

2021 Annual Report



**First Congregational Church
of Georgetown, UCC
Sunday, January 30, 2022**

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2021 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 and/or virtually via an electronic streaming and/or phone device immediately following the service of worship on Sunday, January 31, 2021 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 "2020 Financial Report and Proposed 2021 Budget", and the "Nomination Report" or take any other related action;

Article II: To receive the 2020 Financial report, to hear the Finance Team's proposed 2020 budget, and to approve a budget for 2021 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

2021 ANNUAL MEETING - ZOOM **January 31, 2021**

Rich Brock, Moderator opened the meeting welcoming all.

Meeting called to order at 11:39 a.m. the meeting was held via ZOOM, online attendance was taken with 33 congregants attending on Zoom, in person attendance was also taken 37 totals.

Holly Brauner, Pastor lead the congregation in prayer.

The Clerks Oath of Office was performed.

Clerk read:

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 "2020 Financial Report and Proposed 2021 Budget", and the "Nomination Report" or take any other related action;

Janice Murphy: Mr. Moderator

Moderator: Janice

Janice Murphy: I move that the congregation receive the reports of the individual Council Members and their teams and any others requested by the Council except

for the 2020 Financial Report, the Proposed 2021 Budget, and the 2021 Nomination Report.

Bob Knapp second the motion.

Moderator: It is moved and seconded that the congregation receive the reports of the individual council members and their teams and any others requested by the Council except for the 2020 Financial Report, the Proposed 2021 Budget and the 2021 Nomination Report.

Janice: Mr. Moderator

Moderator: Janice

Janice: The submitted reports are captured within the 2020 Annual Report, dated Sunday, January 31, 2021, which reflect the activities of the various teams for the previous church year.

Moderator: Is there any 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 others requested by the Council except for the 2020 Financial Report, the Proposed 2021 Budget, and the 2021 Nomination report.

All in favor? Apposed?

Motion carries unanimously.

Clerk read:

Article II:

To receive the 2020 Financial report, to hear the Finance Team's proposed 2020 budget, and to approve a budget for 2021 or take any other related action;

Kristen Arsenault: Mr. Moderator

Moderator: Kristen

Kristen Arsenault: I move that the congregation receive the 2020 Financial report, to hear the Finance Team's proposed 2021 budget, and to approve a budget for 2021 or take any other related action;

Toni Cassidy second the motion.

Moderator: It is moved and seconded that the congregation receive the 2020 Financial report, to hear the Finance Team's proposed 2021 budget, and to approve a budget for 2021 or take any other related action;

Kristen Arsenault: Mr. Moderator

Moderator: Kristen

Kristen Arsenault: The submitted 2020 Financial report and the proposed 2021 budget are captured within the 2020 Annual Report, dated Sunday, January 31, 2020.

Moderator: Is there any other discussion – Bob Knapp shared with the congregation that despite Covid and not being able to meet in person the amount collected from donations has increased. Bob is available to discuss the budget with those interested.

Moderator: The question is on the adoption of the motion that the congregation receive the 2020 Financial report, to hear the Finance Team's proposed 2021 budget, and to approve a budget for 2021 or take any other related action;

All in favor? Apposed?

Motion carries unanimously.

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;

Steve Pinto: Mr. Moderator

Moderator: Steve

Steve Pinto: I move that the congregation receive and hear the 2021 Nomination Report and call persons to fill Council and Team vacancies.

Bob Knapp and Susan Stead second the motion.

Moderator: It is moved and seconded that the congregation receive and hear the Nomination Report and call persons to fill Council and Team vacancies.

Steve Pinto: Mr. Moderator

Moderator: Steve

Steve Pinto: As noted on the submitted 2021 Nomination report, individuals that have 'Re-Nominated' referenced will serve an additional term.

Individuals that have 'Nominated' referenced are new members on a team.

Chair persons are noted and will represent their team on the Church Council. The End Year that is referenced on the report indicates when an individual's term will expire.

Moderator: Is there any other discussion

Moderator: The question is on the adoption of the motion that the congregation receive and hear the 2021 Nomination Report and call persons to fill Council and Team vacancies.

All in favor? Apposed?

Motion Carries

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 11:56 a.m.

Bob Knapp and Susan Stead second.

Respectfully submitted by,
Toni Cassidy, Clerk

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By direction of Our Congregation's Council

Toni Cassidy, Clerk

Pastor's Report

On January 23, 2021, I began with you as your settled pastor, to walk with you into a new season of ministry. The past 12 months have mainly been focused on listening and learning about you; as a congregation and as individuals. This process has been somewhat slowed due to COVID restrictions of gathering and meeting face to face for the first 8 or so months. Only in recent months have I been able to do any in-person visits. And as I have gotten to know you, I have been humbled by your dedication to this church and to each other as a congregation. Each of the ministry teams have worked hard this year in keeping some semblance of order in the midst of this chaotic pandemic.

What an interesting time to begin a new ministry, when we are not allowed to be together in the same space, close together. And all services were exclusively on ZOOM. I very much thank the Zoom team and all the hard work of Bob Knapp to set up laptops and wires and the large television so that we could see one another. I did find it quite daunting to be in the huge sanctuary with just a laptop to see the congregation. I found that the live music helped keep this sacred space as we did our best to provide a good worship experience.

Many of you attended my ordination on February 10th, such a joyous and memorable event for me, personally. And it was so good to know that you were there watching even if you could not be there in Swampscott in person. With great fanfare you joined the other voices in affirming my call to ordained ministry. What a great way to start my time with this congregation.

Lent began so soon after my start with you, such a good time to get reflective together and ponder our faith journey together and how God might be calling us forward in faith. We marked the beginning of Lent with a Fat Tuesday (Mardi Gras) baking class on Zoom, led by Pam Sheehan. About 25 of us zoomed in from our kitchens and learned step by step her Pam's family recipe for Lemon bread. I led a Lenten study focused on Matthew - Mondays with Matthew, looking into the Sermon on the Mount. Two groups

met, morning and evening. As was the pattern back then, we gathered via Zoom for a Maundy Thursday service.

Easter was our first 'in person' gathering in the sanctuary the first weekend of April. Though we did not gather in person for a sunrise service, we were able to worship together for the main Easter service. And the Diaconate went to town decorating the sanctuary with Easter lilies, as is custom. Surely this was a life-giving task, to get ready for the Church's most Holy day of the year. And, with careful COVID-19 protocols, we gathered at a distance, fully masked. There was a sense of relief expressed by many to be able to see one another even if masked face to face.

The week after Easter I was able to take some time to travel to the West Coast for a brief visit with Bill's family. I very much appreciated the Diaconate's ability to step in and lead worship April 11th so I could make that trip.

Tuesday morning Bible study on ZOOM has been a constant, and such a blessing! Together we stay curious and open to new interpretations of scripture and how God might be speaking into the space between us. Each week is rich with insights, lightened with laughter, and life-giving with encouragement to keep digging into what God might be trying to show us.

The Visioning Team got started in the Spring with the deep work of prayerfully considering where God is leading this congregation. In studying the Church profile which is used in the Pastoral Search and Call process, the team found good fodder to begin this visioning. Keeping the language aspirational, this team began to reflect together. While the team took a hiatus over the summer months, they returned to this work in September and invited the congregation to dream and envision what our talents and gifts might mean for our future. This process will continue into early next year where it is hoped that we arrive at a short, decisive, invitational vision statement that will help guide our future.

In June, I became Moderator for the Northeast Association (NEA) of our UCC Conference. My involvement in the NEA began several years ago when I was beginning seminary and it has been a wonderful introduction to local pastors and lay leaders dedicated to the wider world of the United Church of Christ. As Moderator, I attend Association events such as Ordinations and Installations of local pastors, as well as lead bi-monthly board meetings to keep tabs on the Committee on Ministry which supports and oversees all local UCC clergy. This is important work in the life of our congregations as it provides guidance and support and a sense of connection among local churches.

We hosted the ever popular "Blessing of the Animals" worship service on the lawn in mid-June. Friends and neighbors brought their furry friends and with the help of Van Morrison on speaker, I blessed upwards of 25 of God's beloved creatures. I look forward to next June when we do it all over again.

Also, June, we celebrated Pride Month, by lifting up the Opening and Affirming Covenant that was signed by this congregation a number of years ago. We purchased and began to fly a Pride flag out front to make clear, beyond a doubt, our intension of being open to all who wish to join this community. In worship we revisited the covenant and its meaning for our lives as disciples and the call to welcome all, extravagantly.

A small team from church marched with Georgetown's youth in their Pride parade hosted and organized by Georgetown Youth Community Center. For a short time, we caused a bit of a ruckus at the main intersection of Main and North Streets, with music, dancing, and general euphoria. And on June 30th, our first Wednesday summer service, we celebrated and re-dedicated our Open and Affirming Covenant in worship. I invited The Zilber Beatles, an Interfaith band that plays at Tabernacle Church in Salem, to take their first road trip to play their best of the best and help us celebrate.

Our summer worship series was held mostly indoors due to uncanny consistency of rain storms each Wednesday for weeks. While most of our services were fairly traditional, we did have a couple of evenings for storytelling, and one evening where we practiced Qi Gong, thanks to a connection from Nancy Aberman. This was most popular and folks expressed interest in doing more of this kind of mindful, meditative exercise.

After being cancelled last year, the Strawberry Social returned this year! And with great success, despite the stormy clouds that kept us indoors. It was all so good! The strawberries! The biscuits! The whipped cream! The crowd! (Carefully masked, of course) People were clearly eager to be together, to see faces up close, and to dig in to their juicy sweet bowls of goodness.

I was blessed with two weeks' vacation in August, where I enjoyed much needed rest and renewal. I eagerly returned to prepare for Homecoming and the Fall Fair.

What amazing energy you all put into the Fall Fair. The place was transformed to a shoppers delight with bargains a plenty and so many handmade crafts and goodies. I was able to meet many local crafters as well as folks who come each year for the pies or the meals.

It is considered a privilege for a pastor to preside over significant life transitions - weddings, baptisms and funerals. This year I presided over 4 funerals or celebrations of life from this faith community: Karen Young, Marion Harding, Betty Rosene, Sheila Kelly. Each service honored these women who had given of themselves in some way to the life of this faith community. I also presided over several other funerals for people not closely affiliated with this congregation.

And, in November I presided over my first two baptisms of Charlotte and Sophia, the children of Emily and Kevin DeCarvalho. What a joyful event that was! So special for me, and to have Charlotte there to help bless the water! What could be better than that?

In the early Spring I joined the regional Interfaith clergy group which meets monthly via ZOOM. I find this to be a great way to network and learn about events and local faith-based gatherings as well as possible ministries that FCC might consider down the road.

I'm so grateful for the Diaconate that has provided me with the history and background of how worship and congregational care has been done over the years. And I so appreciate their patience and guidance as I try new things. I look forward to continuing to experiment with worship, introducing new practices that might help us all experience the Holy in new ways.

I am also grateful for the Council as well as Team Music, and all the energy that goes into enlivening our worship experience each week. I look forward to hearing more of the World's Most Dangerous Church Band.

Advent and Christmas was a joyous and eventful time, with a contemporary Advent candle lighting reading, the fun-filled Christmas Pageant and all its "baas" and "moos" and then the candles and carols of Christmas Eve.

As I think ahead to the coming years, I wonder how else we might make a joyful noise to the Lord together. And, gaining strength and vision from worship, I wonder how we might make God's love visible to those we meet out in the world.

With Christ's service,

Rev. Holly S. Brauner

Moderator's Report

Our Congregation, Leadership Team, various team member, and volunteers continued to rise above the challenges presented by the on-going pandemic throughout the year. While our hopes were high at the beginning of the year due to the availability of a vaccine, many challenges were presented through the year due to introduction of covid variants. But, out of each new challenge comes a new opportunity. An opportunity to do something different, an opportunity to grow, an opportunity to see how God is working amongst all of us as we continue to work together as a church and a community.

While we all hope and pray for the pandemic to end and return to a sense of normalcy, we also look forward to what the future may hold for us as a congregation. What new traditions will be introduced by Rev Holly, what will the new Vision and Mission teams present to our congregation in the coming year? What other opportunities will God's Love motivate all to spread the Good News with our friends, our neighbors, and the greater community.

The below items represent the major accomplishment from the past year.

Pandemic Response

Throughout the year, the Church Council reviewed the latest information released by the State of Massachusetts determine the appropriate safety protocols to implement to keep our congregation and community as safe as possible. Information about the pandemic changed many times during the year, which resulted in many safety protocol changes, including whether to worship inside, whether to wear a mask or not. During the first quarter of 2021, worship services occurred via ZOOM only. Then, around Easter and with the warmer weather, safety protocols were relaxed, and we were able our Easter Service was held within the Sanctuary. Soon after Easter, the decision was made to open the Sanctuary for indoor worship, as long as safety protocols were followed.

Technology

One of the hidden treasures with the pandemic is the ability to contact and worship with members of the church who had moved to different parts of the country. The pandemic has resulted in many different opportunities to broaden our outreach through technology. During 2020, we launched our new website, became familiar with ZOOM, and used our sound system as best we could. Entering 2021, we recognized that our technology required an upgrade to continue to offer Sunday worship and other services to the community.

During the year, the following investments occurred:

1. A new laptop for the pastor
2. New video equipment including a camcorder and desktop computer
3. New wireless microphones and sound system upgrades

Boy Scouts

In June of 2021, the Church Council agreed to charter Troop 101. This is in addition to the support the church provides to Troop 51.

In October 2021, the Church Council was made aware of some liability concerns related to litigation against the Boy Scouts of America. The UCC Legal council provided a recommendation, based on a suggestion from the United Methodist Church, that congregations stop having charters and offer a Use of Facility agreement with the local Troops. The Council has agreed to go in this direction for Troop 101, which is in line with what is currently offered to Troop 51.

Men's Group

In March of 2021, the concept of forming a Men's Group was introduced by Tom Johnson, and formally introduced during the summer months. The Men's Group meets once a month for breakfast and for a time of fellowship.

Mission and Vision Work

Two critical aspects of the church's vitality are to understand Who we are and what God is calling us to do as a congregation within the broader community. During 2021, two major changes occurred toward this end.

In early 2021, efforts were restarted to put together a Vision team that would help determine 'Who We Are' and 'Who Do We Want to Be' as a Church. A Vision Team of Michelle Brock, Marie Birdsell, and Richard Aberman began working together in early spring to determine the Church's Vision.

In June 2021, Joan Chatterton and other members of the Women's Guild officially stepped down as Mission coordinators. With every challenge comes an opportunity as a new Mission team was formed, comprising of Rachel Angerhoffer, Joanne Kelly, Marie Birdsall, Ruth Soper, and Nancy Aberman.

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.

I look forward to 2022 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

2021 Clerk's Report
Membership Information

Covid continued to challenge our church family, community and the world. Council and Teams met through ZOOM and recently were able to meet in person as well as continue the ZOOM option. Church services moved into the sanctuary with safety protocols in place, those who wished to worship through ZOOM were able, new electronic equipment was purchased to provide us with the beauty to gather in person and on ZOOM, the hybrid option continues. We were able to hold our Strawberry Social in June in spite of the rain and our annual Church Fair was held in October following safety protocols. We were also able to enjoy line dancing outside during the summer and recently moved inside. Summer Services returned on Wednesday evenings. The Woman's Guild enjoyed in person luncheons as well. The Boy Scouts completed another project on the church property, storage shed. Early Intervention was able to return to the church to continue with a much-needed service. Our church family lost beloved members and we celebrated baptisms.

In Memoriam

Louis C. Dispenza
Karen L. Young
Marion L. Harding
Shirley Southwick
Sheila M Kelly
Jill R. Hamelin
Betty Rosene
Paul Ayers (past member)

Baptisms:

Charlotte Decarvahlo
Sofia Decarvahlo

Member Report Beginning 1/1/2021: Total: 180

Deaths:	-7
Total as of 12/31/2021	173

We look forward to the installation of Pastor Holly Brauner in February 2022 and pray for the end of Covid.

Respectfully submitted by,

Toni Cassidy, Clerk

Annual Report of Member-at-Large

Greetings from your 2021 Member at Large! It continues to be a challenging time for all. We are so blessed to have the opportunity to worship in person as well as on Zoom. I have enjoyed my conversations, email and phone calls from my church family and look forward to new ways we can connect with each other. As I continue as Member at Large please know that I am available to listen on any thoughts you may want to share.

Being part of the council and attending monthly meetings have given me a great perspective of all that goes on in the Life of our Church! As we move forward into 2022, I pray that we will be able to move more freely in the months to come and our church family will continue to grow in God's Grace.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Stead

Annual Church Fair October 22 & 23, 2021

After the cancellation of our 2020 fair, our 2021 fair was a blessing for all. The rekindling of relationships that like everything else in our lives was put on hold for 18 months. Everyone was eager to kick off our biggest fundraiser of the year with joy fellowship and an overall sense that this dreadful covid thing was behind us. Obviously, we had to make sure that all were safe as this was the first big event we would hold in the church. With no issues blocking us we charged forward.

Some of our regular vendors stayed away and we welcomed new vendors. Some of our staff changed and others stepped up to the plate to take over. Once again, our favorite committees were present and accounted for.... from our Advertising and Vendor Solicitation, the Pie Machine the White Elephant team the Raffle team the Lunch Bunch and of course the Saturday Night Blue Plate Special, the Country Store, Baked Goods & the Cookie Walk. All are the best our church has to offer without them the fair would cease to exist.

Our entire church family has to be thanked for their hard work and dedication to our biggest fund raiser of the year (and a profitable one at that!). Thank you all for your generous time & support.

Blessings,

Co-Chairs: Deb Lamoureaux & Rich Brock

Christian Development

The Christian Development team continues to focus on opportunities primarily for adult congregants as the Church as experienced a decline in attendance from the children and youth of our community.

The below represents an overview of the 2021 accomplishments of the Christian Development team.

Men's Group

A Men's Group was formed in March 2021 with meetings starting on ZOOM. In May, the group met for breakfast and fellowship. The group will offer Mission support and assistance to church members and the broader community.

Blessing of the Animals

The annual event occurred in June

Graduation Sunday

On June 13, 2021, the Church recognized the accomplishments of Elle Schneider and Holly Harris during Graduation Sunday. A gift bag was presented to Elle and Holly, along with a slide show highlighting their activities with the Church and Youth Group.

Bible Study

At the beginning of 2021, two sessions are offered each week, one session in the morning and one in the evening. The morning session was attended by many that attended the daily prayer sessions hosted by Rev. Dallas. This group has a strong foundation, with good conversation. In September 2021, the Bible Study group changed to a 30-minute period on Tuesday morning.

Advent

During the Advent season, stories were presented by five different individuals that provided current day experiences and how they relate to the Advent symbols of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Christian development purchased the scripts from Skit Guys.com with a goal of relating current circumstances and everyday life with the joys and teachings of the Advent season. Many thanks to Tom Chaffee, Michelle Brock, Haleigh Harris, and Toni Cassidy for their participation.

Christmas Pageant

The annual Christmas Pageant was presented to the congregation on December 19th. Rich Brock and Antoinette Jones facilitated the story of Christmas, with many members of the congregation playing key roles to bring the story to life.

Story Board/Walk

Plans are in progress to introduce a new Story Board/Walk on the front lawn of the Church. Parts of each story will be strategically placed along the sidewalk and front walkway for pedestrians to read and learn the various teachings of Jesus. The Story Board/Walk will be introduced during the Sprint of 2022.

Respectively Submitted by
Rich Brock – Christian Development

Report of the Women's Guild

The women of the Guild came together again, after almost two long years of pandemic withdrawal, for a celebratory reunion in September. Following a dessert presentation and conversation with members and their guests, the *Ukululus* were introduced to us, and we joined in with this musical group of women to sing the "oldies". It was a fun afternoon, enjoyed outside, on a beautiful fall day, with a little breeze floating through the sturdy maple trees on the Cottage Street side of the church.

At our October meeting we welcomed Pastor Holly as our special guest speaker. Holly recounted some of her earliest memories of how she was influenced by her parents and their Peace Corps endeavors in faraway countries; how she came to realize, during her faith pilgrimage, that her calling was to become a pastor. Holly's journey eventually led her to our historic church and opened doors to a challenging and new "settled pastor" era, a ministry that promises to be both innovative and meaningful, with Holly at the helm.

For many years Guild women have headed up the Church Fair Cookie Walk. With pandemic restrictions in place, we could not present a traditional walk, so we formed a partnership with the Country Store and presented "wrapped-in-threes" cookies at their table. We were gratified that this was a successful alternative.

In November Ann Jaronyk and Sue Clohecy visited us from the Georgetown Theatre Workshop that had its roots in our Church from the 1970's. They presented a scene from their current play, then chatted about the details of producing and presenting a performance, including all the "behind-the-scenes" trials of which the audience is unaware. Their stage stories were humorous and enlightening! Finally, our Holiday Dessert Party (featuring church Fair pies) at the beginning of December, ushered in the Advent season with a children's story read by Barb Morehouse, reminiscent of the days when our Christmas gatherings were held at Barb & Bob's Wheelerbrook Farm. Following the storytelling, we were entertained by talented Richard Aberman with his singing and strumming Christmas song favorites. Our own musical Guild member, Mary Ann Nelson, played piano and led us in a merry carol singalong.

The Guild has entered their 99th year of fellowship and service. We are a small, but active group of women, always welcoming of new members. Join us, as we reconvene this coming Spring, if you are available the third Tuesday of the month!

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Chatterton, Secretary

Report of the Book Club

2021 was a year of change for Book Club. During the year, we lost two of our dear members who had been in the group almost since its inception. We miss our dear friends Carol Sheehan and Karen Young. Both women were great readers, and they offered interesting perspectives on everything we have discussed. We will also miss their wonderful hospitality in hosting meetings over the years. Book Club donated to the Georgetown Peabody Library for the purchase of books in their memory.

During 2021, Book Club read seven novels (including historical fiction, mystery, Christian fiction, contemporary fiction and one Pulitzer Prize winning title) along with two biography/memoirs. We met primarily through Zoom, attempting one hybrid get-together in the summer. Members agreed that they enjoyed the Zoom meetings better, so all meetings are currently held via Zoom, allowing our members in other states to join us regularly. For the second year, we expanded our get-togethers to meet year-round, with no summer break.

Book Club is open to all who enjoy reading and fellowship.

Submitted by,

Nancy Aberman

Diaconate Report

"He will cover you with his wings; You will be safe in His care, His faithfulness will protect and defend you." Psalm 91:4

Hope, Heal and Rededication.... Three words that truly sum up the work of your Diaconate team this year. The responsibilities of this team are many and are done by these exceptional people: Antoinette, Emily, Pam and Rachel. You do so much, and do it quietly, tirelessly and without complaint. Thank you. The deacons did a tremendous job of preparing the way to have our newly settled pastor Holly feel 'at home'. Pastoral coverage, pulpit supply ministers, lay services, all were beautifully covered by this board. It has been my joy to be your chairperson this year and I can only say thank you, well done, good and faithful friends.

This year many goals were accomplished by the hands and love of our church members.

A big thank you to all who have participated in our services...via in person or via ZOOM. Our scripture readers, Christian service helpers, and everyone who lent a hand or an ear helping to keep our Church Family feel connected and not alone. You all stepped up to help each other, a warm phone call, a little note "how are you doing" and simply keeping everyone tucked in your hearts. Our music program is superb. To our organist Emily Knapp, our choir, our bell choir and our band director, Bob Knapp, your God-given talents amaze us and fill our ears and hearts with love. Music is such an important and beautiful part of our services.

Thank you to Jamie Krenn, our very talented flower coordinator. Her tireless work adds so much to the beauty to our services. She also tends to our church garden, which provides nature's beauty for the entire community to share. She and Steve Pinto helped with the wreaths and twinkling outside lights at Christmas to add to the magic our church represents to many citizens of our town.

Our Hospitality Team continued our Church tradition of delicious food, hot drinks, and our every popular coffee hour after church until we had to realize the 'numbers in our community were growing higher and higher' and we had to suspend this ever-popular part of worship. They hosted coffee hours outside during our Wednesday summer services for a while. Oh, how we do miss the sounds of laughter, good conversation and happiness echoing through the walls and our newly painted ceiling!! Sincere thank you to Ruth Soper for her ever present delicious goodies and Pam Sheehan for lending her talented helping hand. We are blessed with the response of so many to our clipboard 'call out' for baking, let's hope it can resume.

Kirsten Davis continues to provide Christian Service, thank you Kirsten for continuing with this important work.

To thank the Missions Team requires a large applause! Joan Chatterton, and the lovely Guild Ladies. Your dedication and love for others is unsurpassed. These projects bring all of us, young and old alike, working together to help those less fortunate than ourselves. You provide so much to so many. You are our outstanding special ladies! We cannot applaud you loud enough. Your 'passing the baton' on to the new Missions team was gracious and you were always helpful. This new Missions Team, headed by Rachel

Angerhofer will be another special team that will make us proud. They have already hit the ground running with their continuation of some of our mission work, as well as adding new ideas.

Our usher George Comiskey always shared his welcoming smile and gentle care to each of us every Sunday until his illness prevented him from his duties. We miss you and are looking forward to having you greeting us again soon. I would like to thank many who have stepped up in this role. Derek and Sarah Pesche are always ready to assist, even at the very last moment! The bell ringer, Mason, calls us all to church with great enthusiasm. In ZOOM services, it is always a delight to see Rio sharing the screen with George and Chris and we all wish Rio healing after his terrifying ordeal with the German Shepard. Speaking of Chris, our church historian, what a job she does with her "No Place Like Home" fundraiser. If you haven't had your home done, believe me, she is the best!!

Our Pastor Parish Relations Team is made up of Susan Stead and George Comiskey. Thank you for the love you show for every member of our Church family. Thank you to Peggy Smith for being our telephone communicator. Your job is so important to keep everyone 'in the loop.'

Our Stewardship Team: Toni Cassidy, George Comiskey and Sylvia Johnston. Thank you for coordinating this important part of our church. As stewards you are called to care and preserve this Church in order to continue its missions and spiritual message. Thank you for all you do. Also, a big thanks to the speakers in church who shared their stories of blessings they have received as members of this church.

JANUARY

Our annual meeting was held in accordance with our congregation's constitution and bylaws. New Teams were announced.

We welcomed our new pastor, Holly S. Brauner on January 24, 2021. We were excited and looked forward to getting to know Holly and having her become part of our church family.

January also continues our yummy tradition of "Super Bowl Subs". Big thank you to Rich Brock and his tireless team of providing us with great food for our pre-game activities.

Covid 19 and its variants continued to rear its ugly head. It changed lives, it disrupted economies, and our church family felt the anxiety, sadness and the incredible changes that we all live with. This new word in our vocabulary was ZOOM. We did not embrace this but realized it was the 'new norm' and Moderator, Rich Brock and Bob Knapp and others, spent endless hours organizing this new way of worship and fellowship. We cannot speak of Covid without realizing how strong and creative we can be and reminds us of our deepest faith and gives us extraordinary hope we will all be together.

FEBRUARY

Holly Brauner's Ordination on February 6, 2021. This was held in Swampscott, MA and many of us attended via zoom. February also was the Annual Sock collection Drive to benefit Ruth's House in Haverhill. Thanks to all for their service to struggling families. We also had fun via Zoom with Pam Sheehan holding a baking show. She shared her "Aunt Jan's Lemon Bread" ...how fun and how delish!!

MARCH and APRIL

Palm Sunday. Jamie Krenn ordered our palms and had them all set for our members to pick them up at the rear door. We remained socially distanced at all times. Our church family golden chain was broken with the loss of our own dear Karen Young. Always holding our church and our members in her heart, Karen and her sister Jo-Ellen were able to refresh and renew our beautiful altar cloths. A loss is never easy, but how grateful we all are to have had Karen in our lives and how she blessed us always.

Easter Sunday is a glorious day filled with hope and joy. Something new this year, we placed blessings and a Hershey's kiss in plastic eggs and left them down front by our sign for the community to be involved. Easter plants were given to the appropriate people.

MAY

Another break in our church family chain...Marion Harding. A gracious lady, always faithful to us. Your special Guild family, as well as all the rest of us, will miss you and your kind smile and soft voice.

JUNE

Our STRAWBERRY month. Our annual strawberry social under the very capable leadership of Emily Knapp and Janice Murphy was held on June 22!! YAY!!!! Mouthwatering desserts were enjoyed by so many. (Over 182 bowls of strawberry shortcake were served!!) The community coming back to celebrate with us made it so special.

Appreciation Sunday: June 13th We celebrated graduations ~ we were so proud to welcome Holly Harris and Elle Schneider, our graduates! Congratulations to these very special young women. Keeping with the Appreciation Theme, we recognized our Women's Guild, as they step back from the mission and outreach part of their guild. All of these special ladies have given so much over the years, well done!!

June also was the Blessings of the Animals. Many brought photos of their precious pets and we also shared the wagging tails and cold noses of many of our four-legged friends on the front lawn. Thanks to these pets who bring us countless hours of comfort and love.

JULY and AUGUST

Wednesday evening worship services began our summer season. The Diaconate was responsible for was two services in July and two services in August.

Thank you to Hospitality Team, Ruth Soper who provided us with delish hot dogs, lemonade, and iced tea each week. We also enjoyed a change and had delicious salads as well. We hope you all had fun and enjoyed sharing traditions and your 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 spend so much time researching, preparing and performing for us. Thank you.

July 28th, we joined together to celebrate the life of Shirley Southwick, another link in our church family golden chain was broken. Shirley, the widow of our long-time pastor,

Rev. Phil Southwick was very special to many of our church members. Her teaching, friendship and care were just some of the many gifts she gave to us, her Church family. You will be missed.

The mission team continued the school supplies drive. A big thank you to all who donated and participated.

We held visionary meetings and during these meetings we shared our experiences at church, what we value about church, and three wishes for the future of our church.

AUGUST

This month brought us together to our annual blueberry picking. Thank you to the organizers, the pickers, the sorters and later on to the bakers!!!

SEPTEMBER

September brought another broken link in our Church Family golden chain with the loss of Betty Rosene. Betty, together with her husband, Dr. Philip Rosene, were always present with their smiles and kindness. Sympathies to the family.

OCTOBER

World Wide Communion Sunday on the 3rd. Several of our members spoke on traditions from various countries. Enjoyed by all and we learned new facts, always a good thing. We shared breads from India, Guatemala, and Switzerland.

Our Church Fair returned!!! We were all so excited to watch this magnificent event unfold before our very eyes. Too many wonderful workers to name, but suffice it to say "Congratulations to all for a special time of being together with our community!!! Rich Brock and Deb Lamoureaux co-chair this event and never let us down with the results!! Thank you." We held successful luncheons, featuring lobster or chicken rolls, always a sellout!! Of course, our Turkey Dinners with all the fixings is one of the highlights...this dinner fills us up and warms our hearts while sitting with community members and catching up!!

The passing of Sheila Kelly, 98 years old brought another break in our church family golden chain. Sheila, I believe, was the oldest member of our congregation. We hold her family in our prayers. Can't you visualize Sheila and Carol Sheehan being reunited and sharing their wonderful laughs together!!

NOVEMBER

All Saints Sunday was held on the 7th immediately followed by a "Believe in the Future" luncheon being held by the Visioning Team. Helping us to chat together to envision our future together. Baptism was held in November 14th. Our church family welcomed Miss Charlotte Rose Caravoulas and Miss Sofia Rose DeCarvalho. Parents: Emily and Kevin DeCarvalho and Grandparents Nancy and Richard Aberman. How delightful to welcome these sweet children of God into our church family.

DECEMBER

Advent Readers, the Christmas Pageant with everyone in the sanctuary taking part! During the Christmas Eve Magical Candlelit Service, we were able to be in the sanctuary where we embraced the journey of Mary and Joseph and the hope and joy we feel when we visualize Baby Jesus, warm and cozy in the manger, surrounded by sweet lambs. So many feel emotional when joining in with singing the many carols, so lovingly played by Emily and Bob. Ending with the darkness of the sanctuary... then row by row we 'light' the candles until we are ablaze and filled with the amazement of this, the holiest of nights.

H.O.M.E. for Christmas is our annual Christmas gift-giving, thank you for all who gave so freely to make Christmas special for these children. Your generosity reaches far and wide!

The Diaconate delivered poinsettias and thank you to many of you who continued to donate in the memory of a loved one.

I do hesitate here because in 'naming names' I am always fearful of leaving someone out because each of you have made an impact on the life of our church.

Janice Murphy, your many, many talents. Organizing, keeping our sign out in front the church up to date, remembering the 'little things' and sharing your caring ways with so many.

Kim Knapp, thank you for keeping our building shining bright!

Jessica Ford, our every competent church office manager. Your hard work, your kind way of keeping our many teams on the right path and your ability to be so organized, we thank you! Especially with the gentle nudge when 'someone' almost forgets to send you the monthly newsletter!!!

Lastly, the "heart" of our Church...the Volunteer. I have never asked for help without receiving it, and receiving it with a smile and "anything else I can do?" as well. You are all so loving and generous with your individual talents and endless hours of time. Thank you.

Our community of God is precious. We have a church family that boosts us up when the world is overwhelming, when we feel hurt or lost...and on the flip side a church family who shares your joys and happiness so much it swells your heart!

"Nobody really knows how much anyone else is hurting. We could be standing next to someone who is completely broken and we'd never know. So, be kind always. With yourself and others." Unknown

Respectfully submitted,

Gladys M. Kneeland, Chair

Remember: *"God's love is so large it can cover the world, but so small it can curl up in the corner of your heart."*

Hospitality Team Report 2021

This has been a year different from others. It started by having coffee hour canceled due to COVID.

First summer service was held on June 30th with the Zilber Beatles entertaining with lovely music.

It was a sad year as we lost three lovely ladies - Karen Young, Marion Harding and Shirley Southwick. The after service was held outside. So glad to be able to do it. Right now, we are unable to gather for coffee hour but hopefully we can do it again soon. It is a great gift of fellowship and a pleasure to enjoy a goody made by one or more of our good cooks.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Soper Chairperson and Pam Sheehan Co-Chairperson

Report of the Outreach Team

January 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021

During the first half of 2021, our church doors were closed due to the pandemic, and as we all know, services came to us by Zoom. This was a challenge to the Outreach Team in serving some of our special local missions. With the help of the Property Team, we came up with the idea of encouraging parishioners to bring donations to the shed located on the back parking lot.

The first drive was in winter when we encouraged donations, for **Ruth's House in Haverhill**, of warm socks needed for cold and wet weather. A large wheelbarrow, located just inside the shed door, gathered men's, women's, and children's socks by the dozens! The final count: **352 pairs of socks** went to this mission. In the spring we asked for a diaper collection to be given to the **Community Giving Tree** that is a children's charity, located at the West Boxford Congregational Church. Our congregation was overwhelming generous, and we were able to deliver **222 dozen diapers** by the end of April.

We notified the Church Council of our recommendation that the mission portion, of our **Lenten Offering** (that garnered \$500) be given to the **North Shore Community Action Programs** in honor of, and in recognition of the decade Pastor Holly gave to this organization as leading their emergency shelter program. This mission provides housing and homelessness prevention, energy services, home care, education/training toward economic stabilization, for eighteen communities in Essex County.

At the beginning of 2021 we advised the Church Council that we wished to resign our team duties as of the end of June 2021 due to the fact we had aged out and several team members had passed away during the previous two years. It was time for a change. At a meaningful service, held on Sunday, June 13th, we were honored by

Pastor Holly and the Diaconate, giving us closure to the decade we had served. We were, and are, grateful to our loving and compassionate Church Family. You have always gone the extra mile with enthusiasm and support of advocated local and global missions. We are now blessed with a new Outreach Team, and in the coming months, a new vision, under the capable leadership of Rachel Angerhofer and her teammates. **Thank you ... to those who have served, and those who have taken up the challenge to carry on. Peace be with you.**

Respectfully submitted,

**2011-2021 Outreach Team, Joan Chatterton, Martha Lucius, Jean Perley
Team Members in Memoriam: Marion Harding, Ann Kelloway & Carol Sheehan
Honoring: Mary Ann Nelson who has relocated to Medway, MA**

July 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

This fall, with the support of Joan Chatterton and Reverend Holly, a team made up of Nancy Aberman, Alecia Balduf, Marie Birdsall, Joanne Kelley, and Ruth Soper and Rachel Angerhofer embarked on envisioning next steps for our Missions team.

The team has been discussing ways that we take cues from the Visioning Team and partner with Christian Development in future Missions activities. In the meantime, we collected paper goods and cleaning supplies for the Council on Aging. Our Advent offering was collected for Our Neighbor's Table to help curb the impact of food insecurity, which is even more prevalent during the pandemic. In December, the congregation filled the wishes of children in northern Maine through the H.O.M.E. project which is near and dear to the heart of our Church family. This year, Marie and Ruth delivered the gifts to H.O.M.E. and will be sharing their experience during an upcoming worship.

It is a time of curiosity and imagining the possibilities for the future and all are welcome to attend meetings that are scheduled on the second Wednesday evening of each month at 7pm. Hope to see you there!

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Angerhofer, Chair

Report of the Property Team

During the year the team was able to accomplish the following projects:

- Replacement of the kitchen sink - After years of discussion and planning, we were finally able to replace the residential kitchen sink with a 3-bay commercial version. The effort was mostly accomplished with donation; both financial and time. Thanks to all involved in this project.
- Painting of Fellowship Hall's ceiling - After more than a decade from the last painting, the ceiling was peeling badly. Tom Johnson scraped most of the ceiling while the church was mostly empty during the more active COVID period. A team was pulled together to apply the primer coat (oil based). In 2022 we will organize another "party" to apply the final latex coat.
- THOM Child Early Intervention has been using the first floor of the back section of the church. They are providing educational services to young children.
- During the year we had a few issues which required outside contractor attention:
 - Fire sprinkler system backflow prevention valve replacement - The contractor, in coordination with the water department, got this replacement completed.
 - Alarm system heat sensor loop failure - This will be repaired in 2022.
 - Powder-post beetle infestation in the bell tower - An insect expert inspected and proposed a treatment which we are contracting. We will do a structural inspection.
 - As usual the boiler needed some additional maintenance.

Activities under consideration for 2022 include:

- Removal of the gutters from the building - These are a constant maintenance headache and removal would eliminate that service need. At the present time we have a quotation which is much higher than we anticipated. We will continue to investigate.
- Updating locks on the building and office.

Finally, I would like to thank the two team members Michelle Brock and JoAnne Kelly. I would also like to thank Steve Pinto and Tom Johnson for their significant contributions of time and effort during the year. Also, thanks to the volunteers who helped out with the painting party.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Davis
Property Team, Chair

Stewardship Report

The Stewardship Team would like to give thanks to Church Collector Bob Knapp with his help throughout the year. A special thanks to our minister Holly for her advice and support! Our stewardship speaker this year included Tom Chaffee, who offered a heartfelt message on the importance of Church giving. Thank you, Tom!

We thank everyone for their contributions and welcome the future gifts that you offer of your time, talent and treasures towards the health of the First Congregational Church of Georgetown. We understand that pledging involves thoughtful prayer and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for this sacrifice!

Blessings From the Stewardship Team,
Toni Cassidy, Sylvia Johnston & George Comiskey

First Congregational Church of Georgetown 2022 Nominating Report

	Position	Name	Start Date	For Term Limits Start Date	End of Current Term	Nominated or Re-nominated	End of Nominated Term
C O U N C I L	Moderator	Rich Brock	1/2016	1/2017	1/2023		
	Clerk	Toni Cassidy	1/2016	1/2016	1/2022	*	1/2025
	Diaconate Chair	Gladie Kneeland	1/2021	1/2021	1/2023		
	Christian Dev. Chair	Open	1/2022	1/2022	1/2025		
	Property Chair	Chuck Davis	1/2021	1/2023	1/2023		
	Finance Chair	Bob Knapp	1/2021	1/2021	1/2024		
	Member-at-large	Susan Stead	1/2021	1/2021	1/2022	*	1/2023

Diaconate Team	Antoinette Jones	1/2021	1/2022	1/2022	*	1/2025
	Pam Sheehan	1/2020	1/2020	1/2022	*	1/2023
	Emily Knapp	1/2020	1/2020	1/2023		
	Sharon Lee	1/2022	1/2022		*	1/2025

CD Team	Nancy Aberman	1/2020	1/2020	1/2023		
	Rich Brock	1/2020	1/2021	1/2022	*	1/2024
	Rachel Edwards	1/2022	1/2022	1/2025	*	1/2025

Property Team	Joanne Kelly	1/2021	1/2022	1/2022	*	1/2025
	Michelle Brock	1/2020	1/2021	1/2023	*	1/2024

Finance Team	Kristen Arsenault	1/2021	1/2022	1/2022	*	1/2025
	George Comiskey	1/2020	1/2020	1/2023		