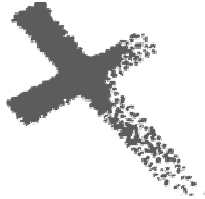


Established 1856

# Talk of the Tower

You are welcome at First Congregational U.C.C., wherever you are on your spiritual journey.

**GOD'S  
PEOPLE  
GATHER**



February 15, 2012

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Mark 9:2-9

9:15 a.m. Chancel Choir

10:00 a.m.

† Worship, Food for Pets

10:15 a.m. Children dismissed to Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Fellowship

11:15 a.m. Youth Choir

3:00 p.m. AGO Organ Recital

5:00 p.m. Games Night

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 II Corinthians 5:20-6:10

7:00 p.m.

† Ash Wednesday Worship

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Mark 1:12-15

9:15 a.m. Chancel Choir

10:00 a.m.

† Worship,

11:00 a.m. Fellowship, Wills Seminar

11:15 a.m. Youth Choir

6:00 p.m. Confirmation

## SUNDAY, MARCH 4

Mark 1: 40-45

9:15 a.m. Chancel Choir

10:00 a.m.

† Worship, Communion, Care 'n Share, Youth and Scout Sunday

No Sunday school

11:00 a.m. Fellowship

11:15 a.m. Youth Choir

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### RED CROSS BLOOD DONATION DAY

Monday, February 20

12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m. - Ingram Hall

If you haven't signed up to donate blood on Monday, don't fret. Gail Barnes will take your appointment on Sunday morning - she's ready to write you down. If you are unable to commit to a time plan on walking in to Ingram Hall at your convenience anytime Monday afternoon. Your reward: knowing you've helped to supply much needed blood and of course, the yummiest treats in town.

### ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Wednesday, February 22

7:00 p.m.

This is a service of Holy Communion and imposition of ashes, a token of repentance and mortality. The Chancel Choir will sing. Child care is available upon request.

### THE FORTY DAYS OF LENT

Lent is the forty-day period, not counting Sundays, before Easter that focuses on the passion, crucifixion, and death of Jesus Christ. Lent is a solemn season in the Christian year. In many traditions, it is a time when Christians repent taking account of our own sinfulness in the many ways we have turned from God's will and becoming aware of the fact that we stand in need of God's saving love.

This season begins with Ash Wednesday.

### JUST CINEMA - MOVIE NIGHT: *WINTER BONES*

Thursday, February 23

6:30 p.m. - Chapel

Seventeen-year-old Ree Dolly (Jennifer Lawrence) sets out to track down her father, who put their house up for his bail bond and then disappeared. If she fails, Ree and her family will be turned out into the Ozark woods. Challenging her outlaw kin's code of silence and risking her life, Ree hacks through the lies, evasions and threats offered up by her relatives and begins to piece together the truth. Nominated for 4 Academy Awards in 2011, including best picture. The evening includes popcorn and moderated discussion following the film.

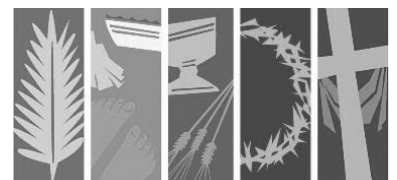
### Games Night!

@ First Congo

Sunday, February 19

5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

All singles, couples, families, & friends are invited to Ingram Hall for games, snacks and fellowship. Guaranteed fun!



## MONEY AND MINISTRY

Year to date—January 2012	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>Actual Year to Date</u>
Revenue	\$531,821	\$348,525
Expenses	\$531,821	\$286,615

## UPDATE FROM STEWARDSHIP

Pledges for 7/1/11–6/30/12	\$472,000
Pledges received January 2012	\$ 49,314
Total pledges received 7/1/11–6/30/2012	\$317,860



**FROM THE  
PASTOR**

Dear Friends,

As we prepare to enter the Lenten season, I want to share with you this poem by Thomas H. Cain. Cain's words capture something of the nature of our journey with God through this season of growing self-awareness towards transformation and new life.

Eternal Lord of love, behold your church  
Walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent,  
Led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,  
Moved by your love and toward your presence bent:  
Far off yet here - the goal of all desire.

So daily dying to the way of self,  
So daily living to your way of love,  
We walk the road, Lord Jesus, that you trod,  
Knowing ourselves baptized into your death:  
So we are dead and live with you in God.

If dead in you, so in you we arise,  
You the first born of all the faithful dead;  
And as through stony ground the green shoots break,  
Glorious in the springtime dress of leaf and flower,  
So in [God's] glory shall we wake.

May you be blessed with a heightened awareness of God's sustaining presence in your life during this Lenten season.

Faithfully,

## **PRAYER CONCERNS**



Please hold  
Family and friends of  
Margaret Brown  
The sister of Gail and  
Dave Barnes

Residents of the village of Okora, Uganda  
Victims of natural disasters, caregivers of  
loved ones at home, and all those affected  
by war and terrorism in your thoughts  
and prayers this week.

*Please alert the office if you know someone who is ill, is dealing with the loss of a loved one, or is having a difficult time in their life. We try not to miss anyone but sometimes it does happen and we do apologize. And please remember our shut-ins and our nursing home residents with your prayers, a card, a visit or a call.*

## **CHURCH VIPS**

### **Sunday school attendance**

Jan 29 – 44 Feb 5 – 17 Feb 12 – 55

### **Worship attendance**

Jan 29 - 209 Feb 5 – 194 Feb 12 - 216

**Ushers:** Feb 19 – Ben Proctor, Capt.; Carl Brown, Debbie Gough, Jane and Chris Lindblad, Gib Magaw, Linda Pieper Feb 22 Ash Wed. –John Baltes, Capt; Lee Fritts, James Hazelton, Bill Krochmalski, Jim Radloff, Jayne Woodburn, Greg Voss Feb 26 – Craig Falkner, Capt; Richard Arnold, Steve and Dianne Decker, Jeff Herman, Richard Murray, Matt Gundry Mar 4 – Dave Pulkrabek, Capt; Suzanne, Glen Schuster, George and Stella Hunter, Will Pooley, Greg Barnes

**Liturgists:** Feb 19 – Susan Haake Feb 26 – Jayne Woodburn Mar 4 - Mary Lonzarich

**Tellers:** Feb 19- Ruth Verbrugge, Lucy Bauer Feb 26– Flo Pulse, Karen Taylor Mar 4 - Richard Murray, Jan Proctor

**Greeters:** Feb 19– Religious Education Feb 26 – Spiritual Life Mar 4 - Stewardship

**Nursery/Preschool:** Feb 19– Pam Braun, Brittanly Hattrem, Heather Kouris, Becky Dyar, Rachel Eierman Feb 26– Pam and Paul Braun, Jeanne Herman, Zoe Copa, Kurt/Jackie Wiegel, Matt/Jenny Olson Mar 5– Pam Braun, Gina Kittilstad, Kelsey Pulkrabek, Madeline Braun, Scott and Sadie Gunderson

# MISSIONS IN MOTION

## EMPTY BOWLS - A BENEFIT FOR FEED MY PEOPLE

**When:** Thursday, March 8, 11:a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (continuous serving)

**Where:** Trinity Lutheran Church, 1314 E. Lexington Blvd.

**What:** Choose from 4 soups made and donated by local restaurants great breads and desserts. Choose a ceramic bowl made by a local artisans or pay just for the meal. Carry out available.

**Cost:** \$8 for the meal: 18 for the meal plus the bowl; Children under 10 are free.

**Why:** 39,000 people live in poverty in the fourteen counties served by Feed My People.

Each month 14,500 people rely on food supplied by Feed My People  
39% are children

For \$100 Feed My People can provide enough food for over 570 meals. That means your \$18 can provide 100 meals!

Feed My People distributed over 5.6 million pounds of food in 2011, 43% more than in 2010.



Over the past month we have received acknowledgements of and thanks for our donations received by The Community Table, St. Francis Food Pantry, and the Salvation Army/ CareLink which totaled \$494.39.

Even the 'small' gifts given by our church's members add up to helpful funding of our community's needs. Thank you!

*Tickets are available after church or during the week at the church office .*

## NEW VOTER ID INFORMATION

The new Voter ID law requires voters to show a photo ID before they can receive a ballot. Fortunately, most people already have the photo ID required to vote. A photo ID is valid even if expired after the most recent general election which was Nov. 2, 2010.

The four most common types:

Wisconsin driver license

Wisconsin state ID card

Military ID card

U.S. Passport

Four other kinds of photo ID are also acceptable, if they have not expired:

Certificate of Naturalization

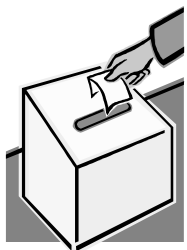
Driver license or state ID card receipt issued by the DMV; an ID issued by a Federally recognized Wisconsin Indian tribe

Photo ID issued by a Wisconsin accredited university or college that meets certain requirements, and is accompanied by proof of enrollment.

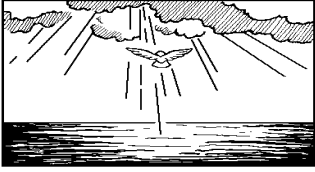
The Photo ID requirement applies to Election Day voters, absentee voters who come to the clerk's office to vote and absentee voters who cast their ballot by mail.

Exemptions include:

**There is an important exception for voters in nursing homes and care facilities, as well as those at home who are "indefinitely confined" due to age, physical illness or infirmity, or who are disabled for an indefinite period.** Instead of providing a copy of their photo ID, they may have their absentee witness verify their identity. If you think you meet the definition of an "indefinitely confined voter", please contact Mary Barnes.



# CONNECT, LEARN,



Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty.

-John 4:14

## LEARNING IN JESUS' NAME

In the



### PRESCHOOL AND K-1: MARY AND MARTHA

When Jesus visits Mary and Martha, Mary eagerly sits at Jesus' feet to hear his words while sister Martha busily cleans and cooks. When Martha pleads with Jesus to tell Mary to help her with the work, Jesus says "Mary has made the better choice." (Luke 10:38-42)

This story illustrates the importance of listening to others and making them feel welcome when they visit our homes. Sometimes we are so busy that we forget to listen. While Martha thought she was making Jesus feel welcome and Jesus appreciated her efforts, Mary made a better choice.

Mary and Martha is the Sunday School theme through February 26 in the preschool and K-1 classes.

### CHILD CARE DURING LENT

**Ash Wednesday, February 22** - 7 p.m. service, child care available if requested. Contact Pam Braun at braunp@att.net or 715-832-2048.

**Palm Sunday, April 1** - 10 a.m. service, nursery open and staffed.

**Maundy Thursday, April 5** - 6:30 p.m. service, child care available if requested. Contact Pam Braun at braunp@att.net or 715-832-2048.

**Easter Sunday, April 8** - 8:30 a.m. service, nursery unstaffed but open for use; 10 a.m., nursery staffed, Sunday School for preschoolers.

### SCOUT SUNDAY - MARCH 4

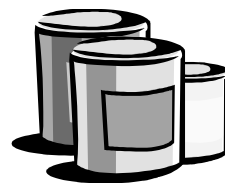
Scouts will be recognized in our congregation. If your child (Boy Scout or Girl Scout) is active in scouting, we would like to have them wear their uniform and participate in the service as a greeter, serve communion, and participate in the curb usher corps. Please contact Heather Kouris at [heather@kouris.info](mailto:heather@kouris.info).

### SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Thank you to our church family for donating to last Sunday's Souper Bowl of Caring. We collected just shy of \$550! This generous amount will be donated to St. Francis Food Pantry to help them continue to feed the hungry people in our wider community. Your grocery contributions on Care 'n Share Sunday on the same day amounted to 16 grocery bags full of non-perishable items! This ongoing mission continues to fill the shelves at St. Francis. Thank you!

### DROP IN THE BUCKET FOR FEBRUARY

Our project this month is St. Francis Food Pantry. Thank you for teaching your children to share with those in need.



### MIDDLE SCHOOL WEEKLY OVERVIEW

**Sunday morning:** "If there is one God, why are there so many different religions?" with Linda Fossum

**Wednesday Meal:** A youth friendly meal is offered at 5:30 PM (\$2) for family convenience. Meal tickets may be purchased for 12 meals at \$24.

**Wednesday fellowship:** Jill Christopherson and Stephanie Ringsred, Feb 15: Who do they say that I am? For Youth Sunday, Feb 22: Ash Wednesday, Feb 29: Who do they say that I am? For Youth Sunday. Mar 7: Syverson Home for Bingo.

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# GROW - IN COMMUNITY



## SMALL GROUP AND FAMILY MINISTRY

### FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN: MISSION TRIP TO EGAN, MINN. - MARCH 10

First Congregational is going to Eagan, MN to help with **Feed My Starving Children**. We have spaces for 15 and the lower age limit is third grade. This is a marvelous volunteer opportunity that is well organized, children are busy from the time they arrive until you leave. Leaving Eau Claire on March 10 at 9:00 AM and volunteering from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Deadline to sign up: March 4.

### LENTEN BOOK STUDY BEGINS FEB 29

Pastor Mark Pirazzini leads a book study for Lent. Lent is a time when one cleans out the old to prepare for the new, and in that spirit you are invited to join us for this three-session study beginning Feb 29 and finishing on March 14. We are reading Marcus Borg's book, [Speaking Christian: Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Meaning and Power—And How They Can Be Restored](#). In this time, we have the opportunity to become more deeply acquainted with our language of Christianity. Recover words like salvation, redemption, and forgiveness. Borg writes, "Christian vocabulary has acquired meanings that are serious distortions of their biblical and traditional meanings." Books are now available to be picked up.

**Wednesdays: Feb 29, Mar 7, Mar 14**

**5:15 - 6:45 PM**

**Leader: Rev Dr. Mark Pirazzini**

### MARCUS BORG RETREAT,

**April 20-21, 2012:** *"Why Didn't Anyone Tell Me This Before: Embracing an Adult Faith" is the focus of Dr. Borg's presentation.*

Marcus J. Borg is an American Biblical scholar and author. He is a fellow of the Jesus Seminar, holds a DPhil degree from Oxford University and is a Hundred Distinguished Professor of Religion and Culture, an endowed chair, at Oregon State University, from which he retired in 2007. Borg is among the most widely-known and influential voices in progressive Christianity.

First Congregational UCC, Eau Claire is taking reservations for persons who would like to attend the April 20-21 retreat. This retreat event is held at New Richmond High School, 650 Richmond Way, New Richmond, WI. Registration begins at 6:00 PM on Friday, April 20 and concludes on Saturday, April 21 at 2:45 PM. This event is sponsored by the United Methodist Churches. Cost for the ticket is \$65 and you may choose to attend only Friday or only Saturday. It is the same cost for full or partial attendance.

Deadline for *First Congregational Group* registration is March 16. We will package the transportation and lodging for members who would like to travel together. When making your reservation with the church office, please indicate your interest in overnight accommodations.

**April 20- 21, 2012**

**Leader: The Rev. Dr. Marcus Borg**, Canon Theologian at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland, OR, and author.

**Cost: \$65, (meals and lodging would be extra)**

**Contact the church office for information: 715-834-2668**

# OPPORTUNITIES IN MINISTRY

## ENDOWMENT NEWS

When the Light Eternal Society was launched last Easter, we recognized twenty-one members from the past who generously left planned gifts to our Church. We also recognized twenty-five current members who intend to provide for the future of our Church through a planned gift.

Since that time, our Church has received additional estate gifts from Leora Forcier and June Worth. Their names will be added to the membership of the Light Eternal Society on Easter Sunday, 2012, when we celebrate their generous gifts. On Easter Sunday, we will also honor additional Church members who have committed to remember our Church through a gift in the future.

We invite you to join the Light Eternal Society by including our Church in your plans for a future planned gift. A planned gift can be as simple as a bequest in a Will. A planned gift can be a gift of real estate, as was the gift from June Worth. It can be a charitable gift annuity or a trust arrangement. Please contact any member of the Planned Giving Committee or contact Pastor Mark to discuss this opportunity. You may also wish to pick up a Light Eternal brochure in the narthex of the Church. Light Eternal Society members share a vision for our Church's future and an abiding belief in the mission of our Church. This could be an opportunity for you to put your faith into action.

Members of the Planned Giving Committee are Marcia Van Beek, Susan Bruce, Steve Decker, Dave Morley, and John Hertz.

## BASIC WILL SEMINAR

The Planned Giving Committee will offer a forty-five minute Wills seminar on Sunday, February 26, 2012, after our Sunday worship service. The Wills seminar will take place in the Chapel. Please put this on your calendar now.

Presenters for the seminar will be attorneys who practice in the area of Wills and estate planning. This seminar will provide a short and basic program on Wills.

This basic Wills seminar is for members of any age. Please use this seminar as your first step in your plan to make or update your Will.

## HOUSE FOR SALE

June Worth, a long time member of our church who passed away last year, donated her home to our church. We are now ready to sell the Worth property and would like to give anyone in our church family first chance to buy it by the end of March before we list it. Katrinka Bourne, a member of our church Facility Committee, is your contact if interested at 715-514-0241.

The house is on a corner lot in a great neighborhood at 2716 May Street. The single story ranch home has three bedrooms, full bath, living room w/fireplace, dining room, and kitchen w/pantry on the main floor. The full basement is wide open, with a fireplace, half-bath, laundry hook-ups, newer gas water heater and furnace w/humidifier and central air. An attached over-size 2-car garage completes the structure built in 1966. The vintage appliances were in poor condition and have been removed. So, there are hook-ups but no appliances in the house. We have had the house professionally cleaned inside by Absolutely Taylor MAID.

The property has been appraised, as is, by Anderson-Moessner Appraisals, LLC for \$114,000.



## IN THE CONGREGATION

The life of Margaret Brown, a member since 1967, was celebrated on Friday, February 3.

## IN THE COMMUNITY

Dr. Gregory Peterson will present an organ recital on Sunday February 19 at 2:00 p.m. in the First Congregational UCC sanctuary. Dr. Peterson is Head of the Music Department, Associate Professor and College Organist at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, where he teaches applied organ and church music.

The concert is sponsored by the Chippewa Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and is open to the public. A freewill offering will be taken.





## PRIMETIME POSTINGS

### MEDICARE AND SKILLED NURSING HOMES

This news was printed in the recent February newsletter of the Aging & Disability Resource Center and was new information to me and perhaps will be to you.

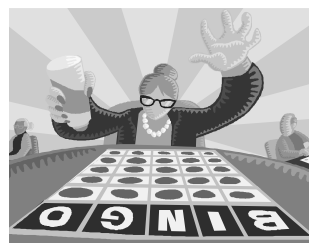
“Most people understand that having Medicare alone to pay for all of their medical expenses is not enough. Many people choose between a supplement or an advantage plan in addition to Medicare. If you have chosen a supplement that is sold in Wisconsin, you need to be aware of the state mandates associated with supplements.

Individuals as well as nursing homes are not always aware of the state mandates associated with supplemental insurance. Individuals may be paying for services that their supplement should pay. For example, if you do not have a 3-day prior stay as an inpatient in the hospital and then need rehabilitation at a skilled nursing home facility, Medicare will not pay for the room and board. However, the state mandate indicates that your supplement should pay for up to a 30 day non-Medicare skilled nursing facility with no prior hospitalization required, but must meet medical necessity requirements. If you find yourself in this situation, please ask the nursing home to bill Medicare. Medicare will deny the claim. However, the supplement needs this denial to pay on the claim. It may take some work on your part to get this paid but the state mandate directs your supplement to pay under these circumstances. The supplement may automatically deny your claim. You will then need to contact your supplement and remind them of the mandate and ask them to review the claim for payment.

Recently the Aging and Disability Resource Center successfully helped a client receive a several thousand dollar refund from a facility. She was charged room and board because she did not have a 3-day prior stay in the hospital but needed rehabilitation care. Fortunately, she contacted our office for assistance after she paid the facility for room and board. It took several months of working with the facility and the supplement for everyone to understand the state mandated benefit. The end result was the supplement paying the facility for her room & board and the facility subsequently refunding the client. If you want more information on state mandates as it pertains to your supplement, contact the Aging & Disability Resource Center at 715-839-4735.”

### PLANNING SOME SPRING CLEANING?

One option for all that stuff you no longer need is to donate it to those who organize an annual thrift sale for Longfellow School. Longfellow has many children who come from lower socio-economic households and the school benefits greatly from the proceeds of this annual thrift sale that takes place in May. If you have things to donate, please call Judy Harris at 715-834-8954. Judy is the daughter of Eunice Whipple, long-time member of our church. Judy is willing to pick things up at your house if needed and can take donations any time. Thank you!



### BINGO AT DOVE ON MARCH 8

Mark your calendars now for our first Spring Bingo date at Dove West! We will be the sponsors for the Thursday, March 8 Bingo at 1 p.m. and again in April on Thursday, April 12 at 1 p.m. If you can come and help residents with their Bingo cards, distribute prizes and snacks, please call Mary Barnes in the church office. This is always lots of fun and appreciated by all. Thank you!

First Congregational U.C.C.  
310 Broadway St.  
Eau Claire, WI 54703

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**Joining Our Neighbors, Advancing Hope**  
*People of faith gathered for the common good.*

**JONAH 11x15 Campaign:** Eau Claire participates in launching this campaign with a Treatment Instead of Prison Banquet, February 18, beginning with social gathering at 4:30 PM at Peace Church, Eau Claire. This event features testimonials from Specialty Court graduates, a spaghetti Dinner and keynote speaker, ending at 7:30 PM. This event highlights the focused effort to reduce incarceration levels in Wisconsin by half bringing to their 1995 levels of 11,000 individuals by the year 2015. Although the prison population has doubled in these past years, there is no corresponding rise in the state's crime rate. The cost of Corrections in Wisconsin has risen from under \$200 million per year in 1990 to more than \$1.3 billion in 2011. The good news is that alternatives to incarceration are being proven effective every day in our county. Alternatives nearly all result in markedly lowered recidivism rates, are more likely to restore the offender to health, especially those suffering from mental illness and/or addictions, and save taxpayers a great deal of money.

## TALK OF THE TOWER...

is a publication for members and friends of First Congregational United Church of Christ, Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Editor: Jan Smith Senior Minister: Rev. Dr. Mark X. Pirazzini

**Next deadline: 10 a.m., Monday, February 27, 2012**

Put items (as short as possible) in the "in" basket in the church office, fax to 715-834-0674 or e-mail to [jans@firstucceauclaire.org](mailto:jans@firstucceauclaire.org)



## First Congregational United Church of Christ

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Office hours: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

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Jill Christopherson, Director of Religious Education

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Mary Barnes, Director of Elderlife

Brent Podhaski, Custodian

Mary Ann Minton, Financial Secretary

Dr. Gary Schwartzhoff, Director of Music

Judy Lies, Organist

Sarah Olson, Children's Choir Director

Meredith Pirazzini, Youth Choirs Accompanist

Pam Braun, Primary Education Coordinator

## OKORA—ONE YEAR LATER

### Reflections by Debbie Gough

It's been a year since Lutheran World Federation started working in Okora, Uganda with funds provided by our church. We have received their second 6 month report and I, who am even more of a skeptic than Jim Alf (stewardship moment, Feb. 12, 2012) am truly impressed and proud; impressed with what has been accomplished and proud to be a part of it. I am also profoundly grateful that I have not had to endure what the people of Okora have been through and equally grateful that I have the opportunity to help.

### ESTABLISHING FARMER GROUPS

One of the basic principles of this project is the establishment of 20 "farmer groups," made up of 20 members each. This approach increases the spirit of "oneness" which may have been lost during years in a displaced persons camp and gives a sense of "shared responsibility" as new approaches to agriculture, hygiene and banking are introduced. I was impressed with how much this approach puts the onus of responsibility and decision making on the people of Okora, rather than on "westerners." As one member put it: "With the trainings provided by LWF we have been able to elect trusted leaders, set our constitution, planted 100 kgs of groundnuts in a block garden of two acres and above all, group members have gained appreciated knowledge in farming as business post harvest handling, savings and credit and good hygiene and sanitation practices."

### SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As the above quote indicates, progress has been made in three specific areas:

- Each of the farmer groups was allotted two acres of land and the groundnuts and the tools needed to plant a crop. They were also given training on best-practices in agricultural techniques and sanitary handling of the harvest.
- Each group was also given tools to dig latrines and information on the importance of hygiene.
- Each group was introduced to group "savings" methods so that eventually a "savings and loan" approach can be established.

### EDUCATION

The needs of the children were certainly not ignored. The Ugandan government had provided buildings for the school, so our project has focused on smaller accomplishments.

- Recreation: What we take for granted--- balls, nets, goal posts necessary to play soccer--- was provided to the Okora school.
- "Life skills" workshops--- so necessary for students who grew up in displaced persons camps--- were provided.
- A five acre school garden was created so students can grow food for their lunches.

### THE FUTURE

Even more exciting than what has been accomplished is what is planned for the next year---- if we provide the funding!!!

- Rocket Lorena Stoves---residents of Okora have been introduced to the rocket lorena stove and are eagerly awaiting their arrival. These stoves require much less fuel and cook foods much faster.
- Animals: The plan calls for introducing chickens, goats and pigs to the farming groups

- Bees: The plan calls for 300 bee hives to be distributed.
- Cassava cuttings: This great source of carbohydrates will be provided to the farmers.
- Hygiene: Emphasis on malaria prevention, HIV/AIDs, Gender based violence, as well as basic hygiene.

As I read the report I am impressed by the commitment of the Okora residents and by the true partnership that has been established. LWF workers are learning as they go, increasing their collaboration with the residents; they are willing to admit mistakes and to adjust their strategies. This is truly a groundbreaking model that can, once it is perfected, be reproduced all over Uganda and, I would assume, elsewhere. I am proud to be part of it.

If you have not pledged, I encourage you to do so. While it is easy to be skeptical of where our money goes--- especially when it goes halfway around the world—the accountability that this project provide assures even skeptics like me that our dollars are being well spent—one groundnut or soccer ball at a time.