

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 1997

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH of GEORGETOWN, MASSACHUSETTS



***The Youth Mission Trip, June 1997
in cooperation with
The United Church of Christ and
Habitat For Humanity***

Picture on the cover includes the Rev. Donna Muise and adult chaperones: Susan Stead, John Ashton, Joe Rawlins, Diane Townsend and Chris Fielding. Teen workers from our Senior High Group: Dena Spencer, Darah Spencer, Renee Urbanski, Abby Chatterton, Emily Mercaldi, Danielle Stead, Matt Fielding, Jared Young, Jonathan Young and Derek (Earl) Johnson.

Meetings
Annual Meeting
First Congregational Church, Georgetown, MA

February 2, 1997

The meeting was called to order at 11:22 AM by Moderator Donn Chatterton. The Rev. Philip Southwick opened the meeting in prayer.

Donn read Article I - to accept the reports of the various committees and boards of the church.

Steve Leblanc moved to accept the reports of the various committees and boards of the church. This motion was seconded.

Donn applauded the people who wrote up the reports and said that for a church our size, we have many gifted communicators.

The motion was carried, and the reports were accepted.

Article II To accept the report of the Finance Committee in regard to the 1996 church operations and the proposed budget for 1997.

Allan Barlow moved to accept the reports of the Finance Committee and the 1997 church budget. The motion was seconded.

Allan indicated that finances went along very well in 1996 and that salary increases were granted for 1997 because of this. Donn asked for any discussion relative to the financial reports and commented that these reports seem to get better every year - especially for those who are not "financial wizards".

No additional discussion - the motions was carried, and the financial reports and budget were accepted.

Article III

Frank Stewart moved the church vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Finance Committee to transfer money from the Capital Outlay Fund to the General Checking Account from time to time during the ensuing year, for the purpose of maintaining an equitable cash flow and of financing current expense operations, in the event that unrestricted receipts from stewardship, loose collections, donations and fundraising

activities do not meet needed expenditures.

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The motion was seconded.

Donn asked for any discussion in relation to this motion. A question for this motion to be clarified was asked for. Allan responded that at times funds in the General Checking Account are not available to meet various expenses. It is at that time that the Capital Outlay Account is tapped to transfer these funds.

The motion was carried, and the Article accepted.

**** Frank Stewart indicated that 1996 was the first year in a long while that is was not necessary to make transfers of these funds during the year. Frank indicated that we should be proud of this accomplishment. Allan also commented that it was the first time in at least 15 years that funds need not be transferred to the General Checking Acct.**

ARTICLE IV

Donna DeSisto moved that the Clerk cast one ballot in favor of the list of officers and committee members for 1997. The motion was seconded. The list of new officers and committee members was read. The Clerk cast one ballot in favor of these nominations.

ARTICLE V

Donn asked for any discussion in regard to the church and its property. He spoke of how fortunate we have been to have Phil as our minister here for 32 years.

Additional Discussion -

Joan Chatterton recognized members of the 1997 Confirmation Class who were in attendance at this meeting. Donn expressed his appreciation to Donna Muise for her hard work in organizing youth activities. He indicated "she's quite a gal!!"

No additional business at hand, Allan Barlow moved that the Annual Meeting adjourn - motion was seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM to the Fellowship Hall for coffee!!

Respectfully submitted,

Emily J. Knapp
Clerk

Minister

MINISTER'S REFLECTIONS

1997 was a year we might label 'Before and After'. Before the North Carolina trip and after - before several fund raising events all jelled to provide the funds - the fund raisers captured our interest and a sense of timely mission in most of us. After the trip we had new excitement and awareness of what can happen when we work together under the inspiration of God.

Before Pentecost we were trying a new style of Confirmation Class, including mentors for each of the youth. They met together - mentor and student - between monthly meetings of the class with Donna and me. It was exciting! We'll do it again in '99.

Before summer we enjoyed having Donna and Denise with us leading worship; after the summer services we missed their sharing of styles and thoughts in ministry. Good news! Donna is happily settled in South Berwick, Maine; AND Denise Downs is returning to our pulpit, to keep her skills tuned for ministry, while she searches for a position.

Before Donna left in June, we had a mission statement in hand regarding a priority for youth ministry. We have advertised the position but so far we have no candidate. It is still our intention to have a Youth Minister on the scene by the fall of 1998. In the meantime rest assured that our youth programs are in the hands of capable, enthusiastic, committed leaders.

Before Thanksgiving a long-needed improvement took place. The outside doors on Clark Street, whose handle spent more time off than on, out than in, were replaced. Many thanks for the skilled labor of love of one who insists on remaining anonymous.

By this fall, if not before, it became obvious with so many new families in our Church that our 1994 Church Directory was sadly out-of-date. We're thrilled to have new families and the interest they show in becoming members of our Church Family. We need a new pictorial directory so we can connect names and faces. We have arranged for pictures to be taken March 11, 12, 13, AND 14; hopefully the new directories will be in our hands by Children's Day.

We provide spiritual ministry, and a ministry of place or space. Scheduling for groups meeting here, and providing classroom space for a growing Church School are pleasant and important problems we deal with. *Communication* and *Cooperation* are keys that are as important as keys to the doors of our building. We ask people to leave our facilities as neat and orderly, or more so than they found them. We ask everyone to double check for lights left on in bathrooms or hallways, before leaving.

In closing, *Thank you*, Clyde Tozier, for completing another of several terms on the Trustees. The loving care you've shown for our Church Home is a sign of God's love among us. We appreciate your years of service.

As has been true for many years, the privilege is mine to minister with you.

Faithfully,
Phil Southwick

Clerk

The Year In Review 1997

Another year packed full of many activities to participate in. There were lots of opportunities to worship, listen to music, eat, celebrate with Donna Muise upon her new position in So. Berwick Maine and with Denise Downs upon her completion of Seminary. There were times to fellowship with one another, to welcome new friends into membership and to work together and strengthen those friendships.

Probably the most exciting event was to support the Youth Group in a trip to No. Carolina to help rebuild a church that had been burned. How well we pulled together to see that this trip came to be and how a little bit of each of us could be sent along with the youth and their leaders to a place where help was needed.

Listed below, you will find the many church events of 1997

January - Three Kings Sunday

*February - Church School Candy Sale for Missions
Cabinet voted to distribute Lenten Offering
as follows: 20% Youth Group Trip and 80%
towards current expenses
Cabinet approves Youth Group Pew Bible
fundraiser
Ash Wednesday Service*

*March - New members dinner
Annual Church Clean-up
Youth Group Passover Pasta Supper
Service of Passover and Tenebrae
Easter Sunrise Service
Easter Sunday Worship Service*

<i>April -</i>	<i>Celebration '97 at Gordon College Chowder/Chili Supper with Habitat Speaker with Free Will Offering for Youth Trip Cabinet Accepts Youth Mission Statement</i>
<i>May -</i>	<i>Youth Group - Walk for Hunger in Boston Broadway Belles - "The Kid's Do It" Confirmation Class Join Church</i>
<i>June -</i>	<i>Children's Sunday Youth Trip to No. Carolina Strawberry Social</i>
<i>July -</i>	<i>Summer Union Services with W. Boxford</i>
<i>August -</i>	<i>Summer Union Services with W. Boxford Vacation Bible School - "Building a Tabernacle"</i>
<i>September -</i>	<i>Rally Day</i>
<i>October -</i>	<i>Annual Church Fair Youth Group Covered Dish Supper and slides of No. Carolina trip</i>
<i>November -</i>	<i>Installation service for Donna Muise in So Berwick Me. New Clark Street Doors!!! Piano Concert Food Offering for Emmaus House Thanksgiving Eve Service at St. Mary's Advent - Memorial Chimes played by various Sunday School Children</i>
<i>December -</i>	<i>Christmas Concert Gifts for HOME Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</i>

Report of Membership

Members as of 12/31/96 ***253***

New Members ***18***

Membership Removal

Transfer to Inactive ***17***

Death ***2***

Total Membership as of 12/31/97 ***252***

IN MEMORIAM

Louise Merrill

Eleanor Stetson

Statistics from the Ministers Records

Baptisms ***15***

Weddings ***5***

Funerals ***21***

Respectfully submitted,

Emily J. Knapp, Clerk

Diaconate

REPORT OF THE DIACONATE

The focus on the direction of youth programs continued to be a major activity in 1997. The Mission Statement for Youth Ministry, developed jointly with the Board of Christian Education in 1996-7, was presented and accepted by the Cabinet and the Congregation in May. This was a critical step in establishing the direction for our youth programs, which continue to have increased participation.

1997 saw the departure of Donna Muise, our Youth Minister, after receiving the call to her own ministry in South Berwick, Maine. This was both a happy and sad occasion. Donna's energy and inspiration will be missed, but we are delighted that she has found her way to her own congregation. We wish her well.

Easter activities included the Maundy Thursday Seder Service, one of the highlights of the year. This service, as well as the Easter Sunrise Service, was well attended. We also had the introduction of nine new members into our growing church Family on Palm Sunday. In addition, the seven members of our Confirmation Class joined the Church on Pentecost. We continued to see a noticeable growth in participation in Sunday worship services, and expect a continued increase in new members in the coming years.

The fall brought continued growth to the participation by our youth, both in Church School and youth groups, and in the participation by talented young people in worship services. Music from a harp, bells, voices and chimes filled the air during the Christmas season to the delight of the entire congregation. We look forward to more participation in the future. We would also like to extend a special thank you to Jim Callahan for his participation in delivering a 'magical' children's message in December. The fall also brought a moment of concern regarding participation in the Emmaus House Meals program. The response was immediate as members of our Church Family signed up to provide meals for this important community program.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a special 'thank you' to Alberta Rogers for her continued service as Flower & Card Coordinator. Although not currently a Diaconate member, she graciously offered to continue her service in this important role. The Diaconate accepted her offer of service and is very grateful. In addition, I would like to thank my fellow Diaconate members for their fellowship, concern, and willingness to participate. It has been a true pleasure to serve our Church with you.

I know the Diaconate joins me in thanking Reverend Southwick for his inspiration, spiritual guidance, leadership and sense of humor. It is a pleasure to participate in worship, and in serving our Church Family with his fellowship and guidance.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephen LeBlanc

Diaconate Members, 1997

Chairperson	Steve LeBlanc
Vice Chairperson, & Emmaus Meals Coordinator	Dona McGovern
Secretary	George Merrill
Greeters' Coordinator	Claudia Smith

Members:
James Callahan
Bob Knapp
Trisha Pride
Dave Smith
Debbie Urbanski

Christian Education

Annual Report of the Board of Christian Education 1997

Members of the Board for the year included the following: Beth Castle; Jeff Garvin, Vice-Chairman; Jane Kennedy; Marci Risch; Pam Sheehan, Secretary; and Diane Townsend, Chairman.

Highlights...

In June ten young people from our High School Youth Group flew to Greensboro, NC, to help in the rebuilding of the burned down Pleasant Ridge United Church of Christ. The trip was a huge success spearheaded by Rev. Donna Muise, and aided by youth leader Sue Stead and four other adult chaperons. I was glad to be part of that experience with my husband, Joe.

The spirit of our whole Church family was there. Contributions from many people made it happen. It was a giving experience, a learning experience, an unforgettable experience!

Vacation Bible School (VBS) was a hit again this year. It had shaky beginnings but ended up a rousing success. The theme this year was *B.C. 1440--Build a Holy Place* and was held at our Church on August 11-15, 9 a.m.-12:00. Donna Muise enlisted the help of Audrey Giangregorio, a youth leader from Saugus, as our VBS coordinator. Audrey also brought some wonderful helpers with her and was assisted by Donna and all our volunteers--carpenters, artisans, tribe mothers, seamstresses, bakers, general all-around helpers, etc.--who helped make this a wonderful event.

Our two youth groups--Middle School and High School--are flourishing under the guidance of some pretty special loving, caring and sometimes just plain crazy people! Bob Watts and Marion Freiberg are our Youth Leaders for the Middle School group, and Sue Stead and Jim Urbanski our High School Youth Leaders. Participation is up over last year in both groups. As of late this fall, Jane Kennedy became the liaison between the youth groups/leaders and the Board.

Even though both groups are strong, we are still seeking the spiritual guidance of a youth minister. As you know, Rev. Donna Muise accepted the call of the First Parish Federated Church of South Berwick, Maine, to be their pastor and began her new ministry this summer. She loves it and we wish her well.

Through Donna's insight, urging and guidance regarding establishing a Youth Mission Statement, and as a joint venture between the Board of Christian Education and the Diaconate, the following statement, approved by the Cabinet April 15, 1997 and signed by Church family members in support thereof, reads:

The First Congregational Church of Georgetown, MA
Mission Statement for Youth Ministry

As an expression of respect for and commitment to young people, our Christian Ministry to youth provides ongoing opportunities for their individual faith exploration, personal development, positive inter-personal relationships and involvement in church and civic activities within an enjoyable, safe and stimulating environment.

Additional Highlights...

In February the Board and Church School hosted the Annual Valentine Candy and Craft Sale and raised \$260.50. Our theme was "Checks for Chicks" and funds went to buy chickens for Heifer Fund International and H.O.M.E (Homemakers Organized for More Employment), Orland, ME. Thanks to bakers, makers.....and takers!

An ad hoc committee went to St. James Church in Amesbury, MA, February 25, 1997 to review the "Whole People of God" curriculum as presented by the publisher. Dorothy Blanchard, Marion Harding and Diane Townsend attended.

Also on February 25, 1997 Donna Muise and Board member Pam Sheehan attended a forum at Georgetown High School presented by the Parent Teacher Organization. Discussion focused on the recent Risk Survey of Georgetown young people. Concerns are that Georgetown students have a higher than state average for substance abuse. Suicide ideation along with other high risk behaviors were also concerns. A copy of the report is at the town library.

In March, the Easter Sunrise Service was conducted by the Middle School Youth followed by our usual super breakfast back at Church. Thanks to the youths for an inspiring service, adults who assisted, and to Pam Sheehan and Emily Knapp and helpers for all that good food. Oh, yes, table waiters/waitresses as well.

On April 20, 1997, the Board hosted a dinner to raise funds for the Youth Mission Trip. Mr. Richard Cummings from Greater Lawrence Habitat for Humanity, Inc. was our after dinner speaker. Delicious soup, chowder and chili and cornbread were made by Joan Chatterton and Tracy Southwick. Thanks to all for food preparation and donations and to our chair people, Jane Kennedy and Janet Pantano. We raised \$300 in a freewill offering!

In May, seven young people were confirmed and welcomed as members of the Church. The mentor program for confirmation classes got good reviews.

June is always a busy month for everyone. Graduate Sunday was the first Sunday of the month, and our high school seniors were recognized and honored before the congregation.

Children's Sunday was the second Sunday in June and the theme for this year was the travels of Paul. The Church School children did a wonderful job. We thank them and our super staff of teachers and aides. Our thanks also to Mr. Al Hurd for his generous donation of the beautiful petunias.

A Teacher Appreciation Dinner hosted by the Board was held June 14, 1997 and chaired by Beth Castle and Pam Sheehan. We thank George and Liz Merrill for graciously offering their home and hospitality for this event.

Starting in February and continuing throughout the summer, meetings were held by the Board to staff Church School with teachers and aides. This consumes most of the Board's time, energy and effort--a task that seems more gargantuan each year. Please appreciate our teachers, aides and Church School Superintendent, Dorothy Blanchard. They are like gold--a most valuable and treasured resource. [Hold on for a moment while I get up onto my CE soapbox!] We are always looking for people to help. When the Board makes a call to recruit you as a teacher or an aide, please listen with an open mind and heart, even if you have not had prior teaching experience. The curriculum is very teacher friendly and classes are taught with a team-teaching approach where a teacher (and possibly an aide) teach for a month and then switch off with another teacher or teacher and aide. This allows near future and hope you will consider our request favorably. If you are interested and available, let us know. Without volunteers our Church School cannot function it should.

Rally Day was September 14, 1997, and our program featured the spirit, music and song of Donna Collins, a super lady from Lynn, MA, who was previously introduced to our young children at VBS where she told stories, played the guitar and sang songs. She was a hit with children and adults alike.

On Oct. 26, 1997 the Board hosted a covered dish supper to show slides and tell tales of the NC Youth Mission Trip. More than 100 people attended. We had a truly enjoyable evening and thank you for your enthusiasm and support. We were pleased to welcome Donna Muise and her youth group from South Berwick.

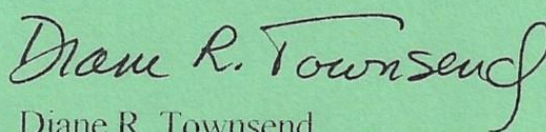
In November the Church School and Church family gathered food for our annual Thanksgiving food offering which was donated to Emmaus House, Haverhill, MA. Our thanks to all for your thoughtfulness.

The proposed budgets for the Board and the youth groups for '98 were reviewed and forwarded to the Finance Committee in December.

And Another Year Ends...

The Board of Christian Education works not only in its individual capacity governed by Board policy but in concert with other boards, committees and groups within the Church and within the greater community. We look forward to serving our Church family in the New Year and want to thank all those people who have helped us out along the way. My sincere appreciation and thanks to all fellow Board members. You've been great!

Respectfully submitted,


Diane R. Townsend

CHURCH SCHOOL STAFF 1997-'98

NURSERY - INFANTS AND TODDLERS

Week 1:	Karen Young	11 Monroe Street	2697
	Jaime Krenn	114 Thurlow Street	7932
Week 2:	Dona McGovern	136 Main St., W. Newbury	363-5520
	Marci Risch	42 West Main St.	2251
Week 3:	Sylvia George	72 Thurlow Street	6181
	Tracy Southwick	9 Larch Road	6391
Week 4:	Joe Rawlins	482 Main St., Groveland	373-0619
	Karla Szkutak	6 Rainbow Ridge Way	7928
Week 5:	Janet Pantano	3 Lakeridge Drive	7928
	Kim Zanin	19 Village Lane	4025

THREE YEAR OLD CLASS (Beginners)

Claudia Smith	85 North Street	2096
Abby Chatterton, Assistant	16 Linden Circle	6016
Danielle Stead	48 Searle Street, Box 398	8907
Renee Urbanski	2 Eagle Lane	7302

FOUR YEAR OLD CLASS

Tom & Jill Hamelin	91 Central Street	6299
Travis Hamelin, Assistant		

FIVE YEAR OLD CLASS (Kindergarten)

Ann Berardi	45 Lake Shore Drive	2672
Yolanda Melusky, Assistant	1 Hawk Way	2955
Heather Hartford	3 Derek Circle	8732

FIRST GRADE

George & Liz Merrill	17 Lakeridge Drive	5265
Lisa Lessard	36 Prospect Street	2074
Kerri Kennedy, Assistant	34 Charles Street	2379

SECOND GRADE

Gayle & Mark Fehlmann	5 Sawmill Way	5440
Nina & Jeffrey Garvin	77 West Main Street	7418

THIRD GRADE

Shirley Southwick	5 Hart Circle (Box 200)	8305
Beth Castle	217 Central Street	2969

FOURTH GRADE

James Callahan	2 Madison Avenue	6648
Pamela Sheehan	13 Prospect Street	6329
Janice Hardenber, Assistant	6 Spofford Street	4005

FIFTH & SIXTH GRADE

Marion Harding	80 Thurlow Street	8785
James Risch	42 West Main Street	2251

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Stan Watson	4 Meadowview Rd.	7564
James Smith	85 North Street	2096

SUPERINTENDENT

Dorothy Holly-Blanchard	2 Tenney St. (Box 370)	8577
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CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Diane Townsend	482 Main St., Groveland	373-0619
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School Superintendent

REPORT OF THE CHURCH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

The only constant is change. That seems as true for our Church School as it is for any other sub group of a larger organization.

The biggest change has been a revised curriculum. We are still using David C. Cook Bible-In-Life curriculum materials. However, their revitalized approach has included newly formatted and colorful teachers' guides, more current learning activities and a new suggested division of age-appropriate materials. In September David C. Cook gave us complimentary materials for the classes that would be affected by the new divisions, so the teachers were then able to evaluate which materials were best for their classes. The class divisions chosen are quite close to the revision suggestions with the exception of our 7th and 8th Graders who are using the High School Curriculum. The 6th Graders are included in the Upper Elementary set. The advantage of the Kindergarten and Grade 1 using the same materials is that the Grade 1 students are in the very early stages of learning to read.

The curriculum also includes CD Rom discs for coordinated music and some other resources. We need to move to more up-to-date equipment!

Another change involves the 5th and 6th Grade class which now meets for the full hour in their classroom instead of attending the first part of the worship service in the sanctuary.

The 2nd Sunday of each month, Grades 1-6 attend the first part of the worship service with their classes. The Junior Choir (which numbers 34) usually sings on that Sunday. We miss Donna Muise's and Denise Downs' Children's Stories - although Jim Callahan's magic brought a new and interesting dimension to that section of the service! I am personally very pleased to see so many more of our young people participating in the music programs, using the wide variety of their talents.

This Fall our enrollment number was 155 with 21 new families. We appreciate all that the church families can do to help the new families feel at home. This Fall also brought larger class sizes, so meeting places had to be changed. The only classes that meet in the same spaces designated for them last year are the Nursery, Beginners and the 7th and 8th Grades.

The Trustees - especially George Desrochers, Mark Fehlmann and Tom Hamelin were very helpful as we adjusted the correct table and chair heights to the new room assignments. George Desrochers also fixed three stored tables, so we didn't have to buy more.

Churchgoers are well aware that last year and this year the 1st through 4th Grade worship services are held in the Fellowship Hall. This occurs on the first Sunday of each month plus special events such as Advent Season and preparation for Children's Day. We appreciate having Tom Hamelin play the piano for us. Holly Gray was most helpful leading the singing as we prepared for Children's Day. Special thanks goes to Melissa White who

not only sets up the 40-50 chairs and the worship center but who also quietly takes down everything, so that the Fellowship Hall is ready for the Coffee Hour.

We are most fortunate in having a dedicated and competent staff. Some High School students are helping us. This year Claudia Smith oversees the Beginner Class and the High School team of Danielle Stead and Renee Urbanski who rotate the teaching responsibilities monthly with Claudia. Abby Chatterton is Claudia's assistant. Travis Hamelin helps his parents with the Pre-K Class.

Please see the accompanying list of our staff. We had a Teachers' Fall Orientation Meeting. Monthly meetings are held after church fairly regularly for teachers of the Beginners through Grade 8 and occasionally for the Nursery Staff. A very special 'thank you' to the teachers who continue to help us and a 'thank you' to those who have volunteered or who have been volunteered to help fill this year's vacancies. Jaime Krenn, who supervises the Nursery, deserves special recognition for her weekly and overall coordination of that section of our Church School.

We lost eight staff members from last year. We thank them for their service to our young people. They are Carrie Callahan, Karen Flom, Paula Martel, Charleen Maunsell, Gail Morehouse, Deborah Rogers, Jamie Ruh and Diane Sudak. Charleen Maunsell had been teaching for at least 7 years! Holly Gray has had to resign in the middle of this year but hopes to be able to continue to help us on some short term projects.

The policy regarding giving Bibles to our young people has been revised. On Children's Day the 1st Graders will be given the easier to read *International Children's Bible*. This has been well received by both our students and teachers. An adult Bible will be awarded to our students when they are confirmed.

The biggest undertaking of the entire Church School year is the Children's Day Program. Last spring the teachers chose to create the original program *Paul, the First Missionary*. This was based on their winter quarter's curriculum. The classes portrayed short segments of the various highlights of Paul's life. There was coordinated fun music, costumes and minimum scenery. The updated audio system with body mikes helped the program be more understandable to the entire congregation and the students loved using the equipment! Both the teachers and students worked very hard, in a short period of time, to produce an outstanding program.

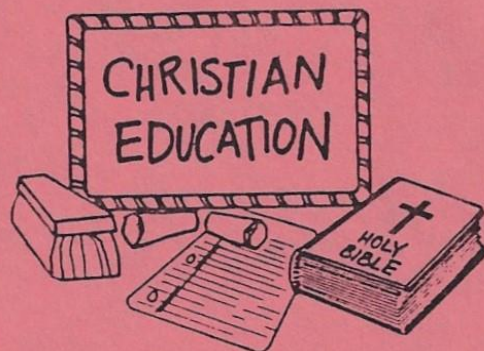
On October 26 Marion Harding and I attended Colossal IV which was a state-wide workshop for Christian Educators sponsored by the Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ and the Baptists. We hope to bring one of the leaders, Donald Bliss, from Hyannis, to our Church to lead a workshop for our teachers, Church leaders and parents. He brings the practical application of the multi-intelligence theories to general Church and Church School activities. He brings the appreciation of our several talents and interests into focus and how they can be used in supporting the Lord's work.

Each month I contribute to the Church *Newsletter* to keep parents and others informed of current curriculum, concerns and activities.

An extra commitment this year for me has been to be the Counselor to three 5th Grade Cub Scouts - Jeffrey Comeau, Jeffrey Fehlmann and Michael Kenneally, who have been working on their *God and Family Program*. One parent of each Scout acts as a mentor to his/her child. Both the Scouts and their parents have workbooks which require Bible reading, thought-provoking questions, discussion starters and suggested activities. The Counselor works with both parents and Scouts. It has been a very meaningful endeavor. Two service projects were chosen to help put their faith into action. They chose to do yard work for both Satira Stetson and Mina Marble. They not only did the work but also brought refreshments for their hostesses and gave a brief concert for Satira Stetson. The service projects were the part they liked the most! Their awards will be presented on Boy Scout Sunday in February.

It has been my pleasure to work with our young people, their parents and other members of our Church Family. The Church School program continues to be well supported by individuals and groups in the Church. Special recognition and thanks go to Phil Southwick, Joan Chatterton, the Board of Christian Education, the Board of Trustees and the Finance Committee. Every individual and Church group helps when asked. We are very appreciative of all the support given.

Dorothy Holly-Blanchard



Youth Fellowship

1997 Middle School Youth Group Report

1997 was a year of growth and transition for the First Church Middle School Youth Group. Our mentor, leader, and friend Donna Muise was installed in her new congregation and has found a home in South Berwick, Maine. Marion Freiberg, and Bob Watts have found new internal resources. There is no challenge like the challenge of filling a room full of 6th to 8th graders with fun, safe, worthwhile experiences. With the help of Marji Watson and others, Marion and Bob have expanded the group to 24, providing opportunities for our young people to participate in local missions, raise money for activities and enjoy both in-church meetings and trips to other locales.

This year we held 11 regular Sunday evening meetings, and had several fun outings including a mid-winter swim at the Newburyport "Y", a long distance Walk for Hunger in Boston, Glow-bowling, and white water rafting on the Kennebec River in Maine. Service activities (also fun, but in a different vein) included helping to restock the Emmaus House pantry, and singing Christmas Carols to the residents at the Hogan Rehabilitation Center.

Through activities such as these, we aim to execute the Youth Mission Statement, drawn up under Donna's guidance, by continuing to provide a place where kids can get to know each other in a safe, fun, and non-competitive atmosphere, and to encourage kids to join-up and their parents to join-in.

We, the Middle School Youth Group leaders, continue to discover what a treasure we, as a congregation, possess in our young people. We are indeed grateful for the time we spend with the youth ("da yoot"?), lucky to enjoy their company, even if only bi-weekly. But ... and after such a comment there has to be a "but" ... there are limits to what we, as volunteers, can do. Our schedules, like yours, are full, and we have only limited experience and knowledge from which to draw to provide the quality program we all desire. As such, we urge our church family to redouble its effort to find and hire a new Youth Minister. Such a person, someone trained in presenting the life of the spirit to young people, will help support the congregation's mission to our youth, assume the planning and leadership responsibilities, and fine-tune the focus of our efforts. The kids' development will repay us many-fold.

Thank you for your children,

Bob Watts

Marion Freiberg

REPORT OF THE SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

1997 was a very busy year for the Senior High Youth group! Fundraising for our Mission Trip in June was a huge challenge. With the hard work and dedication of our youth, along with the overwhelming support of our Church Family, we realized our dream and traveled to North Carolina. This was truly an awesome experience for all involved; not only did we help rebuild a church, we grew as a group and left with memories to last a lifetime.

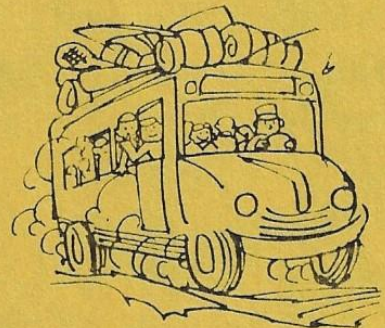
Over the summer we had to say goodbye to Donna. As difficult as this was, as a group we are stronger than ever. In the fall we went on a hiking trip to the White Mountains and marveled at the wonders of nature. Our numbers have been growing in leaps and bounds, and at our most recent lock-in we had 14 active teenagers who really can talk all night!

Looking ahead - we are planning on doing some local mission work for the elderly right here in our own community, as well as holding a food drive. We will once again be hosting our annual Pasta Supper as well as conducting the Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday. Last but not least, we plan on closing our year out with a rafting trip in June that we have already begun to plan.

We are still looking forward to the time when we have a Youth Minister once again. In the meantime, Jim Urbanski and I are thoroughly enjoying the challenge of trying to keep up with these wonderful young adults! We feel truly blessed to be a part of their lives.

Yours in Christ,

Susan Stead



Trustees

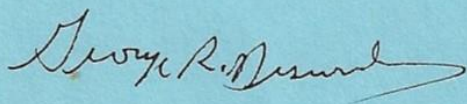
1997 Annual Report for the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees serves to maintain, enhance and administer the physical property of the Church and Parsonage. In addition to the spirituality and fellowship that our Church brings to the congregation and to the wider community, the Church's physical assets also play a vital role in local activities and are more fully utilized than might otherwise be imagined. As such, we in the congregation all have an obligation to maintain these facilities to the best of our ability. The Board of Trustees welcome comments, suggestions, and assistance from everyone in keeping the Church property functioning properly.

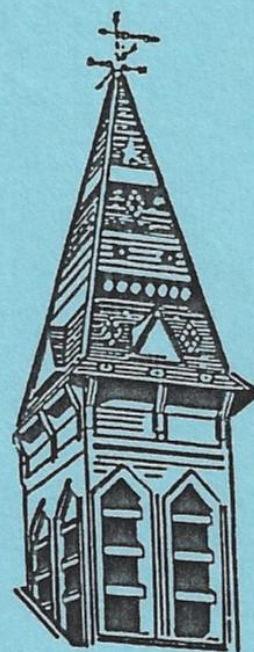
For the Board of Trustees, 1997 was a year of "routine maintenance", with the usual collection of minor repairs, touch-up and maintenance. In the past year, we seem to have reached a kind of equilibrium in the operations of both the old and the new portions of the church building. With a new roof and touched up trim on the older part of the building making our exterior weather tight again, we can now realistically assess needed repairs to the sanctuary, fellowship hall and other spaces.

The Board of Trustees especially thanks Clyde Tozier and Jay Hart for their dedicated service during their terms.

Respectfully submitted,



George R. Desrochers
Chairman, Board of Trustees



Music

REPORT OF THE MUSIC COMMITTEE

Our worship of God is enhanced by our rich music experiences. Thank you to our musical staff: Emily Knapp - Organist and Accompanist, Bob Knapp - Music, Senior Choir and Band Director, and Evelyn Boose - Junior, Cherub and Bell Choir Director. Also thanks to Marion Harding and Donna DeSisto who help with the Junior and Cherub Choirs. Thank you to all choir members and musicians.

The 1997 Music Committee is as follows: Kirsten Davis, Donna DeSisto, Steve LeBlanc, and Craig Southwick. Special musical events, in addition to our worship services, included:

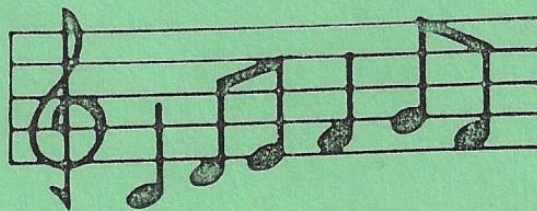
The twelfth annual *Broadway Belles* musical revue which benefited the youth mission trip to Greensboro, North Carolina, where our youth helped rebuild the Pleasant Ridge United Church that had been destroyed by arson. It was a great show and a noble cause!

A Piano Concert & Celebration, with voices and bells featured many fine pianists, vocalists and musicians in the grand tradition from yesteryear.

The *Christmas In The Air Concert* featured the Cherub, Junior, Senior and Bell Choirs and the Band, and helped set the Holiday Spirit.

Respectfully Submitted,

Craig Southwick, Chairman



Guild

REPORT OF THE WOMEN'S GUILD

The Guild is a group of friends who love their Church! And we invite others to join in that friendship, sharing the simple pleasures of enjoying lunches together and helping others.

Our February and March 1997 meetings were devoted to missions - sewing quilts for AIDS babies and rolling pennies for Church World Service school kits. The pennies are collected at our Coffee Hours. This year we had a group of Girl Scouts helping us make the quilts and together we were able to send thirty-eight quilts to the ABC Project and purchase twelve Church World Service school kits.

In April our guest speaker took ill and was unable to come. We shared lunch and then talked about Philip Yancy's book, *The Jesus I Never Knew*. In May we held our Annual Banquet at the *Hearthside* in Essex. After a delicious meal, Betty Cooke regaled us with tales of a trip to Egypt and other exotic places. She had many pictures to show us and we greatly enjoyed the afternoon.

The fall meetings started off in October with an informative talk and video presentation by Cletta Hunter and Judy Rotondo on their family trip to Switzerland the previous fall. The video showed spectacular scenery and everyone was ready to pack their bags and go! In November, following lunch, the group made 124 Christmas candy favors for patients at the Country Manor Nursing Home in Newburyport where two of our Church members reside. The treats were very much appreciated by the nursing staff at Country Manor. A small group of women attended the Life Long Learning Program's Christmas Party at Northern Essex Community College in December. The program included luncheon, music and carol singing.

Looking ahead - we're hosting *An Elegant Tea* on Friday, April 24th in honor of the Guild's seventy-fifth anniversary! Included in this event will be women from neighboring churches and we invite all of our Church Family women to attend. A fund-raiser/mission project is coming up on Saturday, May 16, when Guild women will serve a luncheon to the members of the St. Clare Guild for the Blind.

Sincerely,

Joan Chatterton, Secretary

Mission Coordinator

REPORT OF THE MISSIONS COORDINATOR

Our Church members have always donated to, and participated in various outreach programs. This past year was no exception. The following are some examples of how we have helped others around us, both in this community and through the United Church of Christ.

The Church School offerings brought in on the first Sunday of each month last year were used to purchase chickens for the needy. Thanks to the Church School offerings and the Valentine's Candy/Crafts sales, a check for \$511.13 was sent to Heifer Fund.

Some of our Church families prepare meals for Emmaus House throughout the year. Donations totalling \$750 were sent to them, and items from our food pantry are delivered when available. Our special Thanksgiving food offering provided many bags of food, paper goods, and other grocery items for their cupboards.

The children at H.O.M.E. in Orland, Maine enjoyed the many wonderful gifts donated by our Church Family. At their annual Christmas Party every child attending received at least one gift to brighten their holiday, and they extended their sincere thanks and gratitude to us for our contribution. They also received a monetary gift of \$489.23.

The Guild used their Coffee Hour pennies, totalling \$144.00 (that's a lot of pennies!), to buy school kits for children in Bosnia. With the help of some of our local Girl Scouts, they made 38 warm and wonderful quilts for babies suffering with AIDS in the Boston area.

Each year two special offerings are taken for the United Church of Christ outreach programs. The Neighbors in Need offering in October is dedicated to helping people here in the United States, and we collected \$569.55 for this cause. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering brought in \$367.00, and is designated to be used to support missions throughout the world. Our Church's total contribution to the United Church Wider Missions was \$5,388.00. Each year our Church also donates \$400.00 to help support the Andover Newton Theological School, and we give \$250 to the Essex Association's Scholarship Fund for seminary students.

Our Church's Diaconate Fund is used to assist local Georgetown families whenever the need arises. The money in this fund comes from endowments as well as from occasional donations.

Our Lenten offering of \$236.48 went to the United Church of Christ Task Force for Women and Children. A 20% portion of our Advent offering, \$241.35, was given to the Salem Mission Project of the Essex Association at the Crombie Street Church in Salem, MA.

"Recycling for Missions" continues to thrive. We recycle beverage can pull-tabs, used postage stamps (air mail, commemorative, and denominations above 32 cents) are recycled by the Heifer Fund, and used eyeglasses are recycled by Habitat for Humanity, with the proceeds going to the construction of homes for the needy. Donations may be dropped off in the box at the foot of the stairs inside the back Clark Street door of the Church.

Of special note this past year was the Senior High Youth Group's Mission Trip to Greensboro, NC. Our congregation raised the funds (in very entertaining ways) to send the group down to help rebuild a church that had burned. Equally noteworthy was the Middle School Youth Group's participation in the annual Walk for Hunger in Boston, raising \$900 for that very important cause.

We encourage our Church families to make their personal contributions - to the missions we support - through the Church treasury. Checks may be made payable to the Church with a memo notation indicating the specific mission. The church records will then reflect the magnitude of how we, as a Church Family, can make a difference when we pool our resources. In 1997, total mission giving to, and through our Church amounted to more than \$17,000.00, which included the Youth Mission Trip!

Thanks to everyone for caring about others in such positive ways. It is important to remember that your support of these missions has been truly needed and greatly appreciated by many people.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Smith

The picture on the right was sent to us from H.O.M.E. A caption on the back of the picture reads, "thanks to you, we had all these presents for our kids!"



Fair

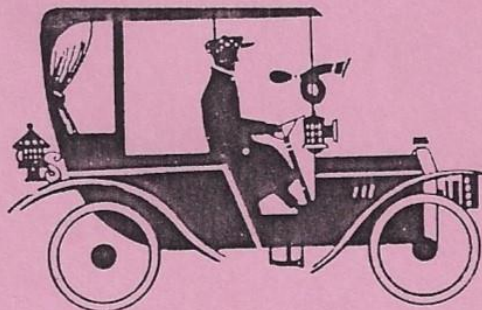
REPORT OF THE FAIR CHAIRS

This year's Olde Tyme Country Fair reflected hard work, incredible energy, dedication and friendship. Our Fair's success not only reaped financial rewards in the final tally of \$9,021.32, but it also continued our bond of faith in fellowship. Many of us gathered for those important 'firsts' and others of us renewed friendships and memories of fairs gone by. You all do your part so well and with such friendly spirit. It was both rewarding and an honor to serve you during the 1997 Olde Tyme Country Fair.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Neble and Claudia Smith

This year's Church Fair is scheduled for Friday & Saturday, October 2 & 3, 1998



Flowers

REPORT OF THE FLOWER COORDINATOR

Monthly Flower Chairs are as follows:

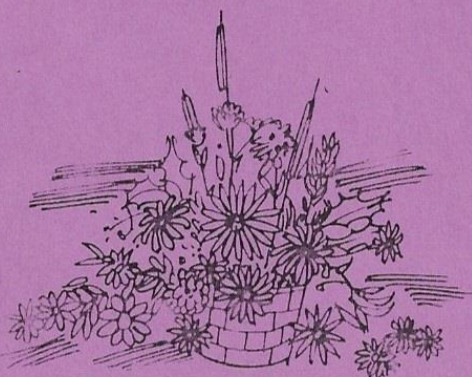
February	Joan Chatterton	July	Lillian Kelloway
March	Ruth Jones	September	Joan Chatterton
April	Donna DeSisto	October	Barbara Morehouse
May		November	Marge Watson
June	Anna Tozier	December/January	
		Christmas plants (Diaconate)	

We thank them, and at the same time we are sorry to lose our May and October chairladies, Marge Stewart and Vicki Plinario. We are happy to welcome Barbara Morehouse to the Committee and she will be in charge of the October flowers. Hopefully someone, reading this report, will be inspired to volunteer his/her services to take on May as their 'flower month'. The duties are: overseeing the placement of flowers in the sanctuary for Sunday services during the month, and delivering 'baby roses' if a Church Family birth occurs during that month. In addition to a flower budget, the Chairperson is assisted at times with having bouquets donated from weddings, funerals or special family occasions.

We are grateful for offers of memorial bouquets - especially in the winter months when garden flowers are unavailable. Please speak to me - or to the monthly Flower Chair about reserving a date on the calendar. If you have a plant in bloom (transportable!) and would like to share it with the congregation, let us know! We do appreciate the memorial donations for plants at Christmas and Easter and the artistic arrangement by Diaconate members. Not only do the plants brighten our Sanctuary with their beauty, but they bring happiness to our shut-ins and bereaved.

Sincerely,

Joan Chatterton, Coordinator



Social

REPORT OF THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE COORDINATOR

We have had a lot of new faces this year in Church, with many nice comments about our Coffee Hour. I am grateful for my Hostesses who served a month at a time: Judy Rotondo, Janice Murphy, Sandy Schauer and Jean Perley. I would also like to thank my other volunteers this year: Cathie Southwick, Kathy Tempesta, Marci Risch, Pat Barlow, Karen Flom, Paula Martel, Dona McGovern, Nancy Aberman, Ginny Ryder, Jamie Krenn and Steve Pinto, George and Liz Merrill, Joan and Donn Chatterton, the Diaconate, Finance Committee and the Trustees.

Unfortunately, not too many new faces are offering to serve as Host or Hostess for Coffee Hour. There is a shortage of Host/Hostesses now that we have changed from a monthly schedule to two times a year. Coffee Hour is easier than you think to put together. Recipes for making coffee and punch are printed in the kitchen. I am more than willing to train and help anyone that will offer. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

I look forward to another successful year and hope to see you "in the kitchen"!

Sincerely,

Kirsten Davis, Social Committee Coordinator



Collector

1 9 9 7 P L E D G I N G S T A T U S

PLEDGES FOR NORMAL OPERATIONS:

Fully Paid	59
Nearly Paid	25
Half Paid	8
Little Paid	1
Nothing Paid	0
Moved	1
Deceased	0
	<hr/>
TOTAL Pledges	94

Sincerely,

Joellen Fielding, Collector

Treasurer / Budget

1998 Consolidated Budget Statement

LINE	DESCRIPTION	1997 BUDGET	1997 ACTUAL	1998 BUDGET	Notes
		\$	\$	\$	
CB-03	Available Funds, 01/01				
-04	General Fund, Current Expense	4,977.71	4,977.71		
-05	General Fund, Missions	2,838.11	2,838.11		
-06	General Fund, Capital Outlay	40.00	40.00		
-07	Music Endowment	479.12	479.12		
-08	General Fund Endowment	447.87	447.87		
-09	Mission Endowment	56.59	56.59		
-10	Diaconate Fund	8,234.60	8,234.60		
-11	Diaconate Fund Endowment	175.17	175.17		
-12	Memorial Fund	1,551.81	1,551.81		
-13	Capital Outlay Fund	25,502.35	25,502.35		
CB-14	TOTAL, Available Funds	44,303.33	44,303.33	0.00	
CB-19	Receipts				
-20	Business Transactions	2,860.00		2,905.00	
-21	Facilities & Equipment Usage	7,460.00		15,800.00	
-22	Fundraising	13,300.00		12,200.00	
-23	Gifts for General Support	600.00		600.00	
-24	Gifts for a Purpose	4,700.00		1,000.00	
-25	Investment Earnings	3,000.00		2,636.00	
-26	Stewardship	95,900.00		97,150.00	
CB-27	TOTAL RECEIPTS	127,820.00	0.00	132,291.00	
CB-32	Expenditures				
-33	Matters of the Holy Spirit	66,136.00		66,411.00	
-34	Religious Education	14,847.00		8,621.00	
-35	Decor and Recognition	600.00		1,000.00	
-36	Social Activities	525.00		800.00	
-37	Music	10,762.00		11,398.00	
-38	Property and Facilities	24,490.00		25,523.00	
-39	Financial Management	12,300.00		10,828.00	
-40					
-41	Missions	10,391.00		8,770.00	
-42					
-43	Capital Outlay	800.00		500.00	
-44					
CB-45	TOTAL, Expenditures	140,851.00	0.00	133,851.00	
	Finance Committee approved and audited actual 1997 figures are not available				
	as of 01/22/98. A complete 1998 line item budget has been developed and will				
	be published along with actual 1997 figures as soon as they are released by				
	the Finance Committee and cleared by the Auditors.				

Nominating

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee nominates the following Church Officers (*) and Committee/board members (*) to be elected at the February 1, 1998 Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Georgetown.

Moderator	Donn Chatterton*	Treasuer	Stan Watson*
Clerk	Emily Knapp*	Collector	JoEllen Fielding*
Asst. Treasurer	Muriel Gordon*	Asst. Collector	Ruth Jones*
Auditors	Emily Knapp* & Carla Szkutak*		

Coordinators For:

Ushering	Donn Chatterton* & Charles Locke*
Misslons	Peggy Smith*
Social	Kirsten Davis*
Flowers	Joan Chatterton*
Association Delegates	Joe Rawlins*

(To be elected for a one-year term)

FINANCE COMMITTEE	Jill Hamelin 2001*	Frank Stewart 2000
	Allan Barlow 1999	

(No restrictions on length of service)

DIACONATE	Jim Callahan	2000*	Bob Knapp 1999
	Jamie Ruh	2000*	Steve LeBlanc 1999
	Claudia Smith	2000*	Trisha Pride 1999
	Nat Tidd	2000*	David Smith 1999
	Bob Watts	2000*	Debbie Urbanski 1999

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Beth Castle	2000*	Jeff Garvin 1999
Marci Risch	2000*	Marci Risch 1999
Pam Sheehan	2000*	Diane Townsend 1999

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chuck Davis	2000*	Mark Fehlmann 1999
George Desrochers	2000*	Tom Hamelin 1999
Bob Kennedy	2000*	Don Martel 1999

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Marion Harding	2000*	Janice Murphy 1999
Craig Southwick	2000*	Bob Watts 1999

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Susan Lorenz	2000*	Kirsten Davis 1999
Jackie Moore	2000*	Donna DeSisto 1999

(To be elected for a two-year term)

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Barlow, Chair
JoEllen Fielding
Janice Murphy
Bob Watts