pm} Debtors Anon	17 9 ^{am} Big Band 10 ^{am} Sidetracks 5:30 ^{pm} BSF 6:15 ^{pm} Handbells 6:30 ^{pm} Financial Peace University 7:30 ^{pm} FCC Choir	18	19 FCC-St. Mark Neighborhood Clean-Up 4 ^{pm} Casual Worship 5 ^{pm} Big Band Dance
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20 8 ^{am} Taize Worship 8:30 ^{am} Covenant Class 8:45 ^{am} Adult Learning Hour 9 ^{am} • Discovery Kids • Jr. Choir Rehearsal • Nursery 10 ^{am} Worship/Jr. Choir Sings PF/SS/Nursery 11 ^{am} • Coffee Fellowship • Capital Campaign Task Force	21 9 ^{am} Harmony Singers 1 ^{pm} Staff Meeting 5:30 ^{pm} Congregational Care 7 ^{pm} Al-Anon Meeting 8 ^{pm} AA-Charlie Stone Group	22 7 ^{am} Women's Ministry 9 ^{am} YOGA 1:30 ^{pm} Greco Brass Quartet 6:45 ^{pm} Boy Scouts 7 ^{pm} Church Council	23 6:30 ^{pm} Men's Ministry 6 ^{pm} Debtors Anon	24 9 ^{am} Big Band 10 ^{am} Sidetracks 5:30 ^{pm} BSF 6:15 ^{pm} Handbells 6:30 ^{pm} Financial Peace University 7:30 ^{pm} FCC Choir	25	26 4 ^{pm} Casual Worship
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27 8 ^{am} Chapel Worship 8:45 ^{am} Adult Learning Hour 9 ^{am} • Men's Choir Rehearsal • Discovery Kids • Jr. Choir Rehearsal • Nursery 10 ^{am} Congregational Home Day Worship/Jr Choir Sings PF/SS/Nursery 11 ^{am} • Coffee Fellowship • Communications Committee	28 9 ^{am} Harmony Singers 1 ^{pm} Staff Meeting 7 ^{pm} Al-Anon Meeting 8 ^{pm} AA-Charlie Stone Group	29 7 ^{am} Women's Ministry 9 ^{am} YOGA 1:30 ^{pm} Greco Brass Quartet 6:45 ^{pm} Boy Scouts	30 6 ^{pm} Debtors Anon	31 9 ^{am} Big Band 10 ^{am} Sidetracks 5:30 ^{pm} BSF 6:15 ^{pm} Handbells 7:30 ^{pm} FCC Choir		
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The First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa
1511 Church Street
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Church Family News

Death

Dick Buchman passed away on Monday, September 16, 2019.
Services will be held Saturday, November 30th at 3:00pm
here at FCC.

Charlene Powers passed away on Tuesday, August 27, 2019.

Congratulations

McCall Hoerz and **Jerome Bauerfeld** were married at FCC
on Saturday, August 31, 2019.
McCall is the daughter of Nancy Leahy and the grand-daughter
of Carrie Laubenheimer.

Arwen Mae Schloemer, daughter of Nathan and Fallon Schloemer,
was born on Friday, September 13th. Jule and Rory are enjoying
their new little sister.