

ANNUAL REPORTS 2003

**including consolidated financial
statement for 2003 and the
2004 BUDGET**

prepared by
The Officers, Committees/Boards & Groups
of the

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH**

**GEORGETOWN,
MASSACHUSETTS**

Meetings

The First Congregational Church of Georgetown
PO Box 200
Georgetown, MA 01833
(978) 352-8443

January 21, 2003

WARRANT

The members of the First Congregational Church of Georgetown are hereby advised that in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of said church, The Annual Meeting of the Church will be held Sunday, February 2, 2003, immediately following worship, in the Church Sanctuary, then and there to act on the following listed Articles:

- ARTICLE I. To receive the reports of the several boards, committees and officers of the church and to take action thereon;
- ARTICLE II. To hear and act on the report of the Finance Committee in regard to the 2002 financial operations and the 2003 proposed budget, or take any other action in relation thereto;
- ARTICLE III. To see if the church will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Finance Committee to transfer money from the Reserve 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, or take any other action in relation thereto;
- ARTICLE IV. To hear and act on the report of the Nominating Committee, or take any other action in relation thereto;
- ARTICLE V. To see if the Church will vote to accept the proposed changes to its Constitution and Bylaws in regard to the Statement of Faith, Equal Employment Opportunity, and establishment of a Pastoral Relations Committee, or take any other action in relation thereto.
- ARTICLE VI. To hear and act on any other business and to take any other actions, relative to the Church and its property, which may be brought before the Annual Meeting in accordance with the Bylaws; or take any other action in relation thereto.

By direction of the Church Cabinet

Emily J. Knapp
Clerk

Annual Church Meeting

February 2, 2003

Moderator, Donn Chatterton called the meeting to order at 11:25 am. Rev. Eric Marean led the membership in prayer. Donn asked that the Church bell be tolled 7 times in memory of the seven astronauts who perished in the Columbia tragedy yesterday.

Article I: To receive the reports of the several boards, committees and officers of the Church and to take action thereon:

A motion was made to accept the annual reports as presented – the motion was seconded. Discussion was called for – Joan, Isabel and Donn were thanked for the time they put in to put together all of the reports. Many creative reports were received. The motion carried.

Article II: To hear and act on the report of the Finance Committee in regard to the 2002 financial operations and the 2003 proposed budget, or take any other action in relation thereto:

A motion was made to accept the report of the Finance Committee in regard to the 2002 financial operations and the 2003 proposed budget. The motion was seconded – discussion called for.

Allan Barlow, Chairman of the Finance Committee said that there were saddened to present a budget like this with a shortfall of 30,000 last year. This is presenting the Church membership with a real challenge. An increase of 20% on everyone's pledge we could make it. There may need to be some cuts in services. You will hear more during the year about our financial situation. Input from the congregation indicates a desire to "sell" the Church - we can grow by word of mouth. It is up to us to figure out how we can grow and fix our financial situation.

A vote was called for on Article II – and carried.

Article III: To see if the Church will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Finance Committee to transfer money from the Reserve 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, or take any other action in relation thereto;

A motion was made to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Finance Committee to transfer money from the Reserve 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, or take any other action in relation thereto. The motion was seconded and discussion called for – none appearing – the vote carried.

Article IV: To hear and act on the report of the Nominating Committee, or take any other action in relation thereto;

A motion was made to accept the slate of officers for the various boards and committees as presented by the Nominating Committee. The motion was seconded – discussion called for. Donn thanked the members of the Nominating Committee for their hard work. The motion carried.

Article V: To see if the Church will vote to accept the proposed changes to its Constitution and Bylaws in regard to the Statement of Faith, Equal Employment Opportunity, and establishment of a Pastoral Relations Committee, or take any other action in relation thereto;

A motion was made to accept the proposed changes to the Church Constitution and Bylaws in regard to the Statement of Faith, Equal Employment Opportunity and the establishment of a Pastoral Relations Committee. The motion was seconded – discussion called for. A question was asked about the formation of a Pastoral Relations Committee. This committee will act as an intermediary between the Minister and the Congregation. The formation of the committee was highly suggested to the Search Committee during their ministerial search. The motion carried.

Article VI: To hear and act on any other business and to take any other actions, relative to the Church and its property, which may be brought before the Annual Meeting in accordance with the Bylaws; or take any other action in relation thereto;

Steve Pinto, Chairman of the Board of Trustees gave a parsonage (property at 5 Hart Circle) update. A meeting with the town Conservation Committee has been scheduled for early March and we hope to close on the property in mid-April as long as the Conservation Committee grants approval. Donn thanked Steve and the Board of Trustees for the work put into the sale of the property at 5 Hart Circle.

No additional business at hand, the Annual Church meeting adjourned at 11:57 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Knapp, Clerk

Minister

Report of the Minister

“Never place a period where God has placed a comma.”

Gracie Allen

Every January we reflect upon where we have been and what we have done as a congregation. As I look back over the past twelve months, I better understand the wisdom entertainer Gracie Allen once shared.

In our annual reports we are tempted to finish our sentences with punctuation marks that denote closure. A “period” adds finality; it suggests the job is done. But we know that our ministries are not bound by calendar years. When we recognize how we have responded to God’s call in our lives, it is important also to look ahead at how we might continue to respond in the future. In that light we notice the “commas” of 2003.

We increased lay participation in our worship services and invited our church school students and teachers to remain in worship more frequently,

The Diaconate initiated a strong home visitation ministry and countless members and friends supported one another in their times of need,

We evaluated our church school programs and transitioned to a new curriculum,

We built stronger ties with one another through fellowship events such as the church fair,

We supported local and worldwide outreach and mission programs with our donations and gifts,

We announced to Georgetown and all passers-by that we are an alive, open and welcoming church by lighting our building after dark,

These are only a few of our many accomplishments. The list continues in the individual and committee reports that follow; I commend them to you. Each records the ministries we may build upon in the years to come and they identify many of the people who contribute to this congregation. I want to say thank you to all of the volunteers, too numerous to name, who share their time, talents, and love. A special thanks also to our faithful church staff of Joan Chatterton, Emily and Bob Knapp and Sharon Smith.

On a personal note, I am grateful for the warm welcome everyone has provided Sara and me during our first year with you. It was an exciting and busy time for us as we settled into our new homes (two moves in one year), placed new faces and learned names. It has been a great joy for me to gain further insight into this congregation with each passing day and I look forward to the growth of our ministry together. It was a good year,,,

May we imaginatively address all the “commas” of 2003.

Blessings,

Eric Marean

Clerk

Report of the Church Clerk

Our Church provides the opportunity for many to use our facilities and is a safe haven to those who enter its doors. A flurry of activity surrounds this building on a daily basis – Georgetown Council on the Aging, Joyce Dance Studio, TOPS, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Moonlight Productions, Royal Stage Ensemble, Georgetown Women's Club, Country Gardeners as well as our own sponsored activities – Sunday School classes, Junior and Senior High Youth Groups, Bell Choir, Junior Choir, Sr. Choir, Church Band, Ladies Guild and a meeting place for all of our Boards and Committees. It is a true blessing that this building provides a home to many within the community at large and that our Church family supports these activities.

Below you find a listing of the many activities this Church family entertained during the 2003 year.

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| <u>January</u> | - Three Kings Sunday - Epiphany
- Plans in works for Confirmation Class
- Sunday morning scriptures being read by Lay readers
- Cabinet welcomed Eric Marean into Church membership by letter of transfer |
| <u>February</u> | - Annual Church Meeting
- Church School Candy Sale – to purchase Milk Menagerie
- Ash Wednesday Service held in Sanctuary |
| <u>March</u> | - Laity Sunday led by Women in the Church
- New Members Meetings begin
- Photo Shoots for new Pictorial Directory
- Moonlight Productions "Newsies" |
| <u>April</u> | - Annual Church Clean Up Day
- Palm Sunday – welcomed 12 new members
- Maundy Thursday service of Passover and Tenebrae
- Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast
- Easter Morning Worship Service
- Sale of parsonage complete (5 Hart Circle, Georgetown)
- Installation service for Rev. Eric Marean |
| <u>May</u> | - Children's Sunday
- New Church Sign put up in front of Church property
- Royal Stage Ensemble "Into the Woods" |
| <u>June:</u> | - Confirmation Class – 14 youth received into membership
- Graduate Sunday – honoring high school graduates
- Jr. Choir – "100 % Chance of Rain" |
| <u>July/August</u> | - Union Services with West Boxford Congregational
- Moonlight Productions "Footloose"
- Safe Church project to re-key facilities takes place |
| <u>September</u> | - Rally Day with JT Turner as "Arnold the Christianator" |

- Sunday School resumes – new curriculum
- Telephone voice mail system set up

October

- “Let the Games Begin” Church Fair
- Royal Stage Ensemble – “How to Eat Like a Child”
- Ship Amistad in Boston – UCC sponsored activity

November

- Moonlight Productions – “Jekyll and Hyde”
- Thanksgiving Food Offering – Emmaus House
- Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Service – Groveland
- New outside lighting project begun – front lawn of property

December

- Royal Stage Ensemble – “Little Women”
- Christmas in the Air – concert featuring all our music groups
- JT Turner presents “A Christmas Carol”
- Christmas Sunday service
- Christmas Eve service of candles and carols
- Sunday after Christmas – carol sing!

We know that the new year will bring many new and fresh projects and events. The Boards, Committees and the Church Cabinet welcome your ideas – so please don’t be shy about speaking to any representatives.

The new year will also bring along a change on our Church Cabinet. Long time Church Moderator, Donn Chatterton will be stepping aside as our Moderator. It has been a pleasure and quite a learning experience to have served with him on the Church Cabinet and speaking for the Cabinet and Church as a whole, we will miss his leadership. Having had the opportunity to work with three different ministers and several interim ministers along the route, Donn has offered invaluable listening skills and impartiality that has made him an effective leader for our Church membership. Thank you Donn for years of dedication and hard work!

I look forward to working with Nancy Aberman, who will be filling the position as Church Moderator. I know that the Church Cabinet, Boards, Committees and members at large will welcome her to this position and help her as best as we can!

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Knapp, Clerk

Membership Information

<i>Members as of 12/30/02</i>	<i>233</i>
<i>New Members</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Confirmation Class</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Reinstatement of Membership</i>	<i>1</i>

Membership Removal

<i>Transfer to Inactive</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Deaths</i>	<i>3</i>

Total Membership as of 12/31/03 *245*

In Memoriam

James Callahan
Anna Tozier
Manette Lee

Statistics from Minister's Records

<i>Baptisms</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Weddings</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Funerals</i>	<i>11</i>

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Knapp, Clerk

Diaconate

2003 Report of the Diaconate

This year was an exciting year for the Diaconate filled with many events and accomplishments!

In addition to our regular duties of pastoral assistance, support in those of need, coordination of greeters and readers, and decorating the sanctuary during Christmas and Easter, 2003 provided several other highlights:

March - for the first time in years we held a Laity Sunday. On March 9 we held a service done entirely by the women of our church. Everyone agreed that they did a spectacular job and set a high standard for what we are sure will be coming shortly - Men's Laity Sunday.

April - the Diaconate held a full Tenebrae service held on Maundy Thursday. This is a significant undertaking for the Diaconate and several other people. Regardless of the work, it always seems worthwhile after participating in this service. Special thanks goes out to the entire Diaconate, Senior Choir, Bob and Emily Knapp, Donn and Joan Chatterton, Eric, JoEllen Fielding, and most importantly Janice Murphy who without her leadership and work this event would not be possible.

Also, in April we introduced 12 new members to the Congregation on Palm Sunday. Each participated in new member classes over a period of Sundays. The final class was a dinner with the Diaconate where we shared good food and fellowship. Once again our thanks go out to the Merrills, DeSistos and LeBlancs for preparing an excellent meal!

April 27th was an historic date in the history of our church. On this date members, guests and clergy from the surrounding area joined us to formally recognize our covenant with the 24th Minister and Teacher of the First Congregational Church of Georgetown - Reverend Eric Marean. It was time to reflect on the past and the future of our church and how fortunate we are to have Eric with us.

June - we welcomed the Confirmation Class of 2003 into membership of our church. These 14 young adults showed their commitment by participating in a series of classes with Eric. Each choose a mentor to participate with

them throughout the classes and had the privilege of introducing them to the Congregation!

December - the Diaconate held an end of the year meeting to review what we felt was good about the prior year and lay out goals for next year. It was a great opportunity for us to brainstorm ideas, share thoughts with Eric and chart a direction for where we want to go in 2004.

2003 also saw some new changes in our worship service. Our children now join us at the start of the service before Church School, are there for Communion, and spend a short time each week with Eric and a children's message. Our members are also more involved in the service by reading the scripture lessons each week and participating in past and future Laity Sundays. We think all of these changes have made our time together on Sunday more meaningful and we thank Eric for his leadership and guidance in suggesting these improvements.

2003 also saw improvements in the Sanctuary. On behalf of the entire Diaconate we would like to thank Karen Young for the hours she spent hand sewing the new alter cloths!

One of the main goals we established for 2003 was to formalize our visitation program to fellow members who cannot join us each week. I'm pleased to announce this was accomplished through the hard work of Nancy Aberman who coordinated a monthly visitation schedule and found volunteers to establish visiting teams. Thanks to all of you who helped us out on visitations this year.

As we bring 2003 to a close, on behalf of the entire Diaconate we would like thank Eric for his guidance and direction throughout the year. On a personal note I would like to thank all the members of the Diaconate for their hard work and dedication over the course of the year. You've truly been a pleasure to work with. Thank You!

Respectively Submitted,

Kurt Hogan

Christian Education

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT 2003

Another year has come and gone, and once again the board has been privileged to work with a wonderfully dedicated group of teachers. Working closely with these teachers, the Superintendent and Minister, a new curriculum, (Bible Quest) was selected and successfully implemented for grades 1-6 this year. This is a UCC curriculum and more accurately reflects the beliefs of our congregation. The board is excited about moving forward with this and other changes, and continuing with the wonderful traditions we all cherish as we lead our children in their Christian faith. This coming year will be a transition for the board as we look to fill three of our positions. A full year of working with Eric as our settled minister has been very successful and generated some new ideas. The children have been more involved with worship, staying the first part of the every service to hear a children's message. In December, the children came at the end of the service to join the congregation for communion. The board would like to continue with this in the upcoming year. Both teachers and students have enjoyed the opportunity to spend more time with our worshipping congregation. Listed below is a summary of the Board's activity for this year.

- Rally Day started our season off with a bang as J.T.Turner put on another wonderful performance for our church school children.
- Despite a cancellation of church school due to snow in December, the children celebrated advent with the congregation and attended a Christmas carol sing along.
- During the summer, a total of nine people attended the summer conferences at Star Island. Seven received scholarships (totaling over one thousand dollars) to help defray the cost.
- The church school year ended early this year with good attendance. All children participated by being involved in the service or performing a skit.
- At the end of the year the board acknowledged important milestones in the life of some of our children and young adults. Bibles were presented to everyone in the Confirmation Class, while graduating seniors received a cross pin and card. Both received best wishes and success for the future.

Once again, a big thank you goes to all of our teachers for their dedication as well as all the parents who shared their children with us.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Flom

Chairman of the Board of Christian Education

School Superintendent

Report of the Church School Superintendent

Another successful Church School has come and gone. It's been a very busy year with lots of changes. As always, I'd like to thank the Board of Christian Education for all their support and hard work. I'd like to thank Erik for his leadership in helping us pick a new curriculum and help us institute many changes that have helped our students be more of a part of our Sunday worship. I'd especially like to thank our hard working, creative, and dedicated staff of nursery caregivers, teachers, student assistants, and substitute teachers. They are the heart and soul of our Church School.

Year in Review:

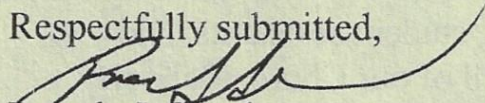
1. With Eric's guidance we have chosen and begun using a new curriculum for beginners to 6th grade, "Bible Quest". We chose this curriculum, as it reflected our church's beliefs and values. We began using it in September 2003. We are in our 2nd year of using the "Seasons of the Spirit" for our 7th & 8th grade class.
2. Children's Sunday was a wonderful time with presentations and students conducting most of the worship service. We kicked off the 2003-2004 with another incredible presentation by J.T. (terminator) Turner. Our Valentine's Candy sale raised over \$400 to go towards a milking group through Heifer International.
3. We have an amazing Church school staff with 21 teachers, 10 nursery caregivers, and 11 student assistants. We have over 120 students registered in our Church School Program.
4. To help our children be more involved and learn about how we worship together, students now join us for the 1st part of worship service. Eric provides a Children's Message that is enjoyed by children of all ages. Students will also be joining the congregation on Communion Sunday's as another way to experience our traditions.

Concerns:

Unfortunately this section seems to remain constant. Families lead busy, active lives, with students involved in many activities. I believe that all of these activities are valuable and important but we constantly have to

compete with activities (especially sports games and practices) being scheduled on Sunday mornings. You shouldn't have to choose between coming to Church and other activities. The only way to change this is to speak up. Please get involved by letting the people who plan the schedules know that Church School is as important to you as sports and insist that games and practices be scheduled after noon on Sundays. We can make a difference!

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela J. Sheehan

2003-2004 School Year

Nursery Care Givers:

Jamie Kren, Sylvia George, Joe Rawlins, Karen Young, Megan Lichty, Jill Hamelin, Sharon, Lee, and Jo Stewart

Church School Teachers:

Beginners/Pre K	Cheryl Gould, Phyllis Cryan
Kindergarten	Paula Martel, Emily Martel, & Kathy Hogan
1 st Grade	Ruth Cudmore & Cheryl Nutter
2 nd Grade	Nancy Aberman, Rachel Edwards, & Beth O'Grady
3 rd Grade	Dianne McWade, Beverly Knapp, Carol Gerrit
4 th /5 th Grade	Jamie Ruh, Tim Ruh, Karen Chiklakis, & Michelle Brock
6 th Grade	Marion Harding & Alan Gould
7 th /8 th Grade	Bob Watts & Tom Stewart
Substitutes	Dorothy Blanchard, Joan Chatterton, Beth Desrochers, & Carla Bratland
Student Assistants	Cameron Davis, Kate Singleton, Emily Aberman, Nate Singleton, Tim Hartford, Amanda Martel, Elizabeth Kalfin, Amie Pantano, Alexi Watts, & Brendan Comiskey.

Youth Fellowship

Report of the 2003 Middle School Youth Group

The Middle School Youth Group (MSYG) is made up of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. We have consistent activities, service projects and a retreat at the end of the school year. In September we sadly said goodbye to Bob Watts, who has moved up to fill Jim Urbanski's place in Sr. High Youth Group. Bob has been a Youth Leader for many years. He helped revitalize our Youth Groups. He has helped form this group into a fun, meaningful, and safe place for our Middle Schoolers to be. We thank Bob for all his years of service to this group! Chuck Davis who has been our unofficial 3rd leader for many years is now the official co-leader of MSYG.

As in the past, we focus on fellowship, service, personal and spiritual growth in an atmosphere of safety and fun. We try to have 2 meetings per month, which include several service projects: cooking a meal at Emmaus House, making the tags and setting up the Christmas tree for H.O.M.E., and 2 food drives for Emmaus House at Thanksgiving and Easter.

We have several fund raising activities through the year to fund our service projects and our weekend away. They include cookie walks and selling refreshments at intermission for the Moonlight Production plays. A huge thanks you to Moonlight for allowing us to do this every year.

We have many outside trips and activities throughout the year including, bowling, swimming, tubing, hikes to the wildlife sanctuary and Mt. Agamenticus. Our inside activities include movies, virtual New Year's Party and meetings for games and talks.

The highlight of our year is our weekend to Grotonwood. This year due to extra fundraising we were able to go for 2 nights. Always a blast!!

If you have a child in middle school, please accept this invitation to attend one or more meetings. We ask only three things:

1. Help us keep it a middle school thing by finding other activities for siblings (parents and other grown up relatives are always welcome.)
2. If you are interested in joining us for the weekend at Grotonwood we absolutely need prior notice. Let us know as soon as possible. For regular meetings and outside trips all you need to do is show up.
3. HAVE FUN. As always you don't have to be a member of the church to come. We encourage the kids to bring friends.

We are very grateful for the help and support we receive from parents and our whole church family!

Submitted in love and fellowship,
Chuck Davis, Bob Watts, and Pam Sheehan

Senior High Youth Group 2003

Another year of Senior High Youth Group has come and gone! We started off the year by making our annual pilgrimage to the Lake Ossipee Conference Center for our weekend ski trip. We once again conquered the slopes and a great time was had by all! We passed the rest of the winter with bowling and the movies and kicked off the spring with our annual Pasta Supper fundraiser.

At the end of the school year we sadly said goodbye to our very active Senior High Class of '03 as well as Jim Urbanski, our fearless youth group leader for the past 7 years. Jim's dedication and humor over the years has been greatly appreciated. Thank you Jim for the unbelievable memories of New York City, whitewater rafting in the rain, Kentucky, endless lock-ins, skiing, bowling, movie night and of course ZITI BOY at our annual pasta supper and so much more! We miss you and if you ever have an urge to sleep on the church floor you know where to find us!

This fall we welcomed back Bob Watts. For those of you who don't know, Bob and I started youth group together 9 years ago! It was so wonderful to have Bob step right up to Senior High Youth Group. Thank you Bob for your continued dedication to the youth of our church!!!

We started off this school year by welcoming the new 9th graders. We got busy with movie night at Chunky's, dinner theater at the church fair, and a visit to Ipswich Wildlife Sanctuary. As we look ahead to 2004 we are excited to once again be going back to St. John the Divine Cathedral in New York City for a weekend trip this April.

Once again I'm not sure who has more fun the kids or Bob and I. We are truly blessed to be part of the lives of some really awesome teenagers! Thank you to all the parents and church members who have continued to support Senior High Youth Group all these years.

Peace and love to all in 2004, it's going to be a great year!!!!

SUSAN & BOB

Trustees

Annual Report of the Board of Trustees Year 2003

The First Congregational Church of Georgetown is a busy place. The facility continues to be a community focus, including, but also well beyond worship. We presently host on a regular basis, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, TOPS, AA and other groups on a periodic basis. Also during 2003, performances by Moonlight Productions and Royals Stage Ensemble were presented. We continue to maximize the use of the building. During the school year, the building is used in some form every day.

The most significant project accomplished during 2003 was the sale of the Parsonage. This was skillfully coordinated by Steve Pinto and the Finance Committee. We thank our realtor Susan Stead, Attorney John Anderson and all who were involved in completing this major project. The proceeds have been invested to provide a steady stream of income to offset some of our expenses for the future.

Another major project for the year was the lighting of the exterior of the building. This effort was coordinated by Steve LeBlanc and makes a great impression both from appearance and a safety point of view. We all should be proud of the results, as one of the most architecturally significant buildings in Georgetown is now visible after dark. We hope this sends a welcoming message to all passers by.

Our Sexton, Sharon Smith, continues to do a great job keeping the church clean, and we thank her for her hard work. John Face again removed our leaves. His voluntary contribution is greatly appreciated.

Clean up day, held in April, was a success. We had many volunteers including a large contingent from the Boy Scouts. Much of the winter dust and dirt was removed.

The Trustees would like to acknowledge the contribution of Jim Callahan, who passed away in 2003. He served on the Board of Trustees and was a vibrant member of the Church. He provided considerable assistance during his term. He is sorely missed.

I would like to extend my appreciation to fellow Board members: Steve LeBlanc, Bob Watts, Barry Garvin, and Alan Gould. They have put in countless hours during the year. Additionally we would like to thank Tom Hamelin who continues in his roll as honorary trustee for taking on odd jobs as they arise. More hands make lighter work.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chuck Davis

Chairman, Board of Trustees

Music

Report of the Music Committee for 2003

The Music Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank our talented leaders for their continuous support of our music program.

Music director: Bob Knapp who leads our band and senior choir.

Organist: Emily Knapp.

Junior and Bell Choir Director: Evelyn Boose.

Junior and Bell Choir Assistant Director: Marion Harding.

Our church is truly blessed to have their musical leadership.

The Junior Choir presented 100% Chance of Rain in June and raised over \$200 toward the Heifer Fund Project International. The performance was an enthusiastic and fun time followed by an ice cream social.

The Senior Choir Christmas Concert was a big hit and well attended.

The Music Committee sponsored a performance by JT Turner of Charles Dickens' Christmas Carol on an appropriately cold and stormy winter night. 38 enthusiastic souls braved the weather to attend the performance and donated \$200 toward the Music Committee.

The Bell Choir shared their talents again this year with our community giving a concert at the Merrimack Library during the advent season. Jackie Moore moved to Kingston and was honored with a bell. Helen Snow retired and was also honored with a bell. We will all miss their talents.

Isabel Gammon was honored for many years of service to the church as a long time member of the Senior Choir and Bell Choir. We will certainly miss her cheerful spirit and talents as she takes up residence in Georgia with her daughter.

We invite everyone young and old interested, new to our church or not to participate in any of our musical groups. There's no auditioning or fees - all you need is a passion for music!

Sincerely,

Tom Hamelin Chairman

Members: Chris Comiskey, Chuck Davis, Roxanne Hall

Guild

REPORT OF THE WOMEN'S GUILD

Our Women's Guild continues to be grounded in faith, fellowship and service. And the invitation is always out there to all our churchwomen – to join with us in our monthly meetings, with the exception of January, the summer months, and October.

We were thoroughly entertained and educated at our February 2003 meeting when Marcia Hindle, Lillian Kelloway's daughter, gave an awesome talk on the *Strawbery Banke Museum* in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. So much history in one small piece of property! And Marcia told that history in such an enthusiastic fashion. We loved her presentation! A work party for quilts (and penny-counting for church World Service) took place at our March meeting. We completed twenty-one baby quilts that were shipped off to our regional distributor of the ABC quilts for "at-risk" babies.

Our Guest Spring Social in April was a smashing success. Barbara Schofield, the "Hat Lady" entertained and made us laugh at all her wonderful hats and hat stories. Our guests (and there were over sixty women in attendance) were thrilled to be invited back to our now-famous "Teas"! Also in the spring, a number of our members were involved in the luncheon served for the Greater Haverhill Guild for the Blind – either with making the entrée, or desserts, or contributing financially. This yearly mission luncheon is in question for 2004 since the Guild for the Blind's membership has dropped dramatically. Our spring session wound down with an outing to the Rowley Pancake House, enjoyed by nineteen members and guests.

At our September meeting we celebrated the work of Church World Service by viewing two new videos and having Lillian Sanford share her experience in a CWS "Crop Walk" in connection with her church in Atkinson, New Hampshire. The Guild has had a forty+ year association with the work of CWS. We also said goodbye to a dedicated and long-time beloved member. Isabel Gammon left our community late in October to join her daughter's family in Acworth, Georgia. Her move has left a huge hole in our circle of Guild friendship, and we look forward (hopefully!) to a summer reunion. In November, Barbara Morehouse gave us the fascinating inside story of the secret life of bees – a lively show and tell presentation that had everyone enthralled. We wound up our 80th year at a holiday party hosted by Nat Tidd, with good food, Nat's wonderful hospitality, a collection of 112 pairs of socks for Ruth's House, a welcome visit from our minister, Eric Marean, and a warm Christmas story read by Jackie Moore.

The Coffee Hour Penny Bowl, sponsored by our group, earned \$1,550 during the winter/spring months that was sent to the Kabul Afghanistan Women's Initiative Project through Church World Service. We are very gratified and indebted to those who contributed both small and large sums of money to this mission. The little change each week does add up! This year the winter/spring Coffee Hour donation will be sent to CWS for school supplies in those countries recovering from recent wars – especially Afghanistan and Iraq.

We are blessed!

Sincerely,
Joan Chatterton, Guild Secretary

Mission Coordinator

REPORT OF THE MISSIONS COORDINATOR

Every day in the news we hear about natural disasters, the depressed economy which causes more and more people to lose their jobs, and horrible living conditions in third world countries. Our church members know that they can help, and they contribute to many outreach programs through their offerings and dedication.

A portion of our weekly collections, 6.8%, goes directly to the UCC to support missions programs. We also send 20% of the church school offerings, designated for the Heifer Project. This year 100% of our Lenten offering went to our Diaconate Fund, which is used solely to help people in need in our own community. We designated 20% of our Advent offering to help the California fire victims. The Women's Guild sponsored a special offering on Mother's Day to support women in Afghanistan through a work initiative, raising \$1550 for this cause. In the fall we collected for Neighbors In Need, raising \$414.42 to help support UCC programs for youth, Native Americans, and health care for the homeless.

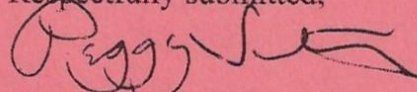
Various groups and committees also contribute in many ways. In summary, the church school started off the year with their Valentine's candy/craft sale to support Heifer. The Guild runs their penny bowl collection in the spring, raising money to buy blankets that are used all over the world. They also prepared a luncheon for the St. Clare Blind Guild in May and made quilts for babies suffering with AIDS. The Junior Choir raised \$216.00 from their show in May, which they donated to Heifer. Our Diaconate coordinates a list of volunteers that prepare and serve meals at Emmaus House each month. They also deliver plants to the shut-ins in the community at Easter and Christmas. The Middle School youth group conducted the food drive for Emmaus at Thanksgiving and the gift collection for H.O.M.E. at Christmas.

As always, we encourage our church families to make their personal contributions to missions through the church treasury. Checks can be made payable to the church with a memo noting the specific mission. Our records will then reflect how we, as a church family, can really make a difference when we pool our resources.

There are many, many ways in which our church families can become involved in helping others. I am very interested in hearing about any mission project and would like to see if a committee can be formed to develop new programs. Please let me know if anyone has an interest in joining.

Many thanks to everyone for supporting these missions. It's great to be a part of this church!

Respectfully submitted,



Peggy Smith

Fair

REPORT OF THE FAIR CHAIRS

Once again the Church Fair has come and gone. This year our theme was sports and it really was quite an event. We had our favorite pastimes of pies, moonlight serenades and lobster sandwiches. We also added some new treats like log cutting, golfing, afternoon entertainment and pony rides. We were amazed and appreciative of all who did their part and look forward to next year. The Fair is our opportunity to share in fellowship and have fun at the same time. Thanks again for everyone's hard work and helping to raise over \$12,000 for our church!

God Bless,
Bob Knapp and Kristen Arsenault
Fair Chairs

Flowers

REPORT OF THE FLOWER COORDINATOR

After twenty-six years, I am stepping down from the Coordinator's position but will remain on the committee as the January/February Flowerlady. The committee will be in very capable hands – four of them! Michelle Brock and Jaime Krenn will be taking on the duties as well as maintaining the outdoor perennial garden. They have done an extraordinary job of gathering the plants and creating this Clark Street garden that flourished into the late fall. In addition, the Georgetown Country Gardeners – as a donation to the church for the use of our facilities – provided the materials, plants, and women-power to plant flowers around the front of the church, the doorways and planters on Clark Street and the planter by the back parking lot. Between Michelle and Jaime and their families, and the Country Gardeners, the church's outdoor look was an invitation in itself!

I'd like to thank all those people who, over the years, have helped with providing flowers for our worship services. Maybe they served as flowerlady for a month; or shared a spectacular houseplant for a Sunday morning, or a bouquet given them for a special occasion. There were those generous families who decorated for a wedding and left the flowers for our enjoyment. And even at sad times, when funerals were held and the flowers donated to the church, our committee has always been able to put them to good use.

There are seasonal memories: Ruth Jones' forsythia – the first touch of spring, long anticipated; Anna Tozier's pink roses that grew on her fence, and then graced our Communion table; Lillian Kelloway's roadside wild flowers, when picked and arranged with her artistic hand, held their own unique charm; and Ed & Ethel Perkin's glorious Christmas cactus!

Thank you to those who helped me this past year with the sanctuary flowers. They are Ruth Jones, Donna DeSisto, Carla Bratland, Rachel Edwards, Barbara Morehouse, and Olive & Bill Ingraham. Thank you also to Ingrid Rollins who decorated the sanctuary for her son's wedding and left all the beautiful fall arrangements for our congregation to appreciate during the month of October.

We hope some of our newcomers will assist Michelle and Jaime by offering a bouquet of their garden flowers, or taking a turn at watering the perennial garden and the planters. Every willing pair of hands is welcome!

Sincerely,
Joan Chatterton

Social

REPORT OF THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE 2003

Thank you to all who have volunteered to serve coffee this past year. Again, we would like to remind you that we constantly need people to volunteer to serve. The signup sheet is always in the kitchen, or on the coffee hour table. A reminder to families also that coffee hour is considered community service, and most middle/high school students are always in need of hours!

Our big news this year was accepting change.....coffee cups! Our plastic Solo cups got very expensive and are not environmentally friendly, so we are trying out some new ideas. The comments so far have been positive!! And, if you would like to borrow items from the kitchen, please call Kirsten (352-2157) to arrange for their use.

The Social Committee participated in several funeral receptions again this past year, along with Eric's Installation service. Thank you to all who helped serve and bake!

Thank you to our Sunday School classes who have helped with coffee hour as well as the many families who have volunteered. A special "thank-you" to Janice Murphy, who always helps out on those "holiday" weekends!

Again, we are always in need of coffee hour volunteers and hope to see you on our list soon!

Sincerely,

Kirsten Davis
Carol St. Pierre
Social Committee Coordinators

Safe Church

SAFE CHURCH COMMITTEE

The New Year is upon us and the Safe Church Committee is continuing to meet regularly. As many of you may be aware, we facilitated the re-keying of the entire church. Now one key may be used to open all the doors. We also created some policies regarding use of the facility. Those who needed a key were assigned a key and also trained on the new policies. If you received a new key, please remember not to loan it to anyone at anytime.

In the coming year, we will be focusing our attentions on the Church School, youth groups, and fire emergency policies and procedures. As always, if you would like to contribute anything to our group, please contact a Safe Church Committee member.

They are: Richard Aberman, Tom Hamelin, Pam Sheehan, Brad Chute, Peggy Smith and Tom Stewart.

**Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Brock, Chair**

UCC Delegate

U.C.C. DELEGATES COORDINATOR

In recent years our church has not been as actively involved in our United Church of Christ's Essex Association activities as we might be. The Essex Association, our wider "church family", encompasses churches from as far south as Nahant and north to Gloucester. Spring and fall meetings are held and our churches are asked to send two voting delegates to these meetings, as well as to ordinations and installations, and one delegate to an ecclesiastical council when called for. These meetings remind us of being connected and supported.

Of course the highlight of the wider church year for us was the Installation Service of our own minister, Eric Marean, held on April 27 at our church. Thanks to Donn Chatterton and JoEllen Fielding who accompanied me to three other Association occasions this year: the fall meeting in Hamilton, the Ordination of Alice Erickson at Trinity, West Gloucester and the Ordination of Sara Penn-Strah at Riverside, Haverhill.

I would like to see more of our members become involved – even if only for just one Association occasion. Please let me know of your interest.

Sincerely,

Joan Chatterton, Coordinator

Renovation

Report of the Renovation Committee

For the most part the Renovation Committee went into hibernation for 2003. We did meet with an architect early in 2003 to help us understand our options. We felt at that time that the church's financial situation was such that any expenditure was unwise.

As we enter 2004, and our financial situation is a little more stable, we realize that our facilities are a little less so. In 2003 we had emergency repairs to our fire detection system in the original part of our building and continuing issues with the heating system. It is becoming clear that it will be less expensive in the long run to begin renovations soon rather than fixing or replacing things when they fail or wear out.

Our goal for 2004 is to have a comprehensive plan, including architectural drawings, in place by the end of the year. As it has been 5 years since our start we will re-solicit ideas from the congregation early in 2004.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Chuck Davis & Bob Knapp Co-chairs**

Collector

2003 PLEDGING and COLLECTION STATUS

	Number	Pledged \$	Collected \$
2002 Pledges, Tardy Receipts			10,958.00
2003 Pledges, Fully Paid	63	65,498.00	85,466.44
2003 Pledges, Not Completed	20	19,682.00	16,385.00
Non-Pledging Regular Contributors	36		17,376.00
2004 Pledges, Early Receipts			1,876.00
Loose Cash			4,402.20
Church School Collections			672.25
Stewardship Total	119		137,135.89

Sincerely,

JoEllen Fielding
JoEllen Fielding, Collector

Treasurer / Budget

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	1. Summary Financial Statement							
2	DESCRIPTION	2003 BUDGET	2003 ACTUAL	2004 BUDGET	Notes			
3		\$	\$	\$				
4	Summary of Funds, 01/01:							
5	Checking, Fleet	11,002.90	11,002.90	32,794.99				
6								
7	IAA, GSB 79-002794, Cash Storage	8,448.35	8,448.35	3,871.78				
8								
9	A.G.Edwards, Endow's & Cash Storag	73,280.16	73,280.16	60,772.75				
10								
11	A.G.Edwards, Pastoral Hous'g Endow	0.00	0.00	218,445.02				
12								
13	United Church Found'n, Endowments	50,333.96	50,333.96	53,768.57				
14								
15	TOTAL	143,065.37	143,065.37	369,653.11				
16								
17								
18	Receipts from:							
19	Offerings, Regular (Stewardship)	108,775.00	137,135.89	131,850.00				
20								
21	Offerings, Special	5,300.00	6,777.74	6,350.00				
22								
23	Donations, Gifts, & Reimburse's	7,845.00	10,614.91	14,220.00				
24								
25	Earnings of Endowments & Invest's	8,300.00	7,322.94	7,794.39				
26								
27	Fundraising (Fair and other)	12,600.00	32,412.60	17,950.00				
28								
29	Sale of Parsonage	250,000.00	240,794.80	0.00				
30								
31	Use of Facilities & Equipment	8,800.00	10,874.00	11,150.00				
32								
33	GRAND TOTAL, RECEIPTS	401,620.00	445,932.88	189,314.39				
34								
35								
36	Disbursements for:							
37	Worship and Spiritual Matters	101,119.30	103,221.07	107,080.00				
38								
39	Religious Education	4,543.84	6,541.37	7,019.42				
40								
41	Musical Support	12,787.77	12,593.02	13,302.08				
42								
43	Facilities Operation & Maintenance	32,111.26	35,024.23	36,166.91				
44								
45	Missions	14,078.15	28,593.10	20,754.97				
46								
47	Other Operating Costs*	12,219.66	21,519.02	9,398.51				
48								
49	Pastoral Housing Endowment	250,000.00	240,794.80	0.00				
50								
51	GRAND TOTAL, DISBURSEMENTS	426,859.98	448,286.63	193,721.90				
52								
53								
54	NET GAIN OR LOSS	-25,239.98	-2,353.75	-4,407.51				
55								
56								
57	Summary of Funds, 12/31							
58	Checking, Fleet	384.72	32,794.99	-5,441.14				
59								
60	IAA, GSB 79-002794, Cash Storage	8,626.55	3,990.56	33,560.06				
61								
62	A.G.Edwards, Endow's & Cash Storag	61,480.16	60,772.75	61,422.75				
63								
64	A.G.Edwards, Pastoral Hous'g Endow	250,000.00	218,445.02	228,445.02				
65								
66	United Church Found'n, Endowments	50,333.96	53,768.57	57,762.00				
67								
68	TOTAL (incl apprec/deprec)	370,825.39	369,771.89	375,748.70				
69								
70								
71	* See lines 343, 349, 507, and 576							
72	for details							

Nominating

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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

• *elected for a 1 year term*

Moderator	Nancy Aberman*	Treasurer	Peggy Smith*
Clerk	Emily Knapp*	Collector	JoEllen Fielding*
Asst. Treas	TBD	Asst. Coll.	Ruth Jones*
Auditors:	Dwight Southwick* & Kristen Arsenault*		
Coordinators	Ushering	Donn Chatterton* & Charles Locke*	
For:	Missions	Peggy Smith*	
	Social	Kristen Davis* & Carol St. Pierre*	
	UCC Delegates	Joan Chatterton*	
	Flowers	Michelle Brock & Jaime Krenn*	

FINANCE COMMITTEE

**elected for a 3 year term with no restrictions on length of service*

George Desrochers (2006)* Allen Barlow (2005) Robert Knapp (2007)*

**The following Boards/Committees are elected for a 2 yr term & restricted to 2 terms*

DIACONATE

Kristen Arsenault	(2005)	Steve Lichty	(2006)*
Richard Brock	(2005)	Jamie Ruh	(2006)*
Janice Murphy	(2005)	Paula Martel	(2006)*
Dwight Southwick	(2005)	Ralph Turgeon	(2006)*
Ed Szkutak	(2005)	Debrah Urbanski	(2006)*

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Dorothy Blanchard	(2005)	Cheryl Gould	(2006)*
Karen Chiklakis	(2005)	Ruth Ann Cudmore	(2006)*
Carol Gerrit	(2005) *	Karen Flom	(2006)*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chuck Davis	(2005)	Steve Pinto	(2006)*
Bob Watts	(2005)	Alan Gould	(2006)*
Steve LeBlanc	(2005)	Michael Lee	(2006)*

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Chris Comiskey	(2005)	Chuck Davis	(2006)*
Tom Hamelin	(2005)	Bill Chiklakis	(2006)*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Charles Blanchard	(2005)	Heather Hartford	(2006)*
Gayle Fehlmann	(2005)	Diane Townsend	(2006)*

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Hartford, Charles Blanchard, Diane Townsend, Gayle Fehlmann