



The Water Project Inzuko Spring Kenya

**2019 Annual Report**

**First Congregational Church  
of Georgetown, UCC**

**Sunday, January 26, 2020**

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

January 23, 2019

### **2019 ANNUAL MEETING WARRANT**

In accordance with Our Congregation's Constitution and By-laws, the members and friends of The First Congregational Church of Georgetown, Inc. are advised that the Annual Meeting will be held in the Church edifice immediately following the service of worship on Sunday, February 3, 2019 to act on the following articles:

**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 "2018 Financial Report and Proposed 2019 Budget", and the "Nomination Report" or take any other related action;

**Article II:** To receive the 2018 Financial report, to hear the Finance Team's proposed 2019 budget, and to approve a budget for 2019 or take any other related action;

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

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

By direction of Our Congregation's Council

Toni Cassidy  
Clerk

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Toni Cassidy".



## **2019 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

### **February 3, 2019**

Meeting called to order at 11:50 am, attendance sheet was passed to congregation and signatures of attendees were collected – 34 signatures in total.

#### **Clerk read:**

**Article I:** To receive the reports of the individual Council Members & their teams and any others requested by the Council except for the "2018 Financial Report and Proposed 2019 Budget", and the "Nomination Report" or take any other related action;

**Congregant** motions to that the congregation receive the reports of the Individual Council Members & their teams and any other requested by the Council except for the 2018 Financial Report, the Proposed 2019 Budget and Nomination Report, motion seconded.

**Moderator** It is moved and seconded that the congregation receive the reports of the individual council members and their teams and any other requested by the Council except for the 2018 Financial Report, the Proposed 2019 Budget and Nomination report.

**Congregant** says, the submitted reports are captured within the 2018 Annual report, dated Sunday, January 27, 2019, which reflect the activities the various teams of the previous church year. No other discussion.

**Moderator** – The question is on the adoption of the motion that the congregation receive the reports of the individual council members and their teams and any other requested by the Council except for the 2018 Financial Report, the Proposed 2019 Budget and Nomination report.

Motion carried.

#### **Clerk read:**

**Article II:** To receive the 2018 Financial report, to hear the Finance Team's proposed 2019 budget, and to approve a budget for 2019 or take any other related action;

**Congregant** motions that the congregation receive the 2018 Financial report, to hear the Finance Team's proposed 2019 Budget, and to approve a budget for 2019 or take any other related action, motion seconded.

**Moderator** It is moved and seconded the congregation receive the 2018 Financial report, to hear the Finance Team's proposed 2019 budget, and to approve a budget for 2019 or take any other related action. Motion carried.

**Congregant** The submitted 2018 Financial report and the proposed 2019 budget are captured within the 2018 Annual report, dated Sunday, January 27, 2019. No discussion.

**Moderator** The question is on the adoption of the motion that the congregation receive the 2018 Financial report, to hear the Finance Team's proposed 2019 budget and to approve a budget for 2019 or take any other related action. Motion carried.

#### **Clerk read:**

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

**Congregant** motions that the congregation receive and hear the Nomination Report and call persons to fill Council and Team vacancies, motion seconded.

**Moderator** It is moved and seconded the congregation receive and hear the Nomination Report and all persons to fill Council and Team vacancies.

**Congregant** An updated copy of the nomination report was distributed with the agenda. Individuals that have 'RE-Nominated' referenced will serve a second term on the referenced team. Individuals that have Nominated referenced are new members on a team. Church Council members are noted

as well. The year that is referenced on the report indicates when an individual's term will expire. Lastly, as referenced on the report, we have an open Diaconate position. Efforts to fill this position are actively being pursued. No discussion.

**Moderator** the question is on the adoption of the motion that the congregation receive and hear the Nomination Report and call persons to fill Council and Team vacancies. Motion Carried.

**Clerk read:**

**Article IV:** To hear and act on any other business relative to Our Congregation and its property.  
No discussion.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 12:05 pm, motion carried.

The Clerks Oath of Office was performed.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Toni Cassidy, Clerk



## **Pastor's Report**

Annual Report – 2019

First Congregational Church of Georgetown

### **Pastor's Report**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It has certainly been a year of change for the First Congregational Church of Georgetown! And between the time of Rev. Julie's departure in June and my arrival in November, the Diaconate was especially busy, searching for a new Interim Pastor while also making sure that the pulpit was filled each Sunday. Meanwhile, another team was developing the church's profile for the pastoral search committee. And then the search committee began its active search for your next Settled Pastor.

In the midst of such enormous change, you successfully worked together to manage week-to-week details while also taking positive steps forward in terms of long-range planning. This is a testimony to the strength of your community and commitment, and I applaud you for your faithfulness!

My arrival right before the holidays gave me a chance to share in some of your congregation's traditions. I decorated a gingerbread house for the first time, enjoyed lunch and caroling with members of the Women's Guild, and got to don my long-neglected Roman soldier costume for the Christmas Pageant! And I had the joy of baptizing William Stead Gervais during the Christmas Eve worship service.

As I've settled in and begun to meet with individuals and the Council and other teams, I've been deeply encouraged in witnessing your warmth and generosity, your gifts and the way in which you care for one another. I look forward to seeing new possibilities for ministry unfold, especially in your new partnership with Early Intervention.

Part of my role as an Interim Pastor is to help you assess your strengths, clarify your unique DNA and calling as a congregation, and walk alongside you as you prepare for your next Settled Pastor. Please know that it is a privilege and a joy to share in this journey with you.

Rev. Dallas Bradel  
Interim Pastor



## Moderator's Report

Our Congregation, Leadership Team, various team member, and volunteers continue to rise above the many challenges confronted this past year. Your dedication and commitment to our greater mission of serving God and our community continue to be the strength of First Church.

On Rally Day, I was honored to deliver the message to our congregation, encouraging each one of us to do more. As I shared on Rally day, Jesus gave the whole church the responsibility of making disciples and he also conferred the authority to make disciples upon the whole church. When the clergy release the authority to act and when the laity accepts the responsibility for ministry the church becomes an unstoppable force that reaches its full potential in Jesus Christ. We are the descendants of those first disciples. We, as Christians are part of that same heritage, that same family. It is our duty as members of the body of the church of Jesus Christ to carry our weight just as those first disciples did. The great "commissioning" that Jesus gave his disciples in the gospel from Matthew applies to us today as much or even more so. We are the church, you and I together with all believers. We have a duty to carry on the faith by promoting it throughout our families, our communities, our state, our nation and to the ends of the earth.

Over the last year, I have witnessed multiple steps where we, as a church, have taken steps to broaden our outreach beyond our four walls. Below are the key highlights and accomplishments.

While we saddened with the resignation of Rev Julie Mavity Maddalena in July, our Diaconate team worked tirelessly throughout the summer and early fall, sharing the good news of who we are, what we offer to the community, and how we share our faith with each other. Their search for interim pastor came to a successful end with the hiring of Rev Dallas Bradel in November of this year.

We officially began the Search and Call process for a settle pastor by forming a Transition Team and the Pastoral Search Committee. The Transition team was formed in March 2018 with a goal of identifying who we are as a church and who do we want to be in the years ahead. This team conducted interviews with the congregation to better understand the qualifications we seek in a settled pastor. The Transition team also met with community leaders to gather information on how the town views our current and future role in the greater Georgetown community. These interactions provided greater insight into who we can become. The Transition team successfully completed the church profile and is available to prospective pastors searching for a church. The Transition team was comprised of the following individuals:

- a. Bob Knapp
- b. Susan Stead
- c. Michelle Brock
- d. Marie Birdsall-Chaffe
- e. Antoinette Jones
- f. Pastor Julie Mavity Maddalena

With the completion of the church profile, the Pastoral Search Committee began the process of receiving, reviewing, and discerning the profiles of individuals interested in being called as our settled



pastor. Like the Diaconate's efforts to call an interim pastor, the Pastoral Search Committee will be sharing the good news about our church. I am excited about our future.

The Pastoral Search Committee is comprised of the following church members:

- g. Michelle Brock
- h. Tom Chaffe
- i. Kirsten Orender
- j. Rachel Edwards
- k. Rachel Angehofer
- l. Sylvia Johnston
- m. Paul Nelson (resigned)
- n. Steve Pinto

As we entered the pastoral search process, a decision about whether to call a part time versus a full-time pastor had to be made. While we may be a small church, we are an energetic, spiritual, and faithful community, with various needs and spiritual support from a pastor. Over many years, this church has been faced with many challenges, and each time we've persevered. With all that we've accomplished and all that we have left to do, it was agreed that a full-time pastor was our best option.

In order to secure the financial resources to sustain a full-time pastor for approximately ten years, the decision was made to sell the Cell tower Verizon lease, attic space and steeple space to Lease Advisors. A revenue share agreement was also included. If Lease Advisor finds a second carrier to utilize the steeple space, 65% of the revenue will belong to the Church. If the Church finds a second carrier, 100% of the revenue goes to Church. As the steeple has space to support one to two more carriers, we anticipate additional revenue in the future from this agreement.

In December, an agreement was reached with Thom Pentucket, a certified Early Intervention Program, to use some of the church's available space on the first floor for their program. Their program offers services to families with infants and toddlers from birth to three years. Thom Pentucket works with each family to develop an Individualized Family Service Plan in accordance with federal regulations and Massachusetts Early Intervention Operational Standards. These services are offered to Georgetown and neighboring towns. We are excited to support this organization as one of our missions by offering our space starting in January 2020. This is an exciting opportunity to support a local non-profit organization whose mission is to assist and support families with young children. This will present many opportunities for the Church to expand our outreach and to demonstrate to the community our passion and mission work.

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 display. While the weather did not cooperate this year, everyone enjoyed the festivities inside our fellowship hall. Many thanks to Emily Knapp, Janice Murphy, and the many volunteers to make this a success.

Last spring, the second annual miniature golf outing was held as we continue to grow our fellowship. Both young and old(er) got together for a fun filled afternoon. Many thanks to Toni Cassidy for organizing this great event.

The annual church fall fair continues to be the highlight for our community. 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, 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 once again 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.

With the dollars raised as part of the 'Continuation of our Legacy' fundraising campaign, we continue to make improvements to the church property. One major accomplishment was the replacement of the front sidewalks. Landscaping around them will be completed in the Spring, but we're excited with the new facelift on the front lawn. 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 been possible.

Jessica Ford, who is our office manager, continues to do an excellent job, especially considering the change in interim pastors this past year. 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 2020 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



## 2019 Clerk's Report

### Membership Information

#### New Members:

Antoinette Jones

Martha Lucius

#### Baptisms:

William Stead Gervais

Kenzie Mukowski

#### In Memoriam

Ann Kelloway

Isabel Gammon

Bob Davidson

Betty Davidson

Elisabeth Thomas

Vivian Rasmussen

Funerals: 4

Wedding: 1

Report Beginning 1/1/2019: Total: 196

Deaths:	-	6
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New Member:	+	2
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Transferred to Inactive:	-	8
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Total as of 12/31/2019		184
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## Diaconate Report

Mark 4:35-40 "And on that day, when even was come, he saith unto them, Let us go over unto the other side. And leaving the multitude, they take him with them, even as he was, in the boat. And other boats were with him. And there ariseth a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the boat, insomuch that the boat was now filling. And he himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion: and they awake him, and say unto him, Teacher, carest thou not that we perish? And he awoke, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And he said unto them, Why are ye fearful? Have ye not yet faith?" (American Standard Version 1901)

I am writing this newsletter while traveling on a business trip to San Antonio. I usually carry a small bible in my backpack instead, I decided to use the version loaded on my iPad. Without realizing it, I downloaded the free version from the *American Standard Version published in 1901*. It fascinates me how language changes even in a short 120 years!

While soaring through the air, with a few turbulent winds, the pilots try different directions in search of a smoother flight. I think of a bible story describing a turbulent voyage by boat that the disciples took with Jesus. The storms were fierce. I image the sound of waves crashing on the hull of the ship, the boat tossing about nearly capsizing, filling with water, a dark gray evening sky, rain pelting hard, permeating the clothes of the passengers. The disciples were soaked, scared, and clinging to whatever they could find - a railing, rope, the mast, or each other. They looked below to see Jesus, peacefully sleeping as if the world around him were calm and a cushion of comfort. In a panic, they yelled, "how can you possibly sleep! We are about to drown!" With worry, fear, and dread, they perceived only peril. Frustrated that the disciples still need to grasp the concept of faith, instead of rebuking them, Jesus calmed their fears. As he spoke, the winds died, the waters became still, clouds parted, and the sun broke through, creating a beautiful sunset full of color. His words calmed the storm. He did not need to calm the storm because God was and is always in control. However, he did this for them out of love.

The year 2019 brought much change to the Church with Rev. Julie Mavity Maddelina departing, having guest speakers, guest Preachers, and welcoming Rev. Dallas Bradel. In the midst of all of it, we remain steadfast in looking towards our faith in Jesus, bringing about peace, calm, community, and love. Dwelling in a community of faith and lovingly supporting each other, it was my gratitude and blessing to be on a team with exceptional people: Rachel Angerhofer, Kristen Arsenault, Marie Birdsall-Chaffee, and Pam Sheehan. They sincerely care about our Church and community. With kindness and devotion, they dedicated their time and talents. Thank you!

Our church family is very blessed to have Rev. Dallas Bradel leading us in worship and fellowship. Thank you to her for answering the call to be with us! We are delighted that she accepts us into her life with friendship and compassion. We appreciate her dedication, her passion for describing bible passages, and a new perspective as we work to define who we are as a Church during the transition.

We thank our office manager Jessica for dedicating her time to the office, learning new programs, helping those in need of the pantry, 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 performing. 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. 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. I especially enjoyed learning about the water projects and how this invaluable resource connects and flows through all of us, across the globe. We very much appreciate your commitment and love for others. 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 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.

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

**MARCH:** The Church welcomed Lent with a Pancake dinner followed by an Ash service to start the Lenten season. We also celebrated the remembrance of St. Patrick with a delicious traditional boiled dinner hosted by Ruth Soper. Pastor Julie hosted a Lenten video, book study called "Gifts of the Dark Wood" by Darkwood Brew ministry. The study was based on the book *Gifts of the Dark Wood: Seven Blessings for Souful Skeptics (And Other Wanders)* by Dr. Eric Elnes. The Diaconate provided a meal and we had meaningful discussions on how God works in our lives, even in the Dark times.

We held Palm Sunday service 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:** Pastor Julie held new members classes and opened the classes to anyone interested in learning more about the church.



JUNE: We celebrated our graduates, and we welcomed new members to our Church. What a joy to celebrate at these milestones in our lives!

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 vibrant youth.

We also had an exceptional service for blessing the animals. Neighbors out walking decided to stop and join us on the lawn with their pets, and even a horse decided to join the blessing!

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

Our Wednesday evening worship services were in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Julie hosted the evening services through the end of July, and we bid farewell to her and her family with a pool party. Our Church even managed to do a group cannonball! Ask around for a copy of the video, it is a delight to watch!

The Diaconate hosted and organized the remaining Wednesday evening services while we searched for an Interim Pastor. We had guest speakers, evenings of games, and guest Pulpit supply. 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 talented 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 very 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. The Blessing of the Backpacks continued with our guest Pastor 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.

NOVEMBER: Remembrance Sunday was held again this year with the guest Pastor inviting us to remember our loved ones.

DECEMBER: Advent Readers and Candle Lighters; Christmas Pageant, 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.

“When you let your light shine, you unconsciously give others permission to do the same.” – Nelson Mandela

Respectfully submitted,

Alecia Balduf, Chair



## **Christian Development**

### **Annual Report 2019**

February 2019

#### **Candy Sale/Heifer Fund Raising**

Our annual candy sale continues to be a huge success. Many folks brought in baked goods and other items for sale. All proceeds were to the benefit of the Heifer project.

April 2019

#### **Palm Sunday**

The children of the congregation marched into the sanctuary with their palms waiving during the opening hymn. The children proceeded with handing out the Palms to all parishioners.

#### **Easter Sunday**

##### **Sunrise Service Breakfast**

Rich Brock, and his band of volunteers, provided breakfast immediately following the Sunrise Service.

#### **Easter Egg Hunt**

The annual Easter Egg Hunt was held immediately following the worship service. Many thanks to all that donated candy and the Easter eggs.

June 2019

#### **Graduation Sunday**

We celebrated the accomplishments and dedication of our graduates and wished them well in their future endeavors.

#### **Children's Sunday**

Children and teachers were recognized with gifts during worship for their participation and contributions to a successful Sunday School year. An end of the year cookout occurred on the front lawn to celebrate the end of the Sunday School year and to welcome in the Summer.

#### **Blessing of the Animals**

The morning worship was held on the church front lawn as we celebrated the friendship and companionship of our four-legged friends. Many animals were present, including a horse.

#### **Miniature Golf Outing**

The second annual miniature golf outing was held after the Blessing of the Animals service. Many took in a round of golf at Nunan's, with a few golfers getting a little wet due to the rain. After golf, many enjoyed a nice ice cream. Many thanks to Toni Cassidy for coordinating the event.

#### **CD Chair Position**

Rich Brock, who's nomination is approved by Council, will serve as the Interim CD Chair, due to the resignation of MaryAnn Nelson. Rich will serve as Interim Chair for the remainder of the year or until a replacement is found.



September 2019

**Rally Day**

CD coordinated the Rally Day service as we welcomed everyone back from their summer vacations. Rich Brock provided the message encouraging parishioners to display their faith outside our four walls as strongly as we display it within our walls. A Blessing of the Backpacks/Briefcases was given to help safeguard their carriers as they begin a new year at school and work.

December 2019

**Christmas Pageant**

CD presented the Christmas Play 'Something about a Boy', which took place at the Bethlehem Inn. Its central character is the Innkeeper. He doesn't approve of shepherds, resists soldiers, and tries to keep the inn running smoothly in an exciting time. His stable is being used by a couple from Nazareth, but he doesn't see this as especially important. An encounter with some 21st century children changes his mind. Throughout the play, the congregation sang a variety of Christmas hymns, contributing to the spirit and message of the play. Many thanks everyone that participated and took some time to memorize some lines.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Brock  
Interim Chairperson



## Report of the Property Team

The property team has been working on several different projects over this past year thanks to finances made available from the Legacy Fund.

- The operationally challenged 30 year old heating / AC system in the “new” part of the church was replaced. Both furnaces and air conditioner compressors were replaced and a “ductless” heater/AC unit for the third floor was installed. The air flow from the furnaces was balanced as much as possible to help properly and efficiently direct heat to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors. So far, it seems that this work has helped save operational funds and better directed heat / cooling where needed.
- Part of the roof over the new wing was replaced in order to reduce ice dams and leaks. There were some issues with the old flashing and it is hoped that this work will eliminate the leaks we have been experiencing the past few years.
- The front and side walkways were removed and replaced this year. They are wider and flatter now, and the easier to use (and snow blow) surface helps to beautify the church.

Some other Legacy Fund projects we are considering for the coming year are:

- Replacing the kitchen sink
- Painting the ceiling in the Fellowship Hall (note - this along with replacing the lights in the Halls may be done in 2020 as an Eagle Scout project)

In December we had discussions with the Early Childhood Intervention group, currently working out of some rooms at the Perley School, to have them move into the rooms on the first floor of the church as they have been asked to vacate their current location. These discussions have resulted in their planned relocation to our church beginning in January 2020.

Other standard maintenance tasks have been completed without much fanfare or crisis in 2019, a very nice reprieve from emergency tasks that have cropped up in the past.

- Washing and waxing floors
- Repairing bathroom fixtures and damaged ceiling tiles
- Checking on miscellaneous issues as they arise
- Trouble shooting heater issues
- Mowing the lawn
- Blowing the snow
- Overseeing contractors

I want to thank members of the Property Team for the work and time they have dedicated to the church as we address the Church's needs.

Also, the Property Team would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Legacy Fund team and everyone who 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



## **Annual Report of Member-at-Large**

Several suggestions have resulted in activities that have added to the family atmosphere of our church.

The St. Patrick's Day dinner was a great hit with lots of fun and delicious food.

Many individuals volunteered in many areas and relayed positive and negative feedback to me.

It has been my privilege to serve as Member-at-Large. It has given me a chance to hear your thoughts and concerns and to work with the other council members.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth Soper



## Report of the Women's Guild

After our 2019 winter hiatus, we hosted a Guest Social in April, and welcomed Dr. Mike Cross from Northern Essex Community College who gave an entertaining talk on the subject of medical quackery. Gladie Kneeland, our special guest for May, shared highlights of her fascinating and sometimes crazy career working for the Boston Garden! The Annual Luncheon Party at the Bradford Tavern in June rounded out our spring activities. For the second year in a row, we held another fond farewell tribute, this time for Rev. Julie. We were sad that her move to Wisconsin, after serving for a year as our Interim Pastor, left us bereft of her friendship and guidance. Our gift to her was a book on the national parks, knowing her love of outdoor recreation.

We suffered the loss of two dear members of our Guild: Elisabeth Thomas and Ann Kelloway. We were blessed by their friendship, and their faithfulness to our group. They will be in our hearts forever.

We started our fall activities in September with an Ice Cream Social and sharing memories of special vacations or places that have been meaningful in our lives. Our guest for October became ill, and Mary Ann Nelson stepped in and entertained us with story-telling. We coordinated another Cookie Walk for the Church Fair that continues to be a favorite shopping stop for Fair patrons! In November Gladie Kneeland presented a delightful program on Victorian customs. Along with interesting stories about food, clothing, beliefs, and the life style of the Victorians, Gladie showed us a beautiful collection of memorabilia, lovingly collected by her mother and grandmother during this era. December ushered in our Annual Advent Christmas Party with a share-the-cost-luncheon, and musical entertainment by our talented church musicians. We were happy to welcome our new Interim Pastor, Rev. Dallas Bradel to our gathering, and look forward with enthusiasm to sharing our ministry with her.

The Guild's Steering Committee members are: Marion Harding, Carol Sheehan, Jean Perley, Martha Lucius, Mary Ann Nelson and Joan Chatterton. This group also functions as the Outreach Team for our church's mission projects. We warmly welcome newcomers, new retirees, women from other churches, and our community. Many of our neighboring churches no longer sponsor women's groups. We feel fortunate that we're still functioning for the well-being of the First Congregational Church after 97 years!

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Chatterton, Secretary



## Report of the Outreach Team

***You shall receive whatever  
Gift you may name,  
As far as wind dries,  
Rain wets, sun revolves;  
As far as sea encircles  
And earth extends.***

Ancient Celtic blessing

With this greeting, Carrie Schuchardt began her thank you to our congregation, following the fall 2019 offering we sent to her mission in Ipswich. Carrie continues, ***"In these days of Thanksgiving, all of us at the House of Peace thank you for your gift to us. The wise Celtic ancestors knew how to offer blessings. We turn to their words to offer you our sincere gratitude for the support you give in these most challenging times ..... Your community is such a loving presence in our community, and we are ever grateful."***

Instead of giving a report this year on the dollars and cents that we've raised for our myriad mission interests, we will focus instead on excerpts from some of the thank you letters we've received in 2019.

From Our Neighbors' Table: ***"Thank you for your generous donations of food and grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving to help eliminate hunger in our local communities. Hunger is a reality for one out of every 16 people in the Lower Merrimack Valley. Too many of our neighbors have to choose between paying rent, or putting food on their tables. Too many children go to school without having breakfast. We greatly appreciate your continuing support."***

Three SHEEP, a trio of RABBITS, and a flock of CHICKS! With candies and goodies galore, we raised funds for one of our favorite endeavors, Heifer Project International! The CEO, Pierre Ferrain, writes ***"As we come to the end of our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, I want to take time to sincerely thank you for your trust and fellowship with Heifer. For more than forty years your congregation has blessed thousands of families with the gift of animals, giving them life-changing incomes, and hope for the future."***

The folks from the Orland Community in northern Maine write to us from the H.O.M.E. organization that helps struggling families in that area. ***"Today we received delivery of your Christmas gifts and we are overwhelmed with the generosity of your church. It puts such joy into our hearts to see the smiles on the faces of the parents, knowing that thanks to you all, Christmas will be much happier this year. We also appreciate the extra handmade mittens and hats that were sent."***

***"Thank you so much for the beautiful cradle and crib quilts made by members of the Women's Guild of your church. They are incredible. Thank you, also, for the multitude of diapers! We appreciate these heartfelt gifts in support of our mission to help local, low-income families in need."*** This thank you was received by our neighboring mission in West Boxford, the **Community Giving Tree**. This mission began several years ago by members of our sister church, Second Congregational Church. It has grown and thrived, and is now serving more than thirty social workers who come to the mission on behalf of their needy clients from our surrounding towns and cities. Gently used baby equipment, clothing and diapers are always needed.



**Our most ambitious project undertaken in 2019 was to build a protected well for a village in Kenya through partnering with The Water Project**, an organization headquartered in Concord, New Hampshire. Last spring one of the organization's project managers, Dr. Spencer Bogel, addressed our congregation on the serious health problems that face many Asian and African countries when people do not have access to clean water. Female children are most affected because they are usually the ones collecting the water, walking miles and spending hours at this task, while missing schooling. As a congregation, we hunkered down and started collecting!

The remote village of Shihingo in Western Kenya was chosen to receive our gifts toward protecting a natural spring used for collecting the village's water supply. The Inzuka Spring bubbled up from a hole in the rocky terrain and was exposed to all kinds of contamination. By the end of June we reached our goal, and in September construction began to place a series of pipes in the earth, and surrounding the outlet with concrete blocks to keep the area clean. The families received education on proper hygiene and sanitation methods to ensure a healthy outcome for this clean water initiative. There was much joy in Shihingo, as the inhabitants celebrated their new protected spring! From the Water Project Team: ***"We want to express our thanks for your generosity in providing clean water for the village of Shihingo. Thank you for your trust, and for choosing to give to this important work. Your gift has forever changed the lives of the 240 individuals of this village. You have restored their hope for a healthier and happier future."***

In addition to the missions we've already mentioned, our Church Family gives, through our pledge monies, to the **Wider Mission of the United Church of Christ, Massachusetts Conference**. Our offerings have assisted in natural disasters and with the plight of those affected by the Lawrence and Andover gas explosions. We support **Ruth's House in Haverhill** with material aids. This organization is dedicated to providing basic necessities for disadvantaged families in our area. We appreciate your helping with our church's food pantry, and the **grocery gift card program** that our Pastor and Office Manager have for gifting at their discretion.

**We have shared some of the grateful letters we've received. Now, in turn, we wish to express our gratitude to all of you ... for your enthusiasm, your energy, your time, talents and treasure in caring for others less fortunate than are we.**

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Chatterton, for the Outreach Team

Marion Harding, Martha Lucius, Jean Perley, Mary Ann Nelson & Carol Sheehan



## **Annual Church Fair**

### **October 18 & 19 2019**

**Co-Chairs: Deb Lamoureaux & Rich Brock**

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 Country Store, Baked Goods & the Cookie Walk (sorry, not enough funnies to go around!) All are the best the church has to offer without them the fair would cease to exist.

After many successful years of church fairs, this year it was decided by the committee to change the format slightly. This year outside handicraft vendors were invited to join our fair. These vendors were selected by the quality and type of product they were selling. The vendors paid for their rental space and tables. Each vendor donated an item to our raffle.

We have decided to co-chair the fair for another year so we can get the vendor portion of the fair fully integrated into our format. We are hoping this will grow and grow using all the available space our church has to offer. Our goal is to make The First Congregational Church of Georgetown a local hub for quality crafters.

Thank you all for your generous time & support.

Deb & Rich



## Hospitality Team Report

The Hospitality Team has continued to host coffee hours and special events during 2019. 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 2019 included:**

January 6 - Diaconate hosted a New Year's Potluck Brunch.

March 5— Diaconate and Hospitality hosted a Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper.

March 17 - Ruth Soper and Church Council sponsored a delicious Corn Beef & Cabbage Luncheon.

May 5 - Ruth Soper and the Church Council sponsored a Kentucky Derby Potluck Luncheon.

May 14 – Collation following Ann Kelloway's funeral service.

June 1 – Collation following Elisabeth Thomas' memorial service.

June 9– Children's Day Cook-out

June 25 – Strawberry Social

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

September 4 – For the last summer service we enjoyed a Pancake Supper.

November 24 – Cake to welcome Rev. Dallas Bradel.

December 8 – Potluck Lunch followed by gingerbread house construction.

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 signing up to bring goodies for coffee hour and for helping to make sandwiches for special services.

Respectively Submitted,

Co-Chairs Janice Murphy and Ruth Soper



## **Stewardship Report**

The Stewardship Team would like to thank everyone for supporting this year's stewardship campaign. The UCC theme, "I am the Way" was well represented by this year's speakers, Rachel Angerhofer and JoEllen Fielding. Their reflections on their love of our church was an inspiration to all. They are two of our many members who have demonstrated a commitment to the First Congregational Church of Georgetown and its many missions. We extend our best wishes to JoEllen who will be leaving for Texas later this year.

Thank you to all who contributed to the Sharing Basket throughout the year. The revenue collected from this fund is critical to supporting the Church building and its operating budget. You most likely will be seeing the basket on display in the Narthex at various times during the coming year.

We would like to give a heartfelt "Thank You" to all who have pledged their time, talents and financial resources to the church on Stewardship Sunday and this past giving season. If you did not receive stewardship materials and are interested in pledging, there is still time. Please speak to one of the members of our Team about this commitment.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Johnston George Comiskey Toni Cassidy  
The Stewardship Team



## Report of the Nominating Team 2019

Team	Name	Chairperson	End Year	2020 Nominating Action
Moderator	Rich Brock		2023	Re-Nominated
Clerk	Toni Cassidy		2022	
Treasury Team	Kristen Arsenaault	x	2021	
	Bob Knapp		2022	
	George Commisky		2023	Nominated
Diaconate	Marie Birdsall		2021	
	Rachel Angerhofer		2021	
	Pam Sheehan		2022	
	Emily Knapp		2023	Nominated
	Open		2023	
Christian Development	MaryAnn Nelson		2021	
	Tom Chaffee		2022	
	Rich Brock		2023	Nominated
Property Team	Steve Pinto	X	2021	
	Paul Nelson		2022	
	Open		2023	
Member At Large	Janice Murphy		2021	Nominated