



(Including Budget for 1999)

*First Congregational Church
Georgetown, Massachusetts*

1998

Meetings

Minutes of the Annual Church Meeting February 1, 1998

The Annual Meeting of The First Congregation Church of Georgetown was called to order at 11:17 AM by Moderator, Donn Chatterton. Opening prayer was led by Rev. Philip Southwick.

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

A motion was made by Anna Tozier to accept the Annual Report for 1997. Donn asked for any questions or comments regarding the reports. Donn said that through the years we have been very fortunate to have the ability to report well our activities and how well we get this message across.

The motion was seconded and the vote carried.

Article II: To hear and act on the report of the Finance Committee...

Allan Barlow indicated that we are used to seeing a 20 page Financial Report with the Annual Church Report. This year with the initiation of a new treasurer and transferring information onto computer the financial records are not yet available to distribute. Allan asked that we look on page 6 of the Annual Report for the Consolidation Budget Statement. Allan made a motion that we accept the Consolidated Budget Statement and when the finance statement is ready, the Church Cabinet will vote on it. The motion was seconded and carried.

Article III: To see if the church will authorize the Treasurer with Finance Committee approval to transfer funds from the Capital Outlay Fund...

Frank Stewart made a motion that the Treasurer be authorized to transfer funds from the Capital Outlay Fund to the General Checking account from time to time during the year to maintain an equitable cash flow. The motion was seconded and vote carried. A question was asked if these funds are ever returned to the Capital Outlay Fund. Allan responded to this indicating that usually this does not happen.

Article IV: To hear and act on the report of the Nominating Committee...

Bob Watts made a motion that the clerk cast one ballot to elect the slate of officers and committee members for the coming year. Pat Barlow thanked those who have agreed to serve during the 1998 year. The motion was carried and the clerk cast one ballot for the officers and committee members duly nominated for 1998.

**Minutes of the Annual Church Meeting
February 1, 1998**

Article V: To hear and act on any other business and to take any other actions relative to the Church...

Donn asked if anyone had any items of business they would like to bring up in regard to the church and its property (parsonage etc). He said the floor was open for any questions or discussions.

Joan Chatterton told the members that the Board of Christian Education and Minister are in the process of looking for a Youth Minister. Joan asked for it to go on record that all of the adults working with the Youth Groups be thanked for a wonderful job in this interim.

Donn thanked Joan Chatterton and Isabel Gammon for their work in getting the Annual Reports together. Donn also thanked Phil for serving our church family so well. He indicated how fortunate we are to have Phil with us. The church family responded with a standing ovation. Phil told us all how he loves to be here and serve our church.

No additional business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily J. Knapp, Clerk

Pastor

Minister's Reflections on 1998

In last year's chapter of our annual reports I mentioned that our seminary student, Denise Downs, was about to return to us from February through May to hone her skills at leading worship, while seeking a position. Denise is working as a chaplain in Beverly Hospital, and is being ordained Sunday January 24th at the Hamilton Congregational Church. Congratulations!

During 1998 we continued advertising for a Youth Director, with a target date of September, 1998. There were a few inquiries, but we did not meet the right person for the job. During that interval our Youth Leaders carried on with outstanding results.

In early November, Kimberly Potts, an active lay person from the Amesbury Congregational Church, called and asked if the position was still open. She met with me, the Youth Leaders, and the Board of Christian Education. We agreed that she was the person we wanted. As of January 10, Kim began her work with us, attending our Three Kings' Day spectacular, and later meeting with our middle and senior high youth groups. Plans call for Kim to meet with the youth groups twice a month, and to participate in worship with us the second Sunday of each month. Welcome aboard, Kim!

In last year's addition of this report I mentioned plans for a new Pictorial Directory, with photographs being taken March 11 through 14th. The Directories were in our hands the end of June, and are still available for those who would like one from the office.

In October, the Diaconate, acting on your behalf, presented me with printed orders to get a new pulpit robe, an order I willingly complied with, and thank all of you for it. Surprises are fun; so naturally we had to do a bit of hamming it up when the new robe arrived before Christmas.

Even as I write, and as you read these reports, a Renovation Committee is being created. The Committee will be charged to discover and prioritize improvements needed throughout the church property. We'll be hearing from them and talking with them in the years ahead. While thinking about renovation, I want to express our appreciation to Frank and Marge Stewart – both active participants in the entire life of the Church - who have moved from our town and Church Family. Frank was a tower of leadership on the last Renovation and Capital Stewardship Committees. We wish them well in their new home.

Diane Townsend and Steve LeBlanc complete several years of leadership of the Board of Christian Education and the Diaconate, respectively. Thank you for making the Church one of the top priorities in your busy lives.

We believe in making space available to groups such as the Senior Center, TOPS, AA, and several scout groups. We believe it is part of our ministry to the wider community. However, we must appeal to one and all to pick up after meetings, put things away, or take them home. Let's leave our facilities even neater than we found them, and turn the lights off when we leave, as we do in our own homes.

Faithfully yours,

Phil Southwick

Clerk

REPORT OF THE CHURCH CLERK

Amazing... it is time to compose another year end report for the church. We now have new pew Bibles and racks to hold them, we have a minister with a sharp new robe to wear, we have a Church School bursting at the seams and many new faces in the sanctuary every Sunday morning. The traditions that our Church Family has carried on through the years remain a constant cornerstone of love and fellowship for all to share. Listed below is a thumbnail sketch of the activities during 1998...

JANUARY **Three Kings Sunday**

FEBRUARY **Sunday School Valentine Candy Sale for Missions**
Ash Wednesday Service with Groveland Congregational

MARCH **World Day of Prayer hosted by our Church women**
Junior Choir Festival in Danvers
Rainbow Girls Sunday
Pictures taken for Pictorial Directory

APRIL **Palm Sunday Reception of New Members**
Youth Group Pasta Supper
Union Maundy Thursday Service of Tenebrae at Groveland
Congregational Church
Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast
Easter Morning Worship

MAY **"The Unsinkable" Broadway Belles**
Guild For the Blind Luncheon
Guild Anniversary Tea
Memorial Day Remembrances

JUNE **Graduation Sunday**
A "very rainy" Children's Day and Cook-out
Strawberry Social

JULY/AUGUST **Union Services with W. Boxford Congregational Church**

SEPTEMBER **Northeast Area Clergy Meeting**
Rally Day

OCTOBER

"A Very Victorian Fair"

Diaconate Presentation to Phil Southwick on his 65th Birthday

NOVEMBER

Northeast Area Secretaries' Meeting/Luncheon

Piano Celebration Recital

33rd Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service

DECEMBER

Christmas Concert

Annual Gifts for HOME

Christmas Sunday Family Service

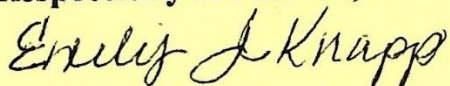
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

In the words of a hymn we sing:

**A Church is not a building with colored windows glazed,
Where people gather weekly to sing: "Oh God Be Praised."
A church is not of marble with towers to the sky;
But fellowship and striving, the church is YOU AND I.**

As we look ahead during 1999 and the start of the 2000's, let our heritage and traditions guide us as we form a new Renovation Committee, hopes to redecorate our sanctuary and continue a spirited ministry, new music, old favorites, new friends, old faithful friends and many new chances to work together as a family of God.

Respectfully submitted,



Emily J. Knapp, Clerk

Report of Membership

Members as of 12/31/97 ***252***

New Members ***5***

Membership Removal

Death ***2***

Total Membership as of 12/31/98 ***255***

IN MEMORIAM
Wilhelmina Hartman
Marjorie Pitkin

Statistics from the Ministers Records

Baptisms 7
Weddings 4
Funerals 16

Respectfully submitted,

Emily J. Knapp, Clerk

Diaconate

REPORT OF THE DIACONATE

1998 was a busy year for the Diaconate, filled with annual events in the life of our church, as well as a few brand new ones. First, the entire Diaconate would like to take this opportunity to extend special thanks to Alberta Rogers, Duane Pride, and Jim Callahan.

Alberta continued to serve our Church Family as Flower and Card Coordinator. She performed this service again last year as an honorary Diaconate member. All of us on the Diaconate can not thank her enough for her continued dedication and service.

Duane contributed his time and craftsmanship in the fabrication of the new choir loft curtain holders, and the extension holders for the pew racks. His skill and many hour of labor enabled us to put our memorial pew Bibles in the church without the need to add additional plastic racks.

Jim provided an number of “magical” and inspiring messages to our young people (and the rest of us who are young at heart). His ability to express important messages through the use of magic is truly a gift, and one we are glad that he shares with us.

Please join the Diaconate in expressing a special thank you to these individuals the next time you see them. Their willingness to help, like many others in our Church Family, is one of the things that make our church special.

The Easter season included a **joint Maundy Thursday service at the Groveland Congregational Church.** This special service included a joint pot luck supper. This season also included the induction of five new members into our Church Family, as well as the traditional Easter sunrise service. **Summer services were, as in years past, shared with the Second Congregational Church of Boxford.**

Rally Day in September is a special event in our church, and this year was no different. It starts the busy fall/early winter season that included *World Communion Sunday* in October, which featured breads of the world. This season also included a very special presentation of a new robe to our Minister from the entire Church Family for his 65th birthday.

The light spreading throughout the church at the well-attended Christmas Eve Candles and Carols service, followed by the viewing of the *creche* and the sharing of fellowship of the holiday season, is always a high point for the end of the year. 1998 also included seven baptisms, as well as sharing fellowship and concern by providing meals to Emmaus House, and support to members of the Church Family in need.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to my fellow Diaconate members, and to our Minister, Phil Southwick. The good nature, cooperation, and support of all of these individuals have made in a pleasure and privilege to serve on this committee.

Steve LeBlanc, Chairman

Christian Education

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Members of the Board for the year included the following: Beth Castle; Jeff Garvin, Vice-Chairman; Jane Kennedy; Marci Risch; Pam Sheehan, Secretary; and Diane Townsend, Chairperson.

Church School Staffing...

As in past years staffing our Church School continues to be a major concern and a year round endeavor for the Board. Recruitment usually starts in February for the following Church School year. This year the Board mounted a campaign in April and May, "Everything you Always Wanted to Know About Church School Teaching But Were Afraid To Ask." Flyers and messages were placed in the morning bulletins, information was mailed out in Newsletters and recruitment tables were manned at Coffee Hours. Teachers and Aides were available to discuss the curriculum and to answer any and all questions about Church School. Even though our campaign was successful, and we are most thankful to all who responded to the call, we still need more volunteers to be teachers, aides, caregivers and substitutes. While we all have busy schedules, we ask that you also consider your Church on your list of priorities. We can't do it without you. Please help our Church School *thrive*—not just survive—by being part of the team!

Youth Groups...

Our Youth Groups have enjoyed another fine year under the guidance of their seemingly ageless and exuberant leaders—Marion Freiberg and Bob Watts (Middle School) and Sue Stead and Jim Urbanski (High School). We thank them for remaining kids at heart and being proactive with regard to our Mission Statement for Youth Ministry. Many thanks for your continued involvement with our youth..

The search continued for a Youth Director to support our Youth Leaders. We are pleased to announce that Kimberly Potts has accepted this position, and her duties will start in January 1999. Kim, a wife, mother of three boys, and resident of Amesbury (to name a few descriptives), has a background of working with church youth, is taking classes toward her undergraduate degree, and looks forward to attending seminary in the future. We are delighted that she will be working with us and look forward to a dynamic working relationship.

Monthly Highlights...

In place of our normal February meeting, the Board attended a meeting at the Topsfield Congregational Church sponsored by the UCC to review various curricula and to discuss goals and expectations for Christian education. People from other area churches also attended.

February 8 was our Annual Valentine Candy and Craft Sale for the Church School. Our theme was "Fishing for Valentines" and \$281.25 was raised to purchase fish through Heifer Fund International. To all helpers, bakers, crafters, makers and takers—a big thank you for getting into the "swim" of things!

On March 8 the Board sponsored a "Frames of Grace" workshop led by Rev. Donald Bliss, UCC Christian Education Consultant. The workshop was on multiple intelligences, the many ways in which we learn. Rev. Bliss was informative and entertaining, and 25 participants enjoyed the successful evening.

On April 12, the Senior High Youth Group delivered the Easter Sunrise Service message under the direction of Sue Stead, Jim Urbanski and Phil Southwick followed by breakfast back at Church. Thanks to all for an inspiring service and to Pam Sheehan, Emily Knapp and helpers for an excellent breakfast.

Graduate Sunday was the first Sunday of June, and the Church family recognized Matt Fielding and Jared Young upon their graduation from high school. They are two fine young men and we wish them continued success.

The second Sunday of June was Children's Sunday and a Family Picnic. Our approach this year was nontraditional. We decided to entertain the children rather than having the children perform for the congregation. We had music by the Junior Choir, music by our band, presentation of Bibles, recognition of Church School teachers, aides and caregivers, and a dramatic portrayal of the daughter of Jarius by Denise Downs. To add to our celebration the children received balloons and plants. A special thank you to Mr. Alfred Hurd, a friend of the church and next door neighbor, for growing and donating the lovely petunias. (Al remembers Children's Days here when he was a child—and he always received a plant!) The picnic was fun (even though it rained) and all enjoyed the delectable ending to another Church year. Our thanks to all who helped make this an enjoyable event.

An additional meeting of the Board was held in July for the purpose of trying to fill teaching and aide positions for Church School. Telephone calling continued throughout the summer and we were still trying to recruit volunteers up through the end of the year.

Rally Day was the second Sunday in September. We ushered in the beginning of our Church School year with a message delivered by Phil and with magic with a message presented by Jim Callaghan. Spirit and enthusiasm filled the air. We had a wonderful time! Our thanks to both Phil and Jim for sharing their talents with us.

On October 25 there was a book sale at Coffee Hour presented by representatives of DK Family Learning Books. The total amount of purchases was approximately \$800, and the Church School was able to acquire eight free books and approximately \$64.00 as its percentage of the sale.

In November the Church School and Church family gathered food for our annual Thanksgiving food offering which was donated to Emmaus House, Haverhill, MA. Our thanks to all for your thoughtfulness.

And Another Year Ends...

My thanks to all who have supported the Board of Christian Education in its endeavors this year. As always, special thanks to Phil Southwick for his guidance and leadership; to Joan Chatterton for her continued support and assistance; to Dorothy Holly-Blanchard for her interaction with the Board and for her dedication as Church School Superintendent; and to my fellow Board members for their time, talents, ideas and energy. Thanks to all!

Respectfully submitted,

Diane R. Townsend

Diane R. Townsend



CHURCH SCHOOL STAFF 1998-'99

NURSERY - INFANTS AND TODDLERS

Coordinator: Jaime Krenn

Week 1:	Karen Young	11 Monroe Street	2697
	Jaime Krenn	114 Thurlow Street	7932
Week 2:	Dona McGovern	136 Main St., W. Newbury	363-5520
	Karen Chiklakis	14 Lisa Lane	2338
Week 3:	Sylvia George	72 Thurlow Street	6181
	Tracy Southwick	9 Larch Road	6391
Week 4:	Joe Rawlins	482 Main St., Groveland	373-0619
	Ruth Ann Cudmore	122 E. Main Street	6933
Week 5:	Marci Risch	42 W. Main Street	2251
	Nancy Callahan	2 Madison Avenue	6648

BEGINNERS (THREE YEAR OLD CLASS)

Janet Pantano	3 Lakeridge Drive	7928
Assitant: Amanda Pantano	3 Lakeridge Drive	7928
Pamela Meader	55 West Main Street	4725
Assistant: Molly Freiberg	136 Tenney Street	8425

PRE K (FOUR YEAR OLD CLASS)

Tom & Jill Hamelin	91 Central Street	6299
Karla & Ed Szkutak	6 Rainbow Ridge Way	8839

KINDERGARTEN (FIVE YEAR OLD CLASS)

Ann Berardi	45 Lake Shore Drive	2672
Assistant: Janice Hardenber	6 Spofford Street	4005
Christine & Jim Ingraham	169 Nelson Street	7832

FIRST GRADE

Carrie Callahan	14 Lakeshore Drive	7688
Donna DiMaio	14 Tenney Street	6191

SECOND GRADE

Jamie & Tim Ruh	8 Stone Row Lane	6811
George & Liz Merrill	17 Lakeridge Drive	5265

THIRD GRADE

Shirley Southwick	5 Hart Circle (Box 200)	8305
Assistant: Dianne McWade	29 Bradford Loop	5412
Nina & Jeffrey Garvin	77 West Main Street	7418

FOURTH GRADE

Paula Martel	7 Ordway Street	2984
James Risch	42 West Main St.	2251
Pamela Sheehan	13 Prospect St.	6329

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CHURCH SCHOOL STAFF CONTINUED

FIFTH GRADE

James Callahan	2 Madison Avenue	6648
Assistant: Laurie Patten	12 Wells Road	7337
Claudia Smith	85 North Street	2096
Assistant: Steve Pinto	114 Thurlow Street	2321

SIXTH GRADE

Marion Harding	80 Thurlow Street	8785
Pamela Sheehan	13 Prospect Street	6329

SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADES CLASS

Jim Smith	85 North Street	2096
Ingrid Rollins	171 Pond Street	6746

SUPERINTENDENT

Dorothy Holly-Blanchard	2 Tenney St. (Box 370)	8577
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CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Diane Townsend	482 Main St., Groveland	373-0619
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Superintendent

REPORT OF CHURCH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

STAFF AND STAFF MEETINGS

The Board of Christian Education worked hard to fill the 43 positions of our rotating staff. We have 10 caregivers, 27 teachers and 6 assistant teachers. We are most grateful to these dedicated persons who work to make our nursery children have a good experience at church and who share their faith, bring the Bible stories and their present day applications to our Beginners through Grade 8 students. These people make our Church School possible. Please see the accompanying list for their specific names.

The early date for Labor Day and the resulting early start to the '98-'99 school year meant that our Church School also was scheduled to open early. Therefore, teacher orientation meetings began in the middle of August. I met with all new teaching staff and then met with combined groups of new and experienced teachers on a departmental basis. There were four teachers' meetings before Church School opened. **The basic pattern for meetings this year has been the first Sunday of the month at 11:45 a.m. This fall an alternate time was established for the following Thursday at 7:30 p.m. for those unable to attend the Sunday meeting.**

One problem, that surfaced with ordering the curriculum in July, was paying for it in a timely manner because of the diminished summer offering receipts.

Jaime Krenn, the Nursery Coordinator, chaired the fall meeting of the Nursery Caregivers. In a way, these persons – along with our teachers – are unsung heroes. They are the ones who take care of our youth during worship services and often forgo the special events that take place during our worship service.

Pamela Sheehan is to be commended because she is doing double duty as a 6th Grade and a 4th Grade Teacher. She teaches most every month.

In October Marion Harding and I attended the statewide *Colossal 5* in Worcester. This is a program designed for Christian Educators, sponsored by the Massachusetts branches of the United Church of Christ and the American Baptists. We attended workshops dealing with recruiting teachers, *"Implementing Godly Play"* (an unique teaching technique for young children) and *"The Bible Alive"*, a new approach to Scripture reading.

The UCC Northeast Area Christian Educators meet on the second Tuesday of the month, which is the same time the Board of Christian Education meets. This makes attendance difficult for us. However, the whole **Board of Christian Education, of which four are teachers, Marion Harding and I attended an area meeting concerning curriculum.** We learned that major curriculum revision is underway with several of the principle

denominations participating in its development. This will probably be ready for review in the year 2000. Just recently, Marion Harding, Diane McWade and I attended another of their meetings. The topic was the ADD and the ADHD child in the Church School setting. Dick Bateman, a teacher at Spofford Pond School in Boxford, was the speaker. He gave good background information as well as some techniques and resources.

CURRICULUM

We continue to use the Bible-In-Life curriculum, published by David C. Cook Company. This year the students have studied about Noah, Abraham, Joseph and Moses. Currently they are studying events in the life of Christ. All of these have a practical application component related to today's everyday living.

STUDENTS

The total Church School enrollment is 135. We have enrolled children from eight new families. **The numbers for our elementary and middle school classes are growing.** **This presents a challenge to provide rooms that are large enough and that provide a good setting for learning.** The Fifth Grade Class is meeting in the Third floor Chapel for the third year in a row. The coat room off the Narthex has been reclaimed as a classroom for Grade 1. The Sixth Grade class is squeezed into the second floor Conference Room. The Seventh and Eighth Grade meet in the minister's office which is cozy but doesn't provide space for creative activities such as making posters, banners or doing drama.

Four students have been recognized for memorizing. Kelsey Lessard, Jay Martel and Robert Risch have memorized the Lord's Prayer. Michael Ruh memorized the Ten Commandments.

CHANGES

Probably the most notable change has been the completely different Children's Day. A special worship service, geared to the children and with a teacher recognition component, was substituted for the usual Church School presentation. This was especially pleasing to the teachers and lifted a huge burden from their shoulders. Bibles were presented to all Second Grade students and to older students who were new to our Church School and who didn't have Bibles. Once again we were grateful to Mr. Hurd, who donated the flowers given to each child, and to the Board of Christian Education who blew up the balloons, as well as placing them for decoration and distribution. They also engineered the picnic.

Another change which we, as a Christian Community need to recognize, and either change or adjust to, is - **the increasing amount of Sunday mornings that are used for various sports programs.** The Directors of the Massachusetts Council of churches has released a statement titled "*Time to Reclaim the Sabbath*". The article

published in our MAUCC Newsletter gave background and some recommendations. We are fortunate in Georgetown that local starting times for sports activities are usually delayed until 1:00 p.m. However, regional events are often scheduled on Sunday A.M. Probably nothing will change until civic leaders and parents protest with both words and actions.

Another situation that takes students out of our Church School is separated families. Children often spend alternate weekends with each parent. One alternative is Church School Home Schooling. Our Church School is willing to provide student materials to our Church Family members who are willing to give time to do Church School Home Schooling. Materials may be procured through the student's Church School Teacher or the Church School Superintendent.

DK BOOK FAIR

On October 25, Carol and Bruce Carter of Boxford displayed and took orders for the high quality DK children's (mostly) books and videos. Diane Townsend and I oversaw the program. Laurie Patten helped take orders totally \$856.63. The Church School received eight books. Six were chosen for the Nursery and Beginners. A children's Bible and a Jewish Children's Bible were chosen for the use of the older students and the teachers.

SUPPLIES, EQUIPMENT AND GIFTS

The new (to me) office and home computers donated by Stone and Webster, with much help from Joe Rawlins, have brought new challenges to me. These have Windows '95 and Word '97. Joan Chatterton and I took a 15-hour course at Northern Essex Community College to get better acquainted with the many things the computers will do. I am grateful to both Stone and Webster and to the many "experts" in our congregation who come to my rescue at crucial times. What is it about teaching old dogs new tricks?

We were able to purchase nine CD/Cassette players with Diaconate approved Memorial Funds. We now are able to use the CD Diskettes supplied as part of our curriculum.

Another purchase this year was a large set of flannelgraph figures and backgrounds. The difficulty we encountered was that over 300 figures had to be cut out and filed in an organized way. Isabel Gammon took on the responsibility of getting the figures cut out. She was helped by Pat Barlow, Muriel Gordon, Marion Harding, Susan Lorenz, Jean Perley and Helen Snow. The filing is still in process. Carrie Callahan, Marion Harding and Shirley Southwick worked with me and provided a good start. January 28, '99 at 7:30 is set as a time for volunteers to help us complete the job.

Our Church School Advent wreath was refurbished this year thanks to Florence Hamelin. She and Bud also brought us a lovely wooden nativity chandelier candelabra, donated to us by their neighbors. We expect to make good use of it next Advent and Christmas Season. The Fehlmann family donated children's books and puzzles.

Some housekeeping units and a play house have found their way to the nursery courtesy of anonymous donor or donors.

We are most grateful to the various boards, groups and individuals who have helped to support our program.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we look ahead we are all going to need to work together to accommodate our growing Church School as we try to provide the best learning environment possible. Immediately this will mean more use of the Fellowship Hall during worship service time.

We will also need to provide more closed storage space for our supplies. Our Church School rooms are used by many groups as well as by children of our various church volunteers as the volunteers do their work around the church.

I would like to see more parents take on Church School Home Schooling when their children are absent from Sunday Church School.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report cannot end without my acknowledging and thanking –

1. My husband, Charles, who counts the offering each week and is willing to sit in church alone while I do the Superintendent's work.
2. Charlie Locke and Donn Chatterton who make sure there are seats for our Junior Choir and students on the second Sunday of each month and other special occasions.
3. Phil Southwick and Joan Chatterton who are a continual source of consultation and suggestions. Joan cheerfully gives secretarial help when needed.
4. Melissa White who sets up the Fellowship Hall for our Worship services and who quietly dismantles it in time for the Coffee Hour to begin.
5. The Board of Christian Education who gives continual and excellent support to our Church School program.

Dorothy Holly-Blanchard

Youth Groups

REPORTS OF OUR YOUTH GROUPS

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

1998 was a year of incredible growth for the Senior High Youth Group. With average attendance hovering around 25, moving the group has certainly been a challenge, but what a nice problem! Keeping up with this lively bunch of teenagers is definitely keeping us young!

We had a lot of fun in 1998, between meetings, roller blading, lock-ins, pool parties, movie nights, Church Pasta Supper, Easter Sunrise Service, silent auction, and our year-end whitewater rafting trip, it was a very busy year!

We are all looking forward to 1999, and with Kim Potts as our new Youth Director, our group will only grow stronger as we approach the new millennium!

As always we are blessed to be able to work with the youth of this church and our community. We want our Church Family to know how much we appreciate everyone's support and encouragement.

Blessings,

Susan Stead and Jim Urbanski

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REPORT OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

1998 was another busy and challenging year for the Middle School Youth Group. One of this year's major challenges was planning and running an effective program for youth without a Youth Minister.

With an eye to the principles laid out in the Church's Mission Statement to youth, we set out to start the school year with opportunities for the kids to get to know each other and the adults who provide leadership. Then, we looked for mission projects to involve the young people in the community. Finally, we shared larger events where we reflected on our personal growth and fellowship.

Among the features of the Middle School Youth Group program were:

Events ...

- Regular meetings
- Bowling
- Mount Major hike
- Haunted Maudsley walk
- Rollerskating and “move night”
- Grotonwood Retreat
- Baking together

Mission/Community Involvement...

- Walk for Hunger
- Caroling at the Hogan Center
- Cooking and serving dinner for Emmaus House
- Packing and delivering the Church’s food collection for Emmaus House
- Senior citizen yard clean-up

Fund-Raising...

- Car Wash
- Cookie walks

“Some lead and some follow” certainly proved to be true as we hiked up Mount Major. We won’t mention who followed, but it wasn’t the young people. Youth group can be a humbling, yet aerobic, experience! We also learned that the youth group members include quite a few good cooks; that you can have even more fun on rainy weekends than on sunny ones; that you can swim in puddles almost as well as in a lake. This year was full of surprising lessons in openness and love for everyone.

At the beginning of the year, one of our goals was to enlarge participation. We now have 38 sixth, seventh, and eighth graders on the youth group roster. Attendance can range from six to 25 young people – quite a challenge for the leaders! Three to five parents typically participate in the events. Some parents drive; some cook; some come just to take part and have fun as the opportunity presents itself. At the end of this year, we had a welcome and valuable addition – Kim Potts, our new Youth Director.

We are very optimistic about this coming year. We aim to strengthen our collaboration with the Board of Christian Education and integrate Kim into the program. We have a full calendar of events planned for the spring. It promises to be as rewarding, once again, for the leaders as it should be for the youth members!

Submitted by Bob Watts and Marion Freiberg

Trustees

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees serves to maintain, enhance and administer the physical property of the Church and Parsonage. In addition to the spirituality and fellowship that our Church brings to the congregation and to the wider community, the Church's physical assets also play a vital role in local activities, and are more fully utilized than might otherwise be imagined. As in past year, the Church facility continues to be heavily used for a variety of church and community activities.

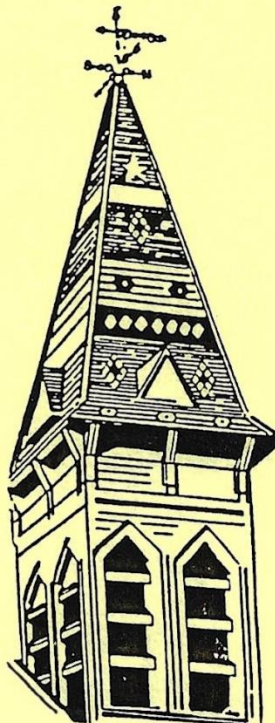
In review, 1998 was a typical maintenance year with the usual host of minor facility repairs and maintenance. The Trustees welcome comments, suggestions, and assistance from everyone in keeping the Church facility functioning properly.

The Board of Trustees especially thanks Tom Hamelin for his dedicated service during his recently completed term. We also thank Tom's son, Travis, for the work he is doing in preparation for his Eagle Scout badge. Travis and his Scout friends have re-stained the shed and done spackling and touch-up painting in the new addition rooms which has relieved the Trustees from these necessary jobs.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Fehlmann and George Desrochers

Cochairmen, Board of Trustees



Guild

WOMEN'S GUILD REPORT

At two winter meetings in February and March, Guild attendance averaged fourteen. These meetings are traditionally designated for material aids work. Under the guidance of Millie Gangloff, twenty-five ABC quilts for AIDS/HIV babies were sewn and more than \$200 worth of pennies rolled for the Church World Service Blanket Program (the value of forty warm blankets). Satira Stetson was honored with a special cake at the March meeting, celebrating her 100th birthday. We received, and regretfully accepted, the resignation of Betty Jo Fawley as our Cabinet Representative. Marion Harding was elected to fill that position.

Friday, April 24, 1998 was a memorable day! It was the day of our Elegant Tea, celebrating 75 years of friendship and serving the First Congregational Church of Georgetown. The program began with a visit by Abigail Adams, portrayed by Polly Morse. This was followed with the serving of a most elegant tea featuring sandwiches, scones, assorted pastries and sweets. At the conclusion of the afternoon's festivities, we presented a mini fashion show – "what we wore to church" over the seventy-five year period. Teens and the younger women of the church modeled vintage clothing and they were charming. It was a delightful afternoon! Guests from visiting churches commented on how much they enjoyed the program.

Our one fund-raising event was held in May. It actually is also a mission event at which time the Guild serves a luncheon to the St. Clare Guild for the Blind. In return we earn a small amount of money which funds our material aids supplies. We were fortunate in having the talents of Charlie Locke's group to provide luncheon music for the enjoyment of our blind guests.

The Annual Banquet was held at Dimitries in Bradford. They served us a delicious luncheon and our guest speaker, Jackie Moore, gave an informative and timely report of the work of the Haverhill Girls' Club, her employer.

The fall meetings began with an October 22 Covered Dish Luncheon at the church. Guest Speaker was Laura Schivonni from Ruth's House in Haverhill. Ruth's House operates a large Thrift Shop: clothing, furniture and many household items to help low income families.

The November meeting was a work party to make 135 candy favors for the Country Manor Nursing Home patients (Newburyport) to enjoy at Christmas. We ended the year, in December, on a musical note with entertainment by a ten-year old talented piano student, a carol-sing, and a meditation by Phil Southwick. It was one of those "warm fuzzies" meetings which got us all in the Christmas spirit.

The Guild is a group of friends who love their Church. We extend our friendship to others in the church who would like to join us for seven meetings a year.

Joan Chatterton, Secretary

Missions

REPORT OF THE MISSIONS COORDINATOR

Our church members contribute to many outreach programs throughout the year. The following is a summary of how we have helped others around us, both in this community and through the United Church of Christ.

Each year 20% of the church school offerings are used to support missions projects. This past year the sum of \$325.19 was designated for the Heifer Project. The Valentine's candy/crafts sale run by the church school raised an additional \$281.25 for the FISH project of the Heifer Project International. The funds will be used to purchase "fish pools" to help needy people become self-sufficient.

Some of our church families volunteer to prepare meals for Emmaus House each month, often serving the meals to the residents. Items from our food pantry are delivered to this shelter as we collect them. Emmaus House also received our special Thanksgiving food offering, which was delivered by our Middle School Youth Group, providing many bags of food, paper goods, and other grocery items for their cupboards.

Each year we collect Christmas gifts for the children at H.O.M.E. in Orland, Maine. The presents are distributed at their Christmas party, and every child attending received at least one gift to brighten their holiday. Donations totaling \$200.00 raised from the One Great House of Sharing offering also went to H.O.M.E. last winter in response to an emergency appeal for help with the severe winter ice storm damage they suffered. Lucy Poulin from H.O.M.E. wrote to extend their sincere gratitude to our congregation.

The Guild counted their pennies last spring, ending up with a total of \$201.50 to send to Church World Service. The money will be used to buy 40 warm wool blankets to be sent into emergency situations all over the world. Because of the great need in Central America, they sent their accumulated pennies again this fall. During the year the members prepared and served luncheon to the St. Clare Blind Guild, made 24 quilts for babies suffering with AIDS in the Boston area, and provided favors for local nursing homes.

Each year two special offerings are taken for the United Church of Christ outreach programs. The "Neighbors in Need" offering in October is dedicated to helping people here in the United States, with projects such as Young People of Color in the 21st Century, Addressing the Crises of Urban America: Poverty, Education, and Health, and Native American Congregations of the United Church of Christ. We collected \$569.55 for this cause. The "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering brought in \$213.000 and is designated to support missions throughout the

world. Our church's total contribution to the United Church Wider Missions was \$5,836.50. Each year our church also donates \$400.00 to help support the Andover Newton Theological School, and we give \$250.00 to the Essex Association for their scholarship fund.

Our church's Diaconate Fund is used to assist local Georgetown families whenever the need arises. The money in this fund comes from endowments as well as from occasional donations.

As is our practice, 20% of our Lenten offering is designated to a mission project. This year the Cabinet chose to send the money, totaling \$373.31, to the Essex Association Project Salem Mission at the Crombie Street Church in Salem. Our Advent offering collected \$1642.25 this year which will be divided equally between the fund for renovating the Sanctuary and for disaster relief in Honduras.

"Recycling for Missions" continues to thrive. We recycle beverage can pull-tabs, used postage stamps (air mail, commemorative, and denominations above 29 cents) are recycled by the Heifer Fund, and used eyeglasses are recycled by Habitat for Humanity, with the proceeds going to the construction of homes for the needy. Donations can be dropped off in the box at the foot of the stairs inside the back Clark Street door of the church.

We encourage our church families to make their personal contributions to the missions we support through the church treasury. Checks can be made payable to the church with a memo notation indicating the specific mission. The church records will then reflect the magnitude of how we, as a church family, can make a difference when we pool our resources.

Thank you to everyone for your support of these missions, all of which have been truly needed and greatly appreciated by many people.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Smith

Music

REPORT OF THE MUSIC COMMITTEE

The Music Committee had a very easy job this year ... to enjoy our music program and appreciate our very talented musicians!

The Junior Choir participated in the area *Junior Choir Music Festival* in Danvers last March, and as always, sounded great. Many thanks to Evelyn Boose, Marion Harding and Donna DeSisto, for their work with the choir. Susan Lorenz will be assisting Evelyn and Marion in presenting the Junior Choir again this year at the Festival which will be held at our own church! Please be sure to attend!

Thanks also go to Linda Flynn for her wonderful work with the children in the Junior Choir. She taught the Junior Choir all their songs and dances for *Broadway Belles* held in May. We appreciate her time and effort greatly!

In November, we held the "annual" *Piano Celebration* at our church. We were privileged to listen to Satira Stetson, now in her 100th year! We thank Evelyn Boose for organizing this special concert that also lets us hear some of the other talented musicians in our church! The year closed, as usual, with our *Christmas in the Air* concert. Thank you to Bob Knapp, Emily Knapp and Evelyn Boose for their participation with our choirs, band, and Bell Choir. We particularly enjoyed the combined choirs and band in Bob's rendition of "*We Wish You a Merry Christmas*"!

We look forward to another musical year!

The Music Committee

Kirsten Davis Donna DeSisto Susan Lorenz Jackie Moore



FAIR CHAIRS' REPORT

Thank you for a terrific Fair! Together we successfully raised \$10,349.91. We were thrilled to have our new members join in for all the fun (oh – and the work, also), and we so appreciate those who *faithfully* help each year.

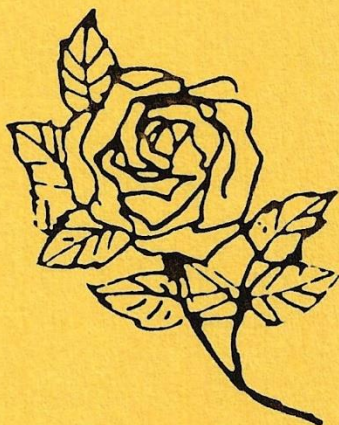
All of your talents and work culminated into a beautiful event. You were flexible and patient as we made many changes to our set-up.

As Co-Chairs we were blessed to be able to work with such a dedicated group. The Fair is a huge job, but with this congregation the end result was an enriching experience for us both.

Thank you for all your help.

Claudia Smith and Pam Sheehan

A Very Victorian Affair



Flowers

REPORT OF THE FLOWER COMMITTEE

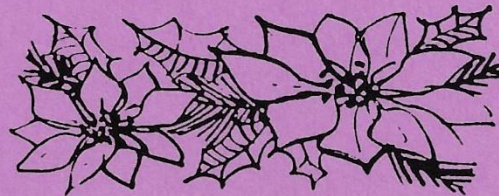
A beautiful flowering house plant or bright bouquet of early spring flowers gives the congregation a lift on a gray winter's day. The Flower Committee thanks those individuals who have shared their plants and flowers with us during these months. Always acceptable are silk arrangements – many times so realistic, they pass recognition of their true material! We were fortunate this past year to have had some beautiful wedding bouquets left for Sunday services. Thanks to those of you who were so thoughtful. Please keep us in mind if you have plants/flowers to share (perhaps you have an anniversary or special occasion bouquet at home?) and call the Church Office.

Thanks to the Flowerladies who have each taken their turn to provide flowers for Sunday mornings. They are: Ruth Jones, Donna DeSisto, Anna Tozier, Lillian Kelloway, Barbara Morehouse, Marge Watson, and of course Members of our Diaconate who make possible the Easter and Christmas memorial plant arrangements. Following the holiday services, they are taken to those members whom we greatly miss due to illness or caregiving, or because they are confined to nursing homes. We appreciate the donations for these plants which bring joy and beauty to the church sanctuary and to the homes which later receive them.

Sincerely,

Joan Chatterton, Coordinator

P.S. We still need a Flowerlady for the month of May! Anyone wish to volunteer?



Social

REPORT OF THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE COORDINATOR

I would like to thank the many hosts and hostesses we've had for Coffee Hours this year. Many thanks to the Aberman, Chatterton, Pinto, Fielding, Young, and Murphy families for their willingness to serve coffee so many times. I would also like to thank all the new people who have volunteered this year. We still need volunteers to serve coffee and it only requires one Sunday a year. This is a very easy job and most families can prepare and serve easily with their kids helping, too.

I look forward to hearing from you in the coming year.

Kirsten Davis, Coordinator

Collector

1 9 9 8 P L E D G I N G S T A T U S

PLEDGES FOR NORMAL OPERATIONS:

Fully Paid	61
Nearly Paid	20
Half Paid	10
Little Paid	3
Nothing Paid	0
Moved	0
Deceased	1
	<hr/>
TOTAL Pledges	95

Sincerely,

Joellen Fielding, Collector

1998 Consolidated Budget Statement

auditors.

Nominating

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee nominates the following Church Officers () and Committee/board members (*) to be elected at the January 31, 1999 Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Georgetown.*

Moderator	Donn Chatterton*	Treasurer	Stan Watson*
Clerk	Emily Knapp*	Collector	JoEllen Fielding*
Asst. Treasurer	Muriel Gordon*	Asst. Collector	Ruth Jones*
Auditors	Dwight Southwick* & Carla Szkutak*		

Coordinators For:

Ushering	Donn Chatterton* & Charles Locke*
Missions	Peggy Smith*
Social	Kirsten Davis*
Flowers	Joan Chatterton*
Association Delegates	Joe Rawlins*

(* To be elected for a one-year term)

FINANCE COMMITTEE	Jill Hamelin (2001)	Jim Smith (2000)
	Allan Barlow (2002*)	

(* Three year term; no restrictions on length of service)

DIACONATE	Jim Callahan (2000)	Jeff Garvin (2001*)
	Jamie Ruh (2000)	Bob Knapp (2001*)
	Claudia Smith (2000)	Trisha Pride (2001*)
	Nat Tidd (2000)	David Smith (2001*)
	Bob Watts (2000)	Debbie Urbanski (2001*)

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

(2000)	Carrie Callahan (2001*)
Marci Risch (2000)	Jane Kennedy (2001*)
Pam Sheehan (2000)	Pam Meader (2001*)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chuck Davis (2000)	Mark Fehlmann (2001*)
George Desrochers (2000)	Don Martel (2001*)
Bob Kennedy (2000)	Dick Oatway (2001*)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Marion Harding (2000)	Janice Murphy (2001*)
Craig Southwick (2000)	Bob Watts (2001*)

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Susan Lorenz (2000)	Donna DeSisto (2001*)
Jackie Moore (2000)	Paula Martel (2001*)

(* To be elected for a two-year term)

Respectfully submitted, Janice Murphy, Chair
Marion Harding Craig Southwick Bob Watts