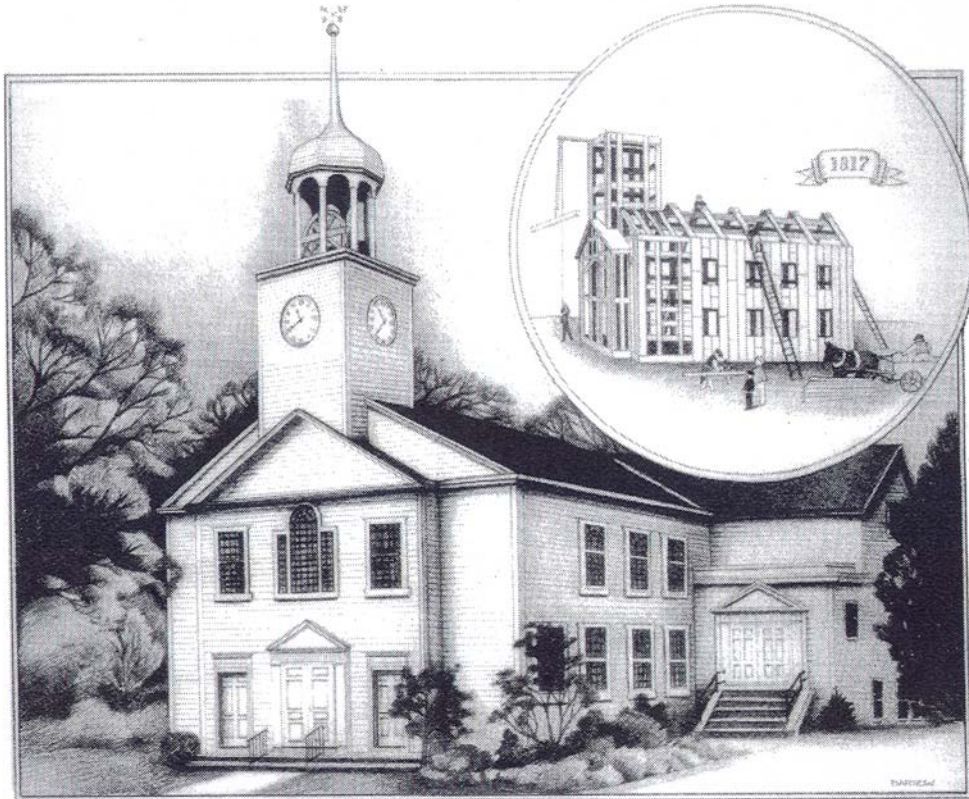
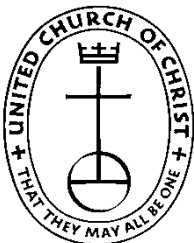


# THE ANNUAL REPORT 2008



Building a loving, living church since 1807



**THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
OF SOUTH DARTMOUTH, MA**  
*(United Church of Christ)*

**IN ITS  
201<sup>st</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**  
**May 7, 2007 to May 4, 2008 \* ANNUAL MEETING: May 4, 2008**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	1
OFFICERS and CHURCH STAFF for 2007-08 .....	2
INTERIM MINISTER'S REPORT .....	3
<b><u>OFFICERS' REPORTS</u></b>	
MODERATOR.....	6
CLERK	
Record of Statistics for the Year.....	7
Annual Meeting Notes – May 6, 2007 .....	9
Quarterly Meeting Notes – October 28, 2007.....	14
Quarterly Meeting Notes – January 27, 2008.....	19
TREASURER (reports and budget) .....	23
<b><u>BOARD REPORTS</u></b>	
CHRISTIAN OUTREACH.....	34
DEACONS .....	40
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION .....	42
TRUSTEES.....	43
WAYS AND MEANS .....	44
<b><u>COMMITTEE REPORTS</u></b>	
BICENTENNIAL .....	45
BICENTENNIAL EVENTS / CELEBRATIONS.....	46
INVESTMENT .....	47
LIBRARY.....	48
MUSIC.....	49
NOMINATING .....	50
PASTORAL SEARCH .....	54
TRANSITION TEAM .....	55
<b><u>ADDITIONAL REPORTS</u></b>	
CHILDREN'S CIRCLE NURSERY SCHOOL.....	56
SUNDAY SCHOOL .....	58
WOMEN'S GUILD.....	60
YOUTH FELLOWSHIP (Junior and Senior).....	61 & 62

### **Church Officers (2007-2008)**

Moderator: Kevern Joyce

Clerk: Cynthia Scheller

Treasurer: Harry Schoening

Assistant Treasurer: Gale Litchfield

Historian: Cecelia Roberts

### **Church Staff (2007-2008)**

Interim Minister: Rev. Elizabeth Ann King

Director of Christian Education: Wendy Reardon

Director of Youth Fellowship: Daphne Fogg Siegal

Music Director: Dr. William Haffner-Jones

Building Custodian: Al DeMello

Office Administrator: Linda Keith

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

Children's Circle Nursery School Assistant Teacher: Betsy Johnson

## INTERM MINISTER'S REPORT

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Using a familiar nautical term, I believe we are in the last leg of our race together. We have passed the second marker and are making our way to the finish line. In the past two years we have accomplished a great deal thanks to you and to the steady winds of God that provided us with the energy to move through these transitional waters.

When I first arrived at the church in August of 2006, someone told me that the Congo Church was like a “yacht club without boats.” I winced at the image. A yacht club without boats! What did that mean? Did they mean the church was an exclusive club of “nice” people who gathered regularly, but had forgotten their purpose for existing? Or did they mean that members enjoyed the warmth and security of the clubhouse and had lost all desire to sail? That one phrase can generate a lot of different meanings and perhaps it is worthy of some discussion!

But my experience tells me that you are a church with enormous heart and commitment. (At least the 70 or so adults that I work with on a regular basis.) To a person, you are devoted to making this world a better place, especially for those who are in need. You do this in all kinds of ways, some through your work, others through volunteer programs throughout the Greater New Bedford area. I confess that at first I wanted to “make” you see that everything you are doing is “mission” work, a natural extension of your faith. Many of you however told me quite clearly that these activities were a natural extension of your civic duty, and were not generated by any sort of religious impulse. After talking with many of you at length about this, I’m not sure it makes any difference what you call it. What’s important is that this kind of activity is a priority for each and every one of you. It is a defining characteristic of the members of this church.

This past spring, the Search Committee has been overwhelmed with the positive response by candidates to the kinds of “social outreach” programs the church and it’s are involved in. It is one of the primary reasons they are attracted to the church. As individuals and as a church family, you are a source of hope and healing to your neighbors in the SouthCoast. So instead of thinking about the church as a an exclusive yacht club without boats, I wonder if perhaps you’re more like a community boating center with lots of different kinds of boats available to sail and with different crews coalescing, setting out, and then returning to a supportive community eager to hear of your adventures?

So before I disembark from the SS Congo, I’d like to offer a few suggestions for your consideration and I’m going to put them in writing so they aren’t lost in the months and years to come. Take anything you find valuable and let the rest go!

- continue having lay members of all ages lead different portions of worship. Over and over again you talk about how moved you are when you hear a fellow church member share his or her story during the service. You love having the Confirmands take a leadership role in worship at least twice a month. And those of you who take on these roles report that it causes you to reflect more deeply on your experience of the holy and what it means to be a person of faith and reason.
- begin a worship service held on Saturday or Sunday evening with a different style and format than those held on Sunday morning. Assemble an intergenerational worship team made up of lay people who would like to explore different forms of prayer, preaching and music. Worship outdoors in the summer, hold services in Hay Hall or Lower Social Hall, where the seating arrangement could be completely different, and the use of multimedia much easier.

## ***INTERM MINISTER'S REPORT (continued)***

- become a green church. Invite those who feel passionate about energy and environmental issues to meet, review resources and invite the rest of the church family to consider adopting some radically new ways of conserving energy, recycling and reducing our carbon footprint.
- explore the possibility of using fair trade coffee at church, and selling it to church members as well. The cost is no longer prohibitive, and more of the profit goes directly to those who are directly involved in the harvesting and production of the coffee.
- utilize UCC programs and resources more regularly. The denomination provides excellent resources for local churches on issues like becoming a “green church” and or stewardship. You do not always have to start from scratch and create new programs out of thin air. There is no shame in adapting or building on programs that other churches have already implemented and had success with.
- continue small group discussions after church, where the theme or topic that was addressed in worship is continued by members during coffee hour.
- allow yourselves to not always do “what you have always done, because you have always done it that way.” Or to hold meetings or events you don’t have the energy to hold. For heaven’s sake even God needed a day of rest after creating the universe and all forms of life therein and God asked that we do the same. If we are not resting or taking breaks from activities and endless committee meetings, there will be no creative energy flowing through the body. Practice Sabbath!
- create a Human Resources group that is responsible for supporting staff members as well as initiating annual evaluations for them. There are currently no policies or guidelines in place regarding sick days, vacation days, or personal days. I believe the church needs a group that is responsible for advocating on behalf of staff members and ensuring parity between them in terms of compensation and benefits as well as help them develop their professional goals each year.
- create a Hospitality Team, a group of people who actively welcomes visitors and newcomers to the church and enjoy doing so!
- strengthen the relationship between Children’s Circle and the church. It sounds as if the relationship between the two has been tenuous at times if not antagonistic. Yet Children’s Circle is one of the ways we attract new families to our church. In the past 12 to 15 years, over 31 families discovered the church through their participation in Children’s Circle and within a year or two became members.
- ask for help! When you are overwhelmed, tired, frustrated or need help, please ask for it. There are people at church who are willing and able to support and assist you, but they can’t read your mind and they don’t have a clue how to enter into the system. Those of you in leadership positions need to actively invite more people to help with absolutely everything. The church will be richer for it.
- offer a wide variety of activities that meet the very diverse spiritual needs of the congregation. Experiment, play, have fun, explore the wonderful green space in Dartmouth, think outside the box!
- continue moving the conversation forward regarding Bibles in the sanctuary. Consider using consensus style decision making at times, rather than using Robert’s Rules of Order which can sometimes inhibit the sharing of ideas, and the moving of the Holy Spirit.

## ***INTERM MINISTER'S REPORT (continued)***

Before closing, I would like to thank the many leaders of this church. You are remarkable in your dedication and service to this faith community. It has been both a privilege and delight to work side by side with you the past two years. I have learned a great deal from my experience with you which I will carry with me as I continue re-creating my ministry with new people in new places. I am also very grateful for the opportunity to work with such extraordinary colleagues. The skill, creativity and commitment you bring to your respective positions is truly remarkable. I have never before had the opportunity to work with such gifted and generous staff members. May God bless you as you welcome your new minister and begin the sacred task of discovering the gifts that God has given you, in the unique qualities and characteristics of the other.

With much love and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. Elizabeth Ann King". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

***Rev. Elizabeth Ann King***

## **MODERATOR'S REPORT**

---

This has been another interesting and exciting year for our Church. While going through a transition between ministers, it is often difficult to maintain the enthusiasm and interest of the congregation. While our transition is by no means perfect, I think our level of activity reflects upon the potential that our Church has to continue serving the needs of our members and our community:

Over the last year:

- We celebrated our 200<sup>th</sup> year with special events hosted by all the church boards and committees. The celebration culminated with a lovely dinner in October that was fun and well attended.
- Our interim minister, Elizabeth King, continues to keep everything and everyone moving forward.
- The Search Committee, with a lot of member input, drafted a profile of our Church which serves as the main marketing tool being used in the search for our new settled minister. That effort has resulted in the receipt of 70 resumes. The search committee has met at least weekly, reviewing resumes, interviewing candidates and visiting with candidates. They have several strong candidates under consideration and we can expect to receive their recommendation later this year.
- The Transition Team continues to work and get us to think about our Church. Maybe later this year they can lead us in welcoming a new settled minister!
- We conducted another successful stewardship campaign. While we are not yet covering our expenses through pledges, we are still financially viable.
- We had over 60 people volunteer on a work day at two community service organizations and conducted several other outreach efforts.
- We welcomed new members, continued a vibrant religious education program, had two active and well attended youth programs and in many ways served the needs of our community.

All this work gets done through our boards, committees and staff, and work and good deeds are getting done! We may be in a transition, but we have not stopped everything to wait for a new minister! The pace will only accelerate when the new minister comes! If you want to be involved, the time is now!

I especially want to thank our staff, Elizabeth, Linda, Al, Scarlett, Betsy, Bill, Wendy, and Daphne, for all they do for us each week.

***Kevern Joyce, Moderator***

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

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### **IN MEMORIAM – 6 members and 6 friends**

#### Members

Deborah Robertson Clinch  
Richard Steven Davenport  
Rev. Elmer Kimmell  
Mark Wesley Knowlton  
Eva Lucas Mattson  
Marion Sherman Tripp

#### Friends

Bruce Crawford  
Nicholas Wayne Fernandes  
Phil Jenkins  
Mary Kraihanzel  
Martha Munro  
Frances Eleanor (McElhiney) Smith

### **NEW MEMBERTS RECEIVED INTO OUR FELLOWSHIP – 8**

#### Joined: December 9, 2007 - 6

James Forbush  
Margaret Forbush  
Cristina Mehrtens

Sarah O'Donnell  
Richard Rende  
Cheryl Slomkoski

#### Joined: April 20, 2008 - 4

Catherine Dias  
Daphne Saverine

Heather Fortin  
Brett Fortin

Note: Confirmation this year will be May 20<sup>th</sup> and will be included in next year's report.

### **BAPTIZED INTO OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH – 14**

Jacob Emanuel Botelho  
Greer Austin Barclay  
Henry Todd Cutler  
Lillian Savannah Costa  
Charles Hoskins Fairfax  
Willard Hart Fairfax  
Bryce Philip Fortin

Trinity Skye Garnett  
Phoebe Elizabeth Miller Gillis  
Samantha Marie Grein  
Alissa Marie Levitre  
Lydia Grey Machado  
Finnegan Davis Paradise  
Raquelle Laray Rivera

### **MARRIAGES IN OUR SANCTUARY – 8**

Stacey Patanaude & Lawrence M. Drayton  
Tanya M. Teixeira & Carl J. Alves  
Wendy Clark Roosevelt & Christopher Edward Fahy  
Emily Huidekoper Edson & Aleksandar Radomir Bojovic  
Heather Francis & Sean Burke  
Jill Leigh Spinelli & Christopher Mark Sullivan  
Aimee Nichole Forcier & Paul Fisher Gifford  
Amanda Lee Rebello & Sean Randell Pontes

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

**Total Membership as of May 6, 2007** **546**

New Members:

Affirmation of Faith 10

**Sub-totals:** **10** **556**

Removals:

Deaths 6

Transfers 6

Other (asked to be removed) 20

Move to Inactive List 72

**Sub-totals:** **104** **452**

**Total Membership as of May 4, 2008** **452**

## Annual Meeting Notes - May 6, 2007

---

Moderator Kevern Joyce called the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Congregational Church of South Dartmouth to order at 11:50 a.m. A quorum was present. He remarked that worship services like the one we had just experienced were why this church has been able to continue for a couple of hundred years; it was the best Confirmation Service ever!

Reverend Elizabeth King led the group in devotions.

Kevern then thanked outgoing Trustee Co-Chairs Joe Nauman and Sandy Fogg for their service. Fred Dabney introduced Linda Gouveia and Jeff Stone as new Co-Chairs of the Deacons. And Tom Rioux was introduced as the new Chair of Ways & Means.

Bob Lytle took the floor to present the new slate of Boards and Committees as listed in the Annual Report with the addition of Bill Shattuck to the Board of Deacons. Accepting the nominees as listed was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Fred Dabney thanked departing Deacons Bryan Robertson, Dave Fentress, Jeannie Gulbranson, and John Lok for their years of service. He invited anyone interested in becoming a Deacon or learning more about it to the Deacons' Potluck Supper the first Tuesday in June at the Fentress home.

Outreach member, Sarah Van Vleck, was thanked for her 6 years of service. Additional thanks were given to departing Trustees, Linda Paradise and Anne Kemper. Kevern noted that the Boards and Committees are how things get done in the Congregational Church. He pointed out the progress and growth we have experienced over this past year. Today's service was one testament of that; the many 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities are others. The core of our church is in the committees; that is where the work gets done.

Debby Clinch thanked Margo Moore for her 6 years of service on Religious Education and welcomed Maureen Jones to the Board. Tom Rioux reported that Ways & Means was not losing any additional members and welcomed any new folks interested in joining them.

Next, Sonja White and David Schell took the floor to present the Dr. Robert Hancock Goodwin Memorial Award. Sonja noted that after this morning's service it is apparent that our church is, indeed, alive and well. She explained that the Goodwin Award acknowledges service to our Church, diversity of contributions, as well as involvement in the greater community. David added that this year's recipient could not be more deserving. She has been a member and chair of Ways & Means, was instrumental in developing our Padanaram Garden Market fundraiser, the Silent Auction, and the Mother's Day Fair. She is a key participant in Relay For Life and organized the Church Pictorial Directory. She has helped paint the Church and baked special cakes for any number of occasions. She encouraged her daughter in a very successful Lenten Food Drive. This year's Goodwin Award winner is Cecelia Roberts! Cecelia stated that she was honored to receive this award and while listening to the Confirmands this morning, realized how much this Church means to her. She loves our diversity and the fact that, in spite of many varied points of view, we are still able to get things done.

Kevern noted that the UCC creed is responsible freedom and in all things essential, diversity and unity.

Jeff Stone then took the floor to report on the Transition Committee's House Meetings held in March. The goal is to continue these dialogues around selecting our next settled minister. 12 House Meetings were held, including one for Church Youth. Three were held at the church, 9 in

## **Annual Meeting Notes - May 6, 2007 continued**

members' homes. Many thanks to those who opened their homes for these meetings: Paul & Debbie Durland, Derrick & Margaret Jones, Kevern & Pam Joyce, Jeannie Gulbranson, Jon & Jan Armstrong, Everett & Jane Hoag, Sarah Van Vleck, Susan McLaren & Philip Guymont, Steve & Mary Beth Starrett. Over 100 church members participated in the process focusing on seven discussion questions. Comments were captured via notes, flip charts, and the collected index cards with everyone's three most important points. The Committee is now in the process of documenting the meetings and consolidating major themes, messages and important ideas.

- I. Regarding "Challenging Events in our Church History", key listings were:
  - Pastoral misconduct leading to the dismissal of Gil Stillings (1991-97)
  - The Open & Affirming process
  - Jeff Larsen's departure
  - Termination of the Music Director & Organist (2003)
  - The Wayside Covenant proposed by Bob Boynton
    - (Anne Whitney explained this had to do with the process of becoming a member of this church while still maintaining membership in another congregation or church)

- II. What was learned from these events?

- Conflict won't kill us
- We need to respect all views and perspectives  
(Sometimes, when not at our best, we judge & criticize)
- Communication is key
- Decision-making and authority (governance process) is unclear
- Sometimes decisions are made behind the scenes leading to divisiveness
- The decision process should be clear, open, and transparent
- Education on our governance process is needed: which committees are responsible for what? who has authority to make what decisions?
- WE are the Church (all together, no one person)

Doug Fogg commented that with the decision-making authority in the committees, small interest groups can sometimes commit the congregation, spiritually or financially, without the full congregation's input. Often decisions are made without including the Trustees who are responsible for the Church finances.

- III. What do you cherish about the Church? How would you describe it to others?

- Warm, friendly, welcoming
- Strong youth programs (mission trips, youth groups, Sunday School)
- Feels like a family and is family-focused
- Energy & vibrancy
- Intergenerational mix
- A place for spiritual renewal & growth

- IV. Concerns & frustrations with the Church?

- ~ Money -- Always struggling with financial viability, budgeting, prioritizing projects. How to fund the budget? Use of endowment?
- ~ Participation -- Not enough people actively engaged. Too few doing too much. Criticism without contribution
- ~ Size -- Agenda is too big for a small church. Pastoral church vs. program church..
- ~ Governance -- Unclear decision-making process. Who has the authority? Who is in charge?

## ***Annual Meeting Notes - May 6, 2007 continued***

- ~ Music – Feelings are strong. Either love it or want change.
- ~ Other – Too many announcements; fundraisers
  - Suspicion of UCC agenda
  - Recent loss of members

### V. Skills & gifts most important in our next settled minister?

#### Skills -

- Excellent worship leader, sermon & service
- Strong leader who delegates well
- Good mediator, reconciler, unifier
- Committed to the pastoral institution

#### Gifts –

- People person, approachable, relates well to all ages
- Sincere, genuine, sense of humor
- A good example, lives his/her faith

### VI Hopes and dreams for the church?

Size – Majority: Stay a small community-based church

Minority: Larger

#### Worship –

- Keep 8 AM
- Sermons are a priority
- Balance traditional and innovative services
- Limit announcements
- Communion more often
- Spiritual emphasis

Music – Very different points of view (change vs. no change)

#### Other comments --

- Use piano more often
- Expand involvement of children
- Less a capella from choir
- Congregation needs to be part of creating music

#### Outreach

- Do more in the Greater New Bedford area (mini-missions?)
- Welcoming
- Programs for elderly in the congregation
- Quality, not quantity (prioritize)

#### Facilities

- Keep the parsonage
- More classroom & storage space
- Update the “cry room”
- Church library – Is it a resource? Is it used? Lots of love & caring into it; but a consideration
  - given our space constraints

#### Youth Programs

- Continue paid positions for Youth leaders
- Keep current Sunday School program. It's great.
- Find a way to more actively engage youth & high schoolers (perhaps teaching younger kids, although not necessarily Sunday School)
- More religious education for adults (i.e. Bible study, book study opportunities)

## **Annual Meeting Notes - May 6, 2007 continued**

### Finances

Assess the big picture, then clearly define our ideals and goals  
Have committees prioritize  
Commit to and fund a budget to meet those ideals & goals

### Next Steps:

Provide the Search Committee:

1) detailed documentation, 2) summary of themes & messages, 3) this presentation

Provide input to the Church Profile

The Transition Team will identify additional next steps based on identified themes

Kevern thanked the Transition Team for their great job. The info they've compiled will be given to the Search Committee to supplement the survey. Neither will be the basis for any changes, but may serve to prompt further discussion and future choices. This information will provide insight for our settled minister's candidates. This presentation will be available on the Church web-site.

Paul Durland continued with an update from the Search Committee. They have sent out approximately 500 copies of a member survey. Please make an effort to respond. This will provide a picture of who we are as a church. The more information available to our next settled minister, the better. They need the surveys back by next week. They will then tabulate the results and add it to the Transition Team's findings. This will be sent to the UCC to create the most comprehensive profile possible.

Joe Nauman reported from the Trustees that we are financially healthy. We spent a lot last year, much more than anticipated do to unforeseen circumstances. Luckily our investments and stocks have resulted in a net increase in our endowment fund despite these greater expenses. We are spending our money in appropriate ways, in the programs we believe in. Although our monies are well-managed and well-spent, we can't continue as we are forever.

Stewardship this year was very important. The anonymous match for increased/new pledging was a watershed event that truly changed the dynamic by putting new life in the process. Ridley Rhind also brought new energy and passion to the campaign. We need to reconsider how we think about giving to the Church. Planned Giving is also something we need to explore. However, this year has been a real positive step in our Stewardship process.

Joe explained that the Trustees oversee the finances of the Church. They see exactly what everyone is doing and it is both an individual and team effort. The Trustees thanked everyone in the room for their efforts as well as thanked our staff who, besides doing their jobs well, gives generously in volunteer hours as well. We don't thank them enough for their contributions.

Pam Joyce referred everyone to the 6-page Outreach Report in the Annual Report. Last year, Outreach distributed \$20,000 in Mission Funds. In 2007 they will have \$30,000 to work with. Based on the success of our Birthday Presence Day, they are considering additional, smaller, hands-on efforts, particularly trying to work with other groups.

They are searching for giving opportunities other than just donating money. Please consider filling out the Nomination Form for Outreach Support available in The Spire. Outreach thanked all the committees for supporting their projects. They were particularly gratified by the Birthday Presence experience.

## ***Annual Meeting Notes - May 6, 2007 continued***

Tom Rioux said the Padanaram Garden Market was in good shape and he has been overwhelmed by the great efforts put into it. Special thanks to Deb Durland and Susan Gabert. There will be vendors, a Chinese auction, bake sale, etc. Volunteers are needed to help out that day.

Debby Clinch reported that Religious Education is a small, but mighty committee. She thanked Wendy Reardon for a great and fun year. Upcoming RE events include the Confirmands' Breakfast, Children's Sunday, and Baccalaureate Sunday.

Fred Dabney noted that the Deacons are trying to determine a realistic membership number for the Transition & Search Teams. Our current membership list is misleading. For example, confirmands stay on indefinitely despite as young adults they are now living out of the area.

Kevern also noted that Stewardship should be more than the responsibility of just the Trustees. This year's effort will include representatives from each Board and Committee. Deb Durland commented that 5-6 years ago, stewardship was an entirely separate committee.

Kevern noted that down the road, we may need revisions to our By-Laws.

Anne Whitney announced that we have sent 5-6 bags of children's clothing from the Rummage Sale to an orphanage in Malawi. Please continue to help.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:53pm.

Respectfully submitted,

***Cindy Scheller, Clerk***  
***6/10/07***

## **Quarterly Meeting Notes – October 28, 2007**

---

Moderator Kevern Joyce called the Fall Quarterly Meeting of the Congregational Church of South Dartmouth to order at 11:10 a.m. A quorum was present.

Kevern began the meeting with a presentation of the organizational structure of our church and how it functions based on church by-laws. It all begins with the congregation which has the required authority to call and dismiss the minister; determine and change salaries of paid staff; purchase, sell or transfer church property; and final settlement of any questions pertaining to action by the Executive Committee.

The Minister's duties include: preaching/teaching the Word of God; religious teacher and counselor in public and in private; administer sacraments; care for worship services; and other duties to help the congregation be a "people of God." The Minister is an advisory member without vote on all boards, committees, and organizations of the Church except the Executive Committee in which he/she is entitled to vote.

The Executive Committee is made up of the Minister, the Moderator as chair, the Clerk, the Treasurer and Ass't Treasurer, and Chairs of all the Church Boards and functioning church groups. It correlates the works of the Boards, manages all matters of the church not delegated to other boards or groups, and receives all program recommendations including the church budget.

The Trustees are responsible for developing and presenting the annual church budget, all maintenance and care of Church property, all church staff salaries, investments, and the Nursery School. A separate Investment Committee handles the specifics of our investments. The Stewardship Committee is charged with providing the funding to meet the financial requirements of the Church, communicate the needs of the Church to its members, and devise and carryout the annual pledge campaign for both operations and outreach.

The Deacons are in charge of all worship services and associated matters as well as an annual review of church membership. They also oversee the Music Committee, which specifically deals with all music issues and oversees the Music Director.

Ways & Means is charged with raising funds and promoting fellowship. Religious Education oversees our Sunday School program as well as the R. E. Director and the Youth Fellowship Director. Christian Outreach encourages participation in the various Church Councils, service projects, and disburses the Church's mission monies. Other standing boards include the Pastoral Advisory Board (to facilitate communication between the pastor and the congregation) and the Nominating Committee (charged with filling vacancies on all boards).

The budget is devised by getting information from the Deacons, Outreach, Ways & Means, and Religious Ed. This is reviewed by the Trustees, Investment Committee, and Stewardship. The Trustees then present the budget to Executive Committee for approval before presenting it to the Congregation for final vote.

Kevern used the recent purchase of new windows for the church as an example of how things work. In 2004, the Trustees proposed replacing the church windows as a necessary capital improvement project with an estimated cost of \$90,000. In June, 2006 this was added to the Church's project list with an estimated cost of \$100,000. In October, 2006 the congregation voted to approve \$30,000 for the first step of this project. In January, 2007 Larry Bedell reviewed the project and sought estimates. He was able to find bids ranging from \$30,000-\$50,000 to do the full job. He attended the January '07 Quarterly Meeting displaying samples of the proposed windows. In February 2007

## ***Quarterly Meeting Notes – October 28, 2007 (continued)***

the windows were installed. This is the process generally followed with project recommendations and suggestions coming from the various boards.

Steve Starrett asked when the windows were purchased, who sent out the specs? It was explained that Larry Bedell had done the research, sent out the RFP, and received 4 bids. In answer to his further question: no, there is no central person on staff for purchasing and/or negotiating contracts. Perhaps it would be helpful to have such a position. However, we have had little success trying to create a Human Resources Committee and we already have 8 board openings.

Daphne Fogg-Segal commented that the Executive Committee actually functions as that “person”. Kevern noted that if something needs to get done, it gets done through our committee structure so that it is not necessary for the congregation to vote on everything. This is the structure created through our By-Laws, although it does seem time to review, and perhaps change, some outdated or unused By-Laws.

Gale Litchfield asked where a request for a change of By-Law would start. Kevern replied that recommendations for By-Law changes should be given to the Executive Committee. Any proposed By-Law changes must be announced in advance to the congregation and require passage by a two-thirds vote of members present at a Annual, Quarterly, or Special Meeting. Ten members can request a special meeting, but only the specific topic of that meeting can be voted on.

Phil Guymont then reviewed the proposed 2008 budget. He reported that our investments have earned 12.5% for the first 9 months of 2007. Pledges (\$106K through Sept., with \$48.5 expected for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter) are on track to hit budget. Another \$7.5K is expected toward Mission/Outreach. Members are reminded to please honor their pledges made. We count on it and should be on target.

In 2008, Stewardship’s goal is to raise \$200,000 in operation pledges and \$25,000 in mission pledges. If we can count on the expected \$50,000 income from our investment funds, the 2008 budget will require us to tap our investment fund for an additional \$35,000. Facilities income is off this year because the parsonage did not get rented until June. In 2008, we are planning on rental income only through May. Rental beyond that will interfere with bringing on a new minister and could trigger additional taxes.

The proposed 2008 budget also changes how we handle income from the Beauvais and Stetson Funds. In the past, we have regularly received income from these funds, but have not included it in the budget. The 2008 budget recognizes these as reliable income sources. As approved at an earlier Church Meeting, we customarily use the approx. \$50,000 investment income for our operating budget. We have also approved use of \$30,000 for capital improvements annually. This budget accesses only \$20,000 for that, first because we have no special projects anticipated beyond general maintenance and second because our 2007 capital transfers were higher than expected (\$31,000 for planned projects and an additional \$10,000 for windows in the parsonage, replaced now in order to save money).

Under expenses, our predominant expenses are salaries and salary-related items. Of note, under Worship & Devotion there’s \$500 allocated for a retreat for the Deacons, \$300 for the Welcoming Committee (not new, just moved from Administration), and \$250 for the suggested new Bibles for the sanctuary (hoped to be seed money with additional funds being donated by the congregation). All salaries have been increased by the standard cost of living increase of 3% for 2008. (In 2007, this figure was 3.5%.) Other changes in Pastoral Expenses include \$5000 for the Search Committee to use for travel for candidate interviews and \$950 for administration costs for the

## **Quarterly Meeting Notes – October 28, 2007 (continued)**

Transition Committee. Parsonage Expenses include a property tax since it is being rented. This tax has not yet been assessed, but we are planning on it for 6 months in 2007 and again in 2008. Religious Education shows an increase of \$675 beyond the regular salary increases. This was felt to be a justified expense request for mission and outreach efforts supporting the great RE program we have. Christian Outreach expenses are actually just a “pass through” expense. They spend only what is collected through Outreach funds. These monies do not impact the budget at all.

Administration Expenses are over budget in 2007 because we needed to replace two computers. However, our Equipment Expenses were below budget due to savings from our copier purchase. Our Old Colony Dues for 2008 (\$9265; \$17 per member) do not reflect the membership changes being proposed by the Deacons later in the meeting. There are also new 2008 expenses for Printing and Reproduction for supplies no longer included in a service agreement because of our copier purchase. Church Operations show a 2007 overage for Elevator Maintenance. We had to replace a valve and then have the elevator re-inspected. Our 2008 costs should be less due to a new service contract (more visits/less cost). As mentioned earlier, the 2008 estimate for Capital Expenditures is \$20,000 instead of the usual \$30,000.

Therefore, the entire 2008 budget is still coming up short \$27,333.75. It is necessary for the congregation to approve this deficit budget and then to approve taking this \$27,000 from our investment funds in addition to the already approved \$50,000 for operations (from interest) and the annual withdrawal (\$20,000 for 2008) for capital expenses.

Steve Starrett commented that with the investment fund earning 11%, even taking out \$50,000 per year, it is still growing. The implication is that even though we are not raising enough to cover our annual operating expenses, requiring use of even more investment funds, we are still financially o.k. Kevern noted that we have not covered our expenses since 1996. Even so, we have never touched the original principal (approx. \$500,000) of our investment fund and there has been no additional growth through bequests. Still our balance remains unchanged at \$1.2 million.

Linda Gouveia commented to clarify that if pledging increases to cover the \$27,000 gap, it would actually have increased by an additional \$35,000 to cover the balance of the \$50,000 matching gift we received in 2006. Kevern added that this presents an opportunity for special gifts. If pledging decreases, it will result in an even larger gap in the budget. To begin with, we need \$35,000 over last year. The goal is to get 200 pledges for 2008 (compared to 175 last year). The annual stewardship letter will be going out on Wednesday.

Marcia Hathaway asked if we expected to receive all pledges due in 4Q07? We are projected to break even although we sometimes get late pledges in after the close of the year. Marcia also noted that we seem to be good at voting for increases in expenses, but not so good in covering them. We cannot get to where we want to be as a church unless each of us as individuals increases our commitment with the understanding that if you pledge, you are indeed expected to pay. In 1999 we added a paid R.E. position and adjusted other salaries to be more competitive, but then pledging did not follow through to cover those increases. Perhaps some members expect that this should be covered by the funds in the endowment account.

Steve Starrett questioned whether any moving expense funds had been set aside for relocating our new minister? They have not been, because we are not yet sure they will be needed. We were reminded that the congregation would make the call and determine salary of the new minister.

The budget was approved as presented.

## ***Quarterly Meeting Notes – October 28, 2007 (continued)***

Deb Durland asked to come to the podium to discuss a matter that had concerned her for about a year and then she would like to move to amend the budget. She proposed removing the Capital Expense from the Annual Budget. Kevern replied that that would require a By-Law change. Deb continued that prior to 2005, the congregation discussed all capital expenses. Proposed expenses were presented, discussed, agreed upon and the source of the funding was determined. In 2005 the parking lot repair was slated. In 2006, the capital project was to paint the parsonage and then additional monies were allocated for the new organ at a special meeting. Last year, 2007, the \$30,000 capital expense was designated to repair the windows in the church, but this had been proposed as stage one of a 3-stage project for a total cost of \$100,000. The expectation was to replace the windows in kind with wood windows. Deb feels that replacing the windows in a historic building in a historic district with vinyls was wrong and should have been open for discussion by the congregation. She feels that by including the \$20,000 capital expense in the 2008 budget, the congregation will lose any control over how it should be spent. Deb made a motion to: 1. remove the capital expense from the 2008 budget, and 2. as a policy, submit capital expenses as a separate article outside the budget, in sufficient detail for the congregation to know what is being proposed including materials, where the work is to occur, and what the cost will be. Paul Durland seconded.

Kevern again stated that doing so would require a By-Law change and that for procedural reasons we could not take a vote to change the By-Laws without special notice. He said this would fall under the by-law pertaining to congregation duties. Currently the By-Laws has the Trustees responsible for the "maintenance and care of the Church's entire property, real and personal, both buildings and grounds".

Jeff Stone suggested that we simply make a change to this year's budget. Anything else can be discussed and voted on by the congregation. Phil Guymont suggested that vinyl windows could be replaced. Sue McLaren suggested that it would tie the hands of those responsible for care of the Church to get approval for all maintenance. Larry Bedell added that using vinyl window replacements had been covered in the January (07) Quarterly Meeting since samples of the proposed windows were displayed at the meeting although a presentation was not given.

Jim Forbush introduced himself stating he was not a member and would not be voting. He suggested keeping a place keeper in the budget for the funds, but then have a separate discussion on how they would be used. It was noted that the capital expense we are discussing is not really part of the operating budget because it comes directly from our endowment fund.

Finally, a motion was made to remove the capital expense line from the 2008 budget. It was approved by voice vote. Kevern then moved to charge the Executive Committee with the task of drafting a By-Law change to deal with Deb Durland's concerns. This motion was passed unanimously.

It was then moved to accept the 2008 Budget as amended. This was passed by unanimous vote. Mike Gouveia recommended that we need to come up with a budget that reflects only what we raise through pledges and do it soon.

Jane Rioux, representing the Deacons, took the floor for the annual review of the Church membership. Per the By-Laws, this is the responsibility of the Deacons, but has not been done recently. She stated that they had sent out letters (in April and again in October) to persons no longer active in the Church requesting they make known their membership intent. These letters were followed up by phone calls with a real effort to be sensitive to people's concerns. The result of this effort is that 20 members have asked to be removed from our membership list, 6 had requested

## **Quarterly Meeting Notes – October 28, 2007 (continued)**

letters of transfer to other churches, and one was deceased. In addition to that 27, 46 others requested being moved to the Inactive List. (Inactive status means they cannot vote and are not counted for UCC dues. A member may return to active status just by notifying the Deacons of that intent and being approved by a majority vote of that group.) Beyond these, there are 26 other members who have not responded in anyway to the two letters or phone calls. The Deacons are recommending that the congregation also move these members to the Inactive List.

Gale Litchfield asked when members are removed from the Inactive List. Jane replied that they remain there indefinitely, unless they request to be removed. Larry Bedell mentioned that many on the Inactive List request to still receive The Spire and other Church communications.

Jane then read the list of 26 names to be voted to the Inactive List by the congregation. They were: David Arruda, Wayne Anderson, Pat Anderson, Steve Dutton, Sara Dutton, Christine Gallop, Vandy Greenlaw, Judy Greenlaw, Becky Greenlaw, Dave Grew, Robert Harsch, Teddi Harsch, Jessie Hawes, Charlie Howland, Scott Lauermann, KC O'Leary, Michaela Malicoat, Randall Mello, Whitney Minnock, Kathryn Minnock, Jean Morgan, Marc Precourt, Pamela Precourt, Robert Sutherland, Russell Worsley, Suzanne Worsley. It was moved and seconded to move these members to the Inactive List. The vote was unanimous.

Jane concluded that with all the revisions a total of 99 names had been removed from the active member list so that our membership has now moved from 555 to 456.

Rich Brosky reported from the Search Committee. Rich, Paul Durland and Sally Lemelin have created our Church Profile, a document that accurately reflects our Church. It is the result of all the house meetings, the survey, input from the Boards, and population statistics. It is an extensive, detailed document. Sally crafted the final closing statement. Rich reported that the Profile has been on the UCC website for 2 weeks and already they have received 31 applications. They expect to get about 100. The Committee has constructed a scoring system for the applications, made a request for a mock interview with the UCC, and created a list of questions for the interviews. A copy of the Profile will be in the Library by next week.

Gale Litchfield asked about the interview process. First they will request audiotapes and then hope to begin face-to-face interviews after the holidays. All 12 members of the Committee will listen. Linda Gouveia recommended revising the last paragraph to change "South Dartmouth" to "South Dartmouth and the greater community". Paul Durland thanked everyone for their input. They have received lots of suggestions from lots of members.

Phil Guymont added that there was a large tree at the front of the Church that needs to be removed and that will expose a telephone pole and wires.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

**Cindy Scheller, Clerk, 1/20/08**

## Quarterly Meeting Notes – January 27, 2008

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Moderator Kevern Joyce called the January Quarterly Meeting of the Congregational Church of South Dartmouth to order at 11:12 a.m. A quorum was present.

Kevern thanked everyone for their presence. He also thanked the many members of the congregation that had supported the Clinches over the last few weeks as well as the Tapestry Circle and others who made a special effort for the collation held yesterday in Debby's honor.

Kevern also announced that the By-Law change that had been on today's agenda originally has been withdrawn. After much discussion by the Executive Committee, it was determined that the wording was not right. They will continue to work on a resolution of the original concern and try to find a way of addressing the issue (input from the congregation on capital expenditure plans) that may not require a by-law change.

In Ridley's absence, Phil Guymont reported on the Stewardship Campaign. To date Church Operations has received \$179,000 in pledges for 2008. The goal is \$200,000. There are still roughly 20 families that pledged in 07 but have not yet committed this year. If they return, it would be a great help toward making up the \$21,000 shortfall. Stewardship is making follow-up phone calls. Phil thanked all that have made pledges and hoped that those who hadn't would. Mission pledges have exceeded our goal of \$25,000 with \$30,000 pledged. Phil also announced that a generous church family has made an anonymous gift of \$150,000 to be used toward operations over the next three years (\$50,000 per year beginning in 08). That \$50,000 has been included in our \$179,000 total; we would be in much worse shape without it. We have received 15 new pledges this year, but also lost 15 for a total of 175 pledging families (approx. 40% of the congregation). Final figures will be reported at the next Church Meeting.

Judy Bowen brought to our attention that the phone system at the Church has become obsolete. It has not been upgraded since 1991. There is only one line coming into the Church. It is not possible to transfer calls, receive calls and faxes simultaneously, etc. Two or three suppliers were interviewed. It is recommended to stay with the current vendor who knows our system, our needs, and can do the desired upgrades for approximately \$3,000. It was moved and seconded to proceed as recommended. The vote was unanimous to do so.

Paul Durland and Rich Brosky gave us an update from the Search Committee. They reported that the Search Committee has been meeting every Sunday for 1 ½ - 2 hrs and now that applications are being reviewed, even more often. So far they have received 56 applications, 3 just this week. Each profile is at least 20 pages, so each committee member has read approximately 1200 pages of material! So far 19 potential candidates have been contacted; 13 are still in the running. They are in varying stages of the process. Some will be live interviews; some have been phone interviews. The process is that each committee member reads the candidate's profile. If they feel there is a good fit, the Committee requests a copy of a sermon (either tape or DVD), and we send them our Church Profile. The committee then reviews the recorded sermon. If they like it, they then request an interview. About half of the potential candidates are local so face-to-face interviews do not present a problem. When the candidate comes, they are given a tour of the Church, the parsonage, the local area, and New Bedford, if interested. They then have dinner and the interview. One was done in December; another is scheduled in the coming week. There have been two phone interviews with very interested candidates and the committee anticipates having live interviews with these two as well. It was noted that some of the candidate profiles seem to have been written directly for us and that our Church Profile is getting passed along to prospective candidates.

## ***Quarterly Meeting Notes – January 27, 2008 continued***

Molly Little asked what the ratio of male to female candidates was. They noted that we have 2 female candidates coming, but that the ratio was approximately 5:1. Paul and Rich did note that many of the female candidates did not have a great deal of experience, roughly 5 years or so. Harry Schoening asked if there were any plans to visit a candidate's church to hear a sermon in person. There is some hesitancy to do this since it is a confidential process and the committee does not want to jeopardize a candidate's current position. With today's technology it is easy to get a good idea of the candidate's preaching style. Martha Shuster asked why some candidates had dismissed us. Kate Dabney (Corresponding Sec'y for the Search Committee) explained that only one had given us a specific reason. That candidate had come from a highly developed organizational structure and commanded a large salary and realized that that was not what we were offering. Another potential candidate was much further along in the hiring process with another church. Another decided not to leave his/her current position. Most that we are discounting just have not followed up on our request for a copy of a sermon. The assumption is that if they have not replied after a couple of overtures from us, they are just not interested. Paul Durland added that we are in the enviable position of being able to be very selective.

Mike Gouveia asked if there was a timetable? The answer is that we will keep accepting applications until an offer is made. It makes no sense not to remain open to all potential candidates. Kate Dabney explained that we have lots of really good profiles and are hoping to attract the perfect candidate. Paul added we may find that perfect candidate in the next couple of months, but we may not. We will not settle for someone who is not right for us. Even after hiring, there will still be a further period of transition as that candidate closes business in his/her current position, relocates, etc. We still have a ways to go. Rich Brosky noted that this is a good time for interviews as we are between the busy Christmas and Easter periods. Lara Stone asked if Easter might interrupt the process? That is possible as working ministers will be busy then, but applications may pickup again after Easter as the school year comes to an end. Sue Sullivan questioned if the prospective candidate will come here to preach. The answer is yes.

Fred Dabney assured the gathering that as conscientious as the Search Committee is being, they are as eager as we are to complete this process and return to a normal existence. Martha Schoening questioned if there was a candidate from England? Yes, there has been one from England as well as one from Germany.

Susan McLaren then addressed some members' questions about the Transition Committee (who are you and what do you do?) She said that right now there were just four members of the Transition Committee: Jeff Stone, Jane Rioux, Linda Gouveia, and herself. It had been larger, but they had lost some members. Anyone interested in joining them is more than welcomed. Originally the Transition Committee was formed in the fall of 2006, appointed by the Executive Committee. They were charged to work with the existing Boards and Committees to gather the feelings of the congregation during this pastoral transition period, to keep the congregation involved in the process, and engaged with the Church. To do this, they have held several coffee hour discussions, but most notably the eleven House Meetings. These were held in March/April 2007 with 120 church members participating to discuss the past, present, and future of our Church. They captured extremely good information that was passed to the Search Committee for use in our Church Profile. From these discussions, the Transition Committee also created a list of action items that have been shared with the congregation, boards, and committees and are being followed up on. Their next project is the Lenten Conversations as announced today in worship. (One of the observations from the earlier meetings was a desire for more opportunities for adult religious education and spiritual growth.) Susan encouraged everyone to participate. There will be four sessions on Sundays during coffee hour from 2/10 through 3/2. The four topics will be: Thin Places, What Matters Most?, Making Sense of the Bible, and Meeting Jesus at the Well. There will be suggested background

## ***Quarterly Meeting Notes – January 27, 2008 continued***

reading, Elizabeth will preach to each of these on that Sunday, and then there will be discussion led by the Transition Team and the Deacons.

Paul Durland added that the Transition Team's report posted on our website has been used by several of our candidates as a source of background information on the Church. Kevern also noted that the Transition Team would continue to help with the arrival of our new settled minister.

Deb Durland reported from Ways & Means that there is still a need for a few more actors for the Mystery Dinner Theatre to be held on 3/15. In May, we will hold another Padanaram Garden Market and will again need many volunteers for that.

Lara Stone reported that Outreach had distributed Mission Funds to projects locally, nationally and internationally as recommended by the congregation. Our Birthday Presence was a great success and we will do that again this spring. Outreach has also come to the decision to further support the Church's Relay For Life effort. Sally Lemelin has done an outstanding job for RFL, but is now moving into a broader position with that organization. Since Outreach has always been loosely affiliated with RFL, they now are willing to take on more of a leadership role. Brian Fernandes will be our RFL Team Captain. Judy Bowen acknowledged how much our Church's contributions to Holiday Hope have been appreciated. Rich Brosky noted that all the search candidates spoken with have been very impressed with our Mission and Outreach work.

Linda Gouveia reported that the Deacons have formed a subcommittee to review the idea of Bibles in the sanctuary. They are looking for additional members from the congregation. This committee is researching possible Bible choices, whether we want to put them in the sanctuary, and if so, how best to do that. Linda also informed us that we would be working with Garlington Florist for our flowers. Flora is no longer doing retail flowers and since that agreement put us at an \$800 deficit, it was good to find someone who could do our flowers less expensively.

Linda also reported that the Deacons have had a great deal of discussion regarding the Postlude on Sundays. At one service, Bob Boynton had asked the congregation to sit and listen to the Postlude rather than leaving the sanctuary as it began. Then Jeannie Gulbranson asked if that could be our practice. However, others had expressed the feeling that this was an uncomfortable ending to the worship service. The Deacons have discussed it and decided to go back to the way we had originally handled this with the Postlude serving as background as worshipers leave. Jeannie Gulbranson added that many people do appreciate this music and use it as a quiet period before leaving worship. Perhaps those wishing to leave could do so quietly to respect that. Cecelia Roberts noted that we had already lost the Prelude because there was so much to squeeze into the service. Cindy Scheller added that in the past, greeting our neighbors was a vibrant and enjoyable way to end the service and that as much as she enjoyed all of the music in our service, she missed this aspect of the service when specific attention was given the Postlude. Kevern noted that as usual, it is difficult to please everyone, but that we would continue to work on finding an acceptable solution to this difference of opinion.

Linda also noted that the Deacons will continue to provide the congregation with the opportunity for small group discussions and are working with the Transition Committee to host the Lenten Conversations.

Wendy Reardon reported that the Sunday School's boat building is still going on. This morning she had a conversation with the children about Debby Clinch and what she meant to the program. The children have decided to dedicate the rest of the year and the boat, now dubbed the S. S. Debby, to her memory. Wendy also thanked the many folks who have stepped up to help with the boat.

## ***Quarterly Meeting Notes – January 27, 2008 continued***

Daphne Fogg-Siegal reported that the Youth Groups are going well this year. The Senior group has 30 members, half from the Church, half from within the community. She says they really enjoy being part of our Church. Their activities are part social and part community service. The Junior group has about 70 members with 50-55 coming to any given meeting. Their programs include games, community service, and a spiritual aspect. The annual retreat is coming up and will involve 41 kids, 14 chaperones, and Elizabeth. Daphne thanked everyone for the continuing support of our youth groups.

Kevern noted that we also sponsor Brownies, Girl Scouts, and Boy Scouts and that we will soon be sponsoring a Cub Scout troop as well. This was as it should be; we should be involved in our greater community. And speaking of involvement, there are several openings on our Boards and Committees as well as the Clerk's position for anyone interested in getting more involved.

Sandy Fogg asked about the parsonage and if it was true that the contract for renting it ends in June? Kevern explained that if it were leased as of July 1, we would owe property taxes on it for the entire year. Whether we extend the lease will depend in large part on the progress of the Search Committee. At this time, no permanent decision has been made. Doug Fogg asked if the parsonage has been an important part of the search process? Many candidates are very interested in it; others would prefer a housing allowance to help them build equity. This will all enter into the final agreement and call of the minister. Kevern reminded us that it is the congregation that extends the call to the new minister and that will include salary and other terms.

With no other new business, the meeting was adjourned at 1159am.

Respectfully submitted,

***Cindy Scheller, Clerk, 1/27/08***

# TREASURER'S REPORT (Financial Reports)

The Congregational Church of South Dartmouth, UCC

unaudited

## Statement of Financial Position

04/07/2008

As of December 31, 2006

	Dec 31, 06	Dec 31, 07
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
Citizens Bank	28,292	34,630
Children's Circle Checking	9,561	5,522
Money Market Account		10,019
Parsonage Security Deposit Acct		1,600
Petty Cash	60	43
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>37,913</b>	<b>51,814</b>
Accounts Receivable	9,351	2,239
Other Current Assets		
MA Cong'l Fund Account	18,199	18,439
Gulbranson Account	10,306	10,362
Sherman Account	5,001	5,001
Swift Loan	11,705	
US Trust Investment Account	1,087,818	1,220,987
Other Current Assets - other	2,037	17,060
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>1,135,065</b>	<b>1,271,849</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>1,182,329</b>	<b>1,325,902</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,182,329</b>	<b>1,325,902</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	4,222	11,818
Credit Cards	52	789
Deferred Revenue	95	1,900
Prepaid Nursery School Tuition	7,500	7,195
Payroll Liabilities	5,831	4,149
Parsonage Security Deposit		1,600
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>17,699</b>	<b>27,452</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>17,699</b>	<b>27,452</b>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted Funds		
Operating Fund	35,468	44,627
Non-Operational Funds	1,011,745	1,014,468
Nursery School Funds	1,989	(331)
Temporarily Restricted Funds		

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

**Statement of Financial Position (continued)**

Prepaid Pledges Fund	23,968	163,640
Other Temporarily Restricted Funds	54,608	39,197
Permanently Restricted Funds	36,850	36,850
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>1,164,629</b>	<b>1,298,450</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>1,182,329</b>	<b>1,325,902</b>

**NOTE:**

- a Fixed Assets are not included in these financial statements.

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

**The Congregational Church of South Dartmouth, UCC**  
**Statement of Activities - All Funds**  
 January through December 2007

unaudited  
 04/07/2008

	OPERATIONAL	d	NURSERY SCHOOL	NON- OPERATIONAL	RESTRICTED	d	TOTAL
<b>INCOME</b>							
BEQUESTS				13,589	e		13,589
CONTRIBUTION RECEIPTS	227,750			3,373		177,036	408,159
FACILITIES INCOME	27,270	f	(12,000)	f			15,270
INVESTMENT INCOME	123,465		10	12,835		890	137,199
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME				805			805
NURSERY SCHOOL INCOME			78,603				78,603
NON-OPERATIONAL INCOME	1,720			100		13,644	15,464
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>380,205</b>		<b>66,613</b>	<b>30,701</b>		<b>191,570</b>	<b>669,089</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>							
WORSHIP AND DEVOTIONAL	23,394			2,370			25,763
PASTORAL	111,640						111,640
PARSONAGE OPERATION	5,885						5,885
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	31,014			182		416	31,612
CHRISTIAN OUTREACH	301		134			35,537	35,971
ADMINISTRATION	74,331		3,593	12,141		69	90,134
CHURCH OPERATION	81,155		685			370	82,210
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	43,327					16,900	60,227
NURSERY SCHOOL PROGRAM			64,521	f			64,521
NON-OPERATIONAL ITEMS				12,426		16,108	28,534
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>371,047</b>		<b>68,933</b>	<b>27,119</b>		<b>69,400</b>	<b>536,499</b>
FUND TRANSFERS	(781)			(1,310)		2,090	-
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>8,378</b>		<b>(2,321)</b>	<b>2,273</b>		<b>124,261</b>	<b>132,591</b>

**NOTES**

d Missions and Outreach activity is included in the Restricted column

e Bequest from Patricia Swift

f Operational facilities income includes \$12,000 from Nursery School

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

**The Congregational Church of South Dartmouth, UCC**  
**Statement of Fund Balances**

unaudited  
 04/07/2008

	Dec 31, 06	Dec 31, 07		CHANGE IN NET ASSETS
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>				
<b>Operating Fund</b>	35,468	44,627		9,158
<b>Capital Accrual Fund</b>	8,687	7,877		(810)
<b>Flower Fund</b>	35	-		(35)
<b>Investment Fund</b>				
<b>Accumulated Beauvais Income</b>	2,314	2,554		240
<b>Accumulated Investment Income</b>	15,480	(2,175)	b	(17,655)
<b>Accumulated Stetson Income</b>	52,551	52,551		-
<b>Gains on Investments</b>	571,783	590,881		19,098
<b>Gifts &amp; Bequests</b>	360,896	362,780		1,884
<b>Total Investment Fund</b>	1,003,023	1,006,591		3,567
<b>Nursery School Fund</b>	1,989	(331)	c	(2,321)
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	1,049,203	1,058,763		9,560
<b>Temporarily Restricted Funds</b>				
<b>Advance Pledges Fund</b>	23,968	163,640		139,672
<b>Dr. Grace Boynton Rev Mem Fund</b>	1,230	1,230		-
<b>Heifer Project Fund</b>	532	-		(532)
<b>Landscape Fund</b>	226	556		330
<b>Library Fund</b>				
<b>Bailey/Davis Income Fund</b>	4,343	4,849		506
<b>Library Fund - Other</b>	991	1,128		137
<b>Total Library Fund</b>	5,334	5,977		643
<b>Memorial Funds</b>				
<b>Memorial Fund</b>	12,521	11,943		(578)
<b>Memorial Organ Fund</b>	6,950	-		(6,950)
<b>Memorial Plant Fund</b>	2,810	2,954		144
<b>Total Memorial Funds</b>	22,281	14,897		(7,384)
<b>Minister's Discretionary Fund</b>	891	3,891		3,000
<b>Organ Fund</b>	7,200	-		(7,200)

**TREASURER'S REPORT (Financial Reports) continued**  
**Statement of Fund Balances Continued**

<b>Outreach Fund</b>			
Mission Pledges Fund	(264)	188	451
Outreach Fund - Other	-	120	120
<b>Total Outreach Fund</b>	(264)	308	571
<b>Scholarship Income Fund</b>	1,055	440	(616)
<b>Youth Fellowship Fund</b>			
Jr. Youth Fund	11,973	9,354	(2,619)
Sr. Youth Fund	1,300	1,420	120
<b>Total Youth Fellowship Fund</b>	13,273	10,775	(2,499)
<b>Youth Mission Trip Fund</b>	813	863	50
<b>TR - Other</b>	2,036	261	(1,775)
<b>Total Temporarily Restricted Funds</b>	78,576	202,837	124,261
<b>Permanently Restricted Funds</b>			
Bailey Davis Fund	5,750	5,750	-
Beauvais Fund	15,885	15,885	-
Sarah's Scholarship Fund	10,213	10,213	-
Sherman Fund	5,001	5,001	-
<b>Total Permanently Restricted Funds</b>	36,850	36,850	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,164,629</b>	<b>1,298,450</b>	<b>133,821</b>

**NOTES**

- b Value as of 12/31/02 included in Permanently Restricted Funds; original bequest amount tbd
- c Nursery School Fund as of 12/31/07 does not include prepaid 2008 tuition, which is listed as a liability

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

**The Congregational Church of South Dartmouth, UCC**  
**Investment Income**  
 January through December 2007

unaudited  
 04/07/2008

	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL
<b>Citizens Bank</b>			
Checking Account	\$47		\$47
Children's Circle Account	10		10
<b>Sovereign Bank</b>			
Scholarship Income Accounts		384	384
Sherman Accounts	171		171
<b>US Trust</b>			
Investment Accounts	105,921	506	106,427
<b>Massachusetts Congregational Fund</b>			
Beauvais Account	1,122		1,122
UCC Maturing Memorial Account	1,256		1,256
<b>Bank of America</b>			
Stetson Trust	27,783		27,783
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$136,309</b>	<b>\$890</b>	<b>\$137,199</b>

**Reconciliation of US Trust Balances**

Balance 1/1/07	\$1,087,818
Stock gifts	152,500
Net Investment Interest, Dividends & Gains, less fees	95,275
Transfers for Operational Expenses as budgeted	(50,000)
Transfers for Capital Projects	(43,327)
Transfer to move all but \$50k of Temporarily Restricted funds to Money Market Account	(41,358)
Due to be transferred to checking	20,078
Ending Balance 12/31/07	<b>\$1,220,987</b>

## TREASURER'S REPORT (Reports) continued

<b>Capital Activities</b>	<b>2007 Budget</b>	<b>2007 Actual</b>	<b>2008 Budget</b>
<b>CAPITAL SOURCES</b>			
Contributions - organ		210	
Junior Youth Fellowship for Windows		450	
Organ Funds Balances		14,150	
Transfer from Capital Accrual, Music Budget		2,540	
Withdrawal from Investments	30,000	43,327	5,338
<b>Total CAPITAL SOURCES</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>60,677</b>	<b>5,338</b>
<b>CAPITAL USES</b>			
Church Window Replacement	30,000	31,249	
Fence Replacement		2,072	
Organ Replacement		16,900	
Parsonage Windows		10,006	
Telephone system			2,731
Water Heater			2,607
<b>Total CAPITAL USES</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>60,227</b>	<b>5,338</b>

**TREASURER'S REPORT (Reports) continued****The Congregational Church of South Dartmouth, UCC**

unaudited

**Statement of Operational Activities vs. Budget**

04/07/2008

(includes Capital Accrual and Outreach Funds)

	2007 Budget	Actual 2007	2008 Budget
<b>SOURCES</b>			
<b>CONTRIBUTION RECEIPTS</b>			
Pledges - Current Year	208,791	201,428.22	178,893
Mission Pledges - Current Year	30,886	27,913.15	30,088
Previous Year Pledges	3,000	5,170.85	5,000
Previous Year Mission Pledges	500	478.15	500
Bequests			1,884
Loose Collection			
Non-pledged Contributions	10,000	12,557.50	10,000
Loose Collection - Other	5,000	5,079.98	5,000
<b>Total Loose Collection</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>17,637.48</b>	<b>15,000</b>
Special Mission Donations		7,794.30	
Ways & Means Income	5,000	3,513.84	5,000
<b>Total CONTRIBUTION RECEIPTS</b>	<b>263,177</b>	<b>263,935.99</b>	<b>234,481</b>
<b>EVENT INCOME</b>		2,177.00	
<b>FACILITIES INCOME</b>			
Nursery School	12,000	12,000.00	12,000
Parsonage Rental	18,000	11,200.00	8,000
FACILITIES INCOME - Other	2,500	4,070.00	2,500
<b>Total FACILITIES INCOME</b>	<b>32,500</b>	<b>27,270.00</b>	<b>22,500</b>
<b>INVESTMENT INCOME</b>			
Bank Interest		46.66	
Beauvais Fund Income		2,137.65	1,500
Sherman Fund Income		170.89	
Stetson Bequest Income		27,782.91	20,000
Transfer from Investment Income	50,000	50,000.00	50,000
Transfer - Investment Capital	30,000	43,326.75	
<b>Total INVESTMENT INCOME</b>	<b>80,000</b>	<b>123,464.86</b>	<b>71,500</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>375,677</b>	<b>416,847.85</b>	<b>328,481</b>

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

Expense			
<b>WORSHIP AND DEVOTIONAL</b>			
Music Director	17,654	17,654.00	18,184
Bibles			250
Flower Expense	700	877.30	700
Music	2,500	2,412.70	2,500
Retreat			500
Sanctuary Supplies	900	1,383.51	1,050
Subst. Music Director	600	150.00	600
Supply Minister	1,650	866.40	1,650
Welcoming Committee	300	49.77	300
<b>Total WORSHIP AND DEVOTIONAL</b>	<b>24,304</b>	<b>23,393.68</b>	<b>25,734</b>
<b>PASTORAL</b>			
Pastor's Salary	50,000	50,000.00	52,250
Pastor's Housing	25,000	25,000.00	25,000
Travel Allowance	14,000	10,902.87	12,000
Educational Expense	1,000	1,000.00	1,000
FICA/MC Allowance	5,738	5,737.44	5,910
Insurance-Health	7,000	7,281.00	7,863
Long Term Disability	1,200	1,125.00	1,159
Retirement	10,500	10,500.00	10,815
Search committee expense		94.05	5,000
Transition Team expense			950
<b>Total PASTORAL</b>	<b>114,438</b>	<b>111,640.36</b>	<b>121,947</b>
<b>PARSONAGE OPERATION</b>			
Parsonage Repairs	2,500	1,528.28	2,500
Parsonage Utilities	1,500	2,622.89	3,000
Real Estate Taxes		1,734.20	1,750
<b>Total PARSONAGE OPERATION</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>5,885.37</b>	<b>7,250.00</b>
<b>RELIGIOUS EDUCATION</b>			
Dir. Religious Education	17,654	17,654.00	18,184
Youth Director	7,470	7,470.00	7,695
Adult Education Expense	250	718.91	325
Confirmation Expense	350	701.83	500
Crib Room Coordinator	1,300	1,257.75	800
Curriculum	1,000	485.53	700
Jr. Choir Program	300	275.24	300
Pastor's Class	250	0.00	
Special Events	800	787.54	1,000
Supplies	700	1,663.05	2,000
<b>Total RELIGIOUS EDUCATION</b>	<b>30,074</b>	<b>31,013.85</b>	<b>31,504</b>

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

<b>CHRISTIAN OUTREACH</b>			
Inter-Church Council		4,000.00	
Local Missions		6,461.21	
Market Ministries		2,000.00	
Our Churches' Wider Mission		5,844.61	
Special Missions		3,344.00	
UCC Special Offerings		4,187.30	
CHRISTIAN OUTREACH - Other	31,366	10,535.00	30,588
<b>Total CHRISTIAN OUTREACH</b>	<b>31,366</b>	<b>36,372.12</b>	<b>30,588</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>			
Administrator's Compensation	46,167	46,532.93	47,552
Computer equip/software	500	3,164.98	500
Computer Supp/Maint.	1,200	630.68	1,200
Equipment Repairs/Cont.	6,672	423.79	800
FICA/MC (all employees)	7,980	7,520.57	8,241
Internet Access	1,328	1,140.00	1,329
Miscellaneous	600	40.82	600
Office Supplies	2,400	2,485.53	2,400
Old Colony Assn / MACUCC	8,000	8,992.50	9,265
Payroll Service	500	500.00	540
Postage	3,400	2,135.56	3,400
Printing & Reproduction			2,240
Stewardship Committee	800	465.74	800
UCC Delegates' Expense	750	298.37	750
Ways & Means Expense		0.00	
<b>Total ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>80,297</b>	<b>74,331.47</b>	<b>79,617</b>
<b>CHURCH OPERATION</b>			
200th Anniversary expense	5,000	4,488.77	
Custodian	25,000	25,000.00	25,750
Building Maintenance	5,000	9,077.05	7,500
Church Picnic	300	133.42	300
Grounds - Landscaping	500	1,040.28	500
Grounds - Snow & grass removal	4,000	4,254.00	4,000
Electricity	4,500	4,347.09	4,500
Elevator Inspection	1,500	400.00	1,100
Elevator Maintenance Contract	650	2,925.00	480
Fuel	12,000	9,245.01	12,000
Insurance/Bldg/Liab.	16,000	15,034.50	13,878
Insurance-Work. Comp.	1,400	2,458.00	1,825
Telephone	1,500	1,600.56	1,500
Trash & Recycling Removal		395.00	1,250
Water/Sewer	700	756.20	700
<b>Total CHURCH OPERATION</b>	<b>78,050</b>	<b>81,154.88</b>	<b>75,283</b>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>43,326.75</b>	
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>392,529</b>	<b>407,118.48</b>	<b>371,923</b>

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

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

CHANGE IN OPERATING FUND BALANCE	9,158	
CHANGE IN OUTREACH FUND BALANCES	<u>571</u>	
CHANGE IN OPERATIONAL FUND BALANCES	9,729	(43,442)

**notes:**

g Capital expenditures are now included in the capital budget

## CHRISTIAN OUTREACH REPORT

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The purpose of the Outreach Board is to lead our church in specific and concrete programs of witness and outreach, in order that the love of God experienced in our midst may be shared with the community—locally, nationally and worldwide.

As in years past we continue outreach to individuals, organizations and communities in need. Our work can be divided into three broad areas:

1. Identifying organizations meaningful to members of the congregation and distributing monies dedicated as “mission” in the annual appeal. This is done both seasonally and at our annual year-end award period.
2. Coordinating financial support to organizations or individuals on an emergency basis.
3. Coordinating non-monetary giving and acts of service to those in need (examples are listed below).

Our goals for the program year included the following:

- Lead an Outreach Board service in November.
- Showcase the importance of and commitment to mission outreach in creative, interesting ways (Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing, other UCC founded special giving, etc.)!
- Encourage the congregation to help those in need through Turkey Sales for Thanksgiving and Holiday Hope at Christmas.
- Host another hands-on service project this spring (or fall) at the request of those who participated in work days at HarbOUR House and PACCA in April and invite more of the congregation to get involved.
- Seek ways to naturally weave service/mission work into the life of our church including how we interface with Youth Groups and with Sunday School projects.
- Fund projects recommended by the congregation.

A summary of our activities and what we are most proud of is listed below.

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

In celebration of our 200th birthday as a church, the Outreach Board helped organize two physical service projects. We called the projects Our Birthday Presence and over 60 members (youth group members included) of our congregation participated. In addition to the \$3,000 the Outreach Board budgeted for these projects, we also received a very large donation of supplies from the family of Brian Fernandes. The projects are described below.

**PAACA/NB Prevention Partnership-** An organization dedicated to improving the quality of southcoast neighborhoods by promoting prevention and treatment initiatives related to substance abuse, violence and crime (both adult and youth services). Over 1000 are served weekly and the building is open daily for Volunteers completed the following:

- Scraped and painted Food Bank/Clothing Room
- Scraped and painted NA/AA and Services Mtg Room.
- Scraped and paint public bathrooms.
- Installed molding in bathroom hallway area and caulked bathrooms.
- Collected and stocked donations of canned goods (instant soup bowls, cereal, etc.), adult and child clothing and toiletries.

## **CHRISTIAN OUTREACH REPORT Continued**

**HarbOUR House Family Shelter Program-** An organization committed to assisting families through the crisis of homelessness. Staff provide services that promote a successful transition toward self-sufficiency, while respecting family dignity. Fourteen families may reside at HarbOUR House at any one time. Volunteers completed the following:

- Scraped & painted family dining room/hallway.
- Painted peeling bathrooms, floors & ceilings
- Cleaned carpets
- Covered wardrobes, installed shower rods, closet rods, shelving in office area
- Purchased and stained bookshelf and stocked with gently used books
- Purchased shower curtains, sheets, toiletries and baby supplies
- Stocked emergency food pantry

We continue to lead aspects of the **worship service** in our church. On November 18th, we co-led the Thanksgiving service in partnership with Stewardship Committee members. This allowed our board to lead by example in our belief that good stewards give to both their church and their community at-large.

Our board is also charged with weaving seamlessly into worship, **special giving opportunities** through the UCC such as Neighbors in Need and One Great Hour of Sharing. All offering contributions on these Sundays are given to designated mission projects throughout the world.

This year, we were also blessed with opportunity to help support an **individual church member's mission**. The Outreach board donated \$300 toward Linda Keith's trip with a UCC group to Metairie, LA to help rebuild Hume Child Development Center, which had been devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Please note that the reports of the **Youth Group, Sunday School, and Women's Guild** all reference donations and service projects. The Outreach Board is very pleased that other groups and individuals within the church take the initiative to perform these acts of mission and outreach.

### **Financially Funded Organizations:**

#### Regional/Local Funding

#### **The Inter-Church Council of Greater New Bedford:                      2007 Mission Donation \$4,000**

The purpose of the Inter-Church Council is to foster cooperative Christian service and fellowship among the churches and other interested organizations of the Greater New Bedford area and to promote in the community such projects, educational, moral, social and spiritual as will attain that end. The organization maintains a focus on ecumenical cooperation and social, economic and racial justice. Our church is a member of the Inter-Church Council. Three housing ministries, the Representative Payee Ministry, the Health and Faith Ministry, and the Counseling Center are among the signature efforts of the ICC.

## **CHRISTIAN OUTREACH REPORT Continued**

### **Market Ministries Shelter:**

**2007 Mission Donation \$2,000**

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. The organization provides 24-hour shelter and referral services 7 days a week, serves meals 5 days a week, provides transportation when needed, and distributes food as requested. Volunteers from our congregation, organized by Betsy Johnson, help prepare and serve meals here once per month. (The donation amount does not include the Christmas Eve offering, which is also donated to Market Ministries.)

### **"Paper Turkeys"**

Total additional contributions to Market Ministries through sale of our paper turkeys at Thanksgiving added approximately **\$1,600** to our giving.

### **Minister's Discretionary Fund:**

**2007 Mission Donation \$3,000**

These monies are appropriated to the Minister who distributes them to those within our local community with special needs (fuel assistance, groceries, etc.) The recipients of these funds are held in confidence.

### **The Women's Fund, New Bedford**

**2007 Mission Donation \$1,000**

The Action Fund of The Women's Fund provides monies for local organizations serving women and girls. The Fund has in the past provided individuals (school enrollment, childcare book fees) and organizations (summer program for girls, Brick by Brick, YWCA, etc.) with action awards to tackle a particular educational or workforce development issue. The Action Fund is now organized in support of:

- leadership development in the region for women and girls.
- partnership development among like organizations so that they get more bang for their buck
- creation of a regional women's network for those serving women, girls and families

### **Nativity Preparatory School**

**2007 Mission Donation \$1,000**

Nativity Prep is an independent tuition-free middle school for boys from low-income families in the New Bedford area. The school provides a challenging and supportive learning environment, where motivated students of all faiths are offered an intellectual, cultural, physical and moral education. The goal is to graduate young men who are academically prepared for further education, inspired to lead their lives with humility and dedicated to serving others.

### **Sharing the Harvest Community Farm Project**

**2007 Mission Donation \$1,000**

Sharing the Harvest is a new program that works to alleviate hunger for children and families from Fall River to Wareham by farming land at the Dartmouth YMCA. The program depends on volunteer support during the growing season to grow fresh produce which is distributed to area food pantries, soup kitchens and other feeding programs by the Hunger Commission of Southeastern Massachusetts.

### **The Katie Brown Educational Program**

**2007 Mission Donation \$1,000**

The Katie Brown Educational Program is dedicated to the recognition and prevention of relationship violence through innovative, interactive educational initiatives. KBEP promotes respectful relationships and provides alternatives to violent behaviors. Since its inception, KBEP educators have reached thousands of students in hundreds of classrooms in Southeastern New England. KBEP also organizes and facilitates workshops for parents and other concerned adults.

## ***CHRISTIAN OUTREACH REPORT Continued***

### **The Hunger Commission**

**2007 Mission Donation \$1,000**

The mission of the Hunger Commission is to feed families in the Greater New Bedford region who are food-insecure and to ensure the on-going well-being of these families through advocacy. Staff of the commission are advocates at the State level and provide emergency food and shelter services at the local level. Trucks in the region pick up donated food and make deliveries to soup kitchens and food pantries from Fall River to Wareham. 750,000 meals are provided annually.

### **Fishermen's Emergency Relief Fund of Shore Support**

**2007 Mission Donation \$1,000**

FERF is a subcommittee of the Board from Shore Support. Families who have lost a loved one at sea or who have suffered injury or crisis in the industry are given awards for sustainable expenses only such as heating, rent, mortgage, utilities, etc. Checks are written directly to utility vendors (NSTAR, etc) and families receive on-going counseling in partnership with other human services like PACE, etc.

### **Dennison Memorial Community Center**

**2007 Mission Donation \$1,000**

The Dennison Memorial Community Center is funded by United Way since 1868. It serves as an academic, artistic, and physical education center for children. They offer different programs such as the Drop-In program for children and teens aged 6-16 and the School Day Care Program (since 1986) for 65 children.

### **Community Nurse and Hospice Care**

**2007 Mission Donation \$1,000**

The organization's mission is to provide the communities of southeastern Mass with skilled and compassionate home health care. Last year the agency provided over \$500,000 in free care. The hospice program provides end of life care under Medicare or private insurance benefits, but the per diem rate is very inadequate to cover the services needed (nursing care, social worker, home health aides, medicines, durable medical equipment, oxygen and more) – donations help make up the shortfall. Our donation was earmarked to help fund bereavement support groups for parents and kids as well as volunteer training for hospice in Dartmouth and New Bedford.

### **YouthBuild**

**2007 Mission Donation \$1,000**

YouthBuild New Bedford is an educational program designed to provide 16- to 24-year-olds residents an opportunity to learn valuable occupational and life management skills. YouthBuild New Bedford uses construction training, leadership development, and academic preparation as tools to teach the values of discipline, integrity, and work.

## International Funding

### **Orphanage Clothing Mailing**

**2007 Mission Donation \$240**

Postage costs were paid in order to send clothing to an orphanage in Malawi.

### **Small Miracles International:**

**2007 Mission Donation \$1,000**

The primary focus of Small Miracles International is inter-country adoption with the placement of foreign-born children into homes here in the United States. Concentration efforts are in Guatemala, Central America. Mission funds will support activities such as orphanage support, a Nutrition Program feeding 200 plus children each day and Medical Teams which travel twice annually to Guatemala to provide surgery and treatment to children otherwise without access to medical care.

## **CHRISTIAN OUTREACH REPORT *Continued***

### **Estrellas Para Niños:**

**2007 Mission Donation \$1,000**

Estrellas para Niños or Stars for the kids is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting orphaned children in Juarez, Mexico. Children living in these orphanages have witnessed or experienced many of life's tragedies—kidnapping, rape and murder. Their spirits are strong but they require so much. Financial support, donations and service projects are planned annually through a group of investors and overseen by the Community Foundation of El Paso, TX.

### **Our Church's Wider Mission:**

**2007 Mission Donation \$5,844.61**

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 international relief work. Our board voted to increase our commitment to Our Church's Wider Mission in order to fund international care programs throughout the world.

### 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.

### **Holiday Hope**

Holiday Hope is a Christmas program of Child and Family Services. 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 15 full families. Mission funds pick up the cost of transportation vouchers for families, as well.

### **Relay for Life**

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 2007 became one of a small handful of teams to become a Purple team by raising approximately \$40,000. "Team Congo" was the largest fundraising team at the 2007 Relay.

### Non-Monetary Giving

### **Friends in Need Food Drive**

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.

### **Winter Clothing/Coat Drive**

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. Approximately three truckloads of warmth were donated by the Congregation in 2007.

## ***CHRISTIAN OUTREACH REPORT Continued***

### **Even the smallest gift makes a difference...**

The Outreach Board has an ongoing collection of 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.

### **Apprenticeship Teachers**

Through our relationship with PAACA, some members of our congregation have gotten involved with a nationally renowned Middle School afterschool program, Citizen Schools, with a site in New Bedford. This after school enrichment program for Middle School children (6th to 8th grades), is staffed largely by volunteers. 70 students participate 2 days a week. Volunteers teach all sorts of different things in the way of hobbies and skills. Knitting, cooking, theater, mock trials are some examples. The volunteers teach for 10 weeks, one day a week from 4:00 to 5:15, and there is back up from the staff. At the end of that period there is demonstration of skills learned – a big WOW!

## DEACONS' REPORT

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As a result of the House Meetings held in 2007, the Board of Deacons was charged with three tasks:

- Continue to cull and refine the church membership list and develop a plan to keep it updated.
- Work with the Music Committee and Director to review the church music program.
- Review content and structure of worship service (including the issue of too many announcements) and recommend changes.

To determine how we might best approach these responsibilities and to inquire what we felt passionate about, the deacons met at the home of Fred Dabney for a spiritual and direction setting retreat in January. We determined that we would like to provide opportunities for members of the congregation to gather in small groups for spiritual intent and learning. During Lent we participated in a series of Lenten Conversations sponsored by the Transition Team and led by Rev. King. Two of our deacons, Fred and Bill, introduced the series by conducting the service and providing the sermon on "Thin Places" the first Sunday in Lent. It was a very meaningful service followed by good participation by the congregation in the "conversation" that followed.

During this past year we set about meeting our responsibilities by:

- Beginning the task of updating the membership list, resulting in approximately 100 names being removed from the list. This effort needs to be ongoing for the list to be current and relevant.
- Conducting a service commemorating our Bicentennial Year on October 14 that focused on the history of the physical structures in the church. A framed portrait of Thelma Edvardson, the church's long-time organist, with her name inscribed by Renate Hamer, was hung in the stairwell leading up to the choir loft.
- Updating and finalizing a revision of the Green Book, which is the handbook that provides in detailed format the duties and responsibilities of the deacons.
- Dedicated a memorial candle to honor our service men and women serving our country anywhere in the world. The candle is lit by the DOM each Sunday.
- Reached a consensus that the congregation did not need to remain sitting during the Postlude, but could greet their neighbors as they left the sanctuary. We also decided that we wanted to add the Prelude back into the service.
- Considered the suggestion of putting Bibles in the sanctuary. Following up on the generous offer of 100 Bibles, we asked the congregation how they felt about having Bibles in the sanctuary. The answer was overwhelmingly in favor of it. The questions of which Bible(s) and how to store them will be addressed next.
- Decided, after considerable discussion, to return to the former flower donation policy, which had served the congregation for many years. We also decided to gladly accept the donation of bouquets from the gardens of members of our congregation during the summer months.
- Welcomed new members to our church last fall and again this spring. Not included in the list of recommendations from the House Meetings, but assigned to the deacons in our by-laws is the responsibility of assimilating new members into the life of the church. We need to look at how we might do this differently and better.
- Continued the visitation by our lay shepherds to our shut-ins. Aply led by Martha Shuster for several years, she is stepping down at the end of this year.

## ***DEACONS' REPORT continued***

- Engaged in the opportunity to mentor the confirmands. This program, set up by Rev. King last year, provides for the each confirmands to meet with one deacon to ask questions they have thought of regarding religion, spirituality, responsibilities, etc.
- Served Communion, assisted new members classes, hosted Maundy Thursday service, assisted in other services, and decorated the sanctuary for Christmas.
- Ensured that the sanctuary is properly maintained and coordinated all activities that take place there with the pastor.

The Board wishes to thank Fred Dabney, who will be stepping down this year. His calm nature, sense of humor and valuable contributions to our discussions will be greatly missed. Also, we continue to be grateful for all that Linda Keith manages to do so well and so cheerfully. We thank Bill Jones for providing our music program and to the choir for their good effort and voices. Special thanks to Rev. Elizabeth King. She has inspired us to search for our passions, to participate at another level, and to "love one another" regardless of our differences or disagreements. We are grateful for her time with us during this interim period.

We look forward to a new year with a new minister, endeavoring to remember to simply "love one another".

Respectfully submitted,

***Linda Gouveia and Jeff Stone, Co-Chairs***

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT

## Board of Religious Education, Directors of the Religious Education and Youth Fellowship

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Board of Religious Education, Directors of Religious Education and Youth Fellowship serving on the Board for 2007-2008 year were Laurie O'Neil, Diana Nichols, Betsy Johnson, Maureen Jones, Daphne Fogg Siegal, Dori Legge, Karin Ostebo, Wendy Weidenfeller, and Debby Clinch, as chair.

Sadly, the RE Board, congregation and children and youth of the Sunday School mourn the loss of Debby Clinch. The children and youth voted to dedicate the Sunday School year to the memory of Debby. The loss of Debby is great but so is her presence in the Religious Education Program. Her love of our children and our church is still with us!

### BOARD ACTIVITIES

- Rally Day, Registration and all church picnic
- World Communion Sunday, education classes and baking of communion bread
- Children's Worship Service
- Confirmation Class
- Christmas Eve pageant
- Confirmation Retreat
- Palm Sunday Parade
- Good Friday Reflection Service
- Easter Egg Hunt and Singing
- Blessing of the Animals
- Bible Presentation
- Confirmation Sunday
- Children's Sunday

Thank you to all Board members who returned bottle and can collections for our Mission Fund. Thank you to Rev. Elizabeth King for her enthusiasm, encouragement and support!

***Debby Clinch, Chair***

***Wendy Reardon, Director of Religious Education***

***Daphne Fogg Siegal, Youth Fellowships Director***

The financial news of the church over the last year was mixed. On the one hand, we were given some very generous gifts; on the other, we have an ongoing and growing operational deficit that must be paid for by selling off investments.

In late 2006, we received \$50,000 in matching funds from a church family to be used during 2007. In late 2007, we were the beneficiary of two more extraordinary gifts. The first was an anonymous \$150,000 gift to be used over a three year period beginning in 2008. The other large gift was a \$13,600 bequest from Pat Swift, a woman who gave all she could to the church she so loved. We are indeed blessed to have such generosity in our midst.

Turning to operations, 2007 marked the 12<sup>th</sup> straight year that pledge revenue did not cover expenses. It was necessary to transfer \$50,000 from investments to fund operations and an additional \$43,327 to pay for capital improvements. We ended 2007 with a balance of \$9,729. Total income including investment transfers was \$416,847 and expenses were \$407,118.

Significant variations from budget were:

- \$10,000 for new parsonage windows,
- \$6,800 shortfall in parsonage rent due to delay in securing a tenant,
- \$1,885 of additional parsonage operating expenses prior to rental, and
- \$4000 of increased church maintenance costs.

Investment income beyond what was budgeted helped offset these higher expenditures.

Churches seeking a new minister typically experience a reduction in attendance, donations and volunteers. Looking towards 2008, it appears our church will experience a similar fall-off. The \$27,334 deficit approved at last October's quarterly meeting has grown to an estimated \$41,558. This increase is mainly due to a \$21,000 shortfall in pledges from our October goal offset by some additional investment income. On the brighter side, mission pledges exceeded our goal by \$5,000.

Pledges for church operations in 2008 are 11% below last year's level. Fortunately our current financial position is strong because we have over \$1.2 million of investments. We have the funds to cover the deficit. However, as has been said before, the increased use of investments to cover deficits cannot go on forever. We have a structural problem that needs to be addressed. If we want to continue current programs as they are, we will need to increase our revenue. Jim Forbush, with assistance from Ridley Rhind and others, will lead efforts to enhance stewardship this year. To be successful, they will need increased financial support from each member of the congregation.

No discussion of stewardship would be complete without the recognition of members who donated money and all who contributed their time and talent by helping with projects and serving on boards, committees and task forces. Thanks so much to all of you and to our exceptional, hard working staff. You make this church what it is. I would also like to thank Larry Bedell and Joe Nauman, whose terms are expiring, for the many contributions they made as members of the Board of Trustees.

***Philip Guymont, Chairman***

## WAYS AND MEANS REPORT

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Members: Debbie Durland Co-chair, Cyn Spence Co-chair, Susan Gabert, Larry Kemper, John Lewis, Rich Madsen, Lee Murray

The Ways and Means Committee under the leadership of Tom Rioux held the second annual Padanaram Garden Market in May of 2007. In spite of a cold and damp day the market made over \$3,400. The market is only a success due to the support of many volunteers from our entire church family. The market is also supported through donations to the auction, baked goods for the bake sale, trees and shrubs from Jim McBratney and a very special thanks to Fred Dabney for his donation of hundreds of perennials.

The Lee's Market dinner, held each fall for several years, was given a year off so as not to compete with the bicentennial banquet held in October.

At the time of this writing the murder mystery theater production of *Wake the Dead*, an Irish wake, is a week away. Tickets sales are over 100 and we expect a sell out crowd. Our director, Gale Litchfield, and the intergenerational cast are working very long and hard to prepare a quality production. Supporting the cast is a group of volunteers who are building the set along with the kitchen crew who will be preparing and serving dinner and clean-up. All told it takes about 30 people to put this production on so thanks to everyone. I am sure the play will be memorable.

Ways and Means lost the leadership of our chair, Tom Rioux, mid season due to family and work commitments. Rose Ferreira another dedicated member also had to step down due to family commitments. Thank you both for your service. Due to the half strength committee and the focus on the play the Padanaram Garden Market will not be held this year but we hope to bring it back next year.

Respectfully submitted,

***Debbie Durland, Co-chair***  
***Cyn Spence, Co-chair***

## BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

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On October 21, 2007 over 100 of the church family and friends culminated the year-long celebration of our 200th anniversary with a banquet at the Hawthorne Country Club. The hall was filled with memories of the past with the display of the time capsule prepared 25 years ago and mementos of the current times to look in to the future. Fellowship was plentiful as was the meal we shared. Old friends caught up on old times, new friends shared the church's rich history and became part of the future. The premier of the video history, coordinated by Leanne Joyce, brought us reflections of many members of the church. We thank her for sharing her time and talents in preserving these stories for us. By talking with long time members of the church, those who have grown up and raised their own families here, currently sharing the church with their grandchildren and newer members who support our church, we are able to share a richness of our church's history and set our dreams and goals for the future of the church.

The entire year was filled with events planned and carried out by each Board of the church. The Trustees hosted a Mardi gras breakfast to begin the year guiding the church family to reminisce about their memories of the church. Ways and Means came through, as usual, with a pot luck supper giving us a connection to our surrounding community. In April our "Birthday Presence" was felt at 2 local social service agencies when over 100 volunteers from our congregation joined together to provided some much needed "sprucing up" from painting and to making much needed repairs. As it usually does, the church choir under Dr. Bill Jones' direction, along with guest vocalists, filled our sanctuary with a concert of Faure's Requiem – a truly moving experience. "Congo Café" sponsored by the Religious Education Board brought out many talents within the church. Children and adults alike sang with their voices and hearts, instruments were played and verses recited all to the glory of God. With their commitment to keeping the grounds of the church beautiful, the Gardening Group offered the members of the church another opportunity to leave their mark. Stepping stones were created by many people and are now the pathway in to and through our Bicentennial Garden. This garden was blessed by Reverend Elizabeth at the end of the Garden Tour sharing the rich history of the beautiful plantings honoring many past and current members of our church who have given so much to us. The Board of Deacons presented a history of our beautiful sanctuary. Many aspects of the room – from the doors we enter to the chandelier that lights our way to the cross we turn to in time of prayer – gave us a complete picture of how our church has come together over the past 200 years and keeps us safe as we begin the next chapter in our church life.

Although we are well in to our 201st year, the Bicentennial time capsule is now being finalized and prepared for its place in our history. A special stone in the Bicentennial Garden that has incorporated our dates of existence will be the marker allowing us to revisit this tribute in another anniversary celebration in the future. The Bicentennial booklet, updated for the last 25 years will also be shared with the congregation.

This year of celebration has connected us readily with our period of transition. It has helped us to realize where the church has been and how that can help guide us to where we want to be in the future. As chairperson of the steering committee, I have been blessed to work with a group of dedicated church members from our group to every member of a Board and the congregation. We, the Bicentennial Steering Committee thank each and every member, friend and visitor to the church for their ongoing support of these events and activities.

Respectfully submitted,

***Cecelia Roberts***

## Bicentennial Events / Celebrations

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**Ongoing** Each month in the Spire, we had **moments of history highlighted** in articles submitted by Barbara Bedell. She did a fine job at helping us keep our history alive.

**January 21, 2007** Our celebration kicked off with a **special worship** service at 10:00am. The highlight of the service was a **Cantata written by our church member, Mrs. Renate Hamer**. The piece was performed by our church choir with visiting members of the Smith Mills Christian Congregational Church of North Dartmouth, UCC, and their minister, Rev. Mike Robinson.

**February 11, 2007** The Board of Trustees hosted a **Pancake Brunch with a Carnivale theme** after our 10:00 service on this Sunday. This was a prelude to the season of Lent. We shared our favorite stories and memories of our experiences in the life of this church.

**March 17, 2007** The Ways and Means Committee sponsored a **Pot Luck dinner**. The program included a local historian, Michael Dwyer, Chief Librarian from the New Bedford Whaling Museum, talking about the whaling influence on our community. The children were treated to a movie in our upper social hall with an Irish flair!

**April 28, 2007** In the spirit of celebrating our church's 200th birthday, the Outreach Board coordinated a **day of service**. Our project sites were HarbOUR House Family Shelter at 713 Shawmut Avenue and New Bedford and PAACA/NB Prevention Partnership at 360 Coggeshall Street, New Bedford.

**June 3, 2007 Children's Sunday** was celebrated with a picnic sponsored by the Executive Committee. This provided us with another opportunity for sharing of memories and stories from our members.

**June 2 & June 9, 2007** The garden group led a workshop to create stepping **stones for the bicentennial garden**.

**October 12, 2007** The board of Religious Education hosted the **Congo Café**. Children of all ages played violins, the banjo, sang, danced, played the banjo and did magic tricks – all in the name of fun and fellowship. David Schell and Wendy Reardon were the emcees and refreshments were served.

**October 14, 2007** The Deacons presented a **History of the Sanctuary** during our Sunday worship detailing many of the historical items of importance in our lovely sanctuary.

**October 14, 2007** Following worship, our garden group hosted a **tour of the church gardens** with a special blessing of our new Bicentennial Garden with 52 stepping stones.

**October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007** Our Choir was joined by the choir from Barrington Congregational Church for a performance of the **“Requiem” by Gabriel Faure**. This beloved masterpiece of choral repertoire was a glorious way for us to celebrate as we approach the end of our bicentenary year. Soloists included our own Jennifer Brosky, soprano, and Clyde Slicker, baritone, from the Barrington Choir. The accompaniment—a reduction for piano of the orchestral score was prepared by our Director of Music, Dr. William Haffner-Jones — was played by Barrington's Director, Marina Zabinski. Dr. Jones conducted the performance.

**October 21, 2007** We gathered as a congregation for our **200th Anniversary Bicentennial Banquet**. The event, held at Hawthorne Country Club, was a celebration of 200 years and the culmination of our year-long celebration of the life of our church. Kevern Joyce did an amazing job channeling Laban Thatcher and Leanne Joyce created a wonderful historical DVD for us.

## INVESTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

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This report covers the activities of the Investment Committee for the calendar year 2007. This is the 15th year we have had professional management for our account and it is our 5th with U.S. Trust which is now a part of Bank of America. This change should provide additional resource information to our advisor.

The performance of our portfolio in 2007 was positive and closely matched our benchmarks. Valuation of the account rose from \$1,100,317 on December 31, 2006 to \$1,220,987 on December 31, 2007. During the year we added a prepaid pledge of \$150,000, withdrew \$114,607 for capital improvements and operating expenses and paid U.S. Trust fees of \$11,152. Including the fees the account gained \$85,277 or 7.8%.

Distribution of the account at the end of the year was 47% domestic equities, 19% international equities, 21% in fixed income items, 8% alternatives, 4% real estate and 1% in cash equivalents.

Our U.S. Trust advisor for the past several years, Tristram Eddy, was reassigned. His replacement, Diane Salamone, after a somewhat rocky start appears to be providing the committee with the information and performance we have come to expect from the advisor. We look forward to upcoming meetings with Diane. The committee had four meetings during the year.

Questions that repeatedly come up in our meetings: "Are we getting our money's worth from U.S. Trust? Could we do just as well on our own?" Upon reflection the response is "Yes, we probably have the talent on the board to do the job but No, we could not devote the time and effort required and would not want the responsibility". Thus the status quo continues.

Active committee members are: Judy Bowen, Phil Guymont, Kevern Joyce, Gale Litchfield, Bob Lytle, Joe Nauman, Jerry Scherer and Harry Schoening.

Respectfully submitted,

***Harry Schoening, Chairman***

## LIBRARY COMMITTEE REPORT

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### LIBRARY COMMITTEE REPORT

We are happy to report that our comfortable and attractive library is used by so many different groups in our church. And – we encourage you, after your meeting, to take time to look at our books and videos and check out one or two – but – be sure to return them!

Circulation of books and videos was down again this year. Total circulation was 128 books, of which 59 were taken out by children. Six videos were borrowed. We welcome any suggestions from all of you about how to increase our circulation.

Seventy-four books were added to the library this year.

Gifts	41
Book Sale	26
Budget	7

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

Respectfully submitted,

***Mariana Harkins***  
***Carolyn Michaud***  
***Martha Schoening***

## MUSIC COMMITTEE REPORT

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Members: Peter Hindle, Margaret Jones, Jeannie Gilbranson, Fred Dabney, Chairman Steve Starrett

This past year has been relatively calm, compared to the past few years which saw the refurbishing of the Steinway, the purchase of the new Allen organ, and the corresponding campaigns that are now thankfully over.

We have focused on a few of issues:

- 1) The creation of a true children's' choir. Jennifer Bronsky has been asked to lead this effort. Her past experience and extensive singing career more than qualify her. She has already made two wonderful appearances. Our goal was to develop the talents of some of our young children and foster a love for the type of music appropriate for the religious service. The children are being taught to sing together and a Capella. It is our goal to expand this effort to eventually include an older group also.
- 2) We have finished the installation of a recording system capable of recording an entire service. These CD's are made available to the general congregation and shut ins. The goal is to have a couple of full time youth members who will operate the system when we get a new settled minister. This is another way of getting a couple of the older youth members to participate in the church process.
- 3) We have tried to recruit new choir members, with little success. Choir membership requires a very strong commitment and most members are reluctant. It has been suggested we consider looking outside the membership and into the local talent pool.
- 4) We have been able to keep music purchase expenses down by using a lot of Bill Jones and Renate Hamer's compositions.
- 5) The choir participated in a major joint effort with the Barrington Congregational Church to sing the Faure Requiem. A combined performance was held at both churches.
- 6) The choir performed a new original piece by Renate Hamer, "Renate's Cantata"
- 7) We continue to think of ways to enhance the overall Religious experience people receive when they attend our services. We are using the guidance from the recent music vision task force recommendations.
- 8) We continue to hear criticism by uninformed church members on the \$48,000 spent on the organ. It is important for the church membership to understand that of \$50,000 spent on the new organ and accessories, the Church only spent \$15,000, which was to match the generous grant by the Petinos Foundation. The real value (replacement value) of the purchase, and all work done to the sanctuary is close to \$75,000.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Steve Starrett, Chairman**

## Nominating Committee

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It requires many volunteers to do the work of this church, over 75 people are required to fill all the board positions, not including the Search Committee, the Transition Team , and the Pastor Advisory Board. We fell short of our goal to fill 100% of our available board positions.

However, as a church in transition, we must look at our current Board volunteer group and be thankful that so many have stepped forward , and are willing to serve this church. We thank you for your efforts.

We worked to make our chart, showing our Board structure, as accurate as possible. If you find an error , please let me know.

This coming church season promises to be exciting , as we welcome a new settled pastor. We believe that you will want to play an active part in this event.

And you can be actively involved in this beautiful and friendly Church by serving on a Board. This is that opportunity and the time is now.

I ask that you please give some consideration to serving in some capacity in our church organization. Please look at the Board open positions and if you can agree to giving us a little of your time – if only for one year – 9 meetings, please call me at 508-992-8876.

Finally , please think about giving back to your church – you’ve received much from it.

We love this church , and If you don’t help us , who will?

**Bob Lytle , Nominating Committee**

***Bobbylee76@comcast.net***

Revision 04/09/08		TERM EXPIRES	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
NAME	POSITION								

Kevern Joyce	Moderator	2009				x	x		
Lee Murray	Clerk	2010					x		
Harry Schoening	Treasurer	N/A	x	x	x	x	x		
Gale Litchfield	Asst Treasurer	N/A	x	x	x	x	x		

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE continued**

Revision 04/09/08		TERM								
NAME	POSITION	EXPIRES	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	

<b>Trustees</b>										
Phil Guymont	Chair	2009				x	x			
Ridley Rhind		2009	x	x	x	x	x			
Jim Ricci		2010				x	x			
Liz Olimpio		2010				x	x			
Judy Bowen		2010				x	x			
Karen McArthur		2010				x	x			
James Forbush		2011					x			
Open										
Open										
Open										

<b>Religious Ed</b>										
Laurie O'Neil	Chair	2010		x	x	x	x			
Diane Medeiros		2011					x			
Randee Lunn		2011					x			
Cheryl Slomkowski		2011					x			
Rich Rende		2011					x			
Wendy Reardon		2011			x	x	x			
Diana Nichols		2009				x	x			
Betsy Johnson		2009				x	x			
Maureen Jones		2011					x			
Daphne Siegal		2011					x			
Open										
Open										

<b>Deacons</b>										
Jeff Stone	Chair	2010		x	x	x	x			
Bud Clark		2010		x	x	x	x			
Susan Blatchford		2009	x	x	x	x	x			
Jane Rioux		2009				x	x			
Cecelia Roberts		2009				x	x			
Scott Whiting		2009	x	x	x	x	x			
Bill Shattuck		2011					x			
Tena Coley		2011					x			
Molly Little		2011					x			
Larry Bedell		2011					x			
Open										
Open										

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE continued**

Revision 04/09/08	POSITION	TERM EXPIRES	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
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<b>Christian Outreach</b>									
Lara Stone	Chair	2010		x	x	x	x		
Pamela Joyce		2009	x	x	x	x	x		
Julie Rhind		2009	x	x	x	x	x		
Susan McLaren		2009				x	x		
Emanuel Botelho		2009				x	x		
Anne Sedgwick		2009				x	x		
Cristina Mehrtens		2011					x		
Margaret Forbush		2011					x		
Linda Paradise		2011					x		
Martha Schoening		2011					x		
Open									
Open									

<b>Ways &amp; Means</b>									
Cyn Spence	Co-Chair	2010				x	x		
Debbie Durland	Co-Chair	2009				x	x		
Rich Madsen		2011			x	x	x		
Larry Kemper		2009	x	x	x	x	x		
John Lewis		2009				x	x		
Lee Murray		2009				x	x		
Susan Gabert		2009				x	x		
Wendy Weidenfeller		2011					x		
Howie Clinch		2011					x		
Open									
Open									
Open									

<b>Music</b>									
Steve Starret	Chair								
Peter Hindle									
Jeannie Gulbranson									
Margaret Jones									
Fred Dabney									

<b>Pastor Advisory</b>									
Kevern Joyce	Chair								
Jane Rioux	Deacon								
Susan Blatchford	Deacon								
Paul Durland	At Large								
Kate Dabney	At Large								

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE continued**

<b>Revision 04/09/08</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>TERM EXPIRES</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
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<b>Bicentennial</b>									
Ceceila Roberts	Chair								
Debbie Durland									
Robert Lytle									

<b>Nominating</b>									
Robert Lytle									

## **PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT**

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The Pastoral Search Committee has met every goal stated in its 2007 Annual Report by the date targeted.

The committee spent the spring and summer months of 2007 creating an accurate church profile. Data in the final profile were extrapolated from numerous sources. The questionnaire mailed by the Committee April 18, 2007 and house meetings conducted by the Transition Team were major contributors.

This comprehensive profile was sent to UCC for approval, and our pastoral position was posted. On October 3 we received the first of 70 profiles. Each profile was read and evaluated by each member of the committee. Audio/video of sermons were requested from 23 strong candidates. Nine candidates were interviewed and 3 finalists were selected.

With those 3 finalists, the search process extended into 2nd interviews and listening to sermons at neutral pulpits. Our final candidate should be selected by May 2008.

During the final selection process a Contract Drafting Team comprised of 2 Search Committee members and 2 Trustees will be formed. They will determine parameters of the new pastor's contract.

When a final candidate is selected, contract negotiations will take place. Four Search Committee members will form a sub-committee to perform these negotiations. Whenever necessary, they will draw on the expertise of the congregation and church leaders during this process.

The Search Team will then formally present the contract and candidate to the Executive Committee for ratification.

Letters will soon thereafter be sent to all members of the congregation naming the final candidate and inviting congregants to "Candidate's Weekend." Saturday will hold a meet and greet reception for the candidate. A brochure with the candidate's bio and salary summary will be available. Sunday the candidate will preach, and be voted on by the congregation.

The target starting date for our new minister is still August 1, 2008, though it could be sooner.

Respectfully submitted, for the committee,

***Paul Durland, Co chair***  
***Rich Brosky, Co-chair***

***April 9, 2008***

## TRANSITION TEAM REPORT

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The Transition Team originally formed in the fall of 2006 to serve during the period between settled ministers. Our role was to engage the congregation in various tasks important to this time of change and promote discussion and thinking about the past, present and future of our church.

Last year we sponsored several activities and conducted a series of 11 “house meetings” that provided a forum for people to share their thoughts about our church. These sessions were very well-attended (over 110 people participated) and yielded valuable information about church history, key concerns, who we are as a church family, what we value, and the hopes and dreams we have for our next pastor and our church. Data and summaries from these meetings became important input to the church Profile developed by the Search Committee.

We also developed a Power Point summary of important findings and themes from the house meetings, and this information was presented to the congregation by Jeff Stone at the last annual meeting. In September 2007, we presented nine action items and recommendations from the house meetings that were discussed with the Executive Committee and published in *Spire*. Progress has been made on many of these issues, and we expect to see more as the church plans for its work in the year ahead.

One of the nine recommendations was, “To provide more opportunities for education and spiritual growth and development for adults.” In response to that need, the Transition Team worked with Reverend King to sponsor a series of Lenten Conversations during four consecutive Sundays in February/March of this year. Topics covered were: Thin Places; What Matters Most; Making Sense of the Bible; and Meeting Jesus at the Well. For each session, we provided readings on the topic in advance, Reverend King discussed the topic in her sermon on Sunday, then discussion of the same subject was continued in small groups at coffee hour. We hope participants enjoyed these sessions and found them educational and meaningful.

The Transition Team recently decided it was time to disband our group, as our numbers have dwindled and the search process is nearing completion. We appreciate the contributions of everyone who ever served on our team and are especially grateful to Elizabeth for her expert guidance and assistance. We also want to thank the many people in our congregation who participated in our activities and enthusiastically shared their thoughts and ideas about our church and its future. As this transition period ends, we look forward to a new and exciting chapter in the life of this church.

Respectfully submitted,

**Susan McLaren**  
**Linda Gouveia**  
**Jane Rioux**

## CHILDREN'S CIRCLE NURSERY SCHOOL REPORT

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Children's Circle continues to thrive this school year. The program's yearly theme is "Reflections" which intermingles with our curriculum. There are several components of Children's Circle that are new this year. Rhonda Plourde, Director of South Coast Music Together has been visiting the program once a month. Another aspect of the program is the introduction of yoga to children. This creative movement (often story based) allows children to use alternative modalities to express and challenge themselves. Scarlett is now a certified children's yoga teacher. Lastly, Tracey Mark, a creative movement instructor and director of "Move Me", has been coming to the classroom twice a month.

The children and parents from both the two and the three-day programs gathered at the beach in early September for "Ocean Splash". It is an awesome transition for the children and parents to meet before the beginning of the school year. This year the children's school photographs were taken at the beach in front of reflective mirrors and ocean by "Photography by Rose".

In September we begin with ocean themes. Connections in curriculum-involved beachcombing...walking near the ocean looking for pieces of nature. The classroom became the magic beach with Japanese Carp, crabs and seahorses.

In October we head off to Tiverton, Rhode Island to Patchet Tree Farm for a hayride and a run through the pumpkin patch. The Standard Times did a full-page color article about our enrichment visit. The autumn curriculum featured pottery making with a local potter.

Thanksgiving brings our Thanksgiving Feast where both classes join in song and share a sit down feast. All the children were joined by a petting zoo including exotic birds, rabbits and reptiles.

The school's "Healing Hands" project collected enough money to donate three stoves and many food baskets to the Southwest Indian Foundation. Our parent Debbie Bozak made fleece blankets for the "Parenting Teen" Program, which was donated along with two boxes of beautiful infant clothing, books and blankets.

Every December, for the past ten years, our holiday culmination before the New Year is a reading of The Polar Express for all the children. Forty families from the school gather in a momentous annual event that leads to rides on the Old Fire Engine with Santa Claus himself. The event makes it a point to instill the magic of childhood in each student.

In January we journey to the Arctic and Antarctic ice drifts. The children made narwhales, penguins and seals. It is our time for parent conferences and speech assessments by Schwartz Center.

Our Valentine Tea and the study of Knights and Castles highlight February. At this time the children began construction of a paper mache dragon to be used for our end of the year program. The school's registration took place in February. We find the program's enrollment capacity has nearly filled for the 2008-2009 school year.

In March, the children explore the universe and study the night sky followed by an enrichment visit and presentation given by Dr. Pelletier at Bristol Community College Planetarium.

April brings growth and seeds and metamorphosis. The children completed their Shore Bird Project with an enrichment visit to Buttonwood Park Zoo learning more about the birds that live where we live and observing shore birds at the zoo.

## **CHILDREN'S CIRCLE NURSERY SCHOOL REPORT *continued***

Our plans are underway for the annual Mother's Day Brunch and Art Show, which takes place on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The moms, grand moms, sisters, aunts, and girlfriends sit down, relax and share stories, quiche and salad. The children will sing around the peace pole as they release our hatched butterflies.

The school's three fundraisers, (Sally Foster Gift Wrap, Dutch Bulbs and Barefoot Books) rose over a \$1000 dollars. All the monies are used to purchase books for each child over the holidays and at graduation day.

We wish to thank our Advisory Board members for their positive input and support throughout the school year. The children will end the school year putting children's literature to a play on graduation day. We call them the "I am..." Kids Theatre. Betsy Johnson wrote our preschool teacher this years title "Charlie's Dragon".

Around the same time that the daffodils and crocus are blooming, we are giving school tours to new families and talking about kindergarten with our current families and reflecting on our school year. Betsy and I continue to inspire children to question, to seek, to learn, experience and connect with the joy of play! "Reflect on and continue to embrace life's simplest joys!"

Respectfully submitted,

**Scarlett Lintner, Director**  
**Betsy Johnson, Preschool Teacher**

## SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

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Rally Day was September 9<sup>th</sup>. Our year long theme was introduced, "Goin' Fishin'!" Our focus for this year was building on our faith, how do WE become fishers of men? We once again worked our way through the Bible but this time focusing on stories that had to do with water, fishing, building and boats! Our education was not solely achieved by simply reading about other people and how they did God's work or followed in Jesus' footsteps. WE did God's work and WE followed in Jesus' footsteps! We began the Sunday School Mission Fund. The children and youth of the Sunday School program worked throughout the year to complete seven mission projects! We also built our own wooden boat! A 15ft, 95lb Skerry Sail boat.

Sunday School Enrollment was 55, with 13 confirmation students, compared to 49 a year ago. Our average weekly attendance was 80% which is outstanding!

This year's curriculum was designed and implemented by Wendy Reardon, Director of Religious Education. Our year was comprised of "sessions" averaging four weeks in length. Our students comprised three distinct groups, preschool and kindergarten, first and second grade, and third through seventh. Each session had a dual focus; Biblical and Outreach. Some of the passages we studied were, the story of Noah, Jesus gathering his first disciples, and Jesus' many parables, just to name a few! Along with reading about people in the Bible and their deeds we went out and performed our own!

The Sunday School completed seven mission projects this year! We began by filling 50 "back to school" back packs that were sent to schools in New Orleans. Next children age 3 through 17, along with many adult mentors made 50 apple pies and 25 pumpkin pies, from scratch...including crust! The children then had a bake sale and sold the pies for ten dollars a piece. The proceeds were combined with The Children's Circle Nursery School's funds raised, and together the children purchased 2 home heating wood stoves and several large Holiday food baskets for 2 Navaho Indian families and their neighbors!

At Christmas, the children had a "cookie swap" and invited the congregation to make a package for themselves AND make one to bring to someone else who might not otherwise receive a gift or Christmas visitor. The children also made 50 Christmas cards for wounded soldiers.

To kick off Lent, Wendy lead a "Time with Children" to explain the origins of the pretzel and the Sunday School children made and baked close to 100 pretzels from scratch! Our generous, and hungry, congregation gobbled them up in record time and helped us to raise two hundred dollars! The children and youth used this money on a "shopping spree" on The Christian Children's Fund web site. Each group had their portion of the pretzel proceeds to spend as they wished. Our pre/k group purchased soccer balls and jump ropes for children in Africa, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders purchased a harvest worth of seeds and an orchard . Our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders purchased mosquito netting for an entire village and purchased 2 goats. The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades adopted a baby to buy formula for and purchased 2 pigs!

Our next mission was a "gift" of hot cross buns to the congregation, while we were learning about Good Friday. We continued on with a bake "sail" to help fund our Skerry sail on Easter morning. The Children were hard at work creating beautiful seashell wind chimes for our last project effort of the school year, this too will go towards our Skerry sail. We finish the year with what we hope will be a "massive" food drive to help take care of people through the summer months!

Along the way, we had a re-enactment of the birth of Jesus for our Christmas Eve Pageant, made incredible clay artwork for our Stations of the Cross reflection service, an Easter Egg Hunt and built a magnificent wooden sail boat, The S.S. Debby! S.S. for Sunday School! Thanks so very, very much to mentors, and Captains Larry Bedell and Dick Daniels for their expertise, commitment, patients, sense of humor and love!! The boat is named after Debby Clinch, our beloved RE chair.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT continued**

This was a year long project that the children learned so much from, how to use tools, work together, listen, and that Larry and Dick are really cool guys!

A new component was added to the Sunday School program this year, Destination Unknown. Youth in 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> were taken on mini "field trips". The field trips tied directly in with our Biblical focus. The youth and their mentors, left never knowing where we going or how we would get their, only that it would bring us back to our Bibles! We went fishing at the bridge, we crossed from one side of the river to the other on Faith alone! No touching the bridge allowed! We went on a road trip to find out if WE were "good Samaritans"?!

Finally we set sail...knowing we WERE "fishers of men"...indeed!

Once again, much of the success of our program is do to our never ending, enthusiastic, awesome mentors! This year our mentors age ranged from early teens to retirement! We need you and LOVE you! Thank you to our wonderful, and hungry congregation for supporting us all the way, whole heartedly! Thank you to Rev. Elizabeth King for being ready for anything!

Anticipated Activities of the Sunday School Year

- Blessing of the Animals
- Bible Sunday
- Children's Sunday and the blessing and launch of The S.S. Debby!

Respectfully submitted,

**Wendy Reardon**  
**Director of Religious Education**

## **WOMEN'S GUILD REPORT**

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Officers: Molly Little, Second Vice President; Pam Joyce, Recording Secretary; Sonja White, Corresponding Secretary; Phyllis Pettengill, Treasurer; Molly Little and Pam Joyce, Publicity; Nancy DeWolf Historian; Debbie Czorny and Eleanor Beanland, Nominating Committee; Elise Gela and Linda Paradise, Rummage Sale Chairs.

The Women's Guild was organized by thirty women in 1929. When the membership grew to 180-200 members in 1940, Circles were formed. Each Circle had an annual project. The money was used for special projects in the community and specific church needs, refurbishing the kitchen, banquet tables, carpeting, etc. The Yellow Circle established "The Children's Circle Nursery School" for pre-school age children in 1972.

Even though we do not have the leadership of a President, we are still continuing to support the church through our activities. The ladies keep the new kitchen clean with the help of our outstanding custodian, Al DeMello. They continue to assist with the special coffees. We are looking forward to another successful rummage sale (recycling event!) on April 5.

An important function of the Women's Guild is evidenced during the receptions after Memorial Services. It is just amazing to see the food that is generously provided for these collations. As Elizabeth King, our Interim Minister stated, "This is truly a wonderful gift of compassion and hospitality to the families and the broader community." We do this willingly and with a warm sense of caring to those people in their time of sorrow.

During the Christmas Season we reached out to organizations and special people in our lives. Donations were given from the Guild to the following: Dartmouth Youth Commission, Neediest Family Fund, Salvation Army, and Friends of the Elderly. We also recognized those people who are very special to our group: Reverend Elizabeth King, Linda Keith and Al DeMello. Their assistance in all of our endeavors is truly appreciated.

The Women's Guild is open to all women of the community and will continue to reach out to those families who need help in times of illness, accident and bereavement. We are looking forward to working with our new minister and know that with his/her leadership our group will continue to be an important part of our Church. We give strength to each other in our fellowship together, and pray that we will continue to go forward with strong hearts in our compassion and decision making.

Respectfully submitted,

***Sonja White***  
***Corresponding Secretary***

## JUNIOR YOUTH FELLOWSHIP REPORT

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The Junior Youth Fellowship had a great year (2007– 2008) with a very active and enthusiastic group. Our youth group is non-denominational, open to all youth of our church and community in grades 6-8. Our program includes fellowship, community service, a spiritual component and of course, fun. Our fellowship consists of about 65 members. Almost half of our members come from church families.

One of the focuses of our group is to be kind and respectful to each other and to be inclusive to all who attend our meetings. We work towards this goal throughout the year trying to increase awareness of how we can make new friends and include others.

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, Christmas caroling, the winter retreat and an evening at Healthtrax to swim and play games. Our pasta dinner was very successful and raised \$943.00, which was donated to the Women's Center in New Bedford, the church's mission trip fund and the Christian Children's Fund. In April, we welcomed Deb Stevens to our meeting where Deb led us in an interesting experience for the group, a meditative gong bath. 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.

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 Elizabeth on Sunday morning. We had a great time skiing at Gunstock! Both kids and parents enjoyed a wonderful weekend.

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. This year our group made greeting cards for the pediatric unit at St. Luke's Hospital. At Christmas, we collected toys, games and books which were then donated to the pediatric unit.

Our parent committee (and our leaders at meetings) consists of the following individuals who work with and for the kids all year long: Justine Clarke, Carlin Moroney, Laurie O'Neil, Maura Reimer, and Ted Shwartz.

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 community. Our fellowship meetings consist of social gatherings and community service. It is a great group of kids who are always willing to help out and get involved. One of the group's favorite things to do is to meet at the church on Sunday evenings for game nights.

We started off the year helping at the OCEAN Road Race, an annual fundraiser for ovarian cancer awareness. In October, the group went to Carabiners, the indoor rock climbing facility in New Bedford. In November, we met at Hetland Rink for ice skating. In December, the youth made Christmas cookies and then delivered them to many of our elderly church members. In January, the senior fellowship hosted the coffee hour after the church service. They provided a very welcoming coffee and also joined us for morning worship. In February, we went to a Providence Bruins game. In March, the youth group had an afternoon of bowling followed by the annual pasta dinner held by the junior youth fellowship. It was great to have the older kids there to support our junior group. The youth also took part in the New Bedford Half-Marathon, this year working at the finish line.

Our last activity will be a cookout in May to wrap up the year. This year many of our members are seniors and we will miss this enthusiastic group. They have provided wonderful leadership and they are a very fun and dedicated group. It has been a joy to get to know them over the many years that they have been involved in our youth groups, both junior and senior.

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. Special thanks to Tina Nauman for her leadership and help throughout the year. We would like to thank all the parents who have helped in one way or another over the year. Thanks to all for your time and energy!

Respectfully submitted,

***Daphne Fogg Siegal***  
***Youth Director***