



ANNUAL REPORT

2023

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

OF GEORGETOWN, INC.

7 ANDOVER STREET

GEORGETOWN, MA 01833

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January 18, 2023

2022 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 29, 2023 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 “2022 Financial Report and Proposed 2023 Budget”, and the “Nomination Report” or take any other related action;

Article II: To receive the 2022 Financial report, to hear the Finance Team’s proposed 2023 budget, and to approve a budget for 2023 or take any other related action;

Article III: To receive and hear the report of the Vision Team, and approve the proposed Vision Statement, or to take any other related action;

Article IV: To hear the recommendation of the Church Council to modify Section 4.3 and Section 5 of Church By-Laws, approve the proposed by-law changes, or to take any other related action;

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

Article VI: 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

**The First Congregational Church of Georgetown, Inc.
7 Andover Street, Box 200, Georgetown, MA 01833
2022 ANNUAL MEETING - ZOOM
January 29, 2023**

Rich Brock, Moderator opened the meeting welcoming all.

Meeting called to order at 11:54 a.m. the meeting was held via ZOOM, online attendance was taken, 32 in attendance.

Holly Brauner, Pastor led the congregation in prayer.

Carol Lutes introduced the Behavioral Covenant to the Congregation.

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 “2022 Financial Report and Proposed 2023 Budget”, and the “Nomination Report” or take any other related action;

Bob Knapp – Mr. Moderator

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 2022 Financial Report, the Proposed 2023 Budget, and the 2023 Nomination Report.

Gladie Kneeland Seconds 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 2022 Financial Report, the Proposed 2023 Budget and the 2023 Nomination Report.

Moderator – Is there any other discussion?

Toni Cassidy – I would like to amend the Clerks report, due to my oversight I would like to add Hannah Desrochers to the list of lost loved ones. Adjusting the total deaths from three to four, adjusting the member total from 170 to 169.

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 2022 Financial Report, the Proposed 2023 Budget, and the 2023 Nomination report.

All in favor? Opposed?

Motion carries.

Article II: To receive the 2022 Financial report, to hear the Finance Team’s proposed 2023 budget, and to approve a budget for 2023 or take any other related action;

Kristen Arsenault - Mr. Moderator

I move that the congregation accept the 2022 Financial report and approve the proposed 2023 budget as presented in the section titled "Report of the Finance team" included in the 2022 annual reports

Susan Stead seconds the motion

Moderator – It is moved and seconded that the congregation accept the 2022 Financial report and approve the proposed 2023 budget as presented in the section titled "Report of the Finance team" included in the 2022 annual reports.

Moderator – Is there any other discussion?

Bob Knapp spoke to the congregation making us aware of the financial situation of our congregation, we are in “the red” \$10,000 more than we like to be.

The question is on the adoption of the motion that the congregation accept the 2022 Financial report and approve the proposed 2023 budget as presented in the section titled "Report of the Finance team" included in the 2022 annual reports.

All in favor? Apposed?

Motion carries.

Article III: To receive and hear the report of the Vision Team, and approve the proposed Vision Statement, or to take any other related action;

Marie Birdsall - Mr. Moderator

I move that the congregation accept the 2022 Vision Team's report and approve the proposed Vision Statement as presented in the section titled "Report of the Vision Team" included in the 2022 annual reports

Kristen Arsenault seconds the motion.

Moderator – It is moved and seconded that the congregation accept the 2022 Vision Team report and approve the proposed Vision Statement as presented in the section titled "Report of the Vision Team" included in the 2022 annual reports

Moderator – Is there any other discussion

Richard Aberman – our last hymn, words of comfort words of vision relate to the Vision Teams 18 months of meetings intermittently as well as the participation of the congregation to create this Vision Statement for our church.

The question is on the adoption of the motion that the congregation accept the 2022 Vision Team report and approve the proposed Vision Statement as presented in the section titled "Report of the Finance team" included in the 2022 annual reports

All in favor? Opposed?

Motion carries.

Article IV: To hear the recommendation of the Church Council to modify Section 4.3 and Section 5 of Church By-Laws, approve the proposed by-law changes, or to take any other related action;

Bob Knapp - Mr. Moderator

I move that the congregation approve the proposed changes to Section 4.3 and Section 5 of the Church By-Laws as presented in the document “Proposed By-law Changes”

Gladie Kneelan seconds the motion.

Moderator – It is moved and seconded that the congregation accept the proposed changes to Section 4.3 and Section 5 of the Church By-Laws as presented in the document “Proposed By-law Changes”

Does everyone have a copy?

Moderator – Is there any other discussion?

Joan Chatterton questioned the guidance of retiring membership. Bob replied that the move is to inactive, they retain their membership and can be reinstated.

Bob Knapp - Changes allow us to “retire” members who no longer contribute to or attend the church, moving them to inactive status, without having to seek their permission. Non-members can do everything except vote, all will continue to receive newsletters and emails. This gives the church an accurate count of members, currently a quorum is 26, 15% of 169 members.

The question is on the adoption of the motion that the congregation approve the proposed change to Section 4.3 and Section 5 of the Church By-Laws as presented in the document “Proposed By-law Changes”

All in favor? Apposed? Motion carries unanimously.

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

Rachael – Mr. Moderator

I move that the congregation receive the the 2023 Nomination Report and call persons to fill Council and Team vacancies.

Susan Stead seconds the motion.

Moderator – It is moved and seconded that the congregation receive and hear the 2023 Nomination Report and call persons to fill Council and Team vacancies.

Moderator – Is there any other discussion

Rich Brock – My role of Moderator is ending and Michelle Brock is stepping in. Holly reached out to Michelle, she came to her decision on her own with no influence from me to avoid any conflict of interest. Chuck Davis is stepping down as chair of Properties, thank you Chuck. Steve Pinto will become chair of Properties. Nancy Aberman is stepping down as chair of Christian Development, thank you Nancy. Marie Birdsall will become chair of Christian Development. Gladie Kneeland is stepping down as chair of Diaconate, thank you Gladie. still looking to fill this position

Moderator – The question is on the adoption of the motion that the congregation receive and hear the 2022 Nomination Report and call persons to fill Council and Team vacancies.

All in favor? Apposed?

Motion carries.

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

Bob Knapp – Thanking Rich for his role of Moderator over the years, very much appreciated.

Motion to adjourn 12:37 pm

Susan Stead seconds.

Michelle Brock, Moderator adjourns meeting.

Respectfully submitted by,

Toni Cassidy, Clerk

2023 ANNUAL MEETING WARRANT

In accordance with Our Congregation's Constitution and By-laws, the members and friends of The First Congregational Church of Georgetown, Inc. are advised that the Annual Meeting will be held in the Church edifice immediately following the service of worship on Sunday, January 28, 2024 to act on the following articles:

Article I: To receive the reports of the individual Council Members and their teams and any others requested by the Council with the exception of the "2023 Financial Report and Proposed 2024 Budget", and the "Nomination Report" or take any other related action;

Article II: To receive the 2023 Financial report, to hear the Finance Team's proposed 2023 budget, and to approve a budget for 2024 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

PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023

As I complete my third year with you, I look back on this year loving each and every one of you more and more. I have a deeper appreciation for you and your history here at FCC, and of your love for this faith community.

After the completion and the blessing of the Vision Statement at last year's annual meeting, we have been exploring various ways of living more fully into relationships with each other and the greater community. We have been finding ways to be God's hands and feet; nudging our way forward towards God's call for us in faith.

I have watched as the Vision Statement and Behavioral covenant have invited and challenged this congregation to look more closely at the church's mission. In new lifegiving ways we have become more open to new conversations, and projects, carefully seeking God's call. As long as we trust in God's love, we may continue in this direction.

Here are some highlights of this past year:

In mid-March, I attended the UCC Women's conference in Manchester, NH. Thank you to the Diaconate and church leadership who stepped up while I was away. I came back with some new ideas that could lend themselves to creative expression and innovation here at FCC.

During Lent we studied, *Freeing Jesus*, a book by Diana Butler Bass, which gave us fresh notions of who Jesus is and can be for each of us. We finished up the week before Palm Sunday, giving us a sense that 4-5 week book study with discussion could well be a good model for this faith community.

The Lenten season culminated with a lovely Sunrise service at Camp Leslie, complete with roaring fire and brilliant sunrise. Bob Knapp and Alecia Balduf helped lead worship with their music talents. Thanks to the breakfast crew that warmed us all up after worship, leading us to the main worship service later in the

morning. We had a lovely Easter morning celebration that ended on the front lawn as the children of various ages gathered Easter eggs.

A faithful set of curious disciples continues to join Bible study each week. We will meet currently via ZOOM, anyone is welcome and invited to join me at church Tuesday mornings and we can study together hybrid, both on ZOOM and in person. This past year, we worked our way through the books of 1 & 2 Samuel and 1 & 2 Kings, digging into cultural norms of that time, possible personality quirks of the characters and how we might have fit into those times and most importantly, where was God in all of that and what might we learn from these stories. Inevitably, we arrive at parallel lessons for our world, almost weekly.

Our summer worship series included time for gentle meditative yoga led by Christine Litch, as well as Qigong led by Alison Sloan. And on other weeks we had various activities such as painting stones that would grace our altar each Sunday, trivia/game night, poetry night by the firepit (thanks to the Brock's portable firepit).

Mazie, the ministerial mascot, was introduced to the congregation over the summer. Mazie joins me at church during the week most days now, welcoming everyone, and inviting them to rub her tummy for as long as they can stand it.

My efforts in outreach have been enhanced with Mazie by my side. The youth at the afterschool program at Georgetown Youth Community Center love her, as do the folks at the public library when we visit periodically. A furry, friendly companion is such a good tool towards reaching into deeper conversation with new people.

In November I preached at the Northeast Association's women's fellowship service which met at First Church in Rowley. Twenty five women from area churches gathered to renew their commitment to the work of their faith community and the wider church.

Our Ecumenical Thanksgiving service was held this year at Groveland Congregational Church on November 21st. Seven local congregations, Catholic, Episcopalian, Latter Day Saints (Mormons) and UCC were in attendance with Rev. Donna Spencer Collins leading us in worship.

Christmas started early this year with the Clemenzi Concerts on December 9th. What a gift to this church! Filling the sanctuary twice for two concerts on the same day as family and friends of musicians came to hear 80 or so of Eric Clemenzi's students perform hard rock. What a ruckus celebration as the rafters trembled slightly with the beat of the drums and bass guitarist strumming in unison. There were many comments about our great venue for such a gathering and the wide-open welcome that we communicate to the town. Let's do this again next year!

I am grateful for the faithful leadership here at FCC:

For those who serve on the Church council, attending to details great and small, for their years of service and dedication to this faith community. For Michelle Brock's quiet leadership this past year, guiding the council and church in faith.

For the Diaconate, consistent oversight of the congregation, pastoral care and attention to the most vulnerable among us. For the flowers at Easter and Christmas, the cards and flowers throughout the year. For finding subs when I'm not going to be around to lead worship and for the care of the worship time and space, including but not limited to celebrating the Lord's Supper each month.

For the Property team, even as Steve Pinto moved away to be closer to his family up in Maine, JoAnne and Tom continue to stay dedicated to the health of this church building so that serves the community.

For the Christian Development team that meets monthly figuring out programs and events that lend to our spiritual development and relationship with the Divine. Movie nights give us a chance to gather for a more light-hearted look at

our society through film. Adult Education programs are becoming a more regular offering here at FCC thanks to their efforts.

For the Finance team that faithfully gathers each month diving into the nitty gritty of our fiscal health. Anticipating how the church body might change in the coming years and how best to financially prepare. A church budget should be a theological statement of any faith community, here at FCC we strive to shine a light on God's love in the priorities of our budget. You are invited to look closely at our budget, to make your own determination as to how you see God's love in our efforts.

The work of church teams allows me to focus on pastoral concerns, joys and worship experiences here at FCC. Without each of these teams, I would be busy with the day-to-day details of keeping lights on, repairs made, floors and toilets washed, bills paid, and the countless other details of ensuring the life of this ministry. So, I thoroughly appreciate all of your efforts. Go Teams!

The Stewardship team, a sub team under the Diaconate of this church, approved a plan to have Stewardship time in January 2024, instead of November as had been the case for many years. Stewardship is a chance for church folks to turn and see what God has done in their lives and give pledge to give back a portion of God' abundance.

With that in mind, Epiphany, in the church calendar is the time of light and clarity of God's gifts, and it falls in January. Theologically, this is a most appropriate time of year to pause and recognize God's gifts to each of us and how we, like the Magi so long ago, might look up and follow the light leading us to God's holy love, bow down and pay homage to God.

Over the year, I had the privilege of attending to families who have lost loved ones. I consider it a privilege to walk with folks in this most tender time of transition in life. While not all the memorial and funeral services were of members of this church, I presided over the services for Paul Nelson and Lillian Sanford here in our sanctuary.

Babies are a sign that God wants the world to continue turning. So we baptize and bless babies whenever we get the chance. On Christmas Eve we celebrated the new life of Emi Stead, the newest granddaughter of Susan and Garry Stead, giving her a special blessing as a beloved child of God.

Every year we meet as a faith community at the end of January, for our Annual Meeting. This is always during the time of Epiphany; when we remember our call to discipleship, how Jesus went out to call his first 12 disciples to come and live in abundance of God's love always, putting aside cares of this world and its distractions.

This is our invitation to turn and see God's faithful gift to us, the gift of life, love and abundance. And to remain faithful as God is faithful.

God is love, always. And God is good, whatever may come.

In faith, Rev. Holly S Brauner

MODERATOR'S REPORT 2023

The Council is a very important part of our Church Life. When I accepted the nomination as Moderator I didn't really know what to expect. I knew there were duties and tasks associated with it but I didn't really expect the responsibility that went along with it. And by that, I mean that the Council is responsible for the Church. To see that things run smoothly and questions get answered and problems if they arise get solved. It's the big picture.

After being part of this group for a year, we did all those things and more. The more is how the church is changing in today's world. Not in the theological sense but the practical one. Church attendance is down. It doesn't matter if it is a Christian church or some other religion. It is a sign of the times. Not any one thing that any of us has done, but so many of the other things in our world that have changed the way we think about Church. But that is a discussion for another day. My point is that our Congregation is small but mighty. We believe in each other. We know that we aren't perfect and that we all have our own individual strengths and weaknesses, our likes, and the things we don't want to do. However, now is the time to consider what we love about First Congregational Church of Georgetown and to do the things that we can do as individuals to make sure that it succeeds. For some of us it is being the "thinkers" and others of us, it is being the "doers". And sometimes we jump in and out of these roles depending on how the rest of our life is getting busy or slowing down. If we all start helping out without being asked, offering periodically to help when we see a need, we will be the Church in a new way. A way that energizes our space, our thinking and our outreach.

That is why I am stepping down as the Moderator, from being a thinker, because I have other things that are speeding up in my life.. And, you will still see me around. "Doing what needs to be doin" because I have offered to be a "doer" for the Diaconate. That is where I think I will find my spirit.

With all my blessings,
Michelle Brock

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GEORGETOWN

2023 CLERK REPORT

During 2023 Council and Teams continued to meet in person and with the ZOOM option still available as well. Church services were held in the sanctuary and also through ZOOM, another great job by the ZOOM Team that continues to bring the services to our home audience.

The Mission's Team continues to support the surrounding community and held a very successful fund raiser collaborating with other congregations nearby for a Pop the Trunk food drive to benefit the Lazarus House held in November on the church grounds, people were encouraged to bring food donations. Another successful H.O.M.E. of Maine Christmas drive was also sponsored by Missions. Missions continues to reach out to the community – job well done. More in their report.

Knitting group continued with Ruth Soper.

The Woman's Guild celebrated their 100-year milestone, begun in 1923.

The Strawberry Social was held in June, the weather cooperated, the Church Band played and brought some great entertainment to the group that gathered. Many people were happy to fellowship and enjoy the beautiful evening. Summer Services returned on Wednesday evenings. August 30th Wednesday service was a Bon-Voyage gathering for our church family member Antoinette Jones as she relocates to Georgia to live with family.

Our Annual Fall Fair was held in October; again, the Boy and Girl Scouts were very helpful with set up and take down for the fair. The Turkey Dinner on Saturday evening was delicious and a great conclusion of a successful fair. Thank you to all the volunteers that make this a fun and successful fundraiser.

The Tuesday before Thanksgiving, Groveland Congregation Church hosted a Thanksgiving ecumenical service.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GEORGETOWN, INC.
2023 ANNUAL REPORT

During the morning service of December 24th Emi Stead was blessed by her family and the congregation, Christmas Eve service was held at 5:00 pm, two beautiful services on one day.

We continue to reach out to the community to support financial and spiritual needs.

Baptism: Oz Antares Williams

Blessing: Emi Stead

Our church family lost beloved former members:

Joseph W. Knapp

Evelyn M. Hills

Paul E. Nelson

Lillian R. Grissino Sanford

Member Report Beginning 1/1/2022:	Total: 169
Moved to Inactive:	-88
Total as of 12/31/2022	81

Thank you to all the Teams, Holly and Congregants for the continued support, leadership, friendship and love that fills our church and our hearts.

Respectfully submitted by,

Toni Cassidy, Clerk

CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT (CD) TEAM

ANNUAL REPORT – 2023

Throughout 2023, the Christian Development team worked to provide opportunities for the continuing spiritual development of FCC Georgetown's congregation.

We began the year making our fabulous subs for Super Bowl Sunday, followed by co-hosting a Mardi Gras pancake supper with the Diaconate team in February.

Movie Nights: In early 2023, the CD team began showing movies periodically on Saturday nights. These movies included *I Can Only Imagine*, an inspiring true story of a musician coming to terms with his abusive father; *Chocolat*, the story of a chocolatier's impact on a small town rooted in tradition; and, in celebration of Gay Pride Month, *Milk*, the life of Harvey Milk, the first openly gay man elected to public office in California. Popcorn and pizza were served (and there was even a chocolate fountain for *Chocolat!*).

Lenten Season and Easter:

- Our Lenten Study book was *Freeing Jesus* – the book was well-received, and spawned interesting discussions.
- Maundy Thursday: We collaborated with the Diaconate on the Maundy Thursday service.
- Easter Sunday: On April 19th, we held our annual Easter egg hunt – kids had a great time running around the Church lawn in search of Easter eggs.

Earth Day: We celebrated Earth Day with a delicious potluck dinner and a thought-provoking presentation by George Comiskey on local conservation efforts.

Blessing of the Animals: Remembering the importance of the furry friends in our lives, we celebrated our annual Blessing of the Animals on the Church lawn on June 11th. It was a beautiful day, and several dogs barked their gratitude. Congregants donated money, as well as food, toys, and pet gear, all of which were taken to ASPCA-Nevins Farm after the service.

Graduation Sunday: On June 18th, we celebrated Haileigh Harris' accomplishments.

The Wired Word: *The Wired Word* is a group developing adult Bible study lessons based on current news events, and relating these events to passages in the Bible. The CD team started subscribing to *The Wired Word* in 2023. Rich Brock piloted the program in May at the Church Men's Group, and received excellent feedback. He piloted it again in July with the congregation, and then held sessions in November and December. Topics discussed have included "Traveling a Trillion Miles in Life While Standing Still," and "Civilians Caught in the Crosshairs of Conflict Between Hamas Militants and Israeli Military." These forums posed provocative questions, and stimulating discussions followed.

Star Island Grant: The Star Island Grant was established several years ago to provide FCC Georgetown youth with scholarship money so they could attend Christian camp in the summer. The grant money has not been used in recent years, and the CD team is currently looking into how we could use these funds to best support local youth trying to attend summer camp.

Classrooms: While we currently have no children in Sunday School, classrooms have been prepared with materials and A/V equipment, and are ready for when they are needed.

Finally, we said goodbye to our friend and fellow CD team member, Rachel Edwards. She is sorely missed!

The CD Team (Richard Brock, Marie Birdsall-Chaffee)

DIACONATE REPORT 2023

Our small but mighty Diaconate (Toni Cassidy, Sharon Lee and myself) have had a busy year. Despite being a 3-person Diaconate we have continued with supporting Rev. Holly, setting up and assisting with communion, planning Easter and Christmas flowers-along with distribution of flowers to our over 80 's members, etc.,

We assisted with Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner, planned for Holly's vacations and any unexpected coverage needed, birthday flowers and cards and all other duties.

This year, we say goodbye to Sharon Lee and myself as of January.

We wish to thank the congregation for all that you do behind the scenes and on Sundays to make it all work so well especially:

Thank you to George and Chris Comsikey for all that they due especially greeting everyone and ushering almost all Sundays. This is much appreciated

To all who assisted in the collations for Paul Nelson and Lillian Grissino Sanford.

Thank you to Gladie Kneeland and Rich Brock for their meaningful and beautiful sermons. They always are willing to help out with this coverage, we are very thankful.

Thank you to all who assisted in any way with any of the summer services

We are so thankful for the ministry of Rev. Holly

The amazing music in our church from Bob & Emily, soloists, band and bell choir.

Many thanks to the hospitality Team of Sylvia Johnston and myself. we do food so well in this church. Thanks to all who have assisted in coffee hour by baking serving or helping with clean up.

We said goodbye to Jamie Krenn and Steve Pinto-all of their work and roles they have filled in the church are numerous and they will be very missed. We wish them the best in this new chapter of their lives.

We celebrated the baptism of baby Oz Williams and the blessing of Emi Stead. Always beautiful services.

All of our usual goings-on such as our annual brunch, Strawberry Social and concert, Church Fair, Blessing of the animals and all of our other special services and ministries.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Sheehan

Missions Report 2023

Small but mighty...that's how I describe the Missions Team. But then again, the Missions Team is really a reflection of the larger congregation. Also, small but mighty!

Here are some highlights from 2023...

Ruth Soper spearheaded the Knitting Mission, offering an opportunity for fellowship, learning a new craft, and creating prayer shawls as well as hats and mittens for our friends in Orland, ME.

Nancy Aberman took on the task of adding pictures to the Missions Board in the Long Room reflecting the many people and activities involved in the good works of our Church.

The Lenten Offering of 2023 was designated to the United Church of Christ's efforts to provide relief to Turkey and Syria following the devastating earthquake.

In April after Easter, the Missions Team hosted a coffee hour and gave a Missions Moment during morning services, encouraging congregants to provide feedback regarding missions that invigorate them as well as inquiring about the work of the Missions Team generally.

In October 2023, Paster Holly and I attended the Gala Fundraiser for Ruth's House in Haverhill. In addition to supporting the amazing work of Ruth's House, we made connections with folks from the Epilepsy Foundation, which led to our collection behind the Church. We also made a connection with a member of the Merrimack Valley Chapter of Fostering Hope, an organization of Christian churches committed to supporting children and families impacted by foster care.

In November, FCC Georgetown, in conjunction with other local churches participated in the "Pop Your Trunk" Food Drive for Lazarus House in Lawrence. This was a joyful and successful event that brought donors from our church as well as the community at large.

December was especially abuzz with FCC Georgetown successfully hosting the double header concerts of Eric Clemenzi Music. Attendants brought tons of children's pajamas as a donation for Ruth's House. Most touching was when a high school-aged musician addressed the audience, thanking FCC Georgetown for being a safe space for queer youth who often feel judged and unwelcome in religious spaces. We should feel so proud to have lived into being Open and Affirming and identified by the community as a SAFE community!

Our congregation enthusiastically supported our long-standing relationship with project H.O.M.E. in Orland, ME providing gifts for children in need. Much thanks to Marie Birdsall-Chaffee and Ruth Soper for delivering the gifts to Maine on behalf our church.

A percentage of our Advent offering was collected to support the needs of children in foster care being served by the Department of Children and Families' Amesbury office that covers Georgetown and surrounding towns.

Pastor Holly has been learning about the process of becoming a WISE Church, which would certify FCC Georgetown as a congregation prepared to support and welcome those with mental health challenges and neurodivergent learning needs. We look forward to more information in the new year.

In addition to the aforementioned activities, FCC Georgetown has continued to regularly support local organizations such as Ruth's House, Community Giving Tree, and Our Neighbors Table.

We are looking forward to another amazing year of good work and building relationships with our local and wider community! FCC Georgetown rocks!

Annual Report Stewardship Team - 2023

The Georgetown FCC Stewardship Team would like to thank all those involved in this year's stewardship. As you may know, stewardship is a year-round effort and a call to a way of life. Your patience has been much appreciated in 2023 as we transformed to an Epiphany promotion in "The Way" to greater giving. May the Magi be with you!

Many thanks to speakers Rich Brock and Richard Aberman for their important messages to the Church congregants! Also, great appreciation to the multi-talented Collector, Bob Knapp, for his role in stewardship.

Through stewardship, we can act, making an intentional, planned, and proportionate gift to God and His Church.

Blessings from Toni Cassidy, Sylvia Johnston, George Comiskey

Report of the 2023 Church Fair Chairs

The annual Church Fall Fair was held on October 20 and 21, 2023 and was an amazing opportunity to let our light shine in the community. We had a steady flow of people both days spending time in Granny's Attic, perusing clothing at the Chic Boutique, purchasing baked goods, pies, soups and other goodies at the Food Table, spending time looking at many fun Country Store items, and enjoying the wide variety of vendors who shared their special talents with us. Let us not forget all the delicious meals, snacks, apple frapples, lobster rolls, breakfast sandwiches and turkey dinners that were served during the fair. The energy that each one of our church members and volunteers brought forth is certainly to be commended.

Although the fair is a two day event, it takes many hands, many hours and many months of preparation. We cannot thank all our team members, table and meal chairs, helpers who worked behind the scenes to bring forth a very successful time of fun, friendship and fellowship. Special thanks to the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and high school volunteers who helped with set up, take down, serving at meals and who brought many smiles to our faces.

Gratefully, Rich Brock and Emily Knapp

2023 Fall Fair Co-Chairs

PS – Total profit \$13,515.46

2023 Property Team Report

The property team would like to express sincere gratitude to Jaime Krenn and Steve Pinto for their tremendous contribution to maintaining the church facilities for many years. Jaime for caring for the church landscaping and Steve for all things facility related. They are already greatly missed.

The property team continues to provide regular lawn maintenance (mowing, trimming and raking), and snow removal on sidewalks, steps and by doors to the church. Snowplow contract for driveway and parking areas was renewed for 2024.

Purchased shear pins and prepped snow blower (gear case oil).
Replenished sand barrels for sidewalks from the town shed.

Recycling is collected regularly and taken to town recycle.
Following the church fair, several trips were made to the dump and to Savers to dispose and remove leftover items.

In 2023 we had a tree removed and stump ground from the Cottage Street side of the property. Also, in the Fall a limb fell on the car of a member so we were prompted to have the tree company come and trim the trees in that area.

The septic system was pumped as of last January.

The Webster classroom on the second floor was cleaned out as it

had been a storage room. Walls were cleaned, repaired and painted. The room was set up for Christian Ed. events.

The ceiling in Fellowship Hall was finished. This took several months of scraping, repairing, priming and painting.

The lights in the 2nd floor music room were replaced. Lightbulbs were changed in the sanctuary ceiling. Handrails were installed in the Narthex.

Siding and doors were washed on the Clark St side of the building. Ceiling tiles that were damaged were replaced 6/25.

Cleaned and waxed floors in Fellowship Hall

Organized shed to make room for drop off items for the fair and for missions.

Reviewed and renewed facility use contracts with Scouts, GTW, and EI.

Stocker (furnace maintenance) was called 3 times for various repairs.

Boiler valves are checked regularly for proper operation.

Stocker delivered 418.4 gallons of fuel on 12/16/23.

Respectfully submitted by Jo Anne Kelly and Tom Johnson,
property team

2023 Nominating Report

	Position	Name	Start Date	For Term Limits Start Date	End of Current Term	Nominated or Re-nominated	End of Nominated Term
C	Moderator		1/2024	1/2024	1/2026		
O	Clerk	Toni Cassidy	1/2022	1/2016	1/2025		
U	Diaconate Chair		1/2024	1/2024	1/2027		
N	Christian Dev. Chair	Marie Birdsall-Chaffee	1/2023	1/2025	1/2025		
C	Property Chair		1/2024	1/2024	1/2026		
I	Finance Chair	Bob Knapp	1/2024	1/2021	1/2027	*	1/2027
L	Member-at-large	Susan Stead	1/2024	1/2021	1/2025	*	1/2025

	Rachel Angerhofer	1/2024	1/2024	1/2026	*	1/2026
Diaconate	Toni Cassidy	1/2023	1/2023	1/2026		
Team	Bob Knapp	1/2024	1/2024	1/2025	*	1/2025
		1/2024	1/2024	1/2025		1/2025

CD		1/2024	1/2024	1/2027		
Team	Rich Brock	1/2023	1/2020	1/2026		

Property	Joanne Kelly	1/2022	1/2022	1/2025		
Team	Tom Johnson	1/2024	1/2024	1/2027	*	1/2027

Finance	Kristen Arsenault	1/2022	1/2022	1/2025		
Team	George Comiskey	1/2023	1/2020	1/2026		