

2018 Annual Report

First Congregational Church
of Georgetown, UCC

Sunday, January 27, 2019

2017 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 28, 2018

Clerk read Article I as follows:

Article I: To receive the reports of the individual Council Members & their teams and any others requested by the Council with the exception of the "2017 Financial Report and Proposed 2018 Budget", and the "Nomination Report" or take any other related action;

Motion moved and second to receive Article I – no discussion - motion carried.

Clerk read Article II as follows as follows:

Article II: To receive the 2017 Financial report, to hear the Finance Team's proposed 2018 budget, and to approve a budget for 2018 or take any other related action;

Motion moved and second to receive Article II - no discussion – motion carried.

Clerk read Article III as follows:

Article III: To receive and hear the "Nomination Report" and call persons to fill Council and Team vacancies or take any other related action;

Motion moved and second to receive Article III.

Discussion – Moderator indicated that all positions have been filled except for two Diaconate positions. The Moderator will continue to seek out candidates to fill these positions.

Motion carried

Clerk read Article IV as follows:

Article IV: To hear and act on any other business relative to Our Congregation and its property.

No discussion occurred.

Motion made to adjourn meeting at 11:35 – motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,
Toni Cassidy, Clerk

Interim Pastor's 2018 Annual Report

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God. –Philippians 1:3-11

Lorraine's ministry the first part of the year was full of care, attention, creativity, and Spirit. The following limited summation of the highlights of this time in no way catches the fullness of her ministry and her gifts nor the fullness of the church's life and ministry. I have enjoyed learning about her loving, creative ministry with the church, and I know her departure has left a hole. I am so very grateful for your warm welcome, your grace, and your enthusiasm.

After Christmas services and vacation, Lorraine presided over the funerals of Lois Hazen and Nancy McGrail Clawson in January. She participated in Super Subs and kicked off confirmation in February. She also observed the start of Lent with an Ash Wednesday service and worked with the Diaconate to invite contributions to a congregation-wide Lenten booklet. March included multiple confirmation and new member classes, professional and continuing education, One Great Hour of Sharing, a Lenten Sunday series, Maundy Thursday, Palm Sunday, and Good Friday services. Sunrise and Easter services ushered in April, and on Easter, the church enjoyed a breakfast after the sunrise service. April also included Earth Day, the baptism of Sienna Pasden, and the funeral services for Norma Jean Lawson and Edward C. Powell, Jr. May saw Lorraine leading New Member and Confirmation services, and June saw the retirement celebration for Marilyn Crosby, the joyous wedding of Marie Birsdall-Chaffee and Tom Chaffee, and the sad goodbye of Lorraine on June 24. We celebrated confirmands Catherine Dougherty, Tori Orender, and Cadynce Pesce, mentored lovingly by Emily Knapp, Gladie Kneeland, and Kevin Southwick.

July and August: Please see the diaconate report detailing their faithful, committed leadership during this time between ministers.

On Thursday, September 6, I was warmly met by Rich Brock, Alecia Balduf, Jeff Litch, and Jessica Ford to begin my ministry with this church. Rich and I brainstormed how to get me a desk, Jeff set up my computer, and Alecia filled me in on pastoral needs. Jessica caught me up on her first summer as office manager. Christian Development, led by Michelle Brock, put together a fun, meaningful Rally Day worship skit, and the music that day was enthusiastic and full of Spirit. It was a great start to our worship life together. For the rest of September, I mostly focused on getting settled in, starting to make some pastoral visits, supporting Jessica in printing bulletins, and planning worship.

On September 13, a series of gas explosions hit the towns of North Andover, Andover, and Lawrence. The deacons, the outreach team, and I talked about a special offering in October to raise funds for the those impacted by the disaster. Many thanks to the hearts in this community who immediately rose to assist our neighbors. At the Council meeting, we also chose a new office printer and Rich kindly picked it up for us. I also continued my work with the Episcopal Church's Life Together program. I served as a Prayer Partner who met weekly with 3 young adults who teach at the tuition free Esperanza Academy. Supporting these young adults in their important work is a joy, and I was sad to let it go in December.

In October, I continued building connections through pastoral care opportunities, and I met with several area clergy members and our Associate Conference Minister to begin building relationships in the area. On October 7, we celebrated World Communion Sunday by setting up stations around the sanctuary where everyone rotated through the stations and heard from different community members sharing their experiences seeing God in different places around the country and the world. We also had different bread offerings at each stations and closed the service taking juice together. We invited the kids to remain in worship, and they helped with the offering. It was a lovely service, and I'm so grateful for the Diaconate who set up the stations and for everyone who shared their perspectives, which included Gladie Kneeland, Rich Brock, Marie Birdsall-Chaffee and Tom Chaffee, Rachel Angerhofer, and Alecia Balduf. On October 14, the offering went to the Essex County Community Foundation, and we were able to give over \$1000 to our neighbors. I enjoyed attending committee meetings and getting to dine with the women's guild. I also attended the funeral of Michelle Brock's mother and the wake for Kirsten Orender's mother. Toni Cassidy also lost her mother. I met with and counseled the Cliffe family to prepare for their daughter Sadie's November baptism.

On Saturday, October 20, I led a 5-hour anti-racism training at the North Parish Unitarian Universalist Church in North Andover. It was an energizing, productive session. The following weekend was my first fall fair! I wanted to be fully present to the full fair experience so instead of writing my sermon in my office, I based my sermon on lessons learned from the fair. I was blown away by how the church comes together and puts on a such a wonderful community event. Thank you, thank you, everyone who put in so much!

We started November by recognizing All Saints Sunday. Toni Cassidy and Chris Comiskey, as clerk and historian, read the names of community members and friends who have died in the past year. We rang the bell for each name said aloud, and then offered the opportunity to light a candle at the front in remembrance of anyone. Again, thanks to the deacons for helping with this service. On Friday, November 2, I participated in an interfaith Shabbat service at Temple Emanu-El in Haverhill in response to the mass shooting at the Tree of Life Temple in Philadelphia. I was joined by Rachel Angerhofer, Joan Chatterton, and Marie Birdsall-Chaffee and Tom Chaffee. The Temple Emanu-El community was deeply grateful for this act of solidarity. I also co-led a bookstudy for the Andover group Courageous Conversations on the book *So You Want to Talk About Race*. It was a great conversation and a great night.

I met with the Greater Haverhill Clergy group at Holy Family Hospital on November 6 and helped plan the November 20th community thanksgiving service at West Boxford, in which I read the Thanksgiving Declaration. On November 7, I traveled to Atlanta for a quick trip to present on the collaborative possibilities between ministers and diversity practitioners at the National Association of Episcopal Schools Conference. The conference went well, and I made it back in time for Sunday's service where we baptized Sadie Cliffe. The deacons presented the family with a baby blanket (thanks to JoEllen Fielding for making a beautiful one!), a candle, and a children's bible.

On Wednesday evening, November 14, I met with the A Better Chance Andover nonprofit organization to lead the first in a 4-part training to increase cultural competencies of the board members and program volunteers in their work with high school girls of color. I will be leading the other sessions in January, March, and May. They were very pleased with the work we did together. On the 15th I left for Denver for the American Academy of Religion Conference. It was a rich time of learning and connecting, and I'm so grateful for the opportunity. In my absence, George Comiskey offered the Stewardship message and the deacons and the Stewardship team ably led worship. Marie Birdsall-Chaffee and Sam Orender shared wonderful stewardship moments in the services leading up to Stewardship Sunday.

Because Advent didn't start until the 2nd Sunday after Thanksgiving, we set up gratitude stations for worship on the 15th. We explored a different way of entering into gratitude at each station, including writing thank you notes, writing letters to the Tree of Life Community, a gratitude craft for the kids and kids at heart, holiday scents and memories, and a gratitude tree. After church the community hung the greens and beautifully decorated the church for Advent. On Friday evening, November 30, I led a book study at the South Church in Andover on the book *Raising White Kids*. That was a fruitful time of talking about how to support our kids being race conscious in today's world. Throughout November, I continued to make visits, phone calls, and send pastoral notes to community members.

December was a flurry of activity, including Advent-themed services around hope, peace, love, and joy. We started it with a staff holiday gathering complete with a thank you meal for the warm welcome and the amazing work. Huge thanks to Emily Knapp, Jessica Ford, Bob Knapp, and Kim Knapp for their generous, excellent, hard work. For Advent services, we had different candle lighters for the Advent wreath during the call to worship, and we concluded Advent on the theme of joy with a joyous Christmas pageant. I handed out Advent key chains to the kids during our first children's service, and then volunteers read a different Christmas story each week. Thanks to Toni Cassidy, Rachel Angerhofer, Michelle Brock, and Mary Ann Nelson for reading to our kids. Jamie Krenn's flowers and poinsettias were gorgeous, as always, and I continue to be amazed at her work. I was also honored at the invitation to the amazing women's guild luncheon, and I continue to be grateful for Joan and Marion's leadership and their inclusion of me. After service on the 9th, we had a lot of fun decorating gingerbread houses, veterans and newer folks alike. The deacons provided wonderful hot chocolate and cookies after the service on the 16th. On the 18th Jean Perley invited me to meet with Colleen, the director of the Senior

Center. I got a tour of the facility and talked with Colleen about the best ways to support the seniors in our community. I am so grateful to Jean for making this connection for me.

On December 21st, we offered a new, Blue Christmas service as a time for reflection and memories for those who are missing loved ones during the holiday season. Seven of us sang, prayed, lit candles, and shared memories during this special time. Big thanks to Alecia for playing the guitar and making it a particularly beautiful service. The Christmas Eve service was a holy, beautiful service of lessons, carols, candles, and a short meditation. It was lovely to see so many folks there, and I feel so grateful to have shared this time together. I went on vacation the Thursday after Christmas, and the deacons led a carol sing service on Sunday. Throughout December, I reached out very intentionally to folks I thought might be having a harder season through visits, notes, and personal communication.

Again, I cannot say what an honor it has been to serve you all since September. You are fun, warm, and faithful, and you have so much to offer your minister, each other, and the wider community. I feel confident that I've left people out who have done so much so please consider this a huge thank you. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted in peace and joy,

Julie

Reverend Dr. Julie A. Mavity Maddalena

Moderator's Report

2018

At the beginning of each year, I asked the church leadership three simple questions.

How can we grow our spirituality?

How can we expand our outreach?

How do we continue to excel at what we do well, while expanding our vision?

We will continue to ask these questions during the upcoming year and challenge ourselves as we continue to share God's blessings and teachings with each other and those that may be less fortunate.

The year 2018 was a transition year of the church. In June of 2018, we said goodbye to Rev. Lorraine Edwards, who served as our settled pastor for 6.5 years. While we were saddened by her departure, we are excited with the opportunities this change has presented.

Our congregation's traditional practice of "calling" a pastor affirms the active presence of God's Spirit in the search process. We prayerfully sought a pastor with gifts and skills that were best for our congregation. This calling led us to Pastor Julie Mavity Maddalena as our Interim Minister. Pastor Julie has done a wonderful job in a very short amount of time. Whether it's the ministry she provides, the support and comfort she provides to our congregation, her participation at the church fair or making a gingerbread house, her contributions are greatly appreciated. I'm excited about our future together.

Catherine Rose Dougherty, Victoria Elizabeth Orender and Cadynce Snow Pesce completed their confirmation and joined to our congregation this year. We're excited about their future participation and contributions as members of our church.

Our annual events continue to be as successful as ever, and are anticipated by many within the community. Our Strawberry Social welcomes in the Spring Season. Who can resist fresh picked strawberries on top of shortcake, smothered with whipped cream? Behind the scenes, everyone rallies together for a time of fellowship as we pick, sort, and hull the strawberries, as well as bake the shortcake. The musical talents of our Church Band were on displayed. Many thanks to Emily Knapp and Janice Murphy for their efforts and leadership.

Last spring, the first annual miniature golf outing was held as we continue to grow our fellowship. Both young and old(er) got together to raise funds for the 'Legacy Fund'. Many thanks to Toni Cassidy for organizing this great event.

The annual church fair has been very successful over the past few years. This two day event takes many months to schedule and coordinate, and each year seems to outperform the previous year. Many volunteers are needed to cook all the glorious pies, soups, breads,

Moderator's Report

2018

cookies, breakfast sandwiches, lobster rolls, hotdogs, chili, corn chowder, and apple frapples that are sold during the fair. We have volunteers that work the candy store, the snack bar, the raffles, the white elephant, the clothing store, the cookie walk. This year's fair included a golf outing. To top it all off, we end the fair with the best turkey dinner in town. Many thanks Deb Lamoureux for her assistance as co-chair along with the many volunteers that make our fair a success. A job well done by all.

As with every fair or social event hosted by the church, we continue to expand our outreach to Georgetown and the neighboring communities.

Throughout the year, much of the church council's efforts focused on the needs of the church building and property. With the dollars raised as part of the 'Continuation of our Legacy' fundraising campaign, along with the funds provided by the Town of Georgetown, we were able complete some major property initiatives, including complete the installation of the new doors and applicable hardware, refurbishing the exterior steps, significant improvements of the HVAC systems. Work was also authorized to do some exterior maintenance, including cleaning of gutters, replacing storm windows, fixing the roof to eliminate ice dams over the church office. Many thanks to Steve Pinto for his efforts throughout the year.

I'd like to thank the Church Council members for their efforts throughout the year. Without your efforts and those of your teams, our outreach efforts and our spiritual growth, along with everything else we do to spread God's blessings would not have occurred.

In June of 2018, we said goodbye to Marilyn Crosby, our office manager. This past summer, we hired Jessica Ford as our new office manager. Jessica did an excellent job stabilizing the office during the summer months and into the fall as we transitioned to a new minister. I'd like to thank Jessica as she works tirelessly to pull together newsletters, bulletins, the annual reports, announcements, as well as maintaining minutes and other artifacts. Her subtle reminders keep us on track and organized.

I look forward to 2019 as there are many opportunities for us to continue to grow as a church. It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your moderator.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Brock, Moderator

Clerk's Report

Membership Information

Clerk's Report

Membership Information

New Members:

Catherine Dougherty

Tori Orender

Cadynce Pesce

Baptisms:

Sienna Brynn Pasdon

Sadie Cliffe

Deaths – congregation members:

Lois Hazen

Norma Jean Lawson

Two Non-Member services

Weddings: 1

Funerals: 4

Transfer into Congregation: 1

Transfer out of Congregation: 2

Report beginning 1/1/2018 total: 195

Deaths	-	2
--------	---	---

New Members	+	3
-------------	---	---

Total as of 12/31/18		196
----------------------	--	-----

Diaconate

Annual Report 2018

“Faith makes all things possible... love makes all things easy.” Dwight L. Moody

Faithful dedication in love summarizes the Diaconate from 2018. Dwelling in a community of faith and lovingly supporting each other, it is my gratitude and blessing to be on a team with exceptional people: Rachel Angerhofer, Kristen Arsenault, Marie Birdsall-Chaffee, and Emily Knapp. They sincerely care about our church and community. With kindness and devotion, they dedicate their time and talents. Thank you!

Our church family is very blessed to have Dr. Reverend Julie Mavity Maddalena leading us in worship and fellowship. Thank you to her and her family for answering the call to be with us! We are delighted that they accept us into their lives with friendship and compassion. We appreciate their dedication, warmth, and spiritual guidance for our Church!

We thank our office manager Jessica for quickly learning, dedicating her time, and keeping our communication flowing!

A major thank you to all who take part in our worship services, our bible readers, greeters, and Christian service helpers. We appreciate the exceptional music program, which is a pleasure to listen to and participate in. Thank you to our organist Emily Knapp, our music director Bob Knapp, the choir, bell choir and band for sharing your time and talents. Music is a beautiful part of worship allowing us to connect with God in unique ways.

We are very grateful for Jamie Krenn for organizing the altar flowers. Her ability to provide eye-catching arrangements adds to our services. She also tends to our church garden, making our grounds beautiful. Please contact Jamie if you would like to contribute.

Thank you to the Hospitality Team for providing mouth-watering refreshments and hot beverages after service. We appreciate Janice Murphy and Ruth Soper for creating a warm welcoming atmosphere with their tasty treats and comforting smiles.

Thank you very much for the Missions and Outreach Teams. Joan Chatterton, Marion Harding, the Guild Ladies, and outreach team keeps us involved with events in our community, in our country, and around the world. Your commitment and love for others are greatly appreciated. The generous undertakings bring us together to help those in need.

We thank the ushers, George Comiskey, and Barry Games, for welcoming people to worship, inviting guests to participate, preparing the sanctuary and for being the first ones to greet us all. We thank the Stewardship Team: Toni Cassidy, George Comiskey, and Sylvia Johnston for caring, preserving, and supporting our congregation. We appreciate the opportunity that you give us all to participate in caring for each other and our church. We also thank all the speakers who shared their personal stories and ways God blesses them in their lives.

JANUARY: Our year began with our traditional New Year's Brunch, incorporating our worship service with delicious food! We nourished our bodies and souls together.

Our Annual Meeting was held in accordance with Our Congregation's Constitution and By-laws.

MARCH: The Church put together a Lenten booklet filled with personal reflections, stories, poems, and photographs. We thank Emily and Bob Knapp for compiling the book and sharing it with all of us!

Palm Sunday was held in our traditional manner. Maundy Thursday was a service of communion, music, and scripture.

APRIL: Easter Sunday was a glorious day filled with the joys and hopes of our faith. We began Easter with a sunrise service at Camp Leslie, followed by breakfast that nourishes our bodies and our spirits. After the service, our youth hunted for the Easter eggs and all the fun of the morning. Easter plants were delivered to members of our congregation by the Diaconate and helpers.

May: In May we had 3 from Confirmation Class join our membership. Catherine Dougherty, Tori Orender, and Cadynce Pesce completed a 10-week Confirmation class, planned their confirmation service and presented to the congregation a project and essay. Mentors for the confirmands were Gladie Kneeland, Kevin Southwick and Emily Knapp under the guidance of Rev Lorraine Edwards. We are thankful that we got to hear about how our church is part of their faith journey.

JUNE: Our annual strawberry social was undoubtedly a happy and successful event! We enjoyed a wonderful time with a great turnout and fun music!

June also brings our traditional Children's Service and our Graduation Sunday. We all look forward to these special days of sharing with our wonderful youth.

In June we bid farewell to our dedicated office manager Marilyn Crosby as she entered retirement.

We also bid farewell to a beloved Pastor, Rev. Lorraine Edwards, and her family as they entered a new phase of life of healing and retirement.

JULY and AUGUST: The Diaconate and Church Moderator were busy reading Interim Pastor profiles and interviewing candidates. We appreciate provisions for backup Pastoral coverage and all the helping hands that brought us together in worship.

Our Wednesday evening worship services were in the Fellowship Hall. The Diaconate organized the services while we searched for an Interim Pastor. The theme for our summer services was "Summer in the Psalms." It was a lot of fun, and we thank all who attended and participated! We appreciate all those who provided messages, games, and music!

Our very capable team of Janice Murphy and Ruth Soper made sure we had delicious hot dogs, lemonade, and delicious desserts! We hope you all had fun and enjoyed sharing your time and memories with your Church family.

During our summer services, we were so blessed to have our musicians, who shared their God-given talent with all of us. Each one of our musicians spends so much time researching, preparing and performing for us. Thank you.

Thank you to Joan Chatterton for decorating our "School Supplies" box. You are a tireless member of missions and never let us down. The box was overflowing because of the generous support of all our church family. You are all the greatest.

SEPTEMBER: Our Sunday Services resumed.

We started our Rally Day with Christian Education. Then we warmly welcomed Julie as our Pastor! The Blessing of the Backpacks continued as an excellent way to start the new "school and work" year.

OCTOBER: OUR FAIR!! Thank you to so many who share their talents and time! To our Chairpersons and volunteers, you are all fantastic with your energy and love for this church. A traditional New England Fall Church Fair with home-made apple pies, handmade goods, and delicious dinner!

World Wide Communion was held with special bread and sharing of traditions. We worked with Missions for collecting money for UCC Fund for those affected by disasters.

NOVEMBER: Remembrance Sunday was held again this year with the lighting of candles in memory of loved ones.

DECEMBER: Advent Readers and Candle Lighters; Christmas Pageant, Blue Christmas, Christmas Eve Candlelit Service, and a wonderful Christmas season we shared together. Also, the Gingerbread House contest was a huge success!

The Diaconate and many helpers decorated the sanctuary. We hung garlands and wreaths, placed candles in the windows, and set up our beautiful crèche. Thanks to all who turned our beautiful sanctuary into an “awe-filled, catch-your-breath” beauty!

H.O.M.E. for Christmas is our annual Christmas gift-giving, and again our Christmas Tree was set up in the Narthex. Thank you for all who decorated and to all who gave so freely to make Christmas special for these children. Your generosity reaches far and wide!

We thank Janice and the Diaconate for delivering poinsettias and visiting with members of our Church family.

Blessings upon your deacons, who work so hard to be there for each of you. We encourage each of you to share your thoughts, joys, and sorrows with any one of us. We love spending time with you.

Lastly, the heart of our Church is the volunteer. We appreciate all those who help! You are all so loving and generous with your talents and endless hours of time. Thank you.

“Encouragement to others is something everyone can give. Somebody needs what you have to give. It may not be your money; it may be your time. It may be your listening ear. It may be your arms to encourage. It may be your smile to uplift.” Joel Osteen

Respectfully submitted,
Alecia Balduf, Chair

Christian Development

Annual Report 2018

Easter Sunday, April 1st

- Sunrise Service Breakfast

Youth Group provided breakfast for those who attended Sunrise Service at Camp Leslie, immediately following the service, in the Fellowship Hall.

- Easter Egg Hunt

CD once again sponsored an Easter Egg Hunt on the front lawn of church immediately following 10:30am worship. We appreciate all who donated candy Easter Eggs. It was a beautiful day and the children had a lot of fun gathering the colorful eggs.

Children's Sunday, June 10th

Children and Teachers were recognized with gifts during worship for participating in Church School throughout the year. Graduates from high school and college were also acknowledged as were Book Club and Mission.

Rally Day, September 10th

This year we welcomed Dr. Rev. Julie Mavity Maddelena to become our Interim Pastor. Rally Day was her first Sunday Worship. She spoke a little bit about herself and we had cake during Coffee Hour to give everyone a chance to speak with her following service. She also helped us kick off the new year by Blessing the Backpacks/Briefcases for children and adults. Participants were given a keychain to affix to their gear.

Christmas Pageant

Back by popular demand, the congregation participated in the Christmas Pageant. The Christmas Story was narrated and the audience had bags presented to them prior to worship with designated parts and props. The narrator read the story and as the songs were song, it signaled the children and the congregants that it was time to play their part and make their way to the pulpit. They then remained there until the end of the pageant.

Teaching Schedule

Many thanks to the teachers who volunteered their time and talent to teaching our youth. This is our second year we used the teaching schedule that teachers were only responsible for teaching one third of the Church School year. Teaching assignments were done prior to Rally Day. We had one classroom with approximately 5-8 children under the age of 14 on a weekly basis. Teachers were assigned mid September-Christmas, January-end of March, April-June.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Brock Chairperson

Report of the Property Team

2018

The property team has been working on several different projects over this past year.

After some time for getting our approval for Our new front & side doors were received them at the end of 2017. The Clark Street Bell Tower side door was replaced in late 2017, with the Office Clark Street door replace in the Spring of 2018. The beautiful new front entrance doors were also replaced late in the spring of 2018 with trimming in finished in early Summer. The new door closures were installed, and the front stairs were completely rebuilt as well by the end of the Summer. The Office side stair railings and stairs were refinished as well by Summer's end. Quite a project to beautify our church! This is part of the Legacy fund that has been designated toward improving / repairing out Church's infrastructure and we are grateful for all who have supported this effort.

Another project that has been done with the benefit of the Legacy Fund is initiating the replacement and upgrading of the 30 year old heating / AC system in the "new" part of the church which has been having many operational issues the last few years. So far one heater has been replaced and a new 'heat pump' installed for the Chapel & 3rd floor. The remainder of the installation will be finished in the Spring of 2019.

One other contract with funds from the Legacy Fund, has been signed with most of the work completed to finish securing the storm windows, repairing some siding that had failed and replacing some storm windows that had been broken. A very large lift was required for this effort! Did anyone notice this in the parking lot in December? At the same time the gutter on the Clark Street side over the office was removed to help reduce the issues of ice damming that we have had for a few years. There will be more icicles, but hopefully less ice buildup on the roof. In the Spring of 2018, Aulson will remove and replace 6 feet of the roofing over the office to replace and repair the shingles and ice & water shield materials to finally solve the issue of ice dams and roof leaks!

The BIG balcony window was fitted with glass and refinished and then replaced in the window space. The cabinet maker did a wonderful job on this replacement window, making an exact copy of the original.

Some items that we may be considered for the coming year are for the Legacy fund include:

- Replace the kitchen sink
- Paint the ceiling in the Fellowship Hall
- Refinish the walkways in the front of the church

Other more mundane things that were done by Property including

Replacing bulbs

Washing and waxing floors

Repairing bathroom fixtures and damaged ceiling tiles

Overseeing Fire Alarm repairs

Checking on miscellaneous issues as they arise
Trouble shooting heater issues
Mowing the lawn
Blowing the snow
Replacing Cottage Street door handle
Overseeing contractors
Etc.

I want to thank members of the Property Team, for the work and time they have given to the church as we work our way through the Church's needs.

Also, we would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Legacy Fund team and everyone who has donated funds to this project to keep our Church beautiful and in good running order. These improvements could not be done without your support.

Respectfully Submitted

Steve Pinto, Chair

REPORT OF THE WOMEN'S GUILD

After a long winter hiatus, including the cancelation of our March meeting due to inclement weather, we finally met again in April when we enjoyed a delightful visit from Gladie Kneeland. We held a prelude discussion about Mothers' Day and talked with Gladie about the ties that bind mothers and daughters.

In May we held our annual luncheon outing at the Bradford Tavern and honored our beloved Pastor Lorraine as she was preparing to leave us at the end of June. We expressed our appreciation for her interest, support and cheerful presence with us at our meetings. A lilac tree was presented to her, and we hope that she will have happy memories of our group as she watches it grow in her garden.

Meetings were resumed in September as we welcomed Carrie Schuchardt from the House of Peace mission, located in Ipswich, and serving victims of war in companionship with adults who have disabilities. Carries' presentation was a moving story of the hardships endured by immigrants, especially the injuries and terrible burns suffered by children because of wars.

Guild members organized and manned the popular Cookie Walk for the Church Fair in October, one of the ways we serve our Church. The Guild's Steering Committee also provides leadership as the Outreach Team for the mission work of the Church.

Fall meetings continued with an encore visit from Chris Comiskey, our Church Historian and President of the Georgetown Historical Society. Chris recounted the history and the fun rivalry between the citizens of Georgetown and Rowley as they battle over the ownership of the Old Nancy canon. We held a work party for baby quilts and counted Coffee Hour Bowl change; both the quilts and the Penny Bowl contents benefit the Community Giving Tree's mission of helping children in the Merrimack Valley. The funds collected allowed us to purchase a total of 116 dozen diapers for the mission; five quilts were completed, and at Christmas we contributed 128 pairs of socks to Ruth's House in Haverhill.

At our November meeting we had a wonderful opportunity to interact with our Interim Pastor Julie, and hear about her faith journey. It certainly didn't take any time, since Julie began her ministry with us, before knowing her to be the caring and compassionate person she is. We already feel a special partnership with Julie and the ministry that we'll accomplish together.

Twenty-four members and friends were in attendance at our Christmas party, including our guests. Following lunch, we were treated to a musical program organized and presented by four members of our congregation. The music was joyous and fun, and our members are grateful for all the help we received in decorating the Fellowship Hall, setting up for the party, and for the talented musicians whom we have the pleasure of enjoying in our congregation.

After a productive and meaningful fall for the Guild, we are on hold for the winter months and will resume our activities on April 2 with a Guest Social. Stay tuned! We always welcome newcomers and friends.

Respectfully submitted,
Marion Harding & Joan Chatterton

REPORT OF THE OUTREACH TEAM

We thank the congregation for the continuing support of our many mission endeavors. Those missions begin with our own **Church Pantry** which ministers to a number of local families. The non-perishables food items, paper supplies and gift cards (\$800) that you provide are very much appreciated by those families living on the edge in our community.

We support **OCWM** (the Wider Mission of the United Church of Christ) through the congregation's individual yearly pledges. These funds amounted to \$2,547 in 2018.

Lent began early in the year. Our annual Lenten Offering not only helps with the church's expenses, but it also benefits a local mission project. The **Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center** was designated to receive the mission portion of this offering that amounted to \$452. For thirty years this organization changes lives by helping victims of domestic violence through safety planning, legal assistance, counseling and support.

The United Church of Christ **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering** was collected in March. Our congregation contributed \$725 to be used in helping displaced persons world-wide; fifty percent are children who no longer have a home or, in some cases, a country of their own.

On the first Sunday of April our team gave out daffodils to those in attendance at morning worship. A card, attached to this yellow flower, was a reminder that during worship the following week, we would be celebrating a **Church World Service Blanket Sunday** that would purchase yellow summer blankets for distribution to shelters around the globe. We received donations that enabled us to contribute sixty-five blankets to this cause. The countries which received the bulk of the 75,000 distributed in 2018 were: Georgia (in the former Soviet Union), Haiti, Lebanon, Syria and the United States (including an isolated area called "the flats" of the San Juan Mountain in Colorado.) Blankets enable those, who receive them, to feel the warmth of compassion and hope in crisis situations.

In May our team, in cooperation with the Christian Endeavor leaders, held a Candy & Craft Sale prior to Mothers' Day. In an amazing display of enthusiasm for this mission, we raised funds (\$786) to purchase three water buffalo for **Heifer Project International**. It was a reminder of how very important our animal friends are to the health and well-being of the planet, and how humanity is intertwined with all creatures, great and small. Poor people and poor villages share whatever gifts are given to them. These water buffalo will help not only those who receive them, but their neighbors as well.

During the summer months we focused on collecting school supplies for **Ruth's House** in Haverhill. Volunteers there told us that parents were coming in all during the month of September looking for school supplies that they couldn't afford to purchase for their children. We are reminded that in today's world, not only do parents have the burden of purchasing school supplies, but teachers are also spending from their hard-earned paychecks to fund

learning programs.

In the fall of 2018 we concentrated on providing help to the victims of the Merrimack Valley gas explosions tragedy endured by our neighbors in Lawrence, Andover, and North Andover, and the many months of restoration that lay ahead. The Outreach Team, in cooperation with the Diaconate, sponsored an all Church Family Offering in October, which raised \$1,000 for the **Merrimack Valley Disaster Fund**; 100 percent to be administered by the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Another \$1,000 was contributed to the **UCC Disaster Fund USA** in the wake of the severe storms suffered by residents in our southern states and the horrific fires in California. These funds came from the mission portion of the Advent Offering, supplemented by a substantial donation by the Diaconate from their discretionary endowment aid fund.

Other mission projects this fall included the Guild's outreach to the **Community Giving Tree**, an organization committed to helping needy children in the Merrimack Valley. **The Coffee Hour Penny Bowl**, sponsored by the Guild, provided 116 dozen diapers and five quilts to this mission. At Christmas they donated 128 pairs of socks to **Ruth's House** in Haverhill. The Guild also sponsored a donation for **The House of Peace** in Ipswich that provides assistance for immigrants who are victims of war. The gift in the amount of \$500 came from the Legacy Fund, approved by our Church Council.

Prior to the Thanksgiving holiday, the Boston Food Bank donates turkeys to **Our Neighbors' Table**, a well- organized pantry in Amesbury serving twelve neighboring towns, including Georgetown. Local farmers contribute some fresh vegetables and we contributed all the turkey dinner trimmings, plus grocery gift cards, for twenty-two families.

A longtime favorite ministry of ours is, of course, **H.O.M.E.** Each year – since 1975 – we light up our Narthex Christmas Tree with the wishes from the children of H.O.M.E. in Orland, Maine, one of the most impoverished areas of America. Sixty beautifully wrapped packages were sent to H.O.M.E. during the third week of December. The gifts we give are given to the parents so that they have presents for their children on Christmas morning. The parents, the coordinators, and their volunteers are most grateful for our long commitment in giving to this community.

In sharing, and in giving, we remember the story taught to us as children – *The Good Samaritan*. We are ministering to people we don't know, and it doesn't matter what their race or religion is, or even if they have a religion. They share the planet with us. That's all that matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Harding & Joan Chatterton, Coordinators

Ann Kelloway, Jean Perley, Mary Ann Nelson, Carol Sheehan

Annual Church Fair

October 26 & 27, 2018

Co-chairs: Rich Brock & Deb Lamoureaux

Another successful fair has come and gone. Our entire church family has to be thanked for their hard work and dedication to our biggest fund raiser of the year.

Once again our favorite committees were present and accounted for.... The Pie Machine - a formidable bunch to be around, just don't get in their way! The White Elephant – the most tireless team in the group! The Lunch Bunch – as usual, a well oiled machine! And of course the Saturday Night Blue Plate Special – who did so well, they barely had enough for themselves! These along with our other teams, the Snack Bar, Country Store, Baked Goods, the Cookie Walk and the raffle table (sorry, not enough funnies to go around!) (did I miss any?) All are the best of the best our church has to offer. Our fair would not succeed without their drive and energy.

Our variety of vendors continuously changes some that have been with us since we started the vendor portion of the fair and new faces thanks to the tireless effort of Michelle Bridges the Vendor & Advertising Queen.

There will be a few changes next year and we are looking for a few good people! More to come on this later in the year. If you are new to the church or are looking for somewhere to get involved or to help out please give us a tap on the shoulder.

Thank you all for your generous love & support.

Deb & Rich

Hospitality Team Report 2018

The Hospitality Team has continued to host coffee hours and special events during 2018. Fellowship after worship is an important time to meet new people attending our church and to catch up with friends that we do not see during the week.

Special Thanks to Ruth Soper who has graciously offered to Co-Chair.

Thank you also to Kevin Southwick who has helped many Sundays with setting up and cleaning up.

Special Events in 2018 included:

January 7 - Diaconate hosted a New Year's Pot Luck Brunch.

May 6 - New Members

May 20 – Confirmation Sunday

May 27 – Confirmation Sunday

June 17 - Farewell for Marilyn Crosby.

June 24 - Farewell luncheon for Reverend Lorraine Edwards.

July & August: Ruth Soper served hot dogs and desserts for our Wednesday Services.

September 9 - Welcome celebration for Reverend Doctor Julie Mavity Maddalena

December 16 - Diaconate hosted a Cocoa and Cookie Fellowship time.

Christmas Eve Service – After the service we had fellowship time with punch. This was a great time to greet old friends.

Thank you to everyone for helping to make sandwiches and baking goodies this past year.

Respectively Submitted,

Co-Chairs Janice Murphy and Ruth Soper

Legacy Fund

First Congregational Church of Georgetown

Objective: Perform work on the Church infrastructure to keep the facility attractive, functioning well and safe

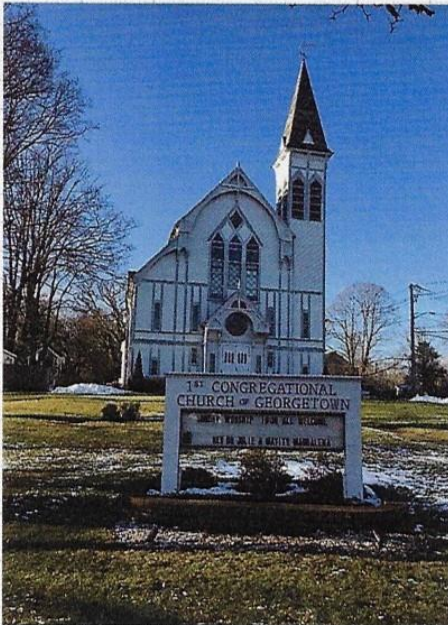
If you would like to help with this effort to revitalize the church Please send donations to the church office or add to the collection plate with a specific notation on the donation that is for the Legacy Fund

GOAL \$50,000

Current Level ! Thanks everyone!

Original Proposed Projects

- * Replace main doors for functionality and appearance
- * Replace/upgrade Front & Clark Street stairs
- * Replace / repair walkways
- * Replace failing heat/AC system in 'new' part of church
- * Add awning over Cottage Street door
- * Replace Fire Alarm Panel
- * Repair Fire Alarm System



Items Finished

- * New doors installed on Front & Clark Street entrances
- * Stairs refinished & painted on Clark Street Entrance
- * Front stairs & Entrance Structure repaired / rebuilt
- * Clark Street stairs finished and painted
- * Fire alarm and system upgraded and replaced
- * Cleaning and re-connecting gutters & Down spouts
- * Repair and reinstall storm windows
- * Repair attachment of storm windows

Items on order to be completed in 2018 / 2019

- * New Heat & AC system in 'office & class room' part of church installed
- * Re-roof over office area which has been leaking

Current Projects in evaluation

- * Repair / replace walkways
- * Replace kitchen sink

Future Projects not funded yet

- * Cottage Street Entrance with Awning &
- * Reconfigure Walkway to correct drainage issues on Cottage Street entrance

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STEWARDSHIP TEAM

“What shall we bring.” - 2018 UCC Giving Theme

The Stewardship Team would like to thank everyone for their contributions of time, talent and treasures towards the ministries of the First Congregational Church of Georgetown.

Thanks and blessings go out to Church Collector, JoEllen Fielding for her continued help in our stewardship efforts. A special thank you to Mary Ann Nelson for her wonderful design of the gift-giving basket. These donations help offset the many expenses that keep the Church lights on and the staff well-equipped with office supplies.

Our stewardship moment speakers this year included Marie Birdsall and Sam Orrender. Both delivered inspiring messages to the congregation. Thank you both so much!

The Team also appreciates the work of the new office manager, Jessica who did a wonderful job in putting together the stewardship materials. Her efforts went a long way in making this year a successful campaign.

And finally, we greatly appreciate our new minister, Reverend Julie, who provided Stewardship team with fresh ideas and much needed support.

Blessings All from the Stewardship Team,

Toni Cassidy, Sylvia Johnston and George Comiskey

First Congregational Church
2019 Nominating Report

Team	Name	Chairperson	End Year	2018 Nominating Action
Moderator	Rich Brock		2020	
Clerk	Toni Cassidy		2022	Nominated
Treasury Team	Kristen Arsenault	X	2021	
	Bob Knapp		2022	Nominated
	Sylvia Johnston		2020	
Diaconate	Marie Birdsall		2021	
	Rachel Angerhofer		2021	
	Open		2022	
	Kristen Arsenault		2020	
	Alecia Balduf	X	2020	
Christian Development	MaryAnn Nelson	X	2021	Nominated
	Tom Chaffee		2022	Nominated
	Kirsten Orender		2020	
Property Team	Steve Pinto	X	2021	Re-Nominated
	Paul Nelson		2022	Nominated
	Kevin Southwick		2020	
Member At Large	Ruth Soper		2020	Nominated