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**May 1, 2005 to April 30, 2006 \* ANNUAL METING: May 1, 2006**

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### **Church Officers (2005-2006)**

Moderator: Robert Lytle

Clerk: Cynthia Scheller

Treasurer: Harry Schoening

Assistant Treasurer: Gale Litchfield

Historian: N/A

### **Church Staff (2005-2006)**

Minister: Rev. Dr. Jeffrey W. Larsen

Director of Christian Education: Susan Martin

Director of Youth Fellowship: Daphne Fogg Siegal

Music Director: Dr. William Haffner-Jones

Building Custodian: Steven Nemeth (through April 2005) Al DeMello (April 2005 to present)

Office Administrator: Linda Keith

Children's Circle Nursery School Director/ Lead Teacher: Scarlett Lintner

Children's Circle Nursery School Assistant Teacher: Betsy Johnson

Dear Friends,

This past year has been a bit different from other years. We both had a sabbatical time last summer (a year ago now – boy, that time went fast!) where I was away and you had a different voice in the office and pulpit. It was a chance for all of us to experience some renewal of energy. The sabbatical gave us all a chance to catch our breath from the whirl of things happening in our church life and personal lives.

I know that the view of our church family is much different from my desk than from your home. The majority of people see our church in light of Sunday worship. Some see it also from the perspective of board and committee meetings. Others experience it in family weddings, baptisms, funerals or other times of crisis. Each gets that window of light that, hopefully, is meaningful and inspiring of faith.

For me the past year is highlighted in the memory of several events and trends. The mission trip was a powerful example of our commitment as a church family to both youth ministry and outreach. The church supported wholeheartedly the fundraising necessary to allow such a large group to go to the Mohawk Reservation in upstate New York for a week of service. In committing resources to funding a Youth Minister position on the church staff we have ensured a continuing stream of young people that can have these kinds of opportunities for growth.

Our Sunday School has been inspiring again under Sue Martin's leadership. We have experimented with an exciting new curriculum, continued to work with teachers in very creative ways, wrestled with space issues due to large numbers of children, and provided a quality educational program that continues to draw people to our church. Sue has been an absolute joy to work with and we will all miss her leadership. The RE Board is working hard to replace her and we are confident that our program will continue to grow and thrive.

Our Outreach Board continues to challenge us and provide us a variety of ways to serve; our Ways & Means has adjusted its mission slightly to focus on more community building events that give us more chances to have fun and get to know each other better; our Deacons are near the end of an extremely sensitive and thoughtful process of ensuring that our church is open and welcoming of all people; and our Trustees have worked very hard not only to maintain our wonderful facility but to guarantee its future availability for ministry - not an easy task. Part of that has been to better explain our resources and needs so that the congregation is clearly informed for its decision making. In some instances my role in all this has been as cheerleader, sometimes pain-in-the-neck, at all times in awe at the quality and commitment of our leadership.

Working with our staff this year has been a delight. We not only support each other but genuinely care. We miss Steve Nemeth but laugh with Al Demello constantly.

I still believe we need to clearly define our goals for the future, set a faithful vision statement, do a long range needs assessment, and substantially improve the giving levels of our congregation to meet new challenges. The energy of Sunday morning worship does not yet reverberate throughout the rest of our church life. So...there is work for all of us to do.

I thank you for the continuing honor of being your minister.

Peace to you,

Jeff

## **MODERATOR'S REPORT**

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We have concluded our 199<sup>th</sup> year in the life of The Congregational Church of South Dartmouth. My hope is that we have served you well and that you participated in some way, in one or more, of our church programs. And we hope you found your experience rewarding.

Your leadership team for the church year 2005-2006 is made up of 65 member volunteers. Over 500 members are served by their tireless work. Thanks to all that helped make this a very successful year.

Highlights of the year that you will read more about in this report are as follows, -

- A successful sabbatical for Jeff and Kathy
- A strong outreach program to the community – Relay For Life and others
- Formation of a new Human Resource Committee
- The beginning of a Historical Committee to celebrate 200 year anniversary
- Various Ways and Means events, including a new annual garden Fundraiser
- The Landscaping volunteers beautified the church grounds once again
- The Maintenance volunteers continued to handle major building upgrades
- The annual Stewardship campaign was successful once again
- Thanks to the Women's Guild , we have a new kitchen
- Our young adults traveled to New York State for their outreach effort
- The Deacons have an ongoing marriage discussion underway
- The RE Board upgraded the curriculum for our Sunday School program
- The Music Committee worked to upgrade our music in many ways – a new organ, upgraded sound system, a new children's choir, and the start up of a chime choir
- The Trustees worked particularly hard to maintain our buildings. They manage the investments, the stewardship campaign, and prepare the annual budget. They are also responsible for our paid staff

The details of these program highlights and much more will be found in this report.

I especially wish to thank our staff, - Linda, Al, Scarlett, Betsy, Sue, and Daphne, for a job well done. You've made our church truly God's special sanctuary.

It has been a wonderful privilege to be your Moderator for the past four years and I am grateful for the support you have given me.

Finally , a special thanks to Jeff and Kathy for their leadership of this church.

...Bob Lytle, Moderator

## **CLERK'S REPORT (Record of Statistics for the Year)**

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### **IN MEMORIAM – 4**

Ann Barrows  
Theodore Gela

Marci Melter  
Edward Strain

### **NEW MEMBERTS RECEIVED INTO OUR FELLOWSHIP – 31**

#### **Joined: May 1, 2005 - 8**

Nikki Bourne  
Christian White  
Judy Bowen

Diane Medeiros  
Ed Medeiros  
Pamela Paynton

Kathy Williams  
Timothy Williams

#### **Joined: November 20, 2005 - 5**

Susan Fairfax  
Buzz Gammell  
Cheryl Gammell

Phil Guymont  
Susan McLaren

#### **Joined: March 26, 2006 (Confirmation) - 11**

Michael Antonell  
Anna Audycki  
Megan Brown  
Jake Clarke

Casey DeMello  
Rob Gammell  
Courtney Kinder  
Taylor Anne Nisbet

Michaael Reardon  
Courtney Rocha  
Mariah E. Theodore

#### **Joined: April 9, 2006 - 7**

Becky Bryant  
Jeffrey Lunn  
Randee Lunn

Brian Mikkelson  
Cyndi Mikkelson

Kimberly Rioux  
Thomas Rioux

### **BAPTIZED INTO OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH – 10**

Chase Larme Barclay  
Serena Joy Carnes  
Julia Grace Duphily  
Margaret Claire Leaver

Gary Wayne Magnet, III  
Madeline Ainslee Paradise  
Mia Dian Paynton

Jamesyn Matthew Sousa  
Charlotte Elizabeth Tuthill  
Chloe Charleen Whalen

**CLERK'S REPORT (Record of Statistics for the Year) continued**

**MARRIAGES IN OUR SANCTUARY – 7**

Cynthia Melanson & Charles Lackie  
Karen Dion & Brendan Porter  
Brooke Ahlander & Anthony Jenkins  
Elisabeth Furlow & Joshua Moyer  
Jennifer Elizabeth Rioux & Keven Arruda DaPonte +  
Ashley Marie Neves & Steven Allen Garnett, II  
Gaelen Bell Phyfe & Paul Douglas Adam

**Total Membership as of April 30, 2005** **528**

New Members:

Confirmation 11

Affirmation of Faith 20

**Sub-totals: 31 559**

Removals:

Deaths 4

**Sub-totals: 4 554**

**Total Membership as of April 30, 2005** **554**

## Annual Meeting Notes - May 1, 2005

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Moderator Bob Lytle called the 2005 Annual Meeting of the Congregational Church of South Dartmouth to order in Hay Hall at 1135AM. A quorum was present. Bob opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending, especially welcoming new members who just joined our Church this morning.

Kevern Joyce then took the floor to explain the display arranged on the stage. His plan is to refurbish our collection of folding chairs. New chairs will cost approx. \$20 each. His washed, repainted, new rubber-tipped chairs looked great and cost just \$3.54 each! Since we have approx. 250 chairs, this is a great savings (and great improvement) for our Church. Thank you, Kevern, for your enthusiasm and your ingenuity! He will be looking for volunteers and donations in the weeks ahead.

Lara Stone followed to kick off this year's Relay For Life effort. Last year, Team Congo raised \$15,000 putting us among the largest contributors to the local RFL. We traditionally have strong support for this event and this year's volunteer committee is committed to making a difference in this worthy cause. There are lots of different ways to get involved and lend support. The committee will be available in the coming weeks to answer questions and help everyone be part of this great effort. The 2005 RFL will be held 6/24 – 6/25.

Chuck Resevick then introduced the 2005-2006 slate of Church Officers, Boards, and Committees. Bob Lytle commented how proud he was of the leadership of our church and noted that if there were any questions regarding the Annual Report being presented, that almost all of the leadership was present today and available to answer those questions. Chuck thanked Bob for agreeing to be Church Moderator for another year. He noted that the Board of Deacons is structured to have 6 men and 6 women and they were in need of one more woman for this year's slate. The Board of Christian Outreach currently has three openings and since it is comprised of almost all women (with the exception of Chair, Bob Bowen), it would be good to get a few men to volunteer there. It was noted that the slate for Board of Trustees had an error; Carolyn Lytle's term has expired and she will not be returning. The Board of Ways and Means was corrected to show only 3 openings. Rich Madsen has just been added this morning. (Thanks, Rich!)

The Music Committee, as a sub-committee of the Board of Deacons, typically has not been listed in the Nominating Committee Report. Chuck has included them, however, just so we can know who is serving in that group. It was noted that Alice Root should not be listed as her seat has been filled by Peter Hindle.

Chuck also noted that the Executive Board has made the suggestion that we add a Human Resources Committee to our structure. This group would oversee Church employee contracts, reviews, and other personnel issues. Any one with this type of experience/interest is encouraged to volunteer. Chuck also personally thanked Sally Lemelin for stepping in to help get this report completed.

The Nominating Committee Report was moved, seconded and approved by unanimous vote.

The Church's Annual Report was then brought to the floor. Its acceptance was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Bob Lytle closed by offering best wishes to Jeff and Kathy Larsen on their upcoming sabbatical leave. Jeff spoke of how honored and appreciative he was for this opportunity. It is the first time a minister of this church has taken a sabbatical.

With no additional business presented, the meeting was adjourned at 1147AM.

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Scheller, Clerk, 5/01/05

## Special Meeting Notes – June 12, 2005

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This Special Meeting had been requested by written notice from the Board of Trustees in order to discuss unusual financial issues that had developed since the Church's Annual Meeting in May. The meeting was announced at worship for two preceding Sundays (5/29, 6/5 and on 6/12) as set forth in the Church's By-Laws. Notice was also included in the June Spire and for several weeks on the Church's E-Flash. The topics to be discussed in this meeting were:

- 1) Steve Nemeth's financial needs in light of his unexpected medical problems.
- 2) New issues regarding costs for the Church's Nursery School.
- 3) Special Needs in support of Pat Swift.
- 4) Potential purchase of a new organ.

In Moderator Bob Lytle absence, Clerk Cindy Scheller called this Special Meeting to order in Hay Hall at 10:00AM. A quorum was present.

Cindy opened the meeting by explaining the reason the Trustees had requested this special meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance and participation. The floor was handed to Co-Chair of the Trustees, Joe Nauman.

He explained that the Trustees were facing substantial issues relative to the Church's finances and that the Trustees as a group felt it appropriate to bring these issues before the Congregation. He explained that the intent was not to have any formal Church vote today. In fact, Moderator Bob Lytle had left instructions to keep this as an informational session. Today's purpose is to inform the congregation of certain circumstances that have arisen, explain the Trustees' view and proposed action and to get feedback/input/confirmation from the Congregation.

Joe reviewed that for FY2005 our pledges have not met our actual projected expenses. As the budget was presented in January, we were running approx. \$30,000 short. Loose collections have been running a bit ahead of expectations, so there was hope that we would end up fine. However, that prospect is looking less likely due to several unforeseen circumstances:

- The Bridge Club will stop using our facility effective this month. They wanted a location more central to the Route 6 area. This will result in \$5000 less income to the Church this year.
- The kitchen plumbing upgrade that the Trustees agreed to pay for is now expected to be roughly \$8000 instead of the \$2000 estimated. The job turned out to be more complicated than originally thought due to a venting issue.
- The Brookwoods NH family weekend has been cancelled because not enough people signed up. Unfortunately, if they are not able to re-book that weekend, the Church will be required to pay the entire amount (\$4400). (It was suggested that if this does happen, those who did sign up could go and pay as planned to off-set the Church's cost. Another idea was to possibly use that weekend for a retreat for the Youth Fellowship.)

These are all in addition to the expenses that the meeting was called to discuss.

Joe explained that due to his illness, Steve Nemeth had used all his vacation time and sick leave. The Trustees have agreed to pay him for up to 6 more months at 80% of his existing salary. However, since we had to hire someone (Al DeMello) to take over Steve's responsibilities, this will result in an additional \$8000 expense to the budget for the remainder of the year.

The Nursery School has been paying the Church \$6000 (annually) to cover costs of electricity, heating, etc. It is felt that this payment has not been adequate to meet the actual expenses, so for the '05-'06 session, the payment will be raised to \$10,000. However, also in the '05-'06 Nursery School budget, the Director's salary has increased from \$27,500 to \$37,000 primarily to include compensation for health insurance since Scarlet is no longer eligible for spousal insurance. The

## ***Special Meeting Notes – June 12, 2005 continued***

Trustees feel that the existing salary structure for the Director's position is fair and that this size increase is unwarranted for this position despite Scarlet's personal circumstances. They have sent the Director a letter advising her that they could accommodate a 10% increase for the coming year and are waiting for a response.

The Trustees feel that the decision on this matter should be made on the position itself, not the individual person involved. Compensation should be based on the job description of the position, not the personal needs of the Director. The Trustees have received a letter from the Nursery School Advisory Committee in support of the increase as it has been set forth in the new Nursery School budget. Their belief is that with the future tuition increases, the increased salary will be covered and that Scarlet's efforts and passion in her work are well worth the new costs.

The Trustees have considered that information and are still in agreement that the proposed increase is unacceptable for that position. It was pointed out that the Nursery School did run at a deficit for '04-'05 primarily because there were 6 student slots unfilled. There is concern that a similar situation will develop this coming year and despite good intention, the Church will again be required to cover the shortfall.

Joe pointed out that currently the Nursery School is treated as part of the Church, although it has a separate budget. This is a situation that needs to be addressed by the Trustees. It should either be a totally independent venture with its own budget, or it should be part of the Church and the Church's budget.

Jennifer Brosky, a Nursery School parent and member of the Advisory Committee, read the letter sent to the Trustees in its entirety. She and other members supporting the Nursery School argued that the Nursery School is a wonderful entity, a special place with an excellent reputation in large part because of Scarlet's work. It has become accredited due to her efforts. They feel that she is deserving of the new salary and that it is much more in line with what similar positions are paying. They gave an impassioned plea to support her and to prevent her loss. They pointed out that should the Nursery School close, there would be: loss of goodwill in the community, loss of the \$10,000 annual rent and loss of a great education for the children

Marcia Hathaway noted that this dilemma is in part because our Church continues to grow and to change along the lines we discussed during our retreat -- from a pastoral to a program church. Other members of the congregation suggested that if the School is so valuable, there should be a waiting list for attendance. They suggested that the Advisory Committee and parents begin a recruitment campaign to assure full attendance. Perhaps it would be possible for the Director and the Church to compromise and split the \$10,000 in question. Others mentioned that the Nursery School was started as a community service and that it was never meant to be a moneymaker. Cindy Scheller noted that as we grow as a Church, we are looking for more and more services and programs, but if this is what we want, we need to then come forward and support these things with our pledges. Sonja White suggested we examine the salary structure for other similar schools. We need guidelines for the position first, not just the needs of the person. It was hoped that we might find a way to buy time over the coming year that would allow us to come up with a more comprehensive plan. Some of these issues may be a result of the current structure of half-day sessions for only 2-days or 3-days. Many parents require 5-day coverage.

Joe moved on explaining that Pat Swift's van was in need of replacement. In the past the Church has raised funds to help with this expense and there is currently a group working with Pat on this.

## ***Special Meeting Notes – June 12, 2005 continued***

The final discussion item was the potential acquisition of a new organ. Joe invited Steve Starrett from the Music Committee and Bill Jones, Music Director, to give the details. Our current organ is 22 years old. Based on other organs of that make and age, we can expect to need fairly expensive repairs & maintenance over the next few years. Bill explained that this organ is really the same model that one would find in a home, just fitted with larger speakers. It already has parts that are not functioning. We have an opportunity to purchase a barely-used organ that is of much superior quality. Its cost would be \$47,500 but it would meet our needs for years to come. There is also a second, less expensive option that would still be an improvement, but not give us the same quality instrument. A third option would be to wait until the current one gives out and then replace it. The Music Committee believes that the barely-used, superior organ is by far the best way to go for now and for the future of the music program in the Church. They have already acquired a \$15,000 donation for this purchase provided the Church develops funding for the balance. This donation could be used toward either current purchase option.

The Trustees position is that we should wait on this purchase until we have funds raised to cover it. Joe cautioned the Congregation that we have the tendency to be very generous with our approval for expenses, but then less enthusiastic about rising to the occasion to generate the funds necessary to pay for them. In the past, the feeling of the Church had been to not access our Endowment Funds for anything except capital expenses. Last year, we voted to at least access the earnings from the Endowment Funds to help meet operational needs. However, we must be very careful about constantly turning to the Endowment Funds, because if we do, they will dissipate amazingly quickly. A new organ could certainly be construed as a capital expense. However, any use of the Endowment Funds requires a vote of the Congregation and we agreed that there would be no votes taken at this meeting. Again, the purpose of the meeting was just to bring information to the Congregation and get direction for future action.

Warren Hathaway suggested that any time a group comes to the Church with a purchase request, they should also present a plan as to how this purchase will be funded. Ridley Rhind commented that there is no question that an organ is a capital expenditure and it could legitimately be paid for out of the Endowment Funds.

A show of support was given by the Congregation to proceed with the purchase of the new organ as suggested by the Music Committee. Roughly 85% of those present were in favor, 15% opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1147AM. Minutes compiled with the much-appreciated help of Sandy Fogg and Betsy Dubiel.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Scheller, Clerk  
6/20/05

## Special Meeting Notes – September 18, 2005

---

Moderator Bob Lytle called this Special Meeting of the Congregational Church of South Dartmouth to order at 1110 a.m. A quorum (51) was determined to be present.

Bob explained that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss and vote on the Music Committee's recommendation for replacing the church organ. He noted that the Music Committee has presented this plan to and received support for it from the Board of Deacons, the Board of Trustees, and the Executive Board.

Steve Starrett of the Music Committee then took the floor to review their concerns and the current opportunity before us:

The Music Committee (M.C.) has had concerns about the condition of our church organ, the cost of repairs, and the costs of the current maintenance contract. In the spring of 2005 they put forth a recommendation to replace the organ. While this recommendation was presented to the Deacons, the Trustees, and the Executive Board, a "hold" deposit (originally for 30 days) was placed on the particular organ they were recommending.

At that time, an interested member of the congregation came forward and offered to pursue acquiring funding of \$15,000 to go toward that purchase provided it was matched by \$15,000 from the Church. In June at another Special Meeting, the consensus of the congregation was to proceed with this purchase. However, before the Trustees could release these funds from the Endowment Fund, an official vote of the Church needed to be taken.

Bill Jones, Music Director, then explained how he had come across this remarkable Renaissance organ, one of the best electronic organs ever made and that it had only been used for four months as a temporary replacement at Boston University.

A new organ is expected to cost in the vicinity of \$65,000. The M.C. has negotiated the price of this extraordinary instrument down to \$46,800 with terms of 50% down, the balance to be paid in March '07 (17 months) with no interest.

The M.C. feels it important to act now because:

Only 60% of Allen organs of the same age are still in service.

They anticipate the need for major repairs in the near future  
(a new motherboard will cost \$3K).

We can save \$500-\$600 per year maintenance fees for 10 years for a total of \$5K-\$6K.

(New organ cost includes maintenance & parts for 10 years)

This will allow us to move from 4-bit to 22-bit technology, from a 2 manual (keyboards) to a 3 manual instrument that will be concert quality.

(This will allow for additional funding via paid concerts. Bob has already spoken with Jeffrey Wood, Ass't Head of Organ Dept., Holy Cross, American Guild of Organists Winner, about a possible dedication concert)

\$46,800\* Negotiated Organ Cost  
(\$4,690) (10% deposit already paid)  
\$42,120  
(\$18,720) (50% due)  
\$23,400 Balance due 3/1/07  
(\$8,500) (\$500/mo. for 17 mos. = \$8500)

## **Special Meeting Notes – September 18, 2005 continued**

\$14,900 Final Payment on 3/1/07

\*includes delivery & removal of old organ,  
speakers & woofers, complete installation & training,  
10 years. parts & maintenance.

Monies already committed:

\$5000 Pettinos Foundation\*\*

\$500 Music Committee\*\*

\*\*covered original 10% deposit (\$4690)

\$2500 Anonymous Donor

\$15,000 Church Meeting Approval

\$5000 Pettinos Foundation 2<sup>nd</sup> Payment (available 1/1/06)

\$2500 Anonymous Donor 2<sup>nd</sup> Payment (available 1/1/06)

\$30,500

Balance: \$16,300

To be raised via:

January Dedication Concert & others

Individual Pledges (already one pledge of \$1500)

Full-Church Fund Drive

Treasurer Harry Schoening clarified that the amount due immediately would be \$18,720.

Katharine Waskiel asked about the dimensions of the new organ. It is the same size as what we currently have.

Bob Bowen clarified the funding: \$46,800 purchase price, minus \$15,000 grant/donation, minus \$15,000 from Church, minus \$500 from M.C. = Balance \$16,300.

Bob Lytle reminded us that we needed a motion to release the \$15,000 Church match.

Gene Antonell questioned what would happen to the 10% deposit if the Church did not approve this expense. It was answered that because there were other buyers in line, we would get the deposit refunded.

Jerry Whitney questioned who would be responsible for raising the \$16,300? It was agreed that it would be the full congregation's responsibility. It was questioned if this would show up as a line item on the Church Budget?

It was also stated that if we do not act now, when we do need a new organ, we would have to proceed without additional grant/donor funding and without an all-but-new top quality organ ready.

Kevern Joyce noted that contributions have been down approx. 10% due, at least in part, to Jeff's absence. That is now over. In the meantime, expenses have been up: the congregation voted well-deserved raises to members of our Church Staff. Dealing with Steve Nemeth's situation with compassion has created additional expenses. The bridge club has re-located, so we will be losing that expected revenue and there was the loss of the deposit for the family camping weekend. He feels that it is the obligation of the congregation to raise the rest of the funds for the organ. He and Pam are willing to pledge \$1500 towards that and expect that others will as well.

The lifespan of the new organ is estimated to be 20+ years. The old organ will be given in trade as part of the negotiated price.

## ***Special Meeting Notes – September 18, 2005 continued***

Betsy Dubiel expressed concern that the congregation is too ready to dip into the Endowment Fund for needed monies.

At this time, the Music Committee made the motion that the congregation authorize the Trustees to take \$15,000 from the Endowment Fund to meet the match required by those donating \$15,000 for a new organ.

Steve Roberts commended the Music Committee for doing a great job of structuring the financing for this purchase. However, he was worried about identifying long-term capital investments without priorities. He feels this sets a precedent to satisfy needs as expressed by a committee which may not necessarily be the most important for the Church overall.

Bob Bowen noted it was important to distinguish between operating funds and the Endowment Funds meant to support the infrastructure of the Church. He stated that this was a great opportunity and that in the long-term capital planning process, it is also irresponsible not to take advantage of opportunity as it presents itself.

Deb Durland noted that during her tenure as Trustee Chair, she had worked on a 40-year capital plan for the Church including such things as painting the parsonage, plumbing upgrades, etc. and it is staggering. She had not included a new organ in that plan because it had not been brought to her attention.

Bob Dubiel questioned whether there would be a deficit in operating costs this year. The Trustees have listed approx. \$32,000 in actual unbudgeted costs. Trustee Kevern Joyce noted that through August, the approved \$50,000 from the Endowment Fund earnings has been used. There is currently an operating balance of +\$9,000. However, there will be additional expenses so we will be coming up short in cash flow.

It was explained that the Endowment Fund was started with approx. \$365K in gifts. An additional \$535K has been added through accumulated gains. There are additional funds anticipated from the Stetson account that will hopefully leave us with an operating fund surplus.

Trustee Sandy Fogg noted that the congregation voted to take \$50K from US Trust (Endowment Fund) for Operations in the 2005 budget. We have already exceeded that amount. An additional \$25K was taken out for the parking lot as voted by the congregation. In August and Sept. we were in a situation of being unable to meet payroll out of Operating Funds.

Dick Daniels noted that the Investment Fund grows by earning interest as well as by growth in value. If this were a state-regulated fund, withdrawal of both earnings and gains up to 5% of the fund would be allowed. He feels we should be using these funds.

Treasurer Harry Schoening stated he feels it is prudent to jump on a good deal and feels the Music Committee has proved this to be a good deal. It will improve the quality of our music and an upgrade of the instrument is good. It also is a hedge against the potential for much greater expense in the future. And yes, we can afford it.

Harry continued with further history of the Church's Endowment. In 1990 we had a total investment of \$192K. Then two bequests came in in 1995, one for \$356K, one for \$50K. We now have \$1.123 million in total investments. This \$15K won't make a huge difference. He explained that the bequests in 1995 came primarily from two women, Elise Palmer who was herself an organist and

### ***Special Meeting Notes – September 18, 2005 continued***

Mildred Bailey who was a music teacher in Dartmouth. At that time there was discussion of some special use for those funds, but nothing came to mind. Given this background, he feels that using those funds to acquire a new organ is especially appropriate.

At this time the vote was called on the motion:

To authorize the Trustees to take \$15,000 from the Investment Account to match the funds being given by the Pettinos Foundation and another anonymous donor to be used to partially fund the new organ purchase.

The motion passed with 10 opposing votes, the rest in favor.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy Scheller, Clerk  
9/25/05

## Quarterly Meeting Notes – October 30, 2005

---

Moderator Bob Lytle called the Fall Quarterly Meeting of the Congregational Church of South Dartmouth to order at 11 a.m. A quorum (51+) was determined to be present.

Bob explained that this meeting traditionally focuses of the financial side of our church as the Trustees prepare the budget for the coming year.

Before we get into that aspect, however, a few notes. Thanksgiving Turkeys are available for sale to help those less fortunate have a holiday meal.

Kevern Joyce showed us one of the chairs he has been re-furbishing. So far he has done 26, but is looking for help with either volunteers and/or money. His efforts are much appreciated.

Ways & Means will be selling soups, and homemade goodies.

Joe Nauman (co-chair of Trustees with Sandy Fogg) took the floor. He explained that the Trustees began the budgeting process this summer and have been meeting monthly. He then proceeded to give us a preview of the 2006 Budget that supports all church activity and what we do. He explained that this is the projected 2006 budget. It is a preliminary document and still in the works. Joe explained that the Trustees had been meeting with the input of the other Boards, looking at any changes that might be different from our '05 budget, and coming up with the best estimate for '06. The budget will continue to change as new numbers come in from '05 and as they get additional input.

First off, Joe wanted to thank all the people who silently operate and contribute time, energy, and resources to our Church: all of the Boards; specifically Larry Bedell and his Maintenance Committee that have saved the Church thousands of dollars each year; the Landscaping Committee; the Music Committee for changes to our sound system and speakers, and specifically to John Lok and Steve Starrett who have, again, saved us thousands in their work towards installation of the new organ; Ways & Means whose countless hours of planning and running events constantly help add to our funding; and the Women's Guild whose kitchen upgrade will benefit all of us. These are all contributions that do not show up in the budget but that make a huge difference in our bottom line!

Joe introduced a new budget worksheet with a format different from last year. This document continues to evolve as is needed. It is not the Church's financial statement, but a more user-friendly document to help the congregation understand the Church's financial picture.

Primarily, 2006 needs to be based on 2005. Last October we tried to look at opportunity, new members, the results of our Vision Retreat (to make the Church more of a "program" church) and we voted to add new positions, new offerings, much needed raises all based on a goal of \$200,000 in pledges. It is apparent now that we are not going to get there. We might get to \$162,000.

This shortfall is due to several reasons many relating to familiar issues in the Church dialogue: Why should I give

...when the Church has such a large endowment? They don't need my money!

...when they don't use the money properly. ...etc.

## **Quarterly Meeting Notes – October 30, 2005 continued**

Joe shared that our actual total giving is now lower than it was in both 2004 and 2003. A church that is growing and adding staff, with an increasing cost of living cannot sustain itself if pledges continue to decline. Last year's appeal of faith giving did not hit the mark. We went ahead and committed to the expenditures for positions and programs that the congregation wanted, but now our giving has not supported those changes. Ways & Means is projected to end up down from where budgeted and down from year's past because support of their efforts has also not been the same. We have lowered their goals for 2006.

Our facilities income is down due to loss of income from the Bridge Club. And we have had additional expenses, continuing to pay Steve Nemeth until he can get on Social Security/Disability, because it is the right thing to do.

We have had some bright spots in 2005. Jeff received a grant for part of his sabbatical that we were able to use in place of some of the monies we had put aside for it. Those other dollars could then go directly into operating expenses.

All in all we will end 2005 in a deficit of roughly \$65,000. In August and September we did not have enough funds in our checking account to meet payroll. Pledges are the major source for operating funds plus we have been using the income from our Endowment Funds but these were used up by August. The Trustees have been authorized to use \$50,000 of interest income from the Endowment. They have gone ahead and drawn additional dollars needed since some of this is a timing issue for funds received and some has come from new expenses. So far, we have taken an *additional* \$36,000 from the Endowment to cover operating expenses. Temporarily restricted funds have been transferred.

2006 is being based on 2005 but we are being more realistic in our pledge expectations. The trend of the last several years puts us at approx. \$160-\$165,000 in general pledges with about \$20,000 going to Missions. With some optimism we are projecting \$170,000 in pledges for '06 (+5% over '05). The rest of our income should remain consistent with this year with lower facilities income and lower expectations from Ways & Means. It continues to use \$50,000 in Endowment interest from US Trust.

This worksheet has a new section, Capital Sources/Uses differentiated from Operational dollars. In '05 this was \$57,000, in '06 it will be \$46,000. If the congregation approves this, these will be monies coming from the *principal* of the US Trust Endowment Funds (as opposed to the interest that goes towards our operational expenses) for capital expenses.

It was mentioned that the new organ is being funded through several different sources.

Regarding the uses of our operational funds, by far the largest part (\$200,000 out of \$350,000) goes towards staff. There is really not a lot of money going toward other activities. Staff members are being given a 3.5% raise. We are also beginning a new accrual for the next sabbatical leave (every six years). Other costs are towards energy and insurance. We are planning on doing needed repairs to the parsonage (\$25,000). All in all, this will bring us to a \$26,000 deficit (added to the \$65,000 +/- leftover '05 deficit). Joe explained that we have faced deficits in the past and our congregation has responded.

We do not have many choices. We can reduce expenses (i.e. staff). We could attempt to save more in utilities. 2005 had our administration and operational expenses at a 3-year low thanks to our many volunteer efforts. Otherwise, our deficit would be much higher.

If we want the resources and programs that we have had, financing must come from the congregation. Stewardship starts next Sunday under Kevern Joyce's leadership. It is felt that

## **Quarterly Meeting Notes – October 30, 2005 continued**

particularly in this Church we are delivering a great deal of value. We all would not keep coming Sunday after Sunday if we were not receiving something of significant value. Expenses will continue to rise. So we are asking everyone to re-think their giving. What used to be appropriate years ago may no longer be so. Look at what the Church means to you and contribute accordingly.

This year we have taken close to \$100,000 out of our US Trust funds. If we continue to do this, it will not be long before that Fund is totally gone. We ask you to take Stewardship personally and take it to heart.

Anne Whitney asked about the \$15,000 organ grant. There were 2 separate gifts, one for \$10,000, one for \$5,000. Both were split over 2 years ('05 & '06).

Steve Starrett asked about legacy giving. It goes into the Endowment Fund either earmarked for a specific purpose or into the general fund. This year we have taken \$132,000 from US Trust: \$86,000 for operations (\$50,000 in interest as approved by the congregation, \$36,000 to cover cost over-runs and cash flow). The remainder was for planned capital projects.

Wendy Bauer asked if the Stetson Fund money is included in the Endowment. It was explained that the Stetson Fund money goes directly into the checking account. All investment funds are included in the investment income line. Wendy also noted that Outreach has completed their distribution plan for Mission monies this year, but have held back on actual donations based on the cash flow situation of the Church.

Deb Durland noted that our Capital uses are higher and if they were not, the deficit would be \$5,000 more. She reinforced that it was necessary for the congregation to step up to the plate.

Ed Perry pointed out a new expense on page 3 due to a new state required inspection that will cost \$1500 to complete every year.

Steve Starrett asked about the costs of painting the parsonage in 2006. The estimate is based on a bidding process that has been completed by a sub-committee of the Trustees. It is a very recent estimate and includes both interior and exterior painting.

Deb Durland noted that when the congregation votes to approve a budget, it automatically approves all those expenses included in it.

Jeff Larsen thanked the Trustees for all their work.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy Scheller, Clerk  
11/14/05

## Quarterly Meeting Notes – March 19, 2006

Moderator Bob Lytle called the Quarterly Meeting of the Congregational Church of South Dartmouth to order in the sanctuary at 11 a.m. A quorum (51+) was determined to be present.

Sonja White began the meeting by inviting everyone to a special gathering this afternoon hosted by the Women's Guild celebrating Jeff and Kathy's sabbatical experience.

Debby Clinch spoke of the joy of serving on the Religious Education Board. Their function is to oversee the various aspects of the Church's religious education programs, Sunday School and Youth Programs, to present the annual Christmas pageant, manage the Church's Heifer Project, Confirmation Sunday, and Baccalaureate Sunday. She expressed thanks to all who contributed to these efforts.

She then turned the floor over to Sue Martin and Wendy Weidenfeller to give us a sample of the new curriculum now being used in the Sunday School. It is a more experiential, multi-dimensional program. Called "Cornerstones", it includes a rotational workshop method for each "block". Each block has 3-4 workshops in which students experience the lesson in a new way including "Bible Improv", "Where in the World", and "Eat Your Way through the Bible". Wendy explained that this process lends itself to many "teachable moments". The children enjoy it and it allows for a cross-generational melding of the congregation.

Sally Lemelin announced that this year's Relay for Life will be 6/23 & 6/24. Team Congo is trying to incorporate more family participation as well as more individuals all in the hopes of raising even more money. This year her goal is for us to become a Diamond Team. She asked that all members of the congregation consider participating by sending out notes to friends and family on special note cards with a picture of last year's Survivor Lap. Sally also reminded us that last year, Marci Melter kicked off our RFL effort with her own extremely touching story. Now that we have lost Marci, Sally hopes this will compel our entire congregation to get involved.

Joe Nauman, Trustee Co-Chair, took the podium. He began by explaining that the Trustees have continued to try to make the budget process of the Church more accessible and simplified. He reviewed a series of graphs. The first represented the money needed for the day-to-day operations of the Church on an annual basis. No capital expenses or investment income is included in this graph. With it, the Church receipts via collections are shown. It illustrates that 10 years ago, 1996, was the last time the Church fully funded operations through the congregation's contributions. However, recently the gap between collections and expenses has widened appreciably. Giving has leveled off while our expenditures have increased with the addition of new staff positions, etc.

The second graph shows the same period of time, but includes capital as well as operational expenses and collections as well as endowment withdrawals. We have, in fact, been able to meet our budget by drawing down our investments.

The third graph shows the balance of our investment fund over time. There has been good growth since 1993 with the current balance just over \$1,000,000. If we continue with our current pattern of collection/expenses, our investments will be at zero in less than 10 years. The Trustees feel it is their obligation to show the congregation the path we are embarking on. Joe thanked Kevern Joyce for all his research and work creating these graphs with Linda's help.

Joe then went on to explain the last page of his handout which is another attempt to simplify the Church budget by breaking it down into major groups.

## ***Quarterly Meeting Notes – March 19, 2006 continued***

Our gifts from the past are made up of our checking account and investment fund. In 2005, this has been reduced by approx. \$100,000.

Next is what is expected to come in. To date, we have \$184,000 pledges against a pledge goal of \$190,000. In addition, we receive funds for the use of the building: approx. \$10,000 from the Nursery and roughly \$2500 from other sources. We earn approx. \$50,000 from our investments. We also have monies coming in toward the organ fund. We will withdraw funds from the principle of the endowment fund to cover the capital expense of painting the parsonage.

We have planned giving to the UCC Funds and other affiliation dues and to our Outreach Mission effort.

Next, is what we need to spend this year? Primarily, these expenses relate to salaries and a few other expenses.

The bottom line puts us at a deficit of \$26,000 for 2006 (if we reach our pledge goal of \$190,000). This is in addition to the \$2,000 deficit from 2005 leaving us down approx. \$30,000.

Joe explained that the Trustees did not want to bring a deficit budget to the congregation, but the only way to avoid that would be to cut staff or cut programs. They feel that that is not what the congregation wants either. Therefore, they are proposing to the congregation to approve taking the difference needed to balance the 2006 budget and cover the shortfall from the principal of the endowment fund.

Kevern, the Trustees, and the Stewardship Committee have made a proposal to the Trustees and the Executive Board to refocus our stewardship effort to prevent being in this situation again in the future. We have been successful in '05 and '06 in moving the needle forward for stewardship and are hopeful that this will be the answer.

Sue Martin pointed out that in 2004 we had a \$25,000 surplus. Joe acknowledged that to be true, but that it had been consumed in 2005. In 2005, we had several unexpected costs (Steve Nemeth's health situation and ultimately double paying the custodian's salary, the penalty for the cancelled Family Weekend, etc.). These will be unlikely to recur, however, there is still a \$35-\$40,000 gap.

Bud Clark asked about the sabbatical fund and questioned whether grants could be used for that in the future. Joe explained that the sabbatical fund has been accruing since Jeff's arrival and we did receive grant funding. When the grant came through, we were able to move the accrued funds back to cover operational expenses. Bud asked if we might not also pursue additional grants. Jeff explained that our piano, the organ, the elevator, the new sound system were all acquired with the help of private foundation grants. We have, in fact, received over \$100,000 from one organization over the last 10 years.

Bud also questioned that if in 2005, we withdrew \$50,000 from our capital funds and if we have budgeted to remove \$25,000 for the last four years, how in 10 years between capital expenses and budget needs, we would figure to have the funds depleted? Could we be more aggressive in our investments to generate additional income? Joe explained that the income from our investments has been running about \$50,000 per year. The investment committee has recently re-configured our investment portfolio and are currently at the highest level of risk they feel we can tolerate.

Mike Gouveia had a question on the expense line item for the Deacons and why it was decreasing by approx. \$7,000 from 2005 to 2006. It was explained that that figure was the amount of Jeff's sabbatical not covered by the grant. Mike also suggested that we might consider a large fundraising event, similar to other organization's annual appeals, for stewardship and/or specific capital needs.

## ***Quarterly Meeting Notes – March 19, 2006 continued***

Joe replied that in the past our capital campaigns have not always been successful, so the Trustees question the benefit of adding yet another collection/appeal. There is the possibility of designing the appeal to be an “outside” event to include the greater community.

John Fitzpatrick thanked Joe for all this information. He suggested that we must look to our membership for additional support and find a way to increase pledge units.

Steve Starrett questioned the 2005 listing of \$28,000 in income from “other sources” and why this was not reoccurring in 2006. This was explained to be the grant money received for the sabbatical as well as the accrued money we had put aside for the sabbatical. The entire cost of the sabbatical was \$41,000 and is treated separately, not income or expense. Steve also questioned if the endowment fund’s \$1.2 million included restricted funds. Joe explained that the Endowment Fund total encompasses all funds held by the Church. There are separate bookkeeping entries for different parts of the fund. However, when we use the income from the fund, we are using income from all portions.

Bob Bowen pointed out that a few years ago we went through an explanation of our investment strategy. The US Trust monies represented growth from our investments over time. But there are two separate processes going on. We are receiving “income” in the form of interest and dividends. But we are also receiving additional “value” from the accrual of capital appreciation. Most of the growth in our holdings has not been from the “income”, but pretty much entirely from capital appreciation. When these holdings are sold, the proceeds are returned to the fund’s principal through the purchase of additional stocks, etc.

Larry Bedell summed up the discussion by announcing that we will all just have to dig a little deeper and moved that we ask the question. It was moved and seconded that we accept the budget as presented by the Trustees for 2006, but ask the Trustees to continue to work toward finding a viable solution to this recurring problem.

During discussion, Anne Whitney pointed out that while we have been having this ongoing debate about meeting budget needs, we have focused on those who are not contributing and there has been no acknowledgement of those who have stepped up and increased their support.

Janne Armstrong expressed frustration with our congregation that votes with their hearts in support of the various special interests that are brought before them (new organ, staff raises, etc.), but then there seems to be a disconnect when the responsibility of meeting these expenses arises.

Nancy Kurtz noted that these are the kinds of discussions necessary as we go into our Stewardship period. Joe agreed that as our meetings are structured, there are really only four opportunities to discuss the budget with the whole congregation.

Katharine Waskiel suggested we run our Church as we would our homes: spend only the money that we have and then, pay on time. Perhaps, despite the attraction, the new organ was not the best purchase. She wondered if we could send a letter to all parishioners outlining exactly what we need, per person, to balance the budget. Every family really needs to know what is expected of them.

Steve Starrett noted that the Music Committee thanked all who had contributed for the organ. They had raised \$48,000 (\$15,000 from grants, matched by only \$15,000 from the Church, and then an additional \$20,000 collected from members).

### ***Quarterly Meeting Notes – March 19, 2006 continued***

Tina Nauman pointed out that our congregation has grown over the past few years, but questioned if we were capturing all potential donors via mailings. It was noted that the Deacons are currently embarking on reviewing the Church membership list so they can better focus our efforts as well as reduce costs (mailing, dues, etc.). We also should do a better job of explaining to new members what their financial expectations might be.

Pam Paynton said as a fairly new member, she noticed and appreciated that our Church is especially sensitive about not wanting to over-emphasize the financial expectations with incoming members.

John Fitzpatrick commented that he and Huntley had been surprised at receiving what they perceived to be a “bill” from the Church for unpaid pledges. This was later explained to him that it is an accounting required by the Church for tax reporting purposes. Joe explained that a pledge is considered a legally binding contract and as such, we must update our records with an accounting. Those notices also can serve as a gentle reminder that someone is not on target with what was promised and thus expected.

Linda Gouveia asked for clarification on what we were voting on. It would be to approve the budget presented by the Trustees on the last page of today's handout that requires taking additional monies out of our endowment fund.

Dick Daniels noted that there is no requirement in our funds that we only use interest or how to use principal. It has been thought that the principal is best used for special improvements [as opposed to operating expenses]. In most cases, we have no information regarding the original donors' intent. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the congregation and the Trustees to manage these monies.

Ridley Rhind pointed out that his understanding from Kevern was that our fund had been impacted by apx. -\$90,000. We had budgeted to remove only \$50,000. In 2006, we are budgeting to remove an additional \$30,000.

Rollie Young moved the question. The “ayes” prevailed with just one “nay” vote recorded.

Bob Lytle reminded everyone that we would be voting on the O&A question at our Annual Meeting on May 7.

The meeting was adjourned at 1155AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy Scheller, Clerk  
3/25/06

**TREASURER'S REPORT (Financial Reports)**  
**The Congregational Church of South Dartmouth**  
**Statement of Financial Position**

04/24/2006

	Dec 31, 04	Dec 31, 05
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Checking/Savings		
Citizens Bank	34,128	35,215
Children's Circle Checking	7,748	6,278
Sabbatical Account	38,459	3,403
Petty Cash	137	4
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>80,472</b>	<b>44,899</b>
Accounts Receivable	695	2,225
Other Current Assets	6,650	11,290
<b>Investments</b>		
Loan		10,400
Beauvais Account (MA Cong'l Fund)	17,542	17,365
Gulbranson Account	10,159	10,326
Sherman Account	5,001	5,001
US Trust Investment Account	1,156,301	1,076,666
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>1,189,003</b>	<b>1,119,758</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>1,276,820</b>	<b>1,178,172</b>
<b>Fixed Assets - Property and Equipment</b>	<b>280,436</b>	<b>270,833</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,557,256</b>	<b>1,449,005</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	3,071	4,082
Deferred Revenue	1,537	0
Prepaid Nursery School Tuition	9,481	8,830
Payroll Liabilities	6,296	6,411
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>20,385</b>	<b>19,323</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>		
Operating Fund	70,255	52,706
Non-Operational Funds	1,313,891	1,266,864
Nursery School Funds	(1,153)	(867)
<b>Restricted Funds</b>		
Prepaid Pledges Fund	21,485	15,449
Other Temporarily Restricted Funds	95,543	58,680
Permanently Restricted Funds	36,850	36,850
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>1,536,870</b>	<b>1,429,682</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>1,557,255</b>	<b>1,449,005</b>

**TREASURER'S REPORT (Financial Reports) continued**

**The Congregational Church of South Dartmouth**  
**Statement of Activities - All Funds**  
 January through December 2005

04/24/2006

	OPERATIONAL	NURSERY SCHOOL	NON- OPERATIONAL	RESTRICTED	TOTAL
<b>INCOME</b>					
CONTRIBUTIONS INCOME	\$180,270		\$8,805	\$44,904	\$233,979
FACILITIES INCOME	15,741	a (10,000) a	75		5,816
INVESTMENT INCOME	76,338	13	22,987	447	99,784
INVESTMENT GAINS					0
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	20		92	9,623	9,740
NURSERY SCHOOL INCOME		71,441			71,441
NON-OPERATIONAL INCOME			1,590	29,173	30,763
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$272,369</b>	<b>\$61,454</b>	<b>\$33,548</b>	<b>\$84,146</b>	<b>\$451,522</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
WORSHIP AND DEVOTIONAL	20,245		2,065	9,762	32,073
PASTORAL	83,427			25,683	109,110
PARSONAGE OPERATION	3,562				3,562
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	28,255		815		29,070
CHRISTIAN OUTREACH				25,719	25,719
ADMINISTRATION	78,926	3,701	14,420	1,925	98,972
CHURCH OPERATION	80,044	430	97	65	80,636
NURSERY SCHOOL PROGRAM		57,036			57,036
NON-OPERATIONAL ITEMS			2,958	44,065	47,022
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES			46,080	19,827	65,907
DEPRECIATION			9,603		9,603
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$294,460</b>	<b>\$61,167</b>	<b>\$76,038</b>	<b>\$127,045</b>	<b>\$558,711</b>
<b>FUND TRANSFERS</b>	4,542		(7,500)	2,958	<b>\$0</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>(\$17,549)</b>	<b>\$286</b>	<b>(\$49,990)</b>	<b>(\$39,941)</b>	<b>(\$107,188)</b>

**NOTES**

a Operational facilities income includes \$10,000 from Nursery School

**TREASURER'S REPORT (Financial Reports) continued**  
**The Congregational Church of South Dartmouth**  
**Statement of Net Assets by Fund**

04/24/2006

	Dec 31, 04	Dec 31, 05	CHANGE IN NET ASSETS
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>			
Operating Fund	\$70,255	\$52,706	(\$17,549)
Capital Accrual Fund	3,122	3,122	\$0
Investment Fund			
Accumulated Investment Income	41,543	24,271	(17,272)
Accumulated Beauvais Income	1,656	1,479 d	(177)
Accumulated Stetson Income	52,551	52,551	0
Accumulated Gains on Investments	571,031	553,502	(17,529)
Gifts & Bequests - General	355,896	360,896	5,000
Total Investment Fund	1,022,678	992,699	(29,979)
Flower Fund		123	123
Music Funds	155	88	(68)
Nursery School Fund	(1,153)	(867) e	286
Sabbatical Accrual Fund	7,500		(7,500)
Fixed Asset Fund	280,436	270,833 f	(9,603)
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>\$1,382,992</b>	<b>\$1,318,703</b>	<b>(\$64,289)</b>
<b>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>			
Advance Pledges Fund	21,485	15,449	(6,036)
Dr. Grace Boynton Rev Mem Fund	2,330	1,530	(800)
Handicap Memorial Fund	65		(65)
Heifer Project Fund	180	251	71
Landscape Fund	226	226	0
Library Fund	419	416	(3)
Library -- Bailey/Davis Income Fund	3,198	3,181	(17)
Lilly Sabbatical Fund	38,442	5,701	(32,741)
Memorial Fund	21,679	12,760	(8,919)
Memorial Organ Fund		6,950	6,950
Memorial Plant Fund	2,277	2,310	33
Minister's Discretionary Fund	352	0	(352)
Mission Pledges Fund	29	323	294
Organ Fund		7,900	7,900
Outreach Fund	2,325	1,235	(1,090)
Sarah's Scholarship Income Fund		68	68
Scholarship Income Fund	4,105	2,151	(1,954)
6th Anniversary Bonus Fund	3,000	298	(2,702)
Youth Fellowship Fund	12,698	11,980	(718)
Youth Mission Trip Fund	4,218	1,400	(2,817)
<b>TOTAL TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>\$117,028</b>	<b>\$74,129</b>	<b>(\$42,899)</b>
<b>PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>			
Bailey Davis Fund	5,750	5,750	0
Beauvais Fund	15,885	15,885 d	0
Sarah's Scholarship Fund	10,213	10,213	0
Sherman Fund	5,001	5,001	0
<b>TOTAL PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>\$36,850</b>	<b>\$36,850</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,536,870</b>	<b>\$1,429,682</b>	<b>(\$107,188)</b>

**TREASURER'S REPORT (Financial Reports) continued**

**Statement of Net Assets by Fund Continued**

**NOTES**

- d Value as of 12/31/02 moved to Permanently Restricted Funds; original bequest amount tbd
- e Nursery School Fund as of 12/31/05 does not include prepaid 2006 tuition, which is listed as a liability
- f Value of fixed assets less depreciation as carried on the Statement of Financial Position

**The Congregational Church of South Dartmouth**

**Investment Income**

04/24/2006

**January through December 2005**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL
<b>Citizens Bank</b>			
Checking Account	\$21		\$21
Children's Circle Account		13	13
<b>Compass Bank</b>			
Sarah's Scholarship Accounts		447	447
Sherman Accounts	168		168
<b>US Trust</b>			
Investment Accounts	71,987		71,987
<b>Massachusetts Congregational Fund</b>			
Beauvais Account	866		866
UCC Maturing Memorial Account	1,250		1,250
<b>Bank of America</b>			
Stetson Trust	25,032		25,032
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$99,324</b>	<b>\$460</b>	<b>\$99,784</b>

**TREASURER'S REPORT (Reports) continued**

**The Congregational Church of South Dartmouth  
Capital Activities**

04/19/2006

	Actual	Budget	Budget
	Jan - Dec 2005	2005	2006
<b>CAPITAL SOURCES</b>			
Principal withdrawal - Parsonage Paint			25,000
Principal withdrawal - Kitchen plumbing	6,080.00		
Principal withdrawal - organ	15,000.00		
Fundraising - organ	20,510.00		16,000
Pettinos Grant - organ	5,000.00		5,000
Principal withdrawal - parking lot	25,000.00		
Pettinos Grant - sound system	4,500.00		
<b>Total CAPITAL SOURCES</b>	76,090.00		46,000
<b>CAPITAL USES</b>			
Replace Parking Lot	25,000.00	30,000	
Parsonage Painting			25,000
Kitchen Plumbing	6,080.00		
Sound System	8,667.30		
Organ Replacement	26,159.51		13,500
<b>Total CAPITAL USES</b>	65,906.81	30,000	38,500

**TREASURER'S REPORT (Reports) continued**

**Congregational Church of South Dartmouth  
Capital Projects List**

	Last Done	Needed	Current Cost	Cost at Date Needed at 3.5% inflation
General Repairs (Annual)	2005	2006	6,000	
Paint Parsonage	1990	2006	25,000	25,000
Paint Lower Hall	1992	2007	5,000	5,175
Window Replacement	1959	2008	60,000	64,774
Balcony Seating	1922	2008	12,000	12,855
Ceiling tile replace	1959	2009	16,000	17,739
Flat Roof	1985	2010	12,000	13,770
Painting Exterior	2004	2011	15,000	17,815
Steeple	2002	2012	10,000	12,293
Toilet Renovations	1959	2015	80,000	109,032
Heating system	1998	2018	10,000	15,111
Painting Sanctuary	1999	2019	32,000	50,047
Paint Hay Hall	2005	2020	5,000	8,093
Tile Lower hall	2000	2025	11,000	21,148
Shingle Roof	1998	2028	22,500	47,426
Organ	2005	2030	45,000	99,275

# TREASURER'S REPORT (Budget)

## The Congregational Church of South Dartmouth Statement of Operating Activities vs. Budget

04/24/2006

	Actual 2005	Budget 2005	Budget 2006
<b>SOURCES</b>			
<b>CONTRIBUTION RECEIPTS</b>			
Pledges - Current Year	151,093.61	200,000	170,000
Mission Pledges - Current Year	19,730.18	20,000	20,500
Previous Year Pledges	3,362.22	4,000	3,000
Previous Year Mission Pledges	666.78	500	500
Loose Collection			
Non-pledged Contributions	13,998.60		10,000
Loose Collection - Other	6,819.07	11,500	5,000
<b>Total Loose Collection</b>	<b>20,817.67</b>	<b>11,500</b>	<b>15,000</b>
Ways & Means Income	4,865.42	7,000	5,000
<b>CONTRIBUTION RECEIPTS - Other</b>	<b>131.44</b>		
<b>Total CONTRIBUTION RECEIPTS</b>	<b>200,667.32</b>	<b>243,000</b>	<b>214,000</b>
<b>FACILITIES INCOME</b>			
Nursery School	10,000.00	10,000	10,000
<b>FACILITIES INCOME - Other</b>	<b>5,741.00</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>2,500</b>
<b>Total FACILITIES INCOME</b>	<b>15,741.00</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>12,500</b>
<b>INVESTMENT INCOME</b>			
Bank Interest	20.50		
Beauvais Fund Income	2,116.42		
Sherman Fund Income	168.35		
Stetson Bequest Income	25,032.47		
US Trust Income transferred	49,000.00	50,000	50,000
<b>Total INVESTMENT INCOME</b>	<b>76,337.74</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS INCOME</b>			
	20.00		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>292,766.06</b>	<b>313,000</b>	<b>276,500</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
<b>WORSHIP AND DEVOTIONAL</b>			
Deacons' Expense	35.95		
Music Director	16,560.00	16,560	17,140
Flower Expense	143.11	700	700
Music	1,218.39	2,500	2,500
Sanctuary Supplies	1,038.04	900	900
Subst. Music Director	350.00	520	600
Supply Minister	900.00	1,650	1,650
Sabbatical Minister	0.00	7,500	1,500
<b>Total WORSHIP AND DEVOTIONAL</b>	<b>20,245.49</b>	<b>30,330</b>	<b>24,990</b>

**TREASURER'S REPORT (Budget) continued**

**Statement of Operating Activities vs. Budget continued**

<b>PASTORAL</b>			
Pastor's Salary	52,500.00	52,500	54,338
Auto Allowance	3,780.00	3,780	4,000
Educational Expense	904.49	1,000	1,000
FICA/MC Allowance	4,821.72	4,822	4,991
Insurance-Health	6,874.24	7,000	7,245
Long Term Disability	1,023.76	1,024	1,060
Retirement	9,974.72	9,975	10,324
Tenant Insurance	548.00	550	550
6 year bonus	3,000.00	3,000	1,000
<b>Total PASTORAL</b>	<b>83,426.93</b>	<b>83,651</b>	<b>84,508</b>
<b>PARSONAGE OPERATION</b>			
Parsonage Repairs	339.68	500	500
Parsonage Utilities	3,222.76	3,500	3,500
<b>Total PARSONAGE OPERATION</b>	<b>3,562.44</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>4,000</b>
<b>RELIGIOUS EDUCATION</b>			
Dir. Religious Education	16,560.00	16,560	17,140
Adult Education Expense	0.00	250	260
Confirmation Expense	325.00		350
Crib Room Coordinator	1,132.50	950	980
Curriculum	1,389.21	1,500	1,550
Pastor's Class		250	260
Special Events	1,291.46	1,200	1,240
Supplies	556.93	500	520
Youth Director	7,000.00	7,000	7,250
<b>Total RELIGIOUS EDUCATION</b>	<b>28,255.10</b>	<b>28,210</b>	<b>29,550</b>
<b>CHRISTIAN OUTREACH</b>			
Inter-Church Council	4,150.00	4,000	
Local Missions	8,952.93	9,000	
Market Ministries	2,000.00	2,000	
Minister's Discretionary Fund	3,000.00	3,000	
Our Churches' Wider Mission	2,000.00	2,000	
<b>CHRISTIAN OUTREACH - Other</b>			<b>21,000</b>
<b>Total CHRISTIAN OUTREACH</b>	<b>20,102.93</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>21,000</b>

**TREASURER'S REPORT (Budget) continued**  
**Statement of Operating Activities vs. Budget continued**

<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>			
Administrator's Compensation	43,336.28	43,306	44,822
Computer equip/software	780.80	500	500
Computer Supp/Maint.	1,227.31	800	1,500
Equipment Repairs/Cont.	5,251.55	5,000	5,000
FICA/MC (all employees)	6,687.39	6,542	7,311
Internet Access	1,288.17	1,450	1,300
Miscellaneous	41.64	600	600
Office Supplies	3,750.37	2,400	2,800
Old Colony Assn / MACUCC	7,418.95	7,500	7,500
Payroll Service	500.00	500	500
Postage	3,436.04	3,000	3,000
Stewardship Committee	476.29	1,200	800
UCC Delegates' Expense	204.57	350	350
Welcoming Committee	127.00	300	300
ADMINISTRATION - Other	4,400.00		
<b>Total ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>78,926.36</b>	<b>73,448</b>	<b>76,283</b>
<b>CHURCH OPERATION</b>			
Custodian	17,786.72	20,000	20,700
Custodial Services	11,316.60		
Building Maintenance	11,598.50	10,000	10,000
Church Picnic	211.39	300	300
Grounds - Landscaping	324.00	1,000	500
Grounds - Snow & grass removal	5,185.00	3,500	4,000
Electricity	3,555.94	4,500	4,500
Elevator Inspection	2,879.00	1,000	1,500
Elevator Maintenance Contract	585.13		650
Fuel	11,167.10	10,000	12,000
Insurance/Bldg/Liab.	11,500.96	10,000	12,000
Insurance-Work. Comp.	1,811.00	1,300	1,300
Telephone	1,477.97	1,500	1,500
Water/Sewer	644.52	700	700
<b>Total CHURCH OPERATION</b>	<b>80,043.83</b>	<b>63,800</b>	<b>69,650</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>314,563.08</b>	<b>303,439</b>	<b>309,981</b>
TRANSFER FROM SABBATICAL RESERVE	7,500.00		
TRANSFER TO MINISTER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND	-2,957.53		
<b>CHANGE IN OPERATING FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>(\$17,254.55)</b>	<b>\$9,561</b>	<b>(\$33,481)</b>

## CHRISTIAN OUTREACH REPORT

The Board of Christian Outreach energetically embraces our mission of outreach to individuals, organizations and communities in need. As in past years our work is divided into three broad areas. First, we hold the responsibility to identify organizations and agencies whose work connects with the members of the congregation and distribute to them the monies dedicated as “mission” in the annual appeal. Second, we support a limited number of activities and events by coordinating congregational team efforts. Third, we coordinate non-monetary giving to those in need. Each of these areas is detailed below.

This year the Board took on a special project. In response to the broad devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina and the subsequent flooding of New Orleans the Board created and organized an effort to help an extended family whose lives were fundamentally displaced. Barbara Purdy, the former moderator of the church learned that her mother, sister and nephew all lost their homes to the tragedy. A “New Life Registry” – comprised of both household goods and clothing as well as needed cash were donated as a way to help build new lives for them.

### ***Distribution of Mission Monies***

Each year our Stewardship Committee asks all of us to support financially the good works of our Congregation. The monies designated as “mission” are allotted to the Board of Christian Outreach for distribution. The following organizations received monies identified as “Mission” monies for 2005.

The total of for Mission funds distributed in 2005 was \$21,652.93 which does not include the additional fundraising dollars or in-kind goods for which the congregation and community responded to the Outreach Board’s efforts to support the causes listed below.

<p><b>The Inter-Church Council of Greater New Bedford</b></p> <p>412 County Street New Bedford, MA 02740 508/993-6242</p> <p>With a clear sense of mission: “to promote Christian unity through a common ministry of loving service, public witness and building community” the ICC serves 2,500 individuals annually through several community programs. Three housing ministries, the Representative Payee Ministry, the Health and Faith Ministry, and the Counseling Center are among the signature efforts of the ICC.</p> <p><b>2005 Mission Donation \$4,000</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.inter-churchcouncil.org/">http://www.inter-churchcouncil.org/</a></p>	<p><b>Our Church’s Wider Mission</b></p> <p>United Church of Christ Old Colony Association 225 Water Street South #A115, Plymouth, MA 02360 Phone: 508-746-8330</p> <p>Our Church’s Wider Mission is the name used to describe the work done as the United Church of Christ beyond the local church—through Conferences, national ministries, and UCC-related institutions. Our Church’s Wider Mission is also the name given to the financial support given by UCC members and congregations that makes this broader mission possible.</p> <p><b>2005 Mission Donation \$2,000</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.ucc.org/ocwm/">http://www.ucc.org/ocwm/</a></p>
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**CHRISTIAN OUTREACH REPORT continued**

<p><b>Doctors Without Borders</b>  P.O. Box 1856  Merrifield, VA 22116-8056  1-800-392-0392</p> <p>Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international independent medical humanitarian organization that delivers emergency aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, natural or man-made disasters, or exclusion from health care in more than 70 countries.</p> <p><b>2005 Mission Donation \$ 2,238.23</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org">http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org</a></p>	<p><b>Dave Thomas Adoption Foundation</b>  4150 Tullar Road  Suite 204  Dublin, OH 43017  1-800-275-3832</p> <p>The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption is a non-profit 501(c)(3) public charity dedicated to increasing the adoptions of the more than 150,000 children in North America's foster care system. Dave Thomas, founder of Wendy's International, created the Foundation in 1992 in support of the vision that every child deserves a permanent home and a loving family. The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption focuses on increasing adoption awareness while supporting model adoption service programs.</p> <p><b>2005 Mission Donation \$ \$1,342.94</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.davethomasfoundationforadoption.org">http://www.davethomasfoundationforadoption.org</a></p>
<p><b>Habitat for Humanity of Greater Fall River</b>  P.O. Box 1604  Fall River, MA 02721  (508) 672-6689</p> <p>HFH of Greater Fall River Inc. is a locally run affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing organization. Habitat for Humanity works in partnership with people in need to build and renovate decent, affordable housing. The houses then are sold to those in need at no profit and with no interest charged.</p> <p><b>2005 Mission Donation \$ \$1,342.94</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.geocities.com/hfhfallriver/">http://www.geocities.com/hfhfallriver/</a></p>	<p><b>Dartmouth Friends of the Elderly</b>  Dartmouth Council on Aging  628 Dartmouth St.  S. Dartmouth, MA 02748  Contact: Nancy Pimental  508-999-4717</p> <p>Donation may be used by this special interest charity that supplements the needs of poor and at-risk elders whose needs are outside the scope of the funding of the Council on Aging.</p> <p><b>2005 Mission Donation \$ \$1,342.94</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.town.dartmouth.ma.us/coa.htm">http://www.town.dartmouth.ma.us/coa.htm</a></p>
<p><b>Steppingstone, Inc</b>  979 Pleasant St.  New Bedford, MA 02740  508-9994-1880</p> <p>Donation may be used by the organization to further its mission to empower young people through inspiration, education, and mentoring. Most of their work is done thru The Creative Careers afterschool program for at-risk teens.</p> <p><b>2005 Mission Donation \$ \$1,342.94</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.steppingstoneinc.org/">http://www.steppingstoneinc.org/</a></p>	<p><b>SHARE Foundation</b>  Society for Human Advancement through Rehabilitation Engineering Foundation, Inc.  University of Massachusetts  Dartmouth, MA 02747  508/999-8482</p> <p>The SHARE Foundation focuses on enabling those with physical disabilities access to computer technologies and, therefore, access to communication and information so easily denied them.</p> <p><b>2005 Mission Donation \$ \$1,342.94</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.share.umassd.edu">http://www.share.umassd.edu</a></p>

## CHRISTIAN OUTREACH REPORT *continued*

<p><b>Market Ministries Shelter</b> 60 8<sup>th</sup> Street New Bedford, MA 02740 508. 997.3202</p> <p>Sister Rose Gallogly directs one of the most effective and valuable meals and shelter programs in the region. Market Ministries holds an association with Pilgrim United (our sister Congregational Church in downtown New Bedford) and serves thousands of people in need each year.</p> <p><b>2005 Mission Donation \$2,000</b> "Paper Turkeys" Total additional contribution through sale of our paper turkeys at Thanksgiving added approximately <b>\$1,200</b> to our giving.</p>	<p><b>Minister's Discretionary Fund</b></p> <p>These monies are appropriated to the Minister who distributes them to those within our local community with special needs. The recipients of these funds are held in confidence.</p> <p><b>2005 Mission Donation \$3,000</b></p> <p>An additional <b>\$500</b> was allocated early in 2006 to allow the Minister to help defray heating costs for those in need.</p>
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### Event Organizing and Fundraising

Each year the Board of Christian Outreach considers various organizations raising monies through specific sponsorship events (such as walks and relays). A church team is formed and participation/fundraising is coordinated by Board members. This year two such event efforts were sponsored.

<p><b>Holiday Hope/ Families Helping Families</b> Child &amp; Family Services, Inc. 1061 pleasant Street New Bedford, MA 02740 508- 996-8572</p> <p>Families Helping Families is one of the Christmas programs of Child and Family Services. Here church families agree to provide holiday gifts and food to regional families in need. This year the Church contributed to the Christmas celebration of more than 30 individuals and 11 full families.</p> <p><a href="http://www.child-familyservices.org/">http://www.child-familyservices.org/</a></p>	<p><b>Relay for Life</b> American Cancer Society Central New England Region - Brockton, MA 1115 W Chestnut St Brockton, MA 02301 508/584-9600</p> <p>The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life has become one of the nation's signature events bringing people together to support cancer survivorship. The New Bedford relay is one of the largest and most successful of the thousands of Relays worldwide. Our own team has worked hard over the last several years and in 2004 became one of a small handful of teams to become a "Platinum" team by raising <b>\$15,656</b>. "Team Congo" was the third largest fundraising team at last year's Relay.</p> <p><a href="http://www.cancer.org/docroot/GI/gi_1.asp">http://www.cancer.org/docroot/GI/gi_1.asp</a></p>
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## **CHRISTIAN OUTREACH REPORT *continued***

### **Non-Monetary Giving**

The Board is expanding its focus on non-monetary giving. In addition to our "Friends In Need" weekly food drive we quite successfully added a "Winter Needs Warmth" drive.

<b>Friends in Need Food Drive</b>  Every week two shopping carts welcome people to deposit food for those who have less. Catholic Social Services receives regular contributions of non-perishable food items from a generous congregation. While we do not detail the overall monetary value of our food drive it clearly is measured in the thousands of dollars each year.	<b>Winter Clothing Drive</b>  Responding to a call by the New Bedford Public Schools the Board offered to coordinate the collection and delivery of various forms of winter warming wear – coats, gloves, scarves and blankets. The school nurses identified those children in greatest need. Three truckloads of warmth were donated by the Congregation in 2005.
<b>Even the smallest gift makes a difference...</b>  The Outreach Board is still collecting small toiletries, such as those provided by hotels. If you have any unused handy complimentary soaps & lotions, etc. please consider adding to our collection for Donovan House, a homeless shelter for women and children in New Bedford. A special thank you to all of you who recently donated some wonderful toiletries -- 43 lbs. in all, or 3 large bags.	

### **Special Needs**

When the need arises a congregational community must be prepared to act. Such a moment came with the devastation of Hurricane Katrina and the flooding of New Orleans.

### **New Life Registry**

The registry was our church's attempt to direct need to ensure help arrived when and where it was of greatest need. One member of our church had multiple members of her family without home or possessions in the wake of water in New Orleans. The registry provided the essential goods for two households and **\$2,315** divided between the households to purchase items that cannot really be donated as used.

Greetings to all, A challenging year has ended and another begins.

Continuing the conversation on the Open and Affirming process the Deacons held two marriage dialogs. The first in December discussed the history of marriage as an institution and how it has evolved over the years. The second in April discussed conflict in a marriage and how to resolve it. In January the Deacons voted to give back to the pastor the right to marry anyone, at his discretion, without reservations. In fulfilling their commitment to the congregation the Deacons decided to call for a vote on the Open and Affirming issue at the annual meeting in May. Last year the Board of Deacons adopted a Statement of Witness that stated we would continue "to strive to reach out and create a community of caring, healing and spiritual nourishment that welcomes people of all races, ages, genders, sexual orientations, economic levels and physical or mental abilities." We are still committed to this statement.

The Deacons supported the Music Committee in its efforts to secure a new organ for the church. The Music Committee, ably led by Kathy Chase and Steve Starrett, has succeeded beyond expectations and not only secured a magnificent new organ but also raised the funds to pay for it. Under the leadership of our music director, Bill Jones, the organ, choir, and music programs have set ever higher standards. A set of choir chimes was added this year and will add to the music program's appeal for both young and old.

Leslie Simonson served as interim pastor during Jeff's Sabbatical last summer and we hope to see her again. Her thoughtful and competent pasturing made the sabbatical experience positive for both Jeff and the congregation.

Marci Melter, a member of the Board of Deacons for several years, passed away this past November. Her caring and compassion has left a large hole not only in the Board of Deacons but in our congregation as well. Due to busy and conflicting schedules two other members of the Board of Deacons, Donna Dimmery and Carolyn Langlois resigned and they are sorely missed.

As the Board responsible for all that occurs in the Sanctuary we ensure it is properly maintained and coordinate all activities that take place there with the pastor. A new sound system approved last year was successfully installed and a recording system will soon be operational. A new flower policy was put into service under the oversight of Deacon Jeannie Gulbranson. Serving Communion, assisting in new member's classes, hosting the Maundy Thursday service and Deacon's Coffee hour were among the activities we supported this year.

We want to take this opportunity to thank Sue Martin and Linda Keith and our pastor, Jeff Larsen. Under Jeff's extraordinary leadership Linda and Sue have brought special talent and effort to our church that has made a difference.

The congregation of this church has worked together to make things happen within our congregation and greater community. We look forward to continuing on our spiritual journey facing new challenges with respect and compassion for each other.

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Deacons

Susie Blatchford, Fred Dabney, David Fentress, Linda Gouveia, Jeannie Gulbranson, John Lok, Bryan Robertson, Jeff Stone, Scott Whiting.

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT

## Board of Religious Education and Director of the Religious Education Program

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Serving on the Board for the 2005-2006 year were: Sherry Audycki, Cheryl Belknap, Dario Borim, Dori Legge, Margo Moore, Laurie O'Neil, Karin Ostebo, Wendy Reardon, Susan Sullivan, Wendy Weidenfeller, and Debby Clinch as Chair.

Sue Martin completed her sixth year as Director of Religious Education. Highlights of her activities with the Sunday School are mentioned below. Sue notified the Board in early October that she has decided to step down from her position in June, 2006. A committee has been formed to interview and hire her replacement.

### May-June 2005

The 2004-05 Sunday School year ended on May 22, 2005. We brought back the year long theme, "Stories that run through us" using a stream of blue cloth draped across the perimeter of the balcony. Drawings and words were attached to the cloth depicting the stories, events and service projects that shaped the school year. Each class participated in the service. Contributions included prayer, readings, a power point presentation of our Peace Pole, and a video. In addition, the Sunday School children decided to donate their year's Sunday school offerings to three worthy causes – Heifer Project, Animal Rescue League, and a project to purchase enough copies of the book "The Misfits" so a local school classroom of students could discuss and learn about bullying. The service and coffee hour continued outside with the dedication of the Peace Pole. The Peace Pole planting was a joint effort of the Congregational church and the Children Circle Nursery School. "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in 6 different languages adorns the red cedar pole. The pole is dedicated to children in our community and around the world.

Baccalaureate Sunday, June 5, 2005, celebrated the achievements of 14 graduates among the church membership and the community. Thanks to Margo Moore, Sue Sullivan, and Debby Clinch for completing the required duties for this event and to parents of juniors for organizing and hosting the coffee hour.

### The Sunday School 2005-2006

Rally Day was held September 11. We introduced "The Many Shapes of our Faith" as our yearlong theme. Using this theme, we can explore what makes us a church: a collection of people shaped by experiences and talents; a community willing to explore the facets, edges, and angles of our faith, a church shaped and grounded in a tradition of worship, education and service to others. Children and members of the congregation were give square magnet shapes, and asked to cut a shape that represents the importance of the church to them, their role, or hope for the church in the coming year. All of the shapes were put in our 8 foot magnetic board and displayed in the sanctuary.

Sunday school enrollment for the year was 104 children compared to 113 a year ago. Average weekly attendance was 45 children compared to 44 a year ago.

The curriculum used in Preschool – Grade 7 for the 2005-2006 year was *Seasons of the Spirit* a Bible based, lectionary-based program. During Advent we began testing a new curriculum in Grades 3-7 called *Cornerstones*. Cornerstones uses a rotational workshop method designed to give children opportunities to learn about great bible stories and teachings through a variety of media. The workshops - drama, cooking, storytelling, contemporary exploration of faith issues and others work to actively engage participants in each lesson. The R.E. Board and director believe this multi-intelligence approach to Christian Education can lay a solid foundation for the faith journey. We will be reviewing the curriculum after it has been use for six months.

## ***RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT continued***

It should be noted that the continued success of the curriculum is due to the following:

- Teacher training sessions prior to each teaching block enhanced by “curriculum helps” for lesson planning
- The commitment of the teachers
- The presence of both Jeff and Sue Martin, who serve as continuing resources, providing insightful connections between the curriculum and its applications to the life of the church and community
- The presence of the older youth who joined the teaching staff as detailed later in this report

Sunday School Activities also included the following:

- October 2 : World Wide Communion Sunday
- October 16 : All Sunday School fire drill
- November 20: Thanksgiving Family Service including music by the *Joyful Noise* choir
- December 24: “The Story of Jesus’ Birth” directed by Barbara Purdy and Sue Martin, with special music by the Joyful Noise Choir under the direction of Sherry Audycki, and the Legge family Also assisting in this production were: Diana Nichols, Wendy Weidenfeller, Cheryl Belknap, David Schell and many others.
- March 26: Confirmation Sunday with the R.E. Board honoring 11 confirmands and their families at a pre-worship breakfast. The R.E. Board is grateful to Wendy Reardon and Jeff who provided class instruction for the group and supervised related activities.
- April 9 - Outdoor children’s Palm Parade led by *Ace*, a miniature Sicilian “biblical” donkey from Alderbrook Farm.

Each year we supplement the curriculum with ‘serving one another’ projects. This year service learning projects included: writing letters and sending packages to 6 U.S. service men and women; making Lenten bean soup kits as a way of raising awareness of basic needs in our community and making cards of for church family members hospitalized or sick.

### **Board Activities**

All board members taught or provided special assistance to the Sunday School program during the past year. They have also assisted Sue Martin in related projects, and special events as mentioned above.

We hired Alyssa Czorny and Ariane Mello to serve as the Infant and Toddler Room Coordinators in September. They are a great team, and provide consistency and attention to the youngest members of our church family. Parents, board members and confirmands assisted when needed throughout the year.

Youth Fellowships: Details of the youth fellowship programs for the past year are contained in a separate section of the Annual Report. We recommend your careful reading of these events so as to appreciate the impressive contribution of the church youth and those who have served and who continue to serve them.

## ***RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT continued***

### **Anticipated Activities of R. E. Board and Sunday School**

- Children's Sunday
- Baccalaureate Sunday
- Welcoming new Director of Religious Education

We also thank the other youth of the church who taught and/or assisted in Sunday School and/or the Infant and Toddler Room during the past year:

Lydia Armstrong	Doug Johnston	Geneva Gela	Maggie Schoening
Jonny Armstrong	Anna Audycki	Alex Audycki	Michaela Sleight
Erin O'Neil	Bailee Clarke	Kyle Nauman	Drew Nauman
Maggie Schoening	Taylor Nisbet	Morgan Sleight	Lizzie Race-Moore
Cam Siegal	Patch Stanton	Lily Siegal	Nicole Oliveira
Megan Brown	Mac Stanton	Mike Reardon	Casey DeMello
Courtney Rocha			

Their service along with the adults who have volunteered during the past year contributed to the success of the Sunday School program.

The Director of the Sunday School expresses her appreciation for Jeff's guidance and the support of Linda Keith, church administrator, the R. E. Board and Chair, Debby Clinch. Such cooperation and direction proved invaluable at every turn during the past year. The Chair wishes to acknowledge again that the Board was able to fulfill its duties because of the competent and creative leadership of Sunday School Director, Susan Martin. Jeff's counsel remains insightful and dependable. Members of the Board are deeply grateful to the teaching staff for their energetic and dedicated participation in the Sunday School program. Lastly, R. E. Board members offer their gratitude for the steady cooperation of the other boards of the church and for the cooperation of the parents who entrust their children to our care. Our tasks have been eased and enlightened by the grace of such combined efforts. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Martin  
Director

Debby Clinch  
Chair

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

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2005 presented many fiscal challenges to our Congregation. Those fiscal challenges took the form of both higher than expected spending and lower than expected income. Although many of you who attend the Church's quarterly meetings are familiar with these issues, I am going to discuss them in some detail here in the hope that this information reaches the majority of our Congregation that does not attend those quarterly meetings.

During the past two years the Board of Trustees has attempted to simplify and clarify the Church's finances by reformatting the Budget document and holding information sessions. The purpose of these efforts has been to insure that each member of the Congregation has the opportunity to better understand the financial position and needs of the Church. Although many people have commented favorably regarding these sessions, they have not had the intended result of generating more pledge income to meet our increasing expenses.

During that same time period, the Congregation has expressed its desire to increase programs and staff spending (RE director, youth group coordinator, music director), to upgrade certain aspects of our facilities (new organ, updated kitchen, fire alarm system) and to maintain our building and grounds (resurface parking lot, paint church and parsonage). The result is that our pledges have not kept pace with our spending.

We entered 2005 with approximately \$24,000.00 in reserve funds from 2004. However, due to unanticipated operating expenses, emergency situations and capital expenditures, our total spending was nearly \$30,000 more than budgeted. To compound matters, despite a new faith based approach and considerable effort from our Stewardship Committee, pledges did not meet our budgeted goal. The end result was that substantial withdrawals (over \$170,000) were made from our invested funds and we closed the year with a budget deficit of approximately \$2,000.00.

Although several of the extra expenditures in 2005 were one time items not expected to be repeated, the deficit spending is expected to continue into the future. As discussed at the quarterly meeting held in March, current projections show a Budget deficit of approximately \$26,000.00 is anticipated for 2006. The Congregation approved that Budget, with the deficit to be withdrawn from invested funds. The trend we are seeing in 2005 and 2006 is the result of expenses increasing at a rate that is much faster than the increase in pledges. In fact, the last time pledges funded the Church's operations was 1996. If this trend continues at its current pace, with no major changes in market returns, our invested funds will be depleted in approximately ten years. Although not in crisis, we are trending in a direction that is not fiscally healthy in the long term.

Recently a proposal has been submitted to the Trustees and Executive Board with specific ideas to renew our focus on Stewardship and the membership of our Congregation. That proposal will be presented to the Congregation in the near future with the hope that its adoption and implementation will address the negative fiscal trend we are currently experiencing. As Trustee Co-Chair, I believe the Church is doing the right thing by spending to insure that our programs, staff and facilities provide the best environment and experience for our Congregation. However, I also believe that the Congregation must revalue that experience and support it financially to insure the long term health of our Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Nauman, Trustee Co-Chair

## WAYS AND MEANS REPORT

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Committee Members: Gene Antonell, Jane Goulet, Molly Little, Barbara Purdy, Marybeth Starrett, Larry Kemper, Ann Borim-Fifield, Rich Madsen. Chairperson: Cecelia Roberts

The Ways and Means Committee seeks to plan events that promote fellowship among members of the Congregation as well as inviting new friends to join in. We strive to keep a balance between our budgetary responsibilities set forth by the Board of Trustees and ideas shared by others within the congregation. Our goal is to sponsor events throughout the year that every member of the Church can participate in and support the fund raising component of our board.

Over the past year, the committee has hosted a variety of events. Creating Mother's Day gifts were the focus of our first fundraising event. We invited ladies, both young and old, to come and create a piece of handmade jewelry to give to their mother or other significant figure in their life. Many came and enjoyed the activity. As has become a tradition with our group, every woman attending worship, member or visitor, was greeted with a flower of celebration. Our second Lobster Bake was held back in June, 2005 with over 50 people attending. Fun was had by all and everything was completed before the rain!! October hosted the "Scarecrow Shindig" which was a new event for our group. Despite the weather and some flat tires on the fire truck, a good time was had by all painting pumpkins, decorating cookies and a host of other fun activities. Our activities ended the year with the annual Lees Gourmet Dinner. With a new chef sharing his culinary skills, a fine dining experience was had by all. The level of fellowship was like none ever seen at this event. We look forward to hosting this event again in November, 2006. The group is rounding out its fundraising year with an idea that has been discussed for years and will see through to its culmination in May, 2006. The Padanaram Garden Market is sure to be an annual event which will bring great pride to our church.

It is the continued generosity of the church family that allows all of these activities to be successful. It is also the hard work by a very dedicated and committed group of people that creates the opportunity for success. Their efforts are tireless and their energy endless. It is with this commitment that allows our group to work its hardest to meet the obligation to the church. I consider myself honored and blessed to have had the opportunity to work with these individuals over the past 6 years.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cecelia Roberts  
Chairperson

## INVESTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

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This report covers the activities of the Investment Committee for the calendar year 2005. This is the thirteenth year we have had professional management for our account and it is our third year with U.S.Trust..

The performance of our portfolio in 2005 was marginally positive. Valuation of the account principal –adjusted for withdrawal of \$64,400 - used for special projects and operations – and fees of \$8,327 increased by 1.1%. The actual balance in the principal account was \$1,063,631 on December 31, 2005 and \$1,124,438 on December 31, 2004. During the year a total of \$49,000 was withdrawn from the income account for church operations. (The income account consists of interest and dividends generated by the principal account). The equity and income portions of the portfolio have consistently exceeded the benchmarks by a small margin.

Distribution of the account at the end of the year was 51% domestic equities, 9% international equities, 31% in fixed income items, 7% special Investments and 2% in cash equivalents.

Our U. S. Trust advisor is continuing to adjust our holdings toward the target portfolio which had been projected to generate annual dividends of \$50,000 with increases annually to keep up with inflation and provide continued growth of assets. The target portfolio is projected to have less risk than the prior portfolio. A few more changes need to be made to reach the objective.

The committee had four meetings during the year. At the July meeting which our advisor was unable to attend we reviewed a draft of a new comprehensive Investment Policy. Further study is needed before approval.

Committee members are: Phil Danforth, Sandy Fogg, Phil Guymont, Herb Howe, Kevern Joyce, Gale Litchfield, Bob Lytle, Susan Martin, Joe Nauman, Jerry Scherer and Harry Schoening.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Schoening, Chairman

## LIBRARY COMMITTEE REPORT

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This past year we completed updating our library décor. The couch and chairs were reupholstered and new carpeting was installed. Please come by, stay awhile, enjoy perusing the many wonderful books in a beautiful and relaxing environment, and then check out a book or two to take home with you.

Circulation of books and videos was up this year. Total circulation was 182 books and of those, 45 were taken out by children. Sixty-five videos were taken out.

One-hundred-and-twenty-two books were added to the library this year.

Gifts	75
Book Sale	41
Budget	5
Bailey Davis Fund	1

Many thanks to all of you who give so generously. Special thanks to Linda Keith and Al DeMello who give so good-naturedly of themselves.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda R. Gouveia  
Mariana Harkins  
Jane Hoag  
Martha Schoening

## MUSIC COMMITTEE REPORT

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Committee members: Kathy Chase, Barbara Daniels, Margaret Jones, Steve Starrett, Peter Hindle, and John Lok.

### Accomplishments

- Our music library has continued to grow this year thanks to our Music Director Bill Jones. He donated a great deal of music from his own library to our church.
- Under Bill's direction, our senior choir has grown musically. He is a gifted director, and he is continually working to improve the sound of the group. The choir sings most of its music a cappella, which is no small feat for a volunteer choir. We are always looking for new members, especially tenors and bases, and we encourage anyone who is interested to come to a rehearsal.
- Under the direction of Sherry Audycki, we have a children's choir. Besides adding to our worship services, this choir is encouraging our little ones to get involved in music. Sherry has also worked at establishing an intergenerational choir. They have sung in the sanctuary on three different Sundays. Our thanks go to Sherry for her hard work.
- The organ in our sanctuary had begun to show signs of wear, and it was the fear of both Bill Jones and this committee that its eventual failure would put the church in the difficult position of having to purchase a new organ without having the luxury of time to search for the best instrument at the best price. Because of this concern, Bill began a search and discovered a three-manual Renaissance Allen organ that was being offered at an excellent price. With the help of a very generous church member to kick off the fund-raising, we were able to realistically make plans to purchase the organ. Our thanks go to the church membership for voting to match the original donation along with our thanks to all the generous personal donations and pledges that followed.

### Renaissance Organ Fund Gifts, Donations and Pledges thru February 2006

Memorial Gifts and Donations	\$16,319.30
Pettinos Trust + Church Member	15,000.00
Matching Church contribution	15,000.00
Pledges (6 Pledges 2,960 – 650 pd)	<u>2,310.00</u>
	\$ 48,629.30

Organ Contract	\$46,800.00
Added control - 1/06	<u>2,250.00</u>
	49,050.00
	<u>-30,000.00</u>
	19,050.00
Receipts & Pledges	<u>-18,629.30</u>
	(420.70)

Because the full amount for the organ is not due for three years, we are confident that the interest on our money will cover the small balance that is due.

## ***MUSIC COMMITTEE REPORT continued***

- The organ was moved to our sanctuary this fall. A special thank you must go to the following people for their tireless work on designing and building spots for both the organ and the new speakers: Bill Jones, Steve Starrett, John Lok, Dick Daniels, Al DeMello, and Debbie Durland
- The organ was dedicated on Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- On Sunday, January 15, 2006, concert goers were treated to their first organ concert in our sanctuary. Our guest organist was Jeffrey Wood, a truly gifted musician. This concert was a financial success.
- Through another gift to the church, tone bars were purchased to be used in our sanctuary. Bill Jones has organized an intergenerational tone bar choir, and they are already adding to the beauty of our music.

This has been an exciting year for our music committee. We again thank those church members and friends who have enthusiastically supported the music ministry of our church.

## Nominating Committee

**Moderator: Kevern Joyce**

**Clerk: Cynthia Scheller**

**Treasurer: Harry Schoening**

**Assistant Treasurer: Gale Litchfield**

**Auditor: N/A**

**Historian: Cecelia Roberts**

**Board of Deacons: 6 men and 6 women**

Term Expires 2007	Term Expires 2008	Term Expires 2009
John Lok (01)	Bryan Robertson (02)	<b>Bud Clark (06)</b>
Scott Whiting (03)	Jeannie Gulbranson (02)	Fred Dabney (02)
David Fentress (00)	Jeff Stone (05)	Susan Blatchford (03)
	Linda Gouveia (05)	

**Board of Christian Outreach: 12**

Term Expires 2007	Term Expires 2008	Term Expires 2009
Sarah Van Vleck (01)		<b>Susan McLaren (06)</b>
Lara Stone (05)		<b>Maura Reimer (06)</b>
Nancy Kurtz (04)	Brian Fernandes (05)	<b>George Sebesta (06)</b>
Pamela Joyce (03)	Julie Rhind	<b>Becky Bryant (06)</b>
		<b>Kate Fentress (06)</b>

**Board of Religious Education: 12**

Term Expires 2007	Term Expires 2008	Term Expires 2009
Dario Borim (04)	Wendy Reardon (05)	
Margo Moore (01)	Dori Legge (04)	Debby Clinch
Lori O'Neill (04)	Sherry Audycki (05)	
Karen Ostebo (04)	Wendy Weidenfeller (05)	

**Board of Trustees: 10 plus the Treasurer (Harry Schoening) and Assistant Treasurer (Gale Litchfield)**

Term Expires 2007	Term Expires 2008	Term Expires 2009
Sandy Fogg (01)		
Rob Schoening (02)	Larry Bedell (02)	<b>Phil Guymont (06)</b>
Dick Purdy (04)	Linda Paradise (03)	Anne Kemper (02)
Joe Nauman (04)	Howie Clinch (05)	Ridley Rhind (03)

**Stewardship Committee: 6 plus the Treasurer (Harry Schoening and Assistant Treasurer (Gale Litchfield)**

Steve Roberts (03)	Karen McArthur (04)	
Larry Bedell (04)	Sandy Fogg (04)	Joe Nauman (04)
Ridley Rhind (04)		<b>John Fitzpatrick</b>

**Nominating Committee continued**

**Board of Ways and Means: 12**

<b>Term Expires 2007</b>	<b>Term Expires 2008</b>	<b>Term Expires 2009</b>
Molly Little (01)	Rich Madsen (05)	Anne Borim-Fifield (03)
Mary Beth Starrett (04)	Bob & Linda Roda (05)	Larry Kemper (03)
Barbara Purdy (04)		

**Pastoral Advisory Committee: 5 (1 year term)**

Moderator: <b>Kevern Joyce</b>	Church Member:
Deacon:	Church Member:
Deacon:	

**Delegates to the Inter Church Council: 2**

	Anne Sedgwick
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**Delegates to the Old Colony Association**

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**Delegates to the Massachusetts Conference**

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**Nominating Committee: 5 (2 year term)**

<b>Term Expires 2008</b>
<b>Sue Martin</b>
<b>Sue Sebesta</b>
<b>Bob Lytle</b>

**Music Committee**

	Steve Starrett	
	John Lok	<b>Linda Gouveia</b>
Margaret Jones	Peter Hindle	<b>Sherry Audycki</b>

**Human Resources Committee: 3 (undetermined term)**

<b>Steve Sedgwick</b>
<b>Phil Guymont</b>

(Note: NEW (06) Board members are in bold)

## **PASTORAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

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Committee: Bob Lytle, Gene Antonell, David Fentress, Kate Dabney, Susan Blatchford, and Sandy Fogg

This committee met monthly with Rev Larsen and on occasion, with Kathleen.

PAC serves as a liaison between the church congregation and the Larsens. Jeff usually brings his list of ministry goals and monthly record of activity as the basis for discussion.

Jeff's sabbatical was the major focus for this past year.

I wish to thank the committee members for their excellent support and for giving generously of their time and energy during the 2005-2006 church season.

Bob Lytle, Moderator

## **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT**

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So far, over 300 individuals have made 180 pledges totaling \$186,000, of which \$22,000 is pledged to outreach. We received 22 new pledges and 73 increased pledges, against only 20 decreases and 64 pledges that remained the same. Thank you all for your generous support of our Church's financial needs, this is an increase in overall giving over 2005.

There still are people who have not made a pledge this year, but have been giving steadily. We hope to receive several more pledges from this group.

Our average pledge increased from \$556 to \$629 per person, but we have received fewer pledges. There seem to be a growing number of people who while they do not pledge, contribute generously throughout the year. We certainly appreciate all gifts!

For the last 10 years, contributions have not covered our operating costs and we have relied on the income from investments and trusts to balance the budget. We will present a new program in 2006 that focuses on stewardship and redefining membership.

Respectfully submitted by Kevern Joyce

## WOMEN'S GUILD REPORT

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Officers: Jennifer Lynch, President; Sarah VanVleck, 1<sup>st</sup> V. P.; Molly Little, 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P.: Sonja White, Treasurer; Petie Antonell, Recording Secretary; Pam Joyce, Publicity; Barbara Wood and Shirley Butterworth, 80<sup>th</sup> Remembrance; and Nancy DeWolf, Historian.

The Women's Guild provides Christian fellowship through its activities including dinners, social events and community outreach. We also provide emotional support through assistance with collations upon the death of church members. At their meeting on October 17, 2004, the Guild Board voted to create a new fund within the Guild called "The Women's Guild Outreach Fund". This Fund will allocate \$200 annually to be used at the Board's discretion for the express purpose of helping women of the Church when they do not have the means themselves to participate in the life of the Church.

The main focus of this fiscal year was the upgrading of the Church kitchen under the direction of Debbie Durland (architect), Cindy Spence and Lynne Turner. The kitchen renovation budget consisted of \$15,000 from Rummage Sales and Christmas Fairs; \$500 in memory of Lillian Lindell a Guild Member; \$500 from the Youth Fellowship; \$1,500 from the Ways and Means Committee from their Silent Auction at Howland Place; and a \$5,000 anonymous donation from a Guild Member – a total of \$22,500. The total cost of the kitchen renovations was \$23,718.40.

Our Christmas Fair was held November 20, 2004. Jennifer Lynch, Donna Bosworth and Cindy Spence co-coordinated the workshops and worked diligently to make the fair a success. The results produced \$3,152.73. Thank you all very much.

The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Women's Guild was celebrated December 9, 2004, at the New Bedford Country Club. The Reverend Nehemiah Boynton, III was guest speaker. Christmas Corsages were presented to Past Presidents. A medallion ornament with a special imprint of the Church designed by Renate Hamer and prepared by Saltmarsh Pottery was presented to all Guild Members and sent to Past Presidents. At this time donations were given to the Salvation Army, Friends of the Elderly, Dartmouth Youth Commission, Neediest Family Fund, and DARE. The Guild and the Youth Fellowship gave a special gift to the Penikese Island School for calculators. Christmas gifts were also given to our wonderful church personnel.

At a Guild Meeting held February 1, 2005, it was unanimously voted to change Article XIII of the Guild Bylaws to read as follows: *When there is a death of a Guild Member, the Guild shall give an appropriate amount to the Church Memorial Fund in that person's name.*

A Rummage Sale was held April 22-23, 2005. We are grateful to all of those people who helped to make it a success. We raised \$2,231.54 during this event.

Membership in The Women's Guild of the Congregational Church of South Dartmouth is open to all women of the community. Being a Church member is not a requirement. The Guild is looking forward to a growth in its membership so that it may continue to be a body of caring and concerned individuals that gains strength in its fellowship with each other.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Pettengill and Sonja White for the Women's Guild Executive Board

## **JUNIOR YOUTH FELLOWSHIP REPORT**

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The Junior Youth Fellowship had a great year (2005– 2006) with a very active and enthusiastic group. This year's group was an especially nice group of kids and a pleasure to work with. They were truly kind and respectful to each other and demonstrated the values that we try so hard to teach.

Our youth group is non-denominational, open to all youth of our church and our community in grades 6-8. Our program includes fellowship, community service, a spiritual component and of course, fun. Our fellowship consists of about 75 members. Almost half of our members come from church families.

The Youth Fellowship participated in a schedule set by our parent leaders and Jeff. Our parent committee consists of the following individuals who work with and for the kids all year long: Janne Armstrong, Jeanne Butler, Justine Clarke, Chris Stanton, and Daphne Siegal.

We had regular meetings with games, discussions, and time to get to know each other. The fellowship was active in church events. We made Christmas stockings for the Holiday Hope project and helped clean up after the rummage sale. Other activities included a Halloween party, a trip to the ropes course at the YMCA, Christmas caroling, the winter retreat and an evening at Healthtrax to swim and play games. Our spaghetti supper was very successful and raised \$867.00, which was donated to our church scholarship fund and the Good Shepherd UCC church in Louisiana.

As always, one of the highlights of the year was our annual winter retreat up to Brookwoods, in New Hampshire. Our program included discussions and games. We made valentines to send to a nearby Veterans Hospital. We had different services over the weekend: a candlelight service and a worship service led by Jeff on Sunday morning. We had a great time skiing at Gunstock! Both kids and parents enjoyed a wonderful weekend.

As the year comes to a close, we look forward to our annual cookout in May held at the Johnson's house on the beach.

Our Youth Fellowship this year was an enthusiastic and committed group of kids. They are always eager to help out and they are great workers. Through the community service we do as a group and the community service required of each member individually, the kids are learning that each one of them can make a difference. And they always have fun – whether they are working or playing.

We have a wonderful group of parents who have helped us over the past year in so many different ways. Thank you for all you do, we could not do it without you!

We are so grateful to our church for supporting this group. The youth are appreciative and their parents especially so. Our church is making a difference in these young peoples' lives.

Respectfully submitted,  
Daphne Fogg Siegal  
Youth Director

## SENIOR YOUTH FELLOWSHIP REPORT

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Our senior youth fellowship, consisting of high school aged students, is made up of youth from our church and our community. They enjoyed another year of fun and working together. This is a great group of kids who are always willing to help out and always willing to get involved. The youth took part in activities that included social get-togethers and community service. This year a committee made up of parents and Jeff ran our senior fellowship. We had many parents willing to organize the schedule for the year and then coordinate individual events.

We started the year with an evening of pizza and games. In December the youth made Christmas cookies and then delivered them to some of our elderly church members. In January, Jeff and Kathy Larsen gave a presentation about the mission trip along with some of the members of the trip. The evening was well attended by mission trip members, their families, and members of our congregation. In March, the youth group had an afternoon where they got together to watch and discuss a movie, *The Laramie Project*. They went to the annual pasta dinner held by the junior youth fellowship. It was great to have the older kids there to support our junior group.

In May, the senior youth will be leading our May 7<sup>th</sup> worship service along with Jeff. We also have a large-scale community service project planned for May 13<sup>th</sup> where we will join the town in Dartmouth's town-wide clean-up day. Our last social activity will be a cookout towards the end of May to wrap up the year. In June, we hope to participate in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life.

There are many people to thank for making this year a success. Our youth group is very fortunate to have the support of our church. Also, the parents willing to work with our group make it possible to have an ongoing youth program that the youth want to be involved in. We would like to thank the following people who have helped in one way or another over the year: Janne Armstrong, Pam and Ricardo Bermudez, Kim Christopher, Sally and Malcolm Johnston, Mary Kavanaugh, Linda Keith, Kathy and Jeff Larsen, Dori Legge, Tina and Joe Nauman, Laurie O'Neil, Pattie and Bryan Robertson, MB and Rob Schoening, Daphne Siegal, Paul Sleight, and Suzy White. Thanks to all for your time and energy!

Respectfully submitted,  
Daphne Fogg Siegal  
Youth Director