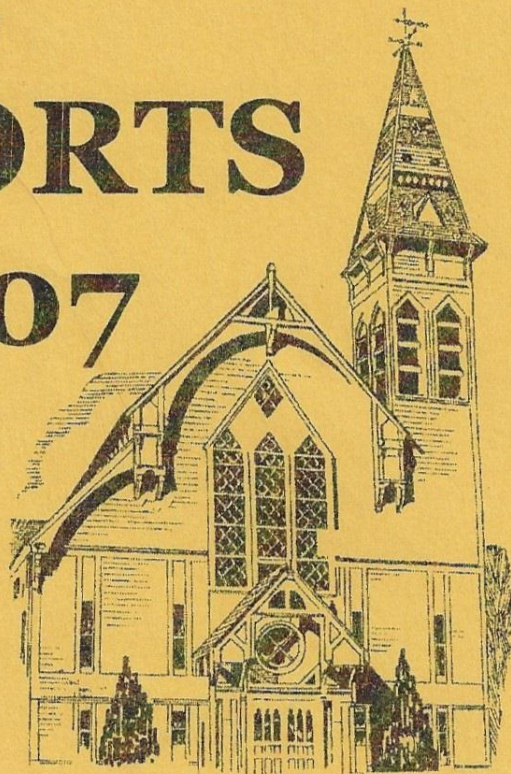


ANNUAL REPORTS 2007



**Including a consolidated financial
statement for 2007, and the
2008 Budget Report**

***First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Georgetown, Massachusetts***

Meetings

The First Congregational Church of Georgetown, Inc.
7 Andover Street, PO Box 200
Georgetown, MA 01833

January 15, 2008

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, January 27, 2008, 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 see if the Church will vote to amend the votes of the Special Church Meeting on October 20, 2002, establishing the Pastoral Housing Fund by declaring an initial endowment amount of \$260,000.00 and allowing for usage of the proceeds of this fund for more than just the support of the Pastor's Housing Allowance, or take any other action in relation thereto;

Article III: To hear and act on the report of the Finance Committee in regard to the 2007 financial operations and the 2008 proposed budget, or take any other action 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 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
First Congregational Church, Inc.
Georgetown, MA**

January 28, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 by Moderator, Karen Flom. Rev. Eric Marean opened the meeting in prayer.

The Church Clerk read 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 that the Church vote to accept the 2006 reports of the several Boards, Committees and Officers of the Church. The motion was seconded.

The Moderator thanked all of those who contributed reports and to those who assisted in compiling the Annual Report booklet. No additional discussion, the vote was taken and the motion carried.

The Clerk read Article II:

To hear and act on the report of the Finance Committee in regard to the 2006 financial operations and the 200 proposed budget, or take any other action in relation thereto;

A motion was made that the Church vote to accept the 2006 Financial Report and 2007 budget as printed. The motion was seconded – discussion called for.

Bob Knapp, Chair of the Finance Committee reviewed some corrections. On the Collectors Report (pg 6A), the total 2007 should read \$71,600.00. Bob also reported that due to some extra fundraisers this year and generosity of Church members we ended up in the red \$26,000 for 2006. The proposed budget for 2007 is in the red \$50,000. We are hoping to be able to sell our Rio Rancho, New Mexico property early in 2007, which will help our finances. The Finance Committee is very concerned about running a deficit of this amount. Although the number of pledges for 2007 has gone down, the average pledged has increased. The Moderator thanked Bob and the Finance Committee members for their work on the Church finances.

No additional discussion – the vote was taken and the motion carried.

The Clerk read Article III:

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

A motion was made that the Church vote to elect the slate of Officers, Boards, Committees, Coordinators and Auditors listed in the Nominating Committee's report in the 2006 Annual Report, and that to signify such election, the clerk be directed to cast one ballot in favor of the slate as presented. (amended to "as corrected" instead of "as presented")

The list of Officers, Boards, Committees, Coordinators and Auditors were read aloud. The Nominating Committee has worked very hard to fill the many positions open this year. As of this date there are still 2 openings on the Diaconate, 1 opening on the Bd. of Christian Education and 2 openings on the Nominating Committee. The opening on the Bd. of Christian Education was filled before the meeting today. It was asked that the motion be amended to add "as corrected". The vote was taken and the amended motion carried.

The Clerk read Article IV:

To hear and act on the report of the Vision Committee, or take any other action in relation thereto;

A motion was made that the Church vote to accept the Vision Statement and Logo as prepared by the Vision Committee. The motion was seconded.

Nancy Aberman, member of the Vision Committee gave a brief presentation of the work of this committee and events leading up to the preparing of the Vision statement and logo. A review of the three after Church all church meetings was made and then a synopsis of how the committee worked to come up with the proposed Vision Statement and Logo. Additional discussion was asked for – the vote was taken and the motion carried.

The Moderator thanked all the members of the Vision Committee for their time, effort and dedication to this project.

The Clerk read Article V:

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.

The Moderator asked if there was any other business that needed to be brought forward at this time. None appearing, a motion was made for the meeting to adjourn – the motion was seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily J. Knapp, Clerk

Pastor

Pastors' Annual Report for 2007

Dear Friends,

This has been a busy and challenging year for us as pastors! It was our first full year as a co-pastorate, and we enjoyed working together to bring you weekly worship services, pastoral care and counseling, and pastoral leadership on the various church committees and boards. As a pastoral team our goals for the year really centered on our church vision statement and action plan approved by the congregation at our 2007 annual meeting. This has been a year in which we as a congregation have continued the traditions of the past, as well as created some fun new initiatives and events. And, so, we thought we would summarize for you, just a few areas in which we have focused our time and energy this past year.

NEW INITIATIVES

- Hosted an Epiphany Party at our Home
- Held an Easter Egg Hunt led by our wonderful church school teachers
- Gathered for an All Church Picnic after Children's Day
- Had our first all Church Hike led by the very capable Steve and Megan Lichty.
- Created a Year Long Worship Plan, and Theme "Fruits of the Spirit" based on our church vision statement and aided by a beautiful banner in the Sanctuary constructed by Joan Chatterton
- Planned and Led an All Church Retreat at Grotonwood Camp
- Planned/directed our first Christmas Pageant with the help of teachers, C.E. Committee members, parents and Choir Directors
- Formed and Organized Hospitality Team
- Formed and Organized Stewardship Team

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

- Led weekly worship services including preaching/children's messages
- Led Maundy Thursday Worship Service
- Organized Sr. High Youth participation in Easter Sunrise Service
- Planned Sara's Installation Service
- Planned Zeph's baptismal service including securing guest clergy participants
- Worked with Diaconate to prepare Lay Sunday while we were at General Synod
- Planned Rally Day Sunday and organized other special Sundays including Membership Celebration Sunday, Mission Trip Sunday, Hospitality Sunday, World Communion, 275th Church Anniversary, All Saints Day

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH GROUP SUPPORT

- Visited Classrooms to spend time with students on several Communion Sundays
- Taught Confirmation Class
- Recruited and supported teachers for our church school classes
- Lead Monthly Teachers' Meetings
- Prepared Christian Education page for monthly newsletter
- Attended end of year Middle School Youth Group party
- Attended and helped cook Sr. High Youth Pasta Dinner

PASTORAL CARE/COUNSELING

- Visited Home bound members and those in hospital
- Responded to emergency pastoral calls, including calls received on days off/vacation
- Officiated 1 Wedding, 2 Baptisms, and 7 funerals

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

- Weekly/monthly administration including bulletin preparation, newsletter preparation, supervision of office manager and office/church needs
- Wrote a monthly Pastor's message for newsletter
- Updated Church Directory/Mailing List
- Advertised, Interviewed, Hired and trained Two Office Managers
- Performed office manager's duties during the weeks we were "in-between" staff
- Organized and led regular Staff Meetings
- Worked on Newsletter, Bulletin, and Church Letterhead format revisions
- Helped organized list of Key Holders and construct new contracts per Safe Church guidelines with assistance of Trustees and Kirsten Davis

CHURCH EVENTS

- Participated in Annual Clean Up day on March 31
- Participated in Church Fair preparation including set up day and a pie baking session, opened the Fair with prayer and worked white elephants on Friday, helped tear down white elephants and set up for dinner on Saturday, and, of course, purchased lots of goodies and ate good food
- Attended Ham and Bean Supper

WIDER CHURCH AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

- Attended two Annual Meetings of the MA Conference, one in Hartford, CT and one in Worcester, MA and recruited lay delegates
- Attended Annual Meeting of the Essex Association in W. Boxford
- Attended the General Synod of the National Church in Hartford, CT
- Represented First Church at an Ecclesiastical Council in Newburyport
- Responded to Georgetown Fire and offered our counseling services to town
- Prayed at the Civil War monument for the Memorial Day Parade
- Prayed at Grand Reopening Ceremony of the Georgetown Peabody Library
- Represented Church at Homer Tapin's Party

CONTINUING EDUCATION

- Attended a conference on Star Island which focused on Non-Violent Communication
- Eric--Participated in monthly Clergy Community of Practice group
- Sara--Participated in a monthly clergy group which reads/discusses books about ministry
- Attended to our personal spiritual care including participating in spiritual retreats, spiritual direction, prayer, reflection, and reading

As you can see, it was a busy year. Much of our success depended upon the faithful staff and volunteers of First Church. Thank you to our dedicated staff, Emily and Bob Knapp, Rachel Edwards, our new Acting Office Manager Michelle Brock, Evelyn Boose and Marion Harding our Children's Choir directors and everyone who has dedicated their time, talents and energy. We are especially mindful of and grateful for the years and dedication of our predecessor, the Reverend Phillip H. Southwick, Pastor Emeritus of our church, who passed away in September. He exemplified our church vision statement throughout his life and ministry; he will be missed.

As we begin a new year, we look forward to working with all of you, so that as a community and as individuals we might continue to "*nurture our relationships* with God and each other, *deepen our faith* through worship, music, study and prayer, *reach out* to our neighbors in times of need, and *offer God's love to everyone!*" May God's blessings be with us all as we journey together!

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Eric and Pastor Sara

Clerk

Report of the Church Clerk

Listed below you will find the many activities and events that were held at The First Congregational Church of Georgetown during 2006.

- January:**
- Three Kings Sunday
 - Annual Church Meeting
 - Vote to adopt Church Vision Statement
 - Donation made to Red Cross for Georgetown Fire victims at Longwood Apts.
- February:**
- Valentines Candy and Craft Sale for Heifer Fund
 - Lenten Offering – 80% Reserve Fund, 20% Diaconate Fund
- March:**
- Tour of Emmaus House
 - Supply Drive for Soliders in Iraq
 - “Giving Tree” set up in Narthex
 - Welcome New Members into Church Family
 - Moonlight Productions – “Les Miserables”
- April:**
- Hospitality Committee Established
 - Walk for Hunger
 - Church Clean-Up Day
 - Palm Sunday Service
 - Maundy Thursday Service of Passover and Tenebrae
 - Easter Sunrise Service at Penn Brook School
 - Sunrise Service Breakfast at Church
 - Easter Morning Worship Service
 - Emmaus House Food Drive
- May:**
- Sr. High Youth Group Pasta Supper
 - Installation of Rev. Sara E. Marean as Co-Pastor, First Congregational Church Georgetown
 - Moonlight Productions – “Little Women”
 - Memorial Day Remembrances
- June:**
- Children’s Sunday and all Church picnic
 - Graduate Recognition Sunday
 - Youth Group trip to No. Carolina – Habitat for Humanity building project
 - Laity Sunday
 - Mass UCC Conference and UCC Synod, Harford, CT.
 - Emmaus House Food Drive

- July/August:**
- Union services with Second Church W. Boxford in Georgetown
 - All Church Hike at Maudsley State Park, Newburyport
 - Moonlight Productions – “Children of Eden”
 - Union services with Second Church W. Boxford, in W. Boxford (Aug)
- September:**
- Rally Day – Presentation of “Fruits of the Spirit” tree at front of sanctuary
 - Membership Recognition Sunday for long time Church members
 - Youth Sunday – report on summer trip to No. Carolina
 - Ham and Bean Supper
 - Memorial Service for Pastor Emeritus, Rev. Philip H. Southwick
- October:**
- All Church Retreat - Grotonwood
 - World Wide Communion
 - Moonlight Productions – “Wizard of Oz”
 - “Thee Olde Church Fair”
 - 275th Anniversary of First Congregational Church worship service
- November:**
- All Saints Sunday Service
 - Emmaus House Food Drive
 - Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service – Groveland Congregational Church
- December:**
- Christmas Pageant
 - Carol Sing and Around the Town Caroling (cancelled due to snowstorm)
 - Gifts for HOME
 - Christmas Eve Service of Candles and Carols
 - Laity Sunday

Our Church building is home to many outside groups and organizations. Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownie Troops, Joyce Dance Studio, AA, TOPS, Moonlight Productions, Georgetown Garden Club, Georgetown Women’s Club and the Georgetown Council on Aging make use our building for meetings, rehearsals and performances. It is a busy place, our Church, and we thank all who work hard to keep our beacon of light shining for all to see!

Respectfully submitted,

Emily J. Knapp
Clerk

Membership Information

Members as of 12/31/06 246

New Members 4

Membership Removal:

Transfer to Inactive 7

Deaths 1

Request for Removal 2

Total Membership as of 12/31/07 240

In Memoriam

James St. Pierre

*Pastor Emeritus, Rev. Philip H. Southwick
Former Minister, First Congregational Church, Georgetown MA
1965-1999*

From The Ministers Records

Baptisms: 3

Weddings: 1

Funerals: 7

Respectfully submitted,

Emily J. Knapp, Clerk

Diaconate

2007 Report of the Diaconate

I would characterize this past year as a new beginning for our church. As a congregation we have completed our first year under the leadership of our co-pastors Sara and Eric. We have seen members leave us and new members join. We have discussed, agreed and disagreed at times as we work through change in an effort to grow. We have experienced new approaches to worship style and content. We have learned about each other and established new relationships and fellowship. But most of all we have continued to be welcoming of all, willing and able to work together, and committed to growing our faith and fellowship with our church family.

In 2007, the Diaconate endeavored to support the spiritual aspects of the church by introducing new forms of receiving communion, visiting members of the congregation not able to attend church, conducting two Lay services, and organizing and participating in the Maundy Thursday service. We were honored by two guest preachers, one at the Baptism of Zephaniah Marean and one on Stewardship Sunday. During the June Lay service, we reflected on the 50th anniversary of the UCC, as Eric was a delegate at the General Synod in Hartford CT., Sara and Zeph were also at the Synod festivities. The day long retreat held in October at the Grotonwood Retreat Center in Grotonwood MA. was enjoyed by a small number and it was an exceptionally warm fall day. We enjoyed canoeing, kayaking and some even went swimming! We hope to do this again next year with more participation. The church family recognized long time members and their service at Membership Celebration Sunday. The Diaconate assisted in the installation service for Sara. We prepared the Sanctuary for Easter and Christmas services. Additional responsibilities included updating the church membership list, reviewing the Diaconate budget and evaluating the job performance of our co-pastors Sara and Eric.

We remembered Phil Southwick and Jim St.Pierre, celebrated graduating seniors, assisted victims of the Longview apartment fire, and participated in our church retreat with contributions from the Diaconate fund.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all members of the 2007 Diaconate for their support, commitment and contributions throughout the year. The Diaconate members were Barry Games, Brett Davis, Jeff Fitzpatrick, Sylvia George, Helen Snow, Ralph Turgeon, Estelle Passeri, and Kristen Arsenault. Special thanks to Kristen for handling the coordination of Easter lilies, poinsettias, birthday roses and special cards and notes to church families throughout the year, Jeff for help in creating content for Lay services, Estelle for changing the pulpit covers, Sylvia for coordinating Christian services and Helen for keeping in touch with members unable to attend church.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Desrochers

Christian Education

Report of the Christian Education Committee

In September, I filled in for the departing Chairperson of Christian Education, Elizabeth Kalfin, who left to begin her freshman year of college. I have very much enjoyed serving on this committee and we have had much fun coordinating activities for the children.

I would like to thank this year's CE Committee: Rev. Eric Marean, Carol Lutes, Karen Young, Joanne Kelly and Kirsten Orender for their dedication and hard work. Thanks also to Rev. Sara Marean for her continued support of the Christian Education Program.

The Year in Review:

1. The children of the church participated in all parts of the Children's Sunday service. The service was followed by our 1st Annual Children's Sunday BBQ, that was well attended, enjoyed by about 60 members of congregation. The BBQ was a potluck event, with hamburgers, hot dogs and all the fixings available. The children were given pails, shovels and Frisbees, which they fully enjoyed. It was a lot of fun despite the chilly weather.
2. Seasons of the Spirit Church School curriculum is working out well with lots of great project ideas for the teachers and children.
3. The children enjoyed participating in the Emmaus House Food Drive this Thanksgiving month. The drive was very successful again this year thanks to Diane Townsend.
4. In December, we held a Christmas Pageant that was very well attended and enjoyed by everyone. Costumes were caringly made by the CE Committee members. A special thank you to Kirsten Orender, Karen Young and Carol Lutes for their wonderful costume creativity and hard work. The preschool children were adorable in their sheep costumes. Many thanks to Rev. Sara Marean for directing the Pageant.

Concerns in the Future:

Our concerns are the same in years past. We continue to have a severe shortage of Church School teachers at all levels. Our main focus moving forward is to recruit teachers, with a teacher and an assistant in each class, according to Safe Church policy. The Safe Church guidelines need to be enforced and followed by all teachers and anyone working with children in the Church setting. CORI/SORI forms should be filled out and on file for all church members that have contact with children in the Church. This should be standard procedure within the Church as it is in schools and all facets of child-oriented activities in society today.

In closing, it has been an honor to serve on the CE Committee. I wish the Christian Education Committee tremendous success in the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Fitzpatrick

Youth Fellowship

Report of the Middle School Youth Group

We had a great year in Middle School Youth Group in 2007! We are beginning our third year as youth group leaders and we feel like we are finally getting into a rhythm.

We try to do two meetings a month, one in the church for snacks and games, and one out for some fun. Our first meeting we had at the church to get to know each other and especially welcome the new sixth graders. We played hi-point/low point, three-legged races, wheelbarrow races and more.

We started our first trip out at Leo's Superbowl and we had our usual good crowd. . During the fall, we helped out with the fair. At Christmas time, we put up the HOME tree with tags, decorated the tree and had a pizza party complete with Yankee Swap. We also sold refreshments at the intermission of the Moonlight Productions shows to help fund our expenses.

Upcoming, we have sledding, a Valentine Skate, an Emmaus House meal, a hike to Mt. Agamenticus, and a repeat of our pool party/cookout to wrap up the year.

Thank you to our congregation and our great Middle Schoolers and their parents, who support our activities.

Blessings,

Rachel and Scott Edwards

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

2007

We had another great year in Senior High Youth Group in 2007! We continued with a lot of our favorites this year. Valentines party, movie nights at Chunky's, bowling at Leo's super bowl, our Annual Pasta Supper and meetings at the church. We have a very dedicated group of teens who are an asset to this church and community!!!!

The highlight of the year was our trip to Tarboro North Carolina this past June. 9 youth and 2 adults set out on Sunday June 24 and after a very long van ride spent several days in the North Carolina sunshine working with Habitat for Humanity building homes for families who lost everything in hurricane Floyd. It was a very memorable trip for all who participated. I want to personally thank Evan, Brett, Brendon, Brian, Kyle, Mike, Sarah, Elizabeth and Lauren for giving up a week of their summer to help out families in desperate need of a helping hand. I also want to send a huge thank you to my other chaperone Chuck Davis who has become the unofficial co-leader of the Senior High Youth group. Chuck's talents are many and his support has been phenomenal. I also want to thank you the church community for your continued support of our group and all that we do. It is greatly appreciated and makes me feel blessed to be part of such a supportive church family.

As always I don't know who has more fun me or the kids!!! As many of you know this is my 14th and final year as leader of the Senior High Youth Group. My life has been so enriched by the youth of this church these past many years. I'm looking forward to 2008! Looking ahead we have some new things on our calendar as well as some of our old favorites and who knows maybe some surprises in between. Stay Tuned!

Blessings,
Susan Stead

Trustees

Report of the Trustees for 2007

The members of the Board of Trustees, Chairman Steven Pinto, Jeff Gillen, Alan Barlow, Richard Brock and Chris Pinto have had a productive year.

We also need to extend special thanks to Chuck Davis and Steve LeBlanc for helping with the electrical and sound systems as well as the outside lights and the heating system.

Standard maintenance has not required a great deal of time this past year, but the lawn got mowed and some additional fill was added to make the lawn a little more level to mow. The mower was repaired by Bob Morehouse for us for a temporary fix, but the old mower is really about to die. Anyone about to buy a new mower, and with a riding mower to donate, please think of the church - or we will have to purchase a new one in 2008 for sure.

The hedges were trimmed and a new sign was set up on Andover Street to notify every one of activities. The septic tank was pumped and all looked OK. The Trustees helped set up and take down for the Church Fair. The boiler was cleaned and serviced, with no notice of needed work, and the smoke detectors repairs. Shoveling was done as needed and stocks of sand and salt laid in for general use.

The snow blower is still running and has been used a lot in December. It is also tired if anyone has one they may wish to donate.

The church front has some structural damage and we hired a contractor to try and fix it. He did repair and replace the gutters and downspouts and two of the front church storm windows while evaluating the woodwork. Unfortunately, the decorative woodwork in the front of the church is about to fall down as it is seriously eroded and damaged. The first estimate we have to repair this work is **\$12,000**. This is a serious problem that needs to be addressed.

Our Sexton resigned and we were able to hire a new Sexton mid year, and as a result the church is looking much cleaner and organized. We are grateful for her efforts to keep the facility 'shipshape'.

The "Family Room" off the "Long Room" was painted and papered this Christmas vacation. It is now a bright yellow and very cleaned up ready for meetings and general use.

Finally we have made efforts to retrieve keys that are not currently in use so we can keep track of those out and in use. Those returned will be given out to others that are currently in need of entrance to the building.

Steve Pinto, Chairman, Board of Trustees.

Music

Report of the Music Committee

The Music Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank our leaders for their faithful and talented contributions to our music program: Organist – Emily Knapp; Music Director – Bob Knapp; Bell Choir Director – Evelyn Boose; Junior and Cherub Choir Director – Evelyn Boose and Assistant Marion Harding. The congregation is truly blessed to have their musical leadership.

We would also like to thank all those who participate in the Cherub Choir, Junior Choir, Senior Choir, Bell Choir, and Band, as well as those who accompany and support these groups whenever necessary. Music is a vital part of our worship and your efforts enable us to truly 'Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord'.

The Music Committee in their search for a new Hymnal has selected the First Congregational Church of Houston publication "Hymns of Truth and Light" as our new Hymnal. We are currently in the process of selecting the hymns that will be included in our 64 page bound-in Supplement to that Hymnal. The new Hymnals should be available in the first quarter of 2009.

Music is so important during the Advent and Christmas season. We continued the tradition of having our Brass playing before Worship during Advent. On December 16th our second annual Outdoor Caroling event was canceled due to SNOW. We look forward to our third annual Outdoor Caroling event in December 2008.

Our music groups are always looking for additional members. The only requirement is your desire to 'Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord'.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Rawlins, Chair

Guild

REPORT OF THE WOMENS' GUILD

A Valentine Tea ushered in our 2007 Guild year with nineteen in attendance. Different flavors of teas were served in English bone china cups, delicate sandwiches and goodies enjoyed, and tea history and stories were shared by Joan.

Sixteen members went to work in March on the ABC Quilts for babies in crisis. Millie Gangloff coordinated the effort, producing twenty quilts that were later displayed at a fall worship service. Millie is the guiding light behind this important mission, and we thank her for her dedication. To our amazement, the Coffee Hour Penny Bowl yielded \$152.50 for our missions' treasury. We appreciate all those who contributed their coin collections.

April brought the Rev. Donna Muise back to Georgetown for a visit. We renewed our friendship with Donna while she told us about the insights she gained during her recent Sabbatical. Donna gently reminded all of us to keep an open mind about change (and not get stuck in the past!) and to learn new things. Susan Stead spoke to us about the Youth Mission Trip that took place in June and thanked us for the \$300 donation toward this endeavor.

In May we held our final meeting for the spring season with a trip to the Village Restaurant in Essex, an outing enjoyed by all who attended.

Judy Robillard told of her adventures and "misadventures" in Spain at our September meeting. We shared a sandwich lunch and some laughs with Judy! In November we welcomed a longtime friend of the Women's Guild, Faith Johnson, as she spoke on the subject of "Our Favorite Hymns". Not only did she tell meaningful histories about these hymns, but she played them beautifully on the grand piano and we sang along with her, one in the spirit.

Wheelerbrook Farm was once again the scene of our annual Christmas Party, when everyone partook of the warmth of Barbara Morehouse's home and hearth and generous hospitality. Devotions were held, and the food was served before the onslaught of yet another snow storm. The party came to an abrupt end when everyone scattered to get home as the white stuff came down fast and furiously, and Jackie Moore's Christmas stories had to be put on hold for another year. Ruth's House is benefiting from the 144 pairs of socks purchased and donated by our members for this gathering.

Sadly, in September, our Pastor Emeritus Phil Southwick passed away. Most of us in Guild have been church members for a very long time, dating back to when Phil came to First Church as a young minister. We journeyed to our senior years together! And so we feel the loss of both a minister and a lifetime friend who was always there for us.

In closing, we invite any of our church women, who are available during the day, to join us for fellowship, service and interesting meetings on the fourth Thursday or Friday of the spring and autumn months.

Sincerely,
Joan Chatterton, Secretary

Mission Coordinator

REPORT OF THE MISSIONS COORDINATOR FOR 2007

Thanks to one and all for your contributions to the mission efforts and activities of our Church. Your time, talents, efforts and resources are much needed and always appreciated. Many opportunities exist on a daily basis for each one of us to make a positive difference in our local communities and beyond. The following are some of our mission activities for the year while others activities are reported by other groups, committees and/or boards:

- The Church School Valentines' Candy and Craft Sale raised \$380.01 for Heifer International.
- March donations of non-perishable snacks and other items were sent to our troops in Iraq—8 boxes, 90.5 lbs. \$100.00 was collected to defray postage costs and also paid for an international calling card.
- The Lenten Offering was divided with 80% being directed to the Reserve Fund and 20%, or \$318.00, to the Diaconate Fund to assist local families in need.
- Information was placed in our Newsletters regarding Earth Day in April, Project Bread's Walk for Hunger (Boston) in May and Emmaus, Inc.'s "Cycle for Shelter" in July. A Giving and Devotional Calendar was published in June and July-August.
- Friends and members participated in the 16th Annual 3.5 mile "Walk Against Violence" for the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center and raised \$525.00.
- Non-perishable food items, grocery store gift certificates and checks were collected on Children's Sunday and Thanksgiving Sunday and delivered to Emmaus House in Haverhill. Pantry items and food from our September Ham and Bean Supper also were delivered.
- Offering collected for One Great Hour of Sharing in May was \$543.00.
- The Advent offering was divided with 60% being directed to the Reserve Fund and 40%, or \$616.00, to the Philip H. Southwick Star Island Endowment.
- Christmas gifts were donated to H.O.M.E. (Homeworkers Organized for More Employment) in Orland, ME, for children who would otherwise not receive gifts. Additional donations of \$135.00 this year were also given to H.O.M.E.
- Contributions to the Massachusetts Conference UCC for funding of outreach programs were 6.8% of our weekly pledges for a total amount of \$7051.34 for the year.
- Offering collected for Neighbors in Need was \$288.00.
- Church contributions were made to the scholarship fund at Andover Newton Theological Seminary, \$400.00, and the Essex Association fund for in-care students, \$500.00. An additional donation was made to the Essex Association from Pastor Sara's installation, \$432.00.
- Donations of non-perishable food and other items, including grocery store gift certificates, were made throughout the year to stock the Church pantry for those in the community needing a helping hand.

Please let me know of any suggestions, ideas or thoughts you may have for future mission activities/projects we might pursue. Quoting Winston Churchill, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Townsend

Fair



Thee Olde Colonial Faire

Every fair at this Church has a theme and because October 2007 was the 275th anniversary of the Church, "Thee Olde Colonial Faire" was the logical winner for the name. Looking back, the fair seemed to be a huge, unmanageable challenge but those "in the know" counseled, "Don't worry, it always comes together in the end". And so it did.

Although my search for a co-chair did not result in finding a "partner in crime", I had an extremely supportive committee. Since all of them at one time or another chaired the fair, I got the benefit of their expertise and wisdom and was able to confidently move along.

Although not a rebel by nature, I broke with tradition by not having booth names other than the generic ones of "White Elephant", Country Store, etc. I hope table chairs didn't miss the creative gems – my mind isn't wired that way.

We also broke with tradition by eliminating the Handcrafts and replacing it with a Cookie Walk. It was a difficult decision but drawing on anecdotal data and reviewing receipts from the past few years, we concluded that handcrafts were not the draw they once were and felt it was time to try something new.

I had no idea we had such wonderful cookie bakers in the Church. The Cookie Walk was a cookie monster's delight, featuring dozens and dozens of mouth watering treats. People enjoyed the variety and the ability to buy one cookie or a carton!

The week of the fair passed in a blur. Thank goodness we had the boy scouts help out on "Set Up" Sunday. Carrying heavy things from attic to first floor is really a young person's job. Someone had the great idea of creating an assembly line to move the boxes and boxes of white elephant "treasures" from the stage to the narthex. I think that instance of teamwork made the move much easier.

The days of the fair passed so quickly I couldn't believe it was over. The willingness to help, to have a good time and to enjoy each other's company characterized everyone involved. Participating in the fair is hard work and tiring but the opportunity to get to know church members in an entirely different setting is one that should not be passed up.

Thanks to everyone who participated! I certainly could not have done it without you. I look back to the fair with a grateful heart and very fond memories.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Zalewski

Flowers

REPORT FROM THE FLOWER COORDINATORS

Another year has flown by, and we have been blessed with another four seasons of beautiful flowers on the communion table as well as in the gardens outside. Our thanks to, Bob Kennedy, Janice Murphy, Roland Spofford, Diane Townsend, Susan Stead, Kristen Arsenault, Jo Stewart, Karen Young, the Harris Family, JoAnne Kelly, and Joan Chatterton for providing flowers for the communion table. Joan's Thanksgiving arrangement was spectacular!

The gardens continue to flourish, especially the weeds! A special thanks to Florence Hamelin and Sue Mahoney for assisting in the never ending battle to keep the weeds at bay. If nothing else, one has to admire those weeds for their tenacity and ability to propagate.

Just a reminder that we are always looking for people to help with flowers for the communion table. They don't have to be anything fancy – a bouquet from your garden or the local supermarket, the first blooming branches of forsythia or pussy willows, or the loan of a pretty houseplant are all greatly appreciated. Although we love it when someone volunteers for a whole month, a week here and there is great, too! Just let us know in advance when you'd like to help out. We also welcome monetary donations to purchase flowers. If you would like to donate any amount in memory of loved ones or to honor someone special, just put your donation into the collection plate and label it for flowers.

Once again, thank you to all who helped us bring the beauty of flowers to the inside and outside of our church this past year.

Sincerely,

Michelle Brock and Jaime Krenn

Social

Report of the Social Committee 2007

Janice and I would like to thank all of the families who have helped and continue to help with our coffee hours. The main job of the Social Committee is to provide coffee hour and fellowship each Sunday after worship. We continue to look for families to sign up for a Sunday, it only takes one Sunday a year to make it work!

Another component of the Social Committee is to facilitate and supply help for various social gatherings in our Fellowship Hall. Our main event this year was Sara's Installation in April. We were happy to provide refreshments for the many clergy and church families who attended that day. We also continue to allow the community to use our fellowship hall for family gatherings and community events. Our church continues to be a very busy place of gathering!

Please add your name to a Sunday coffee hour signup! Your help would be greatly appreciated and it allows all of us to continue to bring fellowship and friendship to our church.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Davis

Janice Murphy

Social Committee Coordinators

Hospitality

Hospitality Committee

A few years ago our church embarked on a journey to create a vision statement for our church. At last years annual meeting the vision statement was accepted. This isn't just a statement that we see in our Sunday bulletin, on the web site or in the telephone directory. This is a statement we want to practice to show how we can grow and share God's bounty.

A Hospitality Committee was created last spring to bring this message to our church family and especially to visitors and new members. Kirsten Davis, Deb Lamoureaux, Laura Zalewski, Janice Murphy, and Pastor Sara Marean are on this committee.

We have created nametags to be worn each Sunday so that we can get to know each other better. Signs have been placed around the church to better direct people. A church bulletin board has been created in Fellowship Hall for pictures of committee member and church activities. A UCC information table is in the Narthex.

We have many other ideas on ways to reach out to our church family and community but we need help. Please contact a Hospitality Team member if you would like more information about this committee.

Let us all share in God's bounty.....

Kirsten Davis, Deb Lamoureaux, Laura Zalewski, Janice Murphy,
Pastor Sara Marean

Stewardship

REPORT OF THE STEWARDSHIP TEAM

A Stewardship team was formed in early September as a result of the recommendations made by the Vision Team in 2006. Our mission is to inspire generosity among our Church members.

In keeping with the theme of our Colonial Church fair this year, we used the inspirational words of the Reverend Isaac Braman, pastor of our church from 1797 to 1858, in our stewardship letter.

In the weeks leading up to Stewardship Sunday, Church members Evan Desrochers, Cheryl Gould, Jennifer Gould, Tim Clift and Steve Lichty spoke to the congregation about their faith and the important role that the Church plays in their lives.

We have begun meeting with different boards and committees to share new ideas on promoting a fiscally sound church. One new idea is to give members the option of donating electronically. So far, six members have pledged using this payment method.

This coming year we look forward to the challenges and demands that face our congregation. We will continue meeting with various groups and look for new ways of promoting stewardship in our Church family. With everyone's help we look forward to a bountiful year!

Sincerely,

Tim Clift, George Comiskey, Tom Stewart, Richard Aberman and Sara Marean

Finance

Report of the Finance Committee

A great big thank-you to all who contribute to this church. Your continued support keeps this church and it's ministries a vital part of Georgetown and beyond. The Finance committee would also like to thank JoEllen Fielding & Peggy Smith for the amount of time and effort they devote to their respective positions as Collector and Treasurer. These are tough, detail oriented jobs which they continue to cheerfully perform. Finally, a special thank-you to Dave Smith, not only for assisting Peggy, but also for producing our Lenten & Advent envelopes.

We entered 2007 with great concern about a budget more than \$50,000 out of balance but hopeful that the situation might improve. Our investments had performed extraordinarily well in 2006 and we anticipated the sale of property we own in New Mexico. Unfortunately the real estate market declined sharply so that it now appears we will not be able to sell our NM property until sometime in 2009 when development of the area begins. The last 2 months negated the modest gains our investments had made during the rest of the year though our dividends and interest income remains above expectations.

The church finished the year with a current expense deficit of more than \$40,000, our income was down more than \$10,000 and our disbursements were up nearly \$15,000 when compared to 2006. This meant that we dipped into our investments for \$30,000 to pay our bills.

The Finance Committee is concerned that our collection plate income has remained unchanged for the past four years and, based upon our pledges received, will not increase in 2008. Expenses, as you may have suspected, continue to rise every year. Our aging facility, long overdue for renovation, again received only absolutely necessary attention.

As we stated in last year's report, we will not put aside funds for our future again this year. We still hope and pray that we will grow our church family and find additional opportunities to raise capital. We trust, with God's help, that we will meet this challenge.

Respectfully submitted,
George Desrochers Kurt Hogan Robert Knapp

Collector

2007 Collector's Report

2007 Collection Plate

Description	Number	Pledged	Collected	Unpaid
		\$	\$	\$
2007 Pledges	74	78,095.00	72,031.94	6,063.06
2006 Pledges			8,549.00	
Regular Contributors			24,996.10	
2008 Pledges			550.00	
Loose Cash			3,309.00	
Church School			88.00	
Stewardship Total	74	78,095.00	109,524.04	(6,063.06)

2007 Pledges by Range

\$	Qty	
1 - 300	12	
301 - 600	17	
601 -1000	13	
1001-1500	13	
1501-2000	8	
2001-3000	9	
3001-4000	2	
4001-5500	0	
5501-	0	
Total	74	\$ 78,095.00

2008 Pledges by Range

\$	Qty	
1 - 300	8	
301 - 600	17	
601 -1000	10	
1001-1500	15	
1501-2000	5	
2001-3000	8	
3001-4000	2	
4001-5500	1	
5501-	0	
Total	66	\$ 75,114.00

Respectfully Submitted,

JoEllen Fielding

Collector

Treasurer / Budget

2006 Financial Report and 2007 Budget

The following pages contain a basic breakdown of our church's income and expenses for the year as well as the proposed 2008 budget.

Each category has 4 columns of figures.

The first column (2006 Actual) shows what we received & spent in 2006

The second column (2007 Budget) shows what we planned for 2007

The third column (2007 Actual) shows what we actually took in & paid out in 2007

The fourth column (2008 Budget) shows our plan for 2008

At the top of page 1 is a recap of our financial assets at the start of the year.

Following that is a listing of annual receipts.

Finally is a review of our investment's performance. We acquire capital from our investments two ways. First in the form of dividends and interest, which are paid to us on a regular basis;

Second is Capital Gains. The various items (stocks, mutual funds etc.) that we possess increase (hopefully) in value. We only receive this if we "cash in" our investments, but it does affect our net worth.

The second page lists all of the ways we spent our money.

Beginning page 3 is a recap of our financial assets at the end of the year.

The second section demonstrates the annual results.

93 % of pledges and 100% of all other non designated income are used to keep the church running.

7% of pledges, a portion of special collections, and 100% of any direct appeals or fund raising is donated to those in need. (Missions)

A portion of special collections, half the fair proceeds, and investment income is set aside for our future.

When expenses exceed income, (We wish that was "If" instead of "When") we must dip into our savings to meet the short-fall.

The last section on this page explains where we do the dipping.

Page 4 presents the various Funds & Endowments that make up the church's assets.

The Finance Committee:

Kurt Hogan Robert Knapp George Desrochers
Collector: JoEllen Fielding Treasurer: Margaret Smith

2007 Financial Report and 2008 Budget

<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>2006 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2007 Budget</u>	<u>2007 Actual</u>	<u>2008 Budget</u>
<i>Church Assets 1/1</i>				
Checking Account	18,610.40	19,512.73	19,512.73	15,256.12
Investments	390,608.32	428,352.00	429,852.86	392,147.15
TOTAL Assets	409,218.72	447,864.73	449,365.59	407,403.27
<i>Receipts</i>	<u>2006 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2007 Budget</u>	<u>2007 Actual</u>	<u>2008 Budget</u>
Collection Plate	120,623.55	110,250.00	110,617.04	110,400.00
<i>Pledges, Regular Givers, Loose Collect</i>				
Special offerings/donations	15,404.00	14,425.00	14,657.00	13,850.00
<i>Advent, Lenten, Memorial etc.</i>				
Fund Raising	16,538.04	70,300.00	15,770.11	12,600.00
<i>Church Fair, Youth Groups etc.</i>				
Mission Giving	1,278.00	1,400.00	2,078.01	1,300.00
<i>Neighbors In Need, Disaster Relief etc.</i>				
Use of Facilities	13,135.00	12,210.00	12,860.00	12,564.00
<i>Theater Group, Weddings, Sr. Center etc.</i>				
Investment Dividends	13,962.78	12,800.00	14,578.44	12,750.00
<i>Payments from our investments</i>				
Other	3,641.20	1,250.00	3,183.00	1,100.00
<i>Reimbursements, refunds etc.</i>				
TOTAL Receipts	184,582.57	222,635.00	173,743.60	164,564.00
<i>Investments</i>	<u>2006 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2007 Budget</u>	<u>2007 Actual</u>	<u>2008 Budget</u>
Investment Capital Gains	50,205.26	30,400.00	-4,658.33	20,200.00
<i>Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds, etc.</i>				
<i>This can go up or down</i>				
Investment Dividends	13,962.78	12,800.00	14,578.44	12,750.00
<i>Same as Receipts</i>				
NET PROCEEDS Investments	64,168.04	43,200.00	9,920.11	32,950.00

2007 Financial Report and 2008 Budget

<i>Disbursements</i>	<u>2006 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2007 Budget</u>	<u>2007 Actual</u>	<u>2008 Budget</u>
P Salary	65,128.40	69,957.36	69,957.36	71,758.08
A <i>Salary, Housing & Auto</i>				
S Insurance, Tax & Pension	27,867.39	30,583.80	30,073.37	31,273.69
T <i>Health Insur., Soc. Sec., Pension</i>				
O Reimbursed Expenses	1,656.84	2,000.00	2,142.63	2,000.00
R <i>Continuing Ed. & Business Exp.</i>				
Staff	32,337.35	37,946.35	33,746.17	37,136.45
<i>Office Mgr, Sexton, Organist etc.</i>				
Office Expenses	4,044.15	4,267.28	5,295.39	3,651.54
<i>Office Supplies, Copy Machine etc.</i>				
Utilities	17,685.64	17,750.00	19,589.89	19,673.00
<i>Electricity, Telephone, Gas, Oil etc.</i>				
Maintenance	6,751.52	6,030.00	8,782.75	13,125.00
<i>Snow Rem., Cleaning Sups, Elevator etc.</i>				
Improvements	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	2,200.00
Insurance	13,804.20	15,411.00	14,305.50	13,906.00
<i>Liability, Comprehensive, Worker's Comp.</i>				
Missions	11,443.11	12,074.00	12,393.35	9,381.00
<i>To aid the needy, what comes in goes out</i>				
Conference Dues	3,807.96	3,840.00	3,927.00	3,840.00
<i>Support for the United Church of Christ</i>				
Christian Education	4,236.58	5,500.00	7,451.09	5,000.04
<i>Sunday School & Youth Groups</i>				
Worship & Fellowship	7,322.86	2,975.00	2,545.01	2,600.00
<i>Birthday Roses, Flowers, Punch etc.</i>				
Other	625.82	1,300.00	838.08	2,578.73
<i>Music, Finance exp., Miscellaneous etc.</i>				
TOTAL Disbursements	196,711.82	210,634.79	211,047.59	218,123.53

2007 Financial Report and 2008 Budget

Church Assets 12/31	<u>2006 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2007 Budget</u>	<u>2007 Actual</u>	<u>2008 Budget</u>
Checking Account	19,512.73	1,000.00	15,256.12	4,404.55
Investments	428,352.00	489,264.94	392,147.15	369,639.19
TOTAL Assets	447,864.73	490,264.94	407,403.27	374,043.74
Net Change in Assets	38,646.01	42,400.21	-41,962.32	-33,359.53
<i>This may differ from the net gain or loss for the year as some disbursements may be from the previous year and some may still need to be paid.</i>				
Gain () or Loss (-)	<u>2006 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2007 Budget</u>	<u>2007 Actual</u>	<u>2008 Budget</u>
Day to Day expenses	-26,033.89	-52,149.79	-44,328.56	-46,530.76
<i>Keeping the Church Open</i>				
Mission Expenses	1,389.00	-269.13	172.10	-118.34
<i>Helping those in need</i>				
Investing in our Future	63,306.47	94,819.13	2,006.74	13,569.61
<i>Saving for improvements or emergencies</i>				
NET Gain () or Loss (-)	38,661.58	42,400.21	-42,149.72	-33,079.49
<i>When our Income fails to cover current expenses, we take money from our savings and investments.</i>				
Transfers for deficits	<u>2006 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2007 Budget</u>	<u>2007 Actual</u>	<u>2008 Budget</u>
Reserve Fund	25,811.12	52,057.15	18,063.13	10,859.53
<i>For Day to Day expenses</i>				
Local Aid (Dole) Endowment	0.00	1,666.51	962.22	23.23
<i>For Diaconate Fund</i>				
General Expense Endowment	0.00	0.00	19,237.59	0.00
<i>For Day to Day expenses</i>				
Housing Endowment			7,027.84	35,671.23
<i>To Offset Housing expenses</i>				
TOTAL Transfers	25,811.12	53,723.66	45,290.78	46,553.99

2007 Financial Report and 2008 Budget

12/31 Ending Balances

Equity & Liabilities	<u>2006 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2007 Budget</u>	<u>2007 Actual</u>	<u>2008 Budget</u>
<i>What makes up our Assets</i>				
Capital Outlay Fund	12,239.60	13,858.52	11,627.24	9,804.37
Diaconate Fund	2,627.63	1,074.01	1,666.11	1,000.00
Heifer Project Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Memorial Fund	7,914.34	8,675.75	8,629.76	8,383.53
Renovation Fund	19,955.44	22,105.80	18,724.51	14,756.04
Reserve Fund	17,515.20	31,030.98	7,495.74	0.00
Fair Seed Money Fund			1,500.98	1,500.00
School Mission Fund	0.00	0.00	17.60	0.00
Youth Group Funds	92.64	0.00	225.04	0.00
Southwick Star Is. Endow.			3,741.00	3,587.90
Expense Endowment <small>Combination of Henry Hilliard, Elizabeth M. Bateman, Bradstreet, Chester Brown, Fletcher Means, Jessie H. Bateman, Bertha L. Poole, Philip Driscoll & Alice Gurley, Elliott, Sara P. Wright and Baker Adams Endowments</small>	35,218.85	38,364.71	19,032.63	20,219.84
Local Aid Endowment <small>The Dole Endowment. For the "Poor of good habits of the Parish" Proceeds support the <i>Diaconate Fund</i>.</small>	14,380.23	15,664.72	11,608.33	12,309.20
Music Endowment <small>Combination of E.E. Pingree, Beth Arseneault, Bill Rasmussen, Dominic DeFilippo, and Mina Hartman Endowments</small>	6,377.38	6,947.03	7,187.03	7,635.34
Housing Endowment	331,543.42	352,543.42	315,909.90	294,847.52
Remaining Liabilities	0.00	0.00	37.40	0.00
	447,864.73	490,264.94	407,403.27	374,043.74

Funds are for dedicated purposes. Money has been raised or donations accepted with the understanding that they will be used for the stated purpose only.

Endowments are special donations to the Church, with the stipulation that the original amount be invested but never spent. The Church may use the proceeds. We reinvest 10% of the dividends & interest back into the endowment to help it grow. Earnings are left in the endowment but are available should the need arise.

To have our *Assets* work for us, our **Funds** and **Endowments** are invested in higher yield accounts. We currently use A.G. Edwards and the United Church Foundation to handle this for us.