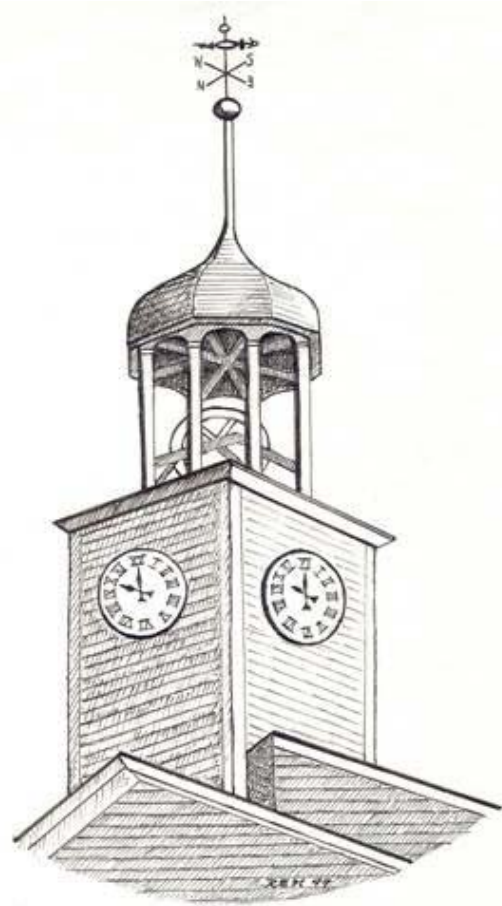
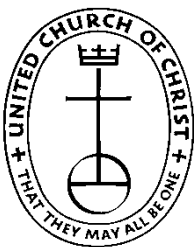


# THE ANNUAL REPORT 2010



Building a loving, living church since 1807



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

**IN ITS  
203rd ANNIVERSARY YEAR**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**  
**May 3, 2009 to May 2, 2010 \* ANNUAL MEETING: May 2, 2010**

---

TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	1
OFFICERS, MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS and CHURCH STAFF for 2009-2010.....	2
PASTOR'S REPORT .....	3
<b><u>OFFICERS' REPORTS</u></b>	
CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIR .....	6
CLERK	
Record of Statistics for the Year.....	8
Annual Meeting Notes – May 3, 2009 .....	10
Quarterly Meeting Notes – October 25, 2009.....	11
Quarterly Meeting Notes – January 24, 2010.....	13
<b><u>MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS</u></b>	
CAREGIVING.....	18
CHILDREN CIRCLE NURSERY SCHOOL.....	19
COMMUNICATIONS.....	21
FELLOWSHIP .....	22
FINANCE .....	23
Financial Oversight .....	23
Investments.....	24
Stewardship .....	25
Budget & Financial Reports .....	26
OUTREACH .....	35
PROPERTY .....	40
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION .....	41
Adult Bible Study.....	42
Confirmation.....	43
Junior Youth Fellowship .....	44
Senior Youth Fellowship .....	45
Sunday School.....	47
STAFF RELATIONS .....	49
WORSHIP.....	50
<b><u>ADDITIONAL REPORTS</u></b>	
WOMEN'S GUILD.....	52
YOUTH MISSION TRIP .....	53

### **Church Officers (2009-2010)**

Church Council Chairperson: Paul Durland

Vice Chairperson: David Fentress

Clerk: Cecelia Roberts

Treasurer: Phil Guymont

Assistant Treasurer: Gale Litchfield

### **10 Ministry Team Leaders:**

Caregiving: Jane Rioux

Children's Circle Nursery School: Jennifer Lynch

Communications: Jim Forbush

Fellowship: Deb Durland

Finance: Karen McArthur

Outreach: Margaret Forbush & Susan McLaren

Property: Dick Purdy

Religious Education: Rich Rende

Staff Relations: Kathy Pappas

Worship: Linda Gouveia

### **Church Staff (2009-2010)**

Pastor: Rev. Dr. S. William Sencabaugh

Director of Religious Education: Wendy Reardon

Director of Jr. Youth Fellowship: Claire Olivier

Director of Sr. 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

The Ten Commandments have 179 words. The Ten Commandments are also called the *Decalogue*, which is interesting because *Decalogue* translates to 10 words. So, what might have been 10 words at one time, became 179.

Do we really need a lot of words to say what needs to be said? Three simple words can make someone's day, or reveal the depths of the heart (I love you). Two simple words can be vows, bonding a loving couple in holy matrimony (I do).

Great Words in History--

Pythagorean theorem: 24 words

Lord's Prayer: 66 words

Gettysburg Address: 286 words

Declaration of Independence: 1300 words

Rev. Will's Holy Humor Sunday sermon: 1310 words

U.S. Government regulations on the sale of cabbage: 26,911 words

Sometimes important things can be said in very few words. Last year I proposed the idea of **Ministry that Matters!** Three simple words. I believe we are (and have been) living into those words. In the pages that follow, there will be many, many words. Many ministers and authors have contributed to this Annual Report. If you want to know what is happening in a church—always start with an Annual Report. You will find that we have been an extremely active congregation.

Much has happened in a year.

- worship attendance at both services has begun to increase
- we adopted a new church structure
- we have formed a Pastoral Advisory Committee
- we have been living into our new structure
- we have pushed and challenged and questioned
- we have faithfully served God, Christ, and our community
- we have continued to be a presence for God in Dartmouth

Thinking back to the time of Moses, I don't think the Israelites were particularly happy in Egypt. They were slaves, working and toiling and doing enough to survive another day. They were trapped in a system that constantly overworked them, and they saw little result. How could that really lead to a fulfilled life? They didn't the opportunity to dream of a better life—it was just life.

Moses with God as his guide offered the Israelites a way out. But it wasn't easy. In fact, it got really difficult at times. Moses, again and again, has to go to God and plead on behalf of the people. They weren't lost in the wilderness. For a tribe to be lost for 40 years is a bit of a stretch. It was a time of preparation. I think it would have been too easy, if God and Moses led the Israelites into the Promised Land in a week. What if Moses had gone to Pharaoh and Pharaoh just let the Israelites go? Well, it wouldn't be much of a story—and it wouldn't have been a defining, shaping event in Israel's history.

## ***PASTOR'S REPORT (Continued)***

This past year, we have been wandering a little in the wilderness. We are not lost! We are shaping our future. We are preparing ourselves to move into the Promised Land of a new structure that will support new ministries. It is hard work. It can be difficult at times. It is extremely uncomfortable and chaotic for people who like to use maps. Just as the Israelites grumbled about going back to Egypt- some of us probably miss the glory days of getting phone calls from the Nominating Committee and taking multiple church jobs (committee positions) so that there will be no empty slots. “Lord, I miss the days of being a slot-filling pledge unit.” Living in to the plan is hard when we don’t have GPS, Mapquest, or an unfoldable paper map.

We know where we want to be. We want to be a church that supports and empowers. We want to be a church where every member (yes every member) is committed to ministry! We want to be a church where every ministry matters!

Our new structure will support new ministry! Our new structure will not keep us in bondage, but will set our passion free. The major glitch in our new system is “nominations.” Because there is no Nomination Committee- we need to be more creative in the nominating process.

Most importantly, we need to find the people who are passionate about various ministry opportunities and release that passion in a caring ministry. We don’t have to do it the way we’ve always done it.

I have been greatly involved in so many areas of the church, and so many ministries. I have witnessed firsthand the passionate servants from our congregation. There are many. I am in awe of the amount of ministry that takes place behind the scenes. Things don’t just happen in the church—it takes a great amount of work, dedication, and commitment to make our ministry come alive. Our church has been truly blessed with so many giving people. Many people have found unique gifts to offer.

I encourage you to continue reading all the reports of our church! While we have been wandering around in the wilderness- there has been a lot happening. If you truly want to know what we’ve been up to, then read all the reports. Surely, you will be as impressed as I am with all the ministries of our church.

Finally, there is a story told about how when the Israelites came to the Red Sea, God did not part the waters right away. They had to get into the water first. That’s right—they had to march into the water.

Up to their ankles, up to their knees—“Okay God, part the waters?”  
Up to their waists, up to their chests—“Please God, part the waters!”  
Up to their necks, up to their noses—“blrbleblewlebledwlebrlurble!!!” (that’s the sound, as the water would be over their mouths)

***PASTOR'S REPORT (Continued)***

At last, the water is parted! Folks—they had to get into the water. Just as Peter had to get out of the boat to walk on the sea—the Israelites had to march into the water. Yes, we need to march right into the water- with all the faith we can muster. We need to get out of the boat- with all the faith we can conjure. God will take us where we need to be. God will always rescue us from the storm, the chaos, the wilderness. God will lead us!

We are a ministry that matters. May God bless you in the coming year.

In Christian Love,  
Rev. Will Sencabaugh

## CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIR REPORT

---

What an exciting year. This year we implemented the new organizational structure and formed the Church Council. Each of our boards was reformed into ministries and additional new ministries were created. All were empowered to conduct their ministries to be flexible to the needs of the church. As with anything new, adjustments had to be made as the year progressed and will continue to be made into next year. Originally it was proposed that a by-law be written for January 2010 but that had to be suspended. This structure is still evolving.

As the year progressed, we created a Pastoral Advisory Committee so Reverend Will could have a sounding board to help him with church issues and a music committee was formed under the worship ministry.

Our ministries are as follows: Worship: Linda Gouveia; Religious Education: Rich Rende; Outreach: Susan McLaren/ Margaret Forbush; Children's Circle: Jennifer Lynch; Communications: Jim Forbush; Fellowship: Debbie Durland; Caregiving: Jane Rioux; Human Resources: Kathy Pappas; Finance: Rev. Karen McArthur; Properties: Dick Purdy; Vice –chair: David Fentress; Clerk: Cecelia Roberts; Treasurer: Phil Guymont; Asst. Treasurer: Gail Litchfield

The Finance Ministry created a new process of budgeting. Each ministry would now be responsible for their portions of the budget. Because of the economic challenge, we spent many hours negotiating and cutting parts of the budget. As a result we continue to be a financially viable church.

Our membership stepped up and our pledge results were wonderful. As the stock market rebounded so have our investments. As the economy continues to improve we can expect our pledges and financial assets to grow.

As a church community, it has been inspiring to have our church heavily involved in active Outreach programs to help the people and organizations of our community.

Prayer chains, shawls, transportation for those unable to drive, the Lay Shepherds and the membership group are all parts of our Caregiving. This is our faith in action. Within the church we have had events of fellowship where people “break bread together” and celebrate new and old friendships.

Our Nursery school has become more visible to our membership and a valuable community resource.

As always, Sunday school is leading its students on an adventure of learning. The youth groups continue to provide the community with a time and place for students of all faiths to gather together.

Our Guilds have provided our kitchen with a new dishwasher, supported the nursery on Sundays and continued the tradition of a Rummage sale.

## ***CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIR REPORT (continued)***

We can truly take pride in the grounds and church building as groups have volunteered their time and energy to keep our grounds and building beautiful. We have even had the fire department volunteer to use its hook and ladder so our steeple clock could be repaired.

Our church's vitality and good works will meet any challenge and we will continue to be a vital resource to the community.

Paul Durland, Moderator

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

---

### **IN MEMORIAM – 5 members and 7 friends**

#### Members

Mary Currie  
Edwin Campbell \* \*\*  
Jeffery Gulbranson \* \*\*  
Marjorie Lauermann \*\*  
Marion Tripp \*\*

#### Friends

Thelma Currier \* \*\*  
Karin Lloyd \*  
Bradley Mills  
Kathryn Munro \*  
Grace Knowlton  
Galen Reynolds  
Helen Tulloch \*\*

\* Service held at our church

\*\* Officiated by Rev. Dr. S. William Sencabaugh

### **NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED INTO OUR FELLOWSHIP – 12**

#### **6 Received – May 17, 2009 (Confirmation)**

Shawn DeMello	Erin Riley Reardon
Sarah Elizabeth Lake	Drew Robert Sencabaugh
Madeline Jane Lynch	Stephanie Anne Starrett

#### **6 Received – February 28, 2010 (Affirmation of Faith)**

Liane Jacques  
Mike Jacques  
Brad Niemiec  
Nicole Niemiec  
Lisa Tufano  
Troy Tufano

Note: Confirmation this year will be May 16, 2010 and will be included in next year's report.

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

Deidre Ryan Holt	May 10, 2009
Gillian Reed Holt	May 10, 2009
Alec Trevor Rebello	June 28, 2009
Benjamin Jason Whalen	July 26, 2009
Lindsey Lee Barber	August 9, 2009
Charles Martin Niemiec	August 16, 2009
Emma Jane DaPonte	September 20, 2009
Abigail Elise Fortin	September 27, 2009
Anya Walker	October 24, 2009
Aaron David Charest	January 24, 2010

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

**MARRIAGES OFFICIATED by Rev. Dr. S. William Sencabaugh**

Brian Fernandes & Sharon Oliver	July 26, 2009
Joseph Sciuto & Alison Natale	September 12, 2009 *
Fraser Gunn & Leanne Joyce	September 12, 2009
Seth Chieppa & Elizabeth Ruelle	September 19, 2009 *
Richard Madsen & Heather Cooper	October 3, 2009 *
Andrew Lenz & Kara Buckley	October 10, 2009 *
Brian Botelho & Candice Laberge	March 13, 2010 *

(\*denotes married in our sanctuary)

**Total Membership as of May 3, 2009** **479**

New Members:

Affirmation of Faith	12	
Letter of Transfer	0	
<b>Sub-totals:</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>491</b>

Removals:

Deaths	5	
Transfers	2	
Other (asked to be removed)	0	
Move to Inactive List	0	
<b>Sub-totals:</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>484</b>

**Total Membership as of May 2, 2010** **484**

## Annual Meeting Notes - May 3, 2009

---

Kevern Joyce opened the meeting

Kevern presented the proposed board reorganization and By Law revision

Question and answer

Discussion

An amendment was proposed and accepted that the suspension for the current board format would be until the January meeting rather than six months.

The meeting voted to accept the proposed reorganization

Kevern introduced Bob Lytle to present the slate of Nominees for the Church Council

Paul Durland	Chair
David Fentress	Vice Chair
Cecelia Roberts	Clerk
Phil Guymont	Treasurer
Gail Litchfield	Asst Treasurer
Richard Rende	Religious Education
Deb Durland	Fellowship
Jane Rioux	Caregiving
Karen McArthur	Finance
Dick Purdy	Property
Jim Forbush	Communications
Margaret Forbush/Susan McLaren	Missions
Linda Gouveia	Worship
Children Circle Nursery School	Jennifer Lynch
Kathy Pappas	Human Resources

The congregation voted to accept the slate.

Rev. Will spoke about the importance of participation and accountability in our new structure and showed a stack of certificates of appreciation for the prior years board members.

Paul Durland presented a gavel to the outgoing Moderator Kevern Joyce.

Also presented were special plaques to

David Schell- Deacon Emeritus

Daphne Fogg Siegal –Director of Youth Fellowship

Harry Schoening-Treasurer

The meeting adjourned

**Note: No one took minutes at the meeting. These notes were submitted by Paul Durland.**

## Quarterly Meeting Notes – October 25, 2009

---

The quarterly meeting of the Congregational Church of South Dartmouth was held in the sanctuary of the church immediately following the end of worship at the 10:00 service. All were invited to stay and attend the meeting with its primary purpose being to approve or disapprove the proposed 2010 budget.

Paul Durland, church moderator, called the meeting to order. He invited church members remaining to stand when their area of participation within the church was named. Eventually all in attendance were standing showing the active participation within our congregation and representing how we are all part of the “mission” of the church. Paul led us with a prayer calling us to be “connected” to each other, to the church and to God by being a member of the church. All ministry chairs were asked to come forward. Each chair was asked to introduce themselves and briefly explain the purpose and role of their mission within the church. The introductions began with:

- Linda Gouveia, chair of Worship Ministry, read the names of the members of her group as well as its mission statement.
- Karen McArthur briefly defined the role of the Finance Ministry to include the Investment group, church finances and overall money-related processes such as counting the offering, protecting against future thefts, etc...
- Debbie Durland, chair of the Fellowship Ministry shared that her group was quite large and noted that although there is a fund raising component to this ministry, its primary function is offering opportunities for the church family to spend time together.
- Dick Purdy, chair of Buildings and Ground, spoke of their group's task of keeping the sanctuary and all building, inside and out, as well as yard, parking area and playground in good repair. He mentioned that the clock hands on the church have been troublesome but publicly thanked Jim Ricci for his expertise in correcting this problem.
- Susan McLaren identified Margaret Forbush and herself as co-chairs of the Outreach Ministry. She said that although their group was small they have had a busy year and are at this time, working to identify a final list of those organizations that have been identified as recipients of the pledged mission funds.
- Jim Forbush introduced a new ministry to the church and that is the Communications Ministry. Although there are only 3 members on this committee, they are in the process of reviewing, along with Linda Keith, all internal and external communication options within the church (e.g. Spire, Eflash, blog and the church bulletin as well as communications in local newspapers) He also mentioned that Bryan Mikkelson will be producing a video for the Children's Circle Nursery School.
- Jenny Lynch, chair of the Children's Circle Nursery committee, spoke of the great progress made within the nursery school over the summer. Extended day programs have been offered and are now filled to capacity. The nursery school is certainly filling a need within the community. She credited the hard work of Scarlett and Betsy as a big reason for the success. She also spoke of the feeling of inclusion being felt by the nursery school within the church family and it is much appreciated.

### **Quarterly Meeting Notes for October 25, 2009 (Continued)**

- Reverend Will thanked everyone for their presentations and reminded the rest of the congregation that the “membership” to a ministry is open to anyone at any time. This replaces the former nominating process. This is done to encourage greater participation. On the other side, if someone finds that the commitment is too great, it’s ok to step down. It was also noted that a review of the bylaw concerning that change was underway. He acknowledged that Kevern and other past moderators were working on this task.

Paul then reintroduced Karen to present the budget as it has been developed and approved by the Church Council. She reviewed the process that the Council went through to get to this point, presenting a united message from the group. She shared the line by line, ministry by ministry review that each did at that meeting, working toward paring down the budget given the difficult economic times. She also introduced the “unified” pledge approach that was going to be implemented this year. She carefully explained that this year’s budget for Outreach would be 12% of the total amount pledged to the church. (This would not include loose collections or one time offerings such as One Great Hour of Sharing, etc.) The Council discussed in great length and felt strongly that we did not want to decrease the budget no matter how successful the stewardship campaign is and that by identifying a specific percentage, the amount could certainly increase. The amount identified is 1% less than last year’s budget allotment.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the budget as presented. After several questions regarding the Outreach budget development, nursery school enrollment, investment income usage in the budget, personnel payroll totals, staff compensation for nursery school and comments of support for Outreach, a motion was made to accept the budget as presented. The budget was voted for and unanimously approved.

Paul Durland and Dave Fentress reinforced in their presentation, with the increased amount of money needed over last year to meet our financial obligations, each of us can play a part in helping us meet that goal. The greater the number of participants to the stewardship pledge drive, the greater potential to achieve it.

A motion was made to close the meeting, was seconded and unanimously approved by the congregation.

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Cecelia Roberts  
Church clerk

*\*Note: Please see addendum on page 54 (Caregiving Ministry Notes) - Added on 4/19/2010*

## **Quarterly Meeting Notes – January 24, 2010**

---

The quarterly meeting of the Congregational Church of South Dartmouth was held in the lower social hall of the church immediately following the end of worship at the 10:00 service. All were invited to stay.

Paul Durland, church moderator, called the meeting to order at 11:30 am and outlined the agenda for the morning.

Jim Forbush was first and presented his questionnaire on communications systems within the church. He explained the purpose of the questionnaire and thanked the members of the congregation for completing one. The results of the questionnaire will be shared at a later date with proposed recommendations of any changes for the future.

Kevern Joyce described his By-law Revision group as several of the former church moderators. Comments have been minimal as to the current format or the return to the former process of governance and meeting conducted by the church. A motion was made to continue to operate under the interim by-laws until the May annual church meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by those in attendance.

The Pastoral Advisory Council held its first meeting. Members of the Ministry in attendance were asked to stand to be recognized. If any church member has a specific issue that would not be able to be resolved by individual ministry teams, it should then be brought to one of these members for resolution.

Karen McArthur presented a review of the budget. Copies of the budget and supporting documents were made available to each person attending the meeting. She explained the budget process from the fall to the present. A question was asked regarding the size of the donation which will need to be covered in future budgets. Karen chose not to share the amount at that time. A second question regarding donating on a credit card was presented. Karen explained that while it may be convenient, it is also expensive (2 ½%) to manage by church and would most likely not be an option. Members are able to do automatic withdrawals from their checking and/or savings accounts. Specific details are attached to these minutes.

Margaret Forbush reported for Outreach on the successful completion of the Holiday Hope project. Also, the Christmas Eve collection was \$1521 – the biggest collection in recent years. This was donated to the Market Ministries food assistance program. The Aid to Haiti collection has received over \$1400 so far and includes the proceeds from the Sunday School bake sale. The all church service day is scheduled for Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. Location to be announced at a later date.

Sonja White represented the Women's Guild. Upcoming projects include the installation of a new dishwasher in the kitchen. The Guild will fund the entire project. Also, they approved a \$500 contribution to the kits for people in Haiti. Linda Gouveia is organizing this activity.

New Business: No items were brought to the floor.

***Quarterly Meeting Notes – January 24, 2010 (Continued)***

Motion to adjourn was made at 11:55. It was seconded and all approved the completion of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cecelia Roberts  
Church Clerk

**Financial Report Karen McArthur, Finance Ministry Chair**

Our overall financial health is good – and can benefit from growing even stronger. We are blessed with abundant resources and generous people – doing good things in our church, our community, and beyond. It has been a year of re-structuring and change, but I think we've developed a system that works well together.

- One measure of that is that we've had a 95% attendance rate at our Council meetings – and had good and fruitful discussions.
- With the restructuring of our church leadership, the Council has taken a more active oversight role in our finances, with each ministry participating in decisions made about our congregational budget.
- I'd like to highlight four areas of your handouts: pledges, investments, the nursery school, and the 2010 budget.

**2010 pledges** are the second highest they have been – only 2007 was higher.

- Our goal was \$233,000 – a 10% increase over last year, even in the midst of our collective economic turmoil.
- So far, we have surpassed last year, receiving \$219,000 in pledges from 68% of our member households.
- 82% of those who have responded so far have either maintained or increased their pledges.
- There are 22 pledges still outstanding from people who pledged a total of \$17,000 last year. The majority of this is from people who are participating and contributing – so we expect that we will meet or maybe even exceed our goal.
- Once again, we have a very high percentage of 2009 pledges completed – 97% so far. There is still a bit coming in, which will help to close last year's gap between income and expenses.
- Looking ahead to 2011 – we have been the beneficiaries of a large three-year pledge for 2008, 2009, and 2010. Next year, then, we will need to continue to increase our contributions, both through individual increases and through increasing the number of contributors so that we can continue to live within our means. The Council will continue to look at ways we can do that.

**Our investments are rebounding** – although they still have a ways to go.

- Phil reports that the return on our investments in 2009 was about 26% ... 3 points better than the S&P 500 even though we were 1/3 bonds. We have recovered about half of the value that we, along with the rest of the country, lost in 2008.
- We have completed the switch from Bank of America to Charles Schwab, managed by Windward Investments.
- We have also reduced the amount we are transferring from investments to the operating budget from \$50,000 to \$32,000 for 2009, which is just less than 4% of the average of the last five years' investment fund balances.
- If you remember Jim Forbush's presentation last year, and others before that, this is 4% figure is important so that we maintain our investments and allow them to grow sufficiently to cover inflation.

## **Quarterly Meeting Notes – January 24, 2010 (Continued)**

### **Financial Report 1/24/2010 by Karen McArthur, Finance Ministry Chair (continued)**

- There have been recent changes in Massachusetts investment regulations that affect any permanently restricted funds that we hold. However, this is only \$36,850 of our invested funds. We'll be working on that, along with other financial policies in the next few months.

**The expansion of our Children's Circle Nursery School** from a morning-only to a 9am-3pm program has been tremendously successful.

- Enrollment is now nearly full, with just a couple of spaces available in each class.
- Our financial goal is to break even on average over the years, with a \$12,000 annual contribution from the nursery school to the church to cover expenses such as administrative and custodial staff time, as well as marginal utility and maintenance costs.
- Thanks to Scarlett, Betsy, and Jenny Lynch and her ministry team, we have turned around the enrollment decline and resulting deficits and are now able to rebuild the nursery school fund balance.
- We're excited about the strengthened connections between the school and the church – understanding it as one of our ministries has made a big difference.
- Registration for next year begins February 1st, so please spread the word!

**Our 2010 budget** was approved in October.

- Due to the strength of the response to our stewardship drive, the Council doesn't see a need to make any amendments at this time.
- In October, Council worked hard to find areas of efficiency and trim the budget as much as we could.
- I've included our Budget oversight policy, as voted by the Council last May. You'll notice that each ministry is responsible for staying within budget and reporting to Council – and that any expenditures beyond their budget have to be approved by either the ministry chair, the Treasurer, the Council or the congregation, depending on how much.
  - If our contributions come in significantly below budget, we may need to come back to the congregation at the May or October meeting to suggest amendments to the budget.
- The report you have is the same budget as was approved in October with a few updates:
  - The actual January – December figures are included, as well as the year-end unrestricted and restricted fund balances. These are preliminary – the final report will be presented at the May annual meeting.
  - The 12% mission allocation has been clarified to include 12% of pledged contributions and the loose offering.
- There is no plan for significant capital expenditures in 2010 – and therefore, no budgeted transfer into our capital reserve fund. This will need to be addressed in future years.

**Quarterly Meeting Notes – January 24, 2010 (Continued)**

**Financial Report 1/24/2010 by Karen McArthur, Finance Ministry Chair (continued)**

- You'll note that some of the areas of ministry overlap with each other.
  - For example, Staff Relations is not throwing lavish parties for the staff – it's that social security and Medicare taxes, along with worker's compensation insurance are listed in their section, even though they support all of the areas of our ministry.
  - Similarly, Linda's work could be divided among worship, Religious Education, property, finance, communications and caregiving – but it is included in Communications.
- This is just one way of looking at the budget – we could, in the future, show a program budget with staff time allocated among the various ministries.

## CAREGIVING MINISTRY

---

Under the umbrella of the Caregiving Ministry are the E-Prayer Chain Ministry, the Prayer Shawl Ministry, the Membership Team Ministry, and the Lay Shepherd Ministry.

Marcia Hathaway writes beautiful and thought-provoking prayers for the Prayer Chain Ministry. Everyone is invited to sign up to receive her prayers and to participate in praying for our church family.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to meet on the last Sunday of every month to knit shawls for those in our church family and beyond for those in need of comfort and for joy. On October 18, 2009, eleven shawls were blessed, and on April 25, at least thirteen more shawls will be blessed during the morning service. Some of the shawls will go with our young people to West Virginia on their Mission Trip. A few of the members are also knitting children's sweaters for this trip also.

The Membership Team's focus is to reach out to all age groups in our membership. All new members were contacted about Rally Day in September. College freshmen received fall and Christmas greetings by e-mail. The Team planned a Fellowship Coffee on February 28, for new members joining this day and for recent new members. It was an opportunity to celebrate these members and an opportunity to learn what our newer members are doing in the church and for all of us to get to know each other a little better. On this day, four recent members spoke during the service of what church membership means to them. Pamphlets about the different ministries have been placed in the church pew pads to inform prospective members of all the opportunities the church offers to participate in the life of the church. The Membership Team will host a coffee on Confirmation Sunday, May 16. A couple of our youth will speak that day on what church membership means to them. Finally, the Membership Team is also working on updating the membership list by gathering addresses of our young people.

The Lay Shepherds visit church family once a month. Beginning in September 2009, all those 80 years old and older receive a birthday card.

The Caregiving Ministry also coordinates rides from a faithful list of volunteers for church family in need of transportation during the week and on Sundays.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Rioux

## **CHILDREN'S CIRCLE NURSERY SCHOOL MINISTRY**

---

"Living the Arts" was Children's Circle theme for the 2009-2010 school year. The theme pervades the curriculum including architecture, dance, music and literature. This school year we launched our successful extended day program from 9-3 PM, along with Little Sprouts, Spanish with Ms. Lilli and Singing Circles with Ms. Rhonda. Extended day has been well received and we are looking forward to building on this year's successes!

In September we began with ocean themes. Connections in curriculum are made by studying the local environment where we live and the whimsical children's literature from this sea side village. Ocean Splash was a great transition for the children and parents to meet before the beginning of the school year, in spite of the rain.

October found us at Patchet Tree Farm for our annual hay-ride and run through the pumpkin patch. On November 10th CCNS sponsored the viewing of "Where Do the Children Play?" a thought provoking documentary examining the issue of children growing up with few opportunities for unstructured play, especially outdoors. Showing and panel discussion was held at Friends Academy.

Thanksgiving brought both classes together to celebrate with song, food and tradition at our Harvest feast. All the children were joined by a petting zoo including rabbits, chickens and even a boa constrictor. The school's "Healing Hands" Project donated ten turkey dinners and thirty sets of hats and gloves to The Family Center in New Bedford. Families enter this program to make a better life for themselves and their children. The families learn a new language and improve their children's literacy.

Every December, our holiday culmination before the New year is a reading of The Polar Express for all the children. Thirty families from the community gather in a momentous annual event that leads to rides on the Old Fire engine with Santa Claus himself. This event makes it a point to instill the magic of childhood in each student.

In January, as we journeyed to the Arctic and Antarctic ice drifts, the children made penguins, seals and narwhals. We also welcomed our new teacher, Jennifer Sullivan. Jen is with us six hours a week.

February was highlighted by our Valentine Tea Party and the study of the night sky followed this year by an enrichment visit to the Ocean Explorium in New Bedford. CCNS children are brilliant! In February we hosted an Open House/Registration and are pleased as our enrollment capacity has nearly filled for the 2010-2011 school year.

Living the Arts in March included an enrichment visit by artist/potter Karen Snyder. The children learned about fish, drew their very own fish and then created that fish out of clay. The fish have gone to Karen's kiln for firing and will be back to be glazed soon. March 15th fifteen families participated in our Parent's Night "Windows" paneled by Deborah Bastoni, psychotherapist and Director of Team Building. The event was a huge success in reaching out to our Circle families! CCNS ended march with our first Preschool Potluck Dinner where twenty of our families shared good food, friends and conversation!

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

April welcomes seeds, growth and metamorphosis. "Wally" The Green Monster will visit to kick off the Red Sox Season! His visit sponsored by a CCNS parent. Then there will be popcorn and dogs.

Our plans are underway for the annual Mother's Day Brunch and Art Show which takes place on May 7th, 2010. The moms, grandmoms, sisters, aunts and girlfriends sit down, relax, share stories, quiche and salad. The children will sing around the peace pole as they release our hatched "Painted Ladies" butterflies!

Our fundraiser, Sally Foster Gift Wrap and the ongoing EcoPhones and Corky have raised over \$1,000 dollars. The monies are used to purchase books for each child over the holidays and at graduation. We wish to thank our Advisory Board members for their positive input and support throughout the school year!

The children will end the year putting children's literature to a play on graduation day. We call them the "I am..Kids Theatre". Living the Arts will present "The Hermit Crab" by Carter Goodrich, A Rhode Island School of Design graduate.

With much gratitude to our Children's Circle Ministry spearheaded by Jennifer Lynch who have supported us in all respects of our program. We now have sandwich board advertising, on-line tuition payment option and CCNS website!!

Around the same time that the daffodils are blooming, we are giving school tours to new families and talking about kindergarten with our current families. We struggle with what it means to be "ready". I recently read, "if readiness for school has meaning, it is to be found first in the children's flow of ideas." (A child's work: the importance of fantasy play by Vivian Paley). Play is the work of young children and those who nurture them.

Betsy and I continue to inspire children to question, to seek, to learn, experience and connect with the joy of play!

Respectfully submitted,

Scarlett Lintner, Director  
Betsy Johnson, Preschool Teacher  
Jennifer Sullivan, Preschool Teacher

## COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY

---

The Communications Ministry was created in May 2009. Its first edition featured three ministry members, Jim Forbush, David Ferreira and Brian Mikkelson. Our initial act was to create a mission statement, summarized as: directing/improving both internal and external church communications so as to keep our internal and external communities well informed about the activities and benefits of our church.

We determined to take on four specific activities in our first year. One was to increase the amount of newspaper coverage of our church activities. To this end, we have had four pieces published in the Chronicle, the Standard Times or South Coast Today. The events portrayed were the planning of the 2010 Mission Trip, Youth Thanksgiving Pie-Making, Fundraising for Market Ministries, Souperbowl Sunday, and the making of Baby Kits and Hygiene Packs to send to Haiti.

A second defined activity was to improve the New Member package. The prior package had become a hodgepodge of written materials. Our committee, wrote a new brochure, revised half a dozen documents and produced a slimmed down and relevant set of materials in time for new member joining this year.

Our third defined activity was to make a video promotional piece for Children's Circle Nursery School. We have drafted, redrafted and finalized a script. We have recorded three different potential narrators. We have produced a shooting schedule and are waiting to finalize the dates for filming. Subsequently, Brian Mikkelson will edit and produce the promotional video. We are planning to finish the project in Spring 2010.

Our fourth project was the evaluation of all of our internal and internet based media. To this end, a three page, ten minute questionnaire was composed and administered to seventy church members in January and February of 2010. The answers were collected and analyzed. Our congregants felt timely church information to be important and a great majority received much of the information they desired. It was interesting to note that members consume church information in significantly different and varied ways. Announcements in church, the Church Bulletin, the Church Blog, the Church Spire and the Church Website all had important roles to play. There were also enough specific comments to enable us to fine tune the content and look of the different pieces. The two findings of greater significance had to do with the distribution of the Spire and the thirst for information about results of our various ministry efforts and for more information about the people in our congregation. We have already begun paying more attention to reporting results, not just in announcements but also in written materials. We are also requesting that people who would prefer a written Spire sign up with Linda Keith, our Church Administrator, to be put on the mailing list. Finally, we have proposed to feature information about some of our congregants both in the Spire and the Bulletin.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Forbush, Communications Ministry Chair

## **FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY**

---

Members: Debbie Durland Chair, Cyn Spence, Gene Antonell, Sally Lemelin, John Lewis, Carolyn Lytle, Rich Madsen, Lee Murray, Sue Sullivan, Wendy Weidenfeller, Molly Little

The Padanaram Garden Market was held as planned on May 16, 2009 with good weather. This is the largest fundraiser and brought our total for 09 to the \$5,000 budgeted for the committee. The market was 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 table and hundreds of perennials donated by Fred Dabney. The committee thanks you all for your continued support.

With the emphasis on fellowship we hosted several activities this year. Many were no cost or very low cost. Fundraisers were limited to avoid competing with the mission trip.

The fall started off with the End of Summer Chicken Barbeque. Chef Gene Antonell treated us with his secret sauce. Funds from this event were dedicated to the mission trip. Next we returned the campfire sing along held at the council ring of the Dartmouth YMCA. We had a good but cool evening with plenty of marshmallows for toasting, good fellowship and the introduction of a professional storyteller for the children. December brought the Christmas cookie exchange during coffee hour.

“Dine Around” was introduced with one held in October and one in March. Participants sign up for a pot luck dinner of approximately eight people held at host homes. Fellowship assigns locations and a course to bring. Participants get to know fellow church family members that they might not have spent time with before. For each Dine Around the groups and hosts change.

The Ash Wednesday Chowder Supper historically hosted by the deacons was brought back by Fellowship this year. Sally Lemlin made several large pots of delicious fish chowder which was accompanied by crusty bread and a fresh salad. Brownies ala-mode completed the meal.

Tickets (about 75) have been sold for a Pawsox outing June 18. To get a large block of tickets we needed to buy/sell early.

Respectfully submitted  
Debbie Durland

The reorganization of our church leadership created a new finance ministry, which we organized into three sub-groups: financial oversight, investments, and stewardship, overseen by Karen McArthur and our Treasurers, Phil Guymont and Gale Litchfield, along with daily input from Linda Keith in the office and guidance from Rev. Will Sencabaugh. These areas had formerly been among the Trustees' responsibilities – along with oversight of Property and the Nursery School. All decisions are reported to the Council each month.

### **Financial Oversight**

The church books are kept using QuickBooks software, on an accrual basis, according to generally acceptable accounting standards for non-profit organizations. Financial reports are presented to the Council regularly throughout the year. The accompanying financial reports are included on pages 26-34.

The first report, the Statement of Net Assets (also called Fund Balances), shows the balances of our unrestricted and restricted funds at the beginning and the end of the year. All fund balances carry over from year to year.

The second report, the Statement of Financial Position, lists the church's bank account balances, along with other assets and liabilities as of the beginning and end of the year, resulting in total net assets, which are detailed in the preceding statement. Our bank accounts are held at Citizens Bank and Sovereign Bank with investments now held by Charles Schwab (see Phil Guymont's report below) and the Massachusetts Congregational Fund.

The third report, the Statement of Activities (All Funds), shows a summary of the income and expense for each of the fund categories: Operating, Nursery School, Other Unrestricted, and Restricted Funds.

The fourth report, Statement of Operating Activities vs. Budget, shows the detail of the actual and budgeted income and expense for the Operating and Outreach Funds for January through December 2009. This report also includes the budget for 2010, as approved at our quarterly meeting in the fall of 2009.

In addition, there is detailed information about our investment income, invested funds, and capital expenditures. As always, if you have any questions or would like further detail, please ask!

In 2009, there were two changes to the laws and regulations that affect us as a church. First, the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA) is a new state regulation that seeks to preserve the purchasing power of endowments while spending according to the donor's intentions. This only applies to funds that a donor has given as permanently restricted funds, also called "endowment"; it does not apply to unrestricted funds that an organization may have chosen to invest. Almost all of our invested funds are unrestricted; we have only four small permanently restricted funds (Bailey Davis, Beauvais, Scholarship, and Sherman). In compliance with UPMIFA, you'll note that the Statement of Net Assets now includes the original gifts (lines 49-52) as well as balances in corresponding "Endowment Income Funds" which are Temporarily Restricted (lines 19-21). Also, in compliance with UPMIFA, the rule for how the spendable income is determined is

## **FINANCE MINISTRY (continued)**

included in the footnotes to our financial statements – at the bottom of the Statement of Net Assets.

Second, Massachusetts transferred responsibility for wage and employment reporting to the DUA, combining wage reporting with compliance with Massachusetts health reform. We are too small to be legally required to provide health insurance for our employees, but may benefit financially from the recent federal health care reform and tax credits for small employers who provide health insurance to employees.

### **Investments**

Investment results were greatly improved in 2009. We achieved an overall portfolio return of 26%. Our return matched that of the S&P 500 stock index even though we held 10% of our investments in cash and 30% in bonds. We achieved our goal of earning S&P 500 returns while taking less risk. After a difficult first quarter, it seems that almost every investment except cash made money for investors during 2009.

Despite very good returns, the Investment Committee terminated our long-time relationship with our investment manager, US Trust/Bank of America, due to poor service and yet another change in account manager. After a lengthy review, Charles Schwab and Co. was selected to be our custodian of funds, and Windward Investment Management was selected to be investment manager of our funds. Windward Investments is an SEC-registered investment advisory firm that manages over \$3 billion for individuals, trusts, retirement plans, foundations and endowments. They offer broadly diversified portfolios consisting of global stocks, bonds, commodities, gold, real estate and currencies. Their investment decisions are based on over 30 years of independent research. The Investment Committee was impressed with Windward's record of generating returns consistently above the S&P 500 while taking less risk. We look forward to a long and beneficial relationship with Windward. As of December 31, 2009 the Church's investments were:

Cash	\$156,183*	19%
Equities	315,926	39
Bonds	263,432	32
Commodities	55,152	7
Foreign Exchange	<u>27,918</u>	<u>3</u>
	\$818,611	100 %

\*Note: High balance is due to year-end transition in investment managers. During the first quarter of 2010, \$66,000 of cash was moved into equities, commodities and foreign exchange.

Respectfully submitted,  
Philip Guymont, Treasurer

**Stewardship**

Our annual stewardship campaign was successfully completed in the fall, resulting in both an increase in the number of pledges and the total amount pledged. Rev. Will made a substantial personal effort this year, which made a big difference, as we came very close to our ambitious goal of \$233,000. The Council decided to streamline our contributions this year, asking for a single “unified” pledge for the church, allocating 12% of the total contributions received (pledge payments and loose offering) to our outreach projects and support through our own local efforts and those of the United Church of Christ. This decision has worked well so far – and has greatly simplified our record keeping.

Three highlights:

- For 2010, we received \$226,554 in pledges for 2010 from 68% of our member households.
- We have a solid history of receiving the amount pledged – receiving 99% of the pledged amount in 2009, even in the midst of a challenging economy. As of 3/31/10, we have received 23% of our 2010 pledges (adjusted for a few pledges paid in full in advance), so we are right on target for this year.
- Looking ahead to 2011, we have been the beneficiaries of a large three-year pledge for 2008, 2009 and 2010. Next year, then, we will need to continue to increase our contributions, both through individual increases and through increasing the number of contributors so that we can continue to live within our means as a faithful community of God’s people.

Thanks to those who have assisted with the Finance Team this year – and thank you all for your generous and faithful support of the mission and ministry of our church!

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen McArthur  
Finance Ministry Chair

**FINANCE MINISTRY (continued)**

**The Congregational Church of South Dartmouth  
Statement of Net Assets  
As of December 31, 2008 and 2009**

unaudited

**04/11/2010**

**CHANGE  
IN NET  
ASSETS**

	<u>Dec 31, 08</u>	<u>Dec 31, 09</u>	
1	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>		
2	26,041.56	550.05	(25,491.51)
3	7,536.95	2,384.59	(5,152.36)
4	123.00	185.35	62.35
5	<b>Investment Fund</b>		
6	2,258.04	(22,520.23)	(24,778.27)
7	52,550.84	52,550.84	-
8	220,732.68	364,846.01	144,113.33
9	360,896.00	360,896.00	-
10	<u>636,437.56</u>	<u>755,772.62</u>	<u>119,335.06</u>
11	50.00	50.00	-
12	(11,721.11)	(26,244.61)	(14,523.50)
13	<u>658,467.96</u>	<u>732,698.00</u>	<u>74,230.04</u>
14	<b>Temporarily Restricted Funds</b>		
15	110,814.00	63,428.40	(47,385.60)
16	578.53	1,105.52	526.99
17	1,580.00	1,880.00	300.00
18	<b>Endowment Income Funds</b>		
19	2,845.50	3,959.50	1,114.00
20	(2,394.54)	(379.22)	2,015.32
21	170.83	580.73	409.90
22	<u>621.79</u>	<u>4,161.01</u>	<u>3,539.22</u>
23	343.19	343.19	-
24	<b>Library Fund</b>		
25	283.51	543.64	260.13
26	1,411.43	1,778.50	367.07
27	<u>1,694.94</u>	<u>2,322.14</u>	<u>627.20</u>

**FINANCE MINISTRY (continued)**

**The Congregational Church of South Dartmouth**

unaudited

**Statement of Net Assets (Continued)**

**04/11/2010**

**As of December 31, 2008 and 2009**

		Dec 31, 08	Dec 31, 09	CHANGE IN NET ASSETS
28	<b>Memorial Funds</b>			
29	<b>Memorial Fund</b>	14,163.00	12,190.67	(1,972.33)
30	<b>Memorial Plant Fund</b>	3,454.04	3,954.04	500.00
31	<b>Total Memorial Funds</b>	17,617.04	16,144.71	(1,472.33)
32	<b>Minister's Discretionary Fund</b>	4,749.97	4,464.40	(285.57)
33	<b>Organ Fund</b>	(2,515.01)		2,515.01
34	<b>Outreach Fund</b>			
35	<b>Mission Pledges Fund</b>	86.73	4,421.03	4,334.30
36	<b>Outreach Fund - Other</b>	50.00	212.50	162.50
37	<b>Total Outreach Fund</b>	136.73	4,633.53	4,496.80
38	<b>Scholarship Fund</b>	(826.66)	(826.66)	0.00
39	<b>Sunday School Missions Fund</b>	268.22	2,436.98	2,168.76
40	<b>Women's Guild Fund</b>		800.00	800.00
41	<b>Youth Fellowship Fund</b>			
42	<b>Jr. Youth Fund</b>	10,328.51	4,267.16	(6,061.35)
43	<b>Sr. Youth Fund</b>	1,176.17	1,260.60	84.43
44	<b>Total Youth Fellowship Fund</b>	11,504.68	5,527.76	(5,976.92)
45	<b>Youth Mission Trip Fund</b>	863.37	10,443.49	9,580.12
46	<b>Temporarily Restricted - Other</b>	301.00		(301.00)
47	<b>Total Temporarily Restricted Funds</b>	147,731.79	116,864.47	(30,867.32)
48	<b>Permanently Restricted Funds</b>			
49	<b>Bailey Davis Fund</b>	5,750.00	5,750.00	a -
50	<b>Beauvais Fund</b>	15,885.44	15,885.44	b -
51	<b>Sarah's Scholarship Fund</b>	10,213.45	10,213.45	c -
52	<b>Sherman Fund</b>	5,001.00	5,001.00	d -
53	<b>Total Permanently Restricted Funds</b>	36,849.89	36,849.89	-
54	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>843,049.64</b>	<b>886,412.36</b>	<b>43,362.72</b>

NOTES:

- a     4% of the balance of the Bailey Davis funds (lines 49 and 19) is calculated as of January 1st and transferred to the Bailey Davis Income Fund in line 25.
- b     The MA Congregational Fund transfers income on an annual basis, as included on line 27 of the Operational Activities vs. Budget.
- c     The interest from two CDs is transferred to line 21. The Scholarship Committee determines how much to allocate each year.
- d     The interest from two CDs is transferred to the operating account each month, as shown on line 28 of the Operational Activities vs. Budget.

**FINANCE MINISTRY (continued)**

**The Congregational Church of South Dartmouth  
Statement of Financial Position  
As of December 31, 2008 and 2009**

unaudited  
04/11/2010

	Dec 31, 08	Dec 31, 09
1 <b>ASSETS</b>		
2 <b>Checking/Savings</b>		
3           Citizens Bank	57,827.90	28,932.85
4           Children's Circle Checking	2,076.61	2,394.11
5 <b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	59,904.51	31,326.96
6 <b>Accounts Receivable</b>		
7           Nursery Tuition Receivable	400.00	1,962.00
8           Pledges Receivable	0.00	3,170.00
9           Accounts Receivable - Other	0.00	50.00
10 <b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	400.00	5,182.00
11 <b>Other Current Assets</b>		
12           Deposit at NB Post Office	371.46	371.46
13           Gulbranson CDs	10,384.28	10,794.18
14           MA Cong'l Fund Account	13,490.90	15,506.22
15           Prepaid Expenses	6,972.50	20,745.27
16           Sherman CDs	5,001.00	5,001.00
17           Schwab Investment Account	0.00	818,468.34
18           US Trust Investment Account	766,207.88	5,874.00
19 <b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	802,428.02	876,760.47
20 <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>862,732.53</b>	<b>913,269.43</b>
21 <b>LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>		
22 <b>Liabilities</b>		
23           Accounts Payable	7,442.97	3,181.00
24           Deferred Revenue	100.00	0.00
25           Due to employees	1,666.67	6,666.67
26           Payroll Liabilities	3,338.25	4,244.40
27           Prepaid Nursery School Tuition	7,135.00	12,765.00
28 <b>Total Liabilities</b>	19,682.89	26,857.07
29 <b>Net Assets</b>		
30           Unrestricted Funds	658,467.96	732,698.00
31           Temporarily Restricted Funds		
32               Advanced Pledge Payments	110,814.00	63,428.40
33               Endowment Funds	621.79	4,161.01
34               Other Temporarily Restricted Funds	36,296.00	49,275.06
35           Permanently Restricted Funds	36,849.89	36,849.89
36 <b>Total Net Assets</b>	843,049.64	886,412.36
37 <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>862,732.53</b>	<b>913,269.43</b>

**FINANCE MINISTRY (continued)**

**The Congregational Church of South Dartmouth, UCC**  
**Statement of Activities - All Funds**  
 January through December 2009

unaudited  
 04/11/2010

	OPERATIONAL	e	CHILDREN'S CIRCLE	NON- OPERATIONAL	RESTRICTED	e	TOTAL
<b>BEGINNING FUND BALANCES</b>	26,042		(11,721)	644,148	184,582		<b>843,050</b>
<b>INCOME</b>							
BEQUEST INCOME	19,295						<b>19,295</b>
CONTRIBUTION RECEIPTS	201,208		2,155	1,291	(8,386)	f	<b>196,268</b>
FACILITIES INCOME	14,666	g	(12,000)	g			<b>2,666</b>
FELLOWSHIP INCOME	5,000			1,329	776		<b>7,105</b>
INVESTMENT INCOME	52,328		5	(50,000)	(397)		<b>1,937</b>
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	347			600	550		<b>1,497</b>
PROGRAM FEES					4,500		<b>4,500</b>
CHILDREN'S CIRCLE INCOME			74,476				<b>74,476</b>
NON-OPERATIONAL INCOME				300	16,533		<b>16,833</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>292,844</b>		<b>64,636</b>	<b>(46,480)</b>	<b>13,576</b>		<b>324,577</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>							
CAREGIVING	186						<b>186</b>
CHILDREN'S CIRCLE			73,021		685		<b>73,906</b>
COMMUNICATIONS	59,511		876		371		<b>60,757</b>
COUNCIL	126				57		<b>183</b>
FELLOWSHIP	349			1,629	16,274		<b>18,252</b>
FINANCE	1,709						<b>1,709</b>
OUTREACH / UCC	11,224				28,237		<b>39,461</b>
PASTORAL	93,923			500			<b>94,423</b>
PROPERTY	85,989		778	100			<b>86,867</b>
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	32,071				1,603		<b>33,675</b>
STAFF RELATIONS	11,247		4,486				<b>15,732</b>
WORSHIP	22,001			1,229	1,333		<b>24,563</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>318,336</b>		<b>79,160</b>	<b>3,458</b>	<b>48,760</b>		<b>449,714</b>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>				<b>5,152</b>			<b>5,152</b>
<b>NET INVESTMENT GAINS</b>				<b>169,335</b>	<b>4,317</b>		<b>173,652</b>
<b>ENDING NET ASSETS</b>	<b>550</b>		<b>(26,245)</b>	<b>768,697</b>	<b>153,714</b>		<b>896,717</b>

**NOTES**

- e Missions and Outreach activity is included in the Restricted column
- f Includes Restricted Contributions of \$53,244, less prepaid pledges of 61,630
- g Operational facilities income includes \$12,000 from Children's Circle, receivable once full-day program is fully established

**FINANCE MINISTRY (continued)**

**The Congregational Church of South Dartmouth  
Statement of Operational Activities vs. Budget**

unaudited

04/12/2010  
Accrual  
Basis

January 2009 through December 2009  
with budget for 2010

	2009 Budget	Actual Jan - Dec 09	2010 Budget
1 Beginning Operating and Outreach Fund Balances	26,301.29	26,301.29	5,368.93
2 Income			
3 BEQUEST INCOME			
4 Brown Bequest Income		2,072.19	2,000
5 Stetson Bequest Income	25,000	17,223.09	25,000
6 Total BEQUEST INCOME	25,000	19,295.28	27,000
7 CONTRIBUTION RECEIPTS			
8 Flower income		1,291.10	
9 Loose Collection			
10 Non-pledged Contributions	12,000	10,437.50	10,000
11 Loose Collection - Other	5,000	4,189.62	5,000
12 Total Loose Collection	17,000	14,627.12	15,000
13 Mission Pledges - Current Year	25,000	24,744.41	
14 Pledges - Current Year	190,000	186,136.59	233,000
15 Previous Year Mission Pledges	100	74.89	
16 Previous Year Pledges	2,000	459.11	
17 Restricted Contributions		12.50	
18 Special Mission Donations		5,369.33	4,500
19 Total CONTRIBUTION RECEIPTS	234,100	232,715.05	252,500
20 FACILITIES INCOME			
21 Nursery School	4,800	12,000.00	12,000
22 FACILITIES INCOME - Other	2,500	2,666.25	2,500
23 Total FACILITIES INCOME	7,300	14,666.25	14,500
24 FELLOWSHIP INCOME	5,000	5,000.00	2,000
25 INVESTMENT INCOME			
26 Bank Interest	75	132.83	150
27 Beauvais Fund Income	1,500	2,009.93	2,000
28 Sherman Fund Income	150	185.37	150
29 Transfer from Investment Income	50,000	50,000.00	32,000
30 Total INVESTMENT INCOME	51,725	52,328.13	34,300
31 MISCELLANEOUS INCOME		346.66	
32 Total Income	323,125	324,351.37	330,300

**FINANCE MINISTRY (continued)**

**The Congregational Church of South Dartmouth**

unaudited

**Statement of Operational Activities vs. Budget (continued)**

04/12/2010

January 2009 through December 2009  
with budget for 2010

Accrual  
Basis

		2009 Budget	Actual Jan - Dec 09	2010 Budget
33	<b>Expense</b>			
34	<b>OUTREACH / UCC</b>			
35	Global Mission		2,000.00	
36	Local Missions		16,512.58	
37	Minister's Discretionary Fund		3,000.00	
38	Old Colony Assn / MACUCC	8,103	8,073.60	8,100
39	Our Church's Wider Mission		3,500.00	
40	Special Missions		3,706.75	4,500
41	UCC Delegates' Expense	500	150.00	500
42	OUTREACH / UCC - Other	25,100	0.00	20,440
43	<b>Total OUTREACH / UCC</b>	33,703	36,942.93	33,540
44	<b>CAREGIVING</b>			
45	Welcoming Committee	300	185.86	500
46	<b>Total CAREGIVING</b>	300	185.86	500
47	<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>			
48	Administrator's Compensation	49,407	49,463.32	49,407
49	Computer equip/software	500	269.95	350
50	Computer Supplies & Maintenance	1,200	450.60	650
51	Equipment Repairs & Contracts	3,040	3,016.00	3,040
52	Internet Access	1,329	1,140.00	1,200
53	Miscellaneous	600	75.07	400
54	Office Supplies	2,400	2,750.19	2,500
55	Postage	3,400	2,345.87	1,400
56	<b>Total COMMUNICATIONS</b>	61,876	59,511.00	58,947
57	<b>COUNCIL</b>		125.87	350
58	<b>FELLOWSHIP</b>			
59	Church Picnic	300	343.78	
60	Event expense		4.80	
61	<b>Total FELLOWSHIP</b>	300	348.58	
62	<b>FINANCE</b>			
63	Bank Service Charges		604.63	600
64	Stewardship Committee	800	821.65	600
65	FINANCE - Other		283.00	
66	<b>Total FINANCE</b>	800	1,709.28	1,200

**FINANCE MINISTRY (continued)**

**The Congregational Church of South Dartmouth**

unaudited

**Statement of Operational Activities vs. Budget (continued)**

04/12/2010

January 2009 through December 2009  
with budget for 2010

Accrual  
Basis

		2009 Budget	Actual Jan - Dec 09	2010 Budget
67	<b>PASTORAL</b>			
68	Educational Expense	1,250	1,250.00	1,250
69	FICA/MC Allowance	5,355	5,355.00	5,355
70	Home Equity Program	5,000	5,000.00	5,000
71	Insurance-Health	16,500	17,100.00	17,541
72	Long Term Disability	1,050	1,050.00	1,050
73	Pastor's Salary	50,000	50,000.04	50,000
74	Retirement	9,800	9,800.00	9,800
75	Travel Allowance	6,000	4,368.10	4,500
76	<b>Total PASTORAL</b>	94,955	93,923.14	94,496
77	<b>PROPERTY</b>			
78	Building Maintenance	8,500	10,516.28	8,000
79	Custodial Services		1,468.64	
80	Custodian	26,754	26,753.87	26,754
81	Electricity	4,500	4,102.85	4,000
82	Elevator Inspection	1,100	400.00	
83	Elevator Maintenance Contract	480	4,090.00	2,000
84	Fuel	9,500	8,100.75	9,000
85	Grounds - Landscaping	500	875.00	200
86	Grounds - Snow & grass removal	4,000	5,832.30	4,000
87	Insurance/Bldg/Liab.	11,796	11,914.00	12,268
88	Parsonage Repairs	1,500	1,071.45	1,500
89	Parsonage Utilities	7,000	6,754.14	6,500
90	Telephone	1,875	1,946.15	1,875
91	Trash & Recycling Removal	1,250	1,182.24	1,250
92	Water/Sewer	700	981.69	700
93	<b>Total PROPERTY</b>	79,455	85,989.36	78,047
94	<b>RELIGIOUS EDUCATION</b>			
95	Adult Education Expense	325	0.00	25
96	Confirmation Expense	500	333.76	500
97	Crib Room Coordinator	800	520.00	
98	Dir. Religious Education	18,893	18,893.04	18,893
99	Special Events	1,000	2,130.71	
100	Sunday School	700	1,002.74	4,000
101	Supplies	2,000	1,528.70	
102	Youth Directors	7,994	7,662.44	6,500
103	<b>Total RELIGIOUS EDUCATION</b>	32,212	32,071.39	29,918

**FINANCE MINISTRY (continued)**

**The Congregational Church of South Dartmouth**

unaudited

**Statement of Operational Activities vs. Budget (continued)**

04/12/2010

January 2009 through December 2009  
with budget for 2010

Accrual  
Basis

		2009 Budget	Actual Jan - Dec 09	2010 Budget
104	<b>STAFF RELATIONS</b>			
105	FICA/MC (all employees)	8,269	8,345.58	8,269
106	Insurance-Workers Compensation	1,962	2,301.00	2,114
107	Payroll Service	600	600.00	600
108	<b>Total STAFF RELATIONS</b>	10,831	11,246.58	10,983
109	<b>WORSHIP</b>			
110	Flower Expense	700	1,435.87	350
111	Jr. Choir Program	300	21.00	150
112	Music	2,500	958.70	1,000
113	Music Director	18,893	18,893.04	18,893
114	Sanctuary Supplies	1,050	1,071.13	750
115	Subst. Music Director	600	300.00	300
116	Supply Minister	1,650	550.00	500
117	WORSHIP - Other	750	0.00	100
118	<b>Total WORSHIP</b>	26,443	23,229.74	22,043
119	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>340,875</b>	<b>345,283.73</b>	<b>330,024</b>
120	<b>Increase / (decrease) in Net Assets</b>	(17,750)	(20,932)	276
121	<b>Ending Operating and Outreach Fund Balances</b>	<b>8,551</b>	<b>5,369</b>	<b>5,645</b>
122				
123	<b>Children's Circle Fund Activity</b>			
124	<b>CHILDREN'S CIRCLE INCOME</b>			
125	Tuition & fees	94,862	74,481.49	115,447
126	Fundraising		2,155.00	1,956
127	<b>Total CHILDREN'S CIRCLE INCOME</b>	94,862	76,636.49	117,403
128	<b>CHILDREN'S CIRCLE EXPENSES</b>			
129	Salaries - Director, Teacher, FICA/MC	68,424	69,072.74	83,735
130	Program Expenses	14,042	10,087.25	11,060
131	<b>Total CHILDREN'S CIRCLE EXPENSES</b>	82,466	79,159.99	94,795
132	<b>Less Transfer to Operating Fund</b>	(12,000)	(12,000.00)	(12,000)
133	<b>Increase / (decrease) in CCNS Net Assets</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>(14,523.50)</b>	<b>10,608</b>

**FINANCE MINISTRY (continued)**

**The Congregational Church of South Dartmouth, UCC**  
**Investment Income**  
 January through December 2009

unaudited  
 04/11/2010

	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL
<b>Citizens Bank</b>			
Checking Account	25		25
Children's Circle Account	5		5
Money Market Account	108		108
<b>Sovereign Bank</b>			
Scholarship Income Accounts		410	410
Sherman Accounts	185		185
<b>Massachusetts Congregational Fund</b>			
Beauvais Account	1,203		1,203
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,527</b>	<b>\$410</b>	<b>\$1,937</b>
<b>Net Investment Gains / (Losses), less fees</b>			
Beauvais Account	2,822		2,822
US Trust	170,830		170,830
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$175,179</b>	<b>\$410</b>	<b>\$175,589</b>

Note: Bequest income from Stetson and Brown is not included in the figures above.

**Reconciliation of US Trust & Schwab Balances**

Balance 1/1/09	\$766,208
Prepaid stock gifts paid to 2009 operating fund	(50,000)
Transfers for Operational Expenses as budgeted	(50,000)
Transfers for Capital Projects	0
Investment Interest & Dividends	25,005
Net Investment Gains / (losses), less fees	145,825
Stock gifts	12,304
Transferred for stock gifts	(12,304)
Extra transfer made in error by Bank of America -- hold for 2010	(12,696)
Ending Balances 12/31/09	<b>\$824,343</b>

**Classification of Invested Funds**

as of 12/31/09	CDs	MA Cong'l Fund	US Trust & Schwab
<b>Endowment Funds</b>			
Permanently Restricted Original Gifts	\$15,214	\$15,885	\$5,750
Temporarily Restricted Endowment Gains	581	(379)	3,960
Board-Designated Investments			755,773
Temporarily Restricted Funds			55,988
Operating Funds			2,872
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,795</b>	<b>\$15,506</b>	<b>\$824,342</b>

**Capital Activities**

	2009 Budget	2009 Actual	2010 Budget
Fire Alarm upgrades		3,933	
Fire proof file cabinet		600	
Parsonage stove		620	
<b>Total CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,152</b>	<b>0</b>

### **Mission Statement** (Adopted 10/2009)

The purpose of the Outreach Ministry is to lead the church in 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.

The Outreach Ministry has three primary tasks:

1. Provide leadership for church mission and outreach work, and education about issues and opportunities.
2. Determine allocation of Outreach budget – Emphasis is on local missions; national or international projects may also be chosen for funding.
3. Encourage participation in Massachusetts Conference (MACUCC), Old Colony Association (OCA) and Inter-Church Council (ICC) activities relevant to our church and ministries.

The Outreach Ministry will seek to align our work with the religious education program of the church and will also invite and encourage our whole church community to actively participate in service and mission projects.

### **Summary**

2009 was a year of transition, as the new ministry team format replaced the board organization of past years. Our new team adopted a mission statement (above). We continue to explore how we can organize ourselves to best meet the needs and interests of the congregation, as well as members of the Outreach group. Our goal is to provide varying types of Outreach opportunities so that as many people as possible can find a way to engage in service.

In our leadership position for regional outreach, we encouraged congregational participation in numerous activities. We sponsored Paper Turkey Sales at Thanksgiving, and Holiday Hope at Christmas. Vehicles for people to give in non-monetary ways were provided as well: a Blood Drive, a Coat Drive, the Council on Aging food collection, and serving at Market Ministries. We shared our knowledge of local needs, targeting recipients of our Souperbowl Sunday donations, and highlighting volunteer opportunities at organizations such as Gifts to Give.

The Outreach Ministry devotes great effort to the allocation of our church outreach budget to worthy organizations. Outreach accepted nominations of organizations that we might consider funding from the congregation and generated some of our own. We conducted research to evaluate them, and were able to make Mission Donations of over \$37,000 to 16 local and international organizations.

As part of the new Ministry organization, Outreach is taking added responsibility for our church's relationship with the UCC, ICC and the Old Colony Association. In order to educate the congregation, we began to learn more ourselves about the various organizations forming the network of which we are a part. We began to identify ways in which our Outreach activities can build on opportunities provided by the UCC. Our Ministry directed over \$4,600 to the UCC and \$2,000 to the Inter-church Council, organizations that provide witness to Christian ideals of helping others.

The Outreach Ministry is not alone in expanding our church's work to our greater community. Our Sunday School and Youth Fellowships incorporate mission work in their programs. The members of the Women's Guild and the Caregiving Ministry are all ambassadors of good will for our church. And finally, we thank all the individuals in our congregation who engage in outreach activities, living the message of Christian love.

The following pages provide details about the worthy organizations receiving our gifts.

## **OUTREACH MINISTRY (Continued)**

### **Local Funding**

***The Inter-Church Council of Greater New Bedford:* 2009 Mission Donation \$2,000**

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. Projects focus on attainment of social, economic and racial justice. Our church is a member of the ICC.

***Market Ministries Shelter:* Our Congregation's Donation \$1,513**

Market Ministries, associated with Pilgrim United (our sister Congregational Church in downtown New Bedford) serves thousands of people each year. Among other services, the organization runs a shelter, and serves meals five days a week. Outreach is responsible for organizing volunteers from our congregation who help prepare and serve meals here once per month. This donation is comprised of our Christmas Eve offering.

***"Paper Turkeys"* Our Congregation's Donation \$1,160**

We boosted our contribution to Market Ministries by an additional \$1,160 by your purchases of paper turkeys at Thanksgiving time. The turkeys symbolize cash donations used to buy grocery store gift cards that are used for emergency food assistance, primarily for women and children.

***Nativity Preparatory School* 2009 Mission Donation \$2,000**

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 receive an intellectual, cultural, physical and moral education.

***Sharing the Harvest Community Farm Project* 2009 Mission Donation \$1,000**

Sharing the Harvest is a 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. The Hunger Commission of Southeastern Massachusetts distributes freshly harvested produce to area food pantries, soup kitchens and other feeding programs.

***The Hunger Commission* 2009 Mission Donation \$2,350**

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. Trucks in the region pick up donated food and make deliveries to soup kitchens and food pantries from Fall River to Wareham. The commission provides food for 750,000 meals annually.

***PACE* 2009 Mission Donation \$1,000**

People Acting in Community Endeavors provides a range of assistance to low income households in its mission to mobilize resources to alleviate poverty in New Bedford. We directed a donation to the food bank this year, as they struggled to meet the greatly increased demand for food.

***Our Sisters School* 2009 Mission Donation \$1,000**

The mission of this school is to educate and inspire middle-school girls of diverse faiths, races and cultures from the Greater New Bedford area to reach their full potential in a safe, supportive and challenging environment.

## **OUTREACH MINISTRY (Continued)**

### ***Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater New Bedford* 2009 Mission Donation \$1,500**

Club programs and services promote and enhance the development of boys and girls by instilling a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging and influence. We directed our donation to their America Reads Program, aimed at addressing and reversing illiteracy among youngsters in the greater New Bedford area.

### ***Community Boating* 2009 Mission Donation \$350**

The program uses sailing to instill in the young the value of integrity, sound judgment, teamwork, and environmental awareness through instruction, mentoring, and coaching. The Women's Center, Boy's and Girl's Club, and Child and Family Services refer Scholarship students to Community Boating. Our donation of \$350 will fund a scholarship to one session.

### ***Dartmouth Council on Aging* 2009 Mission Donation \$1,000**

The Dartmouth Council on Aging is dedicated to the concerns and well being of older individuals, so that they may remain contributing members of the community as long as possible. 150 to 350 members attend, 5 days a week. Programs address a variety of needs including day care; transportation and legal services; fuel assistance; a nutrition program and food pantry; and services for the home-bound. The COA also provides a variety of social activities in a safe supportive environment.

### ***Salvation Army* 2009 Mission Donation 1,500**

The Salvation Army's services encompass a wide range of programs to help individuals and families overcome obstacles. The programs include emergency disaster services; energy affordability assistance; a food pantry; a hot meals program; seasonal assistance in the form of Thanksgiving food basket; and a Christmas gift program.

### ***Pipestem West Virginia Mission Trip* 2009 Mission Donation \$500**

The Senior High youth embark on a service trip every four years. The trip in June 2010 will take 24 high school students and 12 chaperones to a rural area of W. Virginia, where they will work at two sites doing various jobs such as yard work, painting, and basic carpentry tasks. The team works for months leading up to the trip to raise funds so that all may attend and we contributed to their efforts.

### ***Souperbowl Sunday* Our Congregation's Donation \$1,520**

The first annual Souperbowl Sunday was a rollicking event, inspiring the participation of the entire congregation. The Dartmouth Council on Aging and the Hunger Commission each received a \$760 cash donation. We donated our gifts of non-perishable food to the COA Food Pantry.

### ***Minister's Discretionary Fund* 2009 Mission Donation \$3,000**

This fund offers the Minister the opportunity to distribute appropriate aid to those within our local community with special needs (fuel assistance, groceries, etc.) The recipients of these funds are held in confidence.

## **International Funding**

### ***Our Church's Wider Mission* 2009 Mission Donation 3,500**

Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) describes the work done as the United Church of Christ beyond the local church – through Conferences, national ministries, and international relief work. Participating arms have people "on the ground" in many places, thus providing efficient and effective use of our offerings, especially in emergencies.

## **OUTREACH MINISTRY (Continued)**

### ***One Great Hour of Sharing***

**Our Congregation's Donation \$1,176**

This is a special offering through OCWM. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food; education and health care; small business micro-credit; emergency relief; and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

### ***Hands Across the Sea***

**2009 Mission Donation \$500**

Hands Across the Sea works to solicit in-kind donations of educational materials and to deliver them where they are needed. The catamaran *Hands Across the Sea* is currently sailing in the Caribbean, focused on helping local island schools.

### ***Medical Missions for Children***

**2009 Mission Donation \$1,000**

The program provides surgical and dental services to under-privileged young people throughout the world. Doctors provide free reconstructive surgical and dental care for children with congenital deformities, as well as severe burns. The organization also facilitates the transfer of knowledge and recent innovations to the local medical communities. Practitioners leave behind equipment and supplies so that even after a mission is completed, the healing continues.

### ***Central Asia Institute***

**2009 Mission Donation 1,000**

Greg Mortenson, author of *Three Cups of Tea*, founded the Institute as, "One man's mission to promote peace....One school at a time". The Institute promotes and supports community-based education, especially for girls, in remote regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Local villages initiate and participate in each of the Institute's projects, matching project funds with equal amounts of local resources and labor. Education is expected to significantly improve the basic quality of health and life over a generation, decreasing infant mortality, and stabilizing population growth.

### ***FINCA***

**2009 Mission Donation \$500**

FINCA is a village banking microfinance program, which provides poverty solutions through small business loans to the world's poorest people. A village bank is an informal self-help support group of 15-30 members, predominantly female heads-of-household. These women meet weekly to avail themselves of working capital loans, a safe place to save, skill training, mentoring, and motivation.

## **Non-Monetary Giving**

### ***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 30 individuals and 15 families. As well, Mission funds of \$300 covered the cost of transportation vouchers for families so that they could pick up their gifts.

### ***Southcoast Bloodmobile***

Outreach sponsored, for the first time, a blood drive on behalf of the Southcoast Hospital Group. We collected 32 units of blood, and eleven people were deferred from donating. Add that to the people we had to turn away because there were no time slots available, and we had close to 50 people contributing to the effort. We had an outstanding turnout from congregants, church neighbors and members of the community. Thanks for giving the gift of life!

## **OUTREACH MINISTRY (Continued)**

### ***Dartmouth Council on Aging Food Drive***

This year we made changes to our collection program. We now make our regular contributions of non-perishable food items to The Dartmouth COA in order to address the food crisis right in our own community.. As well, we made plans to implement our "Food of the Month" focus, to be launched in January 2010. The food pantry targets the entire Dartmouth population, not just seniors.

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

We made changes as well to our annual warm clothing drive. Responding to a need in our own town, we donated new and gently worn coats, jackets, gloves, and scarves, to the Dartmouth Public Schools. We started the drive in December, rather than waiting until January, thus getting the clothing to people earlier in the cold weather season.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Margaret Forbush, Co-Chair  
Susan McLaren, Co-Chair

Ministry Members: Jeannie Gulbranson, Julie Rhind, Anne Sedgewick, Julie Sencabaugh, Doris Sepuka, Jackie Starrett,

## **PROPERTY MINISTRY**

---

### **Mission Statement**

It shall be the mission of the Ministry of Property to maintain the church, the parsonage and the grounds of the Congregational Church of South Dartmouth in such condition as the congregation desires and one that shows respect for the traditions of the Congregational Church of South Dartmouth.

With the forgoing in mind the Ministry of Property had a busy year. The main order of business was the conversion of the fire alarm from a hard wire system to a wireless system. We also were mandated by the State to upgrade the lubrication system for the elevator. Work was also done on the telephones. The birch trees at the entrance to the parking lot were inoculated against beetles, trees were sprayed and some pruning done. The front steps were painted, as was the shed in the parking lot used by the Nursery School. A clock motor was replaced we continue to work to get the three faces to agree. The men of Fire District No.1 have been a great help in this matter. The usual miscellaneous plumbing and electrical jobs were also undertaken. The coming year will see more painting (side entry way and wheel chair ramp to name two jobs as well as the replacement of the column by the wheel chair ramp). There is also more tree work to do.

Respectfully Submitted  
Richard W. Purdy, Chair

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MINISTRY**

---

The Ministry of Religious Education oversees a number of programs that serve the spiritual development of people of all ages, ranging from toddlers to adults. Over the past year, the members of the Ministry of Religious Education have included Pamela Payton, Catherine Theodore, Richard Rende (chair), and ex-officio members Wendy Reardon, Daphne Fogg Siegal, and Claire Olivier. Claire Olivier has informed us that she will not be able to return next year and as such we will be searching for a new leader of the Junior Youth Fellowship.

There are five programs that fall under the umbrella of this ministry: Sunday School, Senior Youth Fellowship, Junior Youth Fellowship, Adult Bible Study, and Confirmation. Over the past year, these programs have been led by the following individuals, each of whom provide an overview of the specific activities and accomplishments of the past year:

Adult Bible Study & Confirmation - Reverend Will Sencabaugh  
Junior Youth Fellowship - Claire Olivier  
Senior Youth Fellowship - Daphne Fogg Siegal  
Sunday School - Wendy Reardon

A review of these programs will lead to an appreciation of the enormous level of commitment and talent that the leaders of each group bring to their work. In addition, it is recognized and appreciated that many members of the church contribute their time and talents throughout the year to contribute to the success of these programs. In many ways, the range, scope, and richness of the programs offered through the Ministry of Religious Education reflect very well the overall mission of this church.

***Richard Rende, Chairperson, Ministry of Religious Education***

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Adult Bible Study**

---

While I have taught “Bible 101” in the past, I wanted to offer classes that were more discussion and lecture. I realize that I don’t have all the answers, and I appreciate that all of us bring our life experiences to our interpretation of scripture. I still take seriously the idea that “God is Still Speaking...” God is speaking through us and our individual theology (words about God) brings to life God’s story.

This past year I have offered three separate Adult courses.

In September and October- we had a **Beatles Bible Study**. This was a small group that listened to a particular song and then related it to the Bible. There were questions and a curriculum to help facilitate the conversation. We tended to be more on the ‘life story’ than the Bible side of things—but it was a truly valuable way to get to know others and we engaged in very deep conversations.

November through February—the **Gospel of Mark**. Mark’s gospel was chosen because at the time it followed the lectionary (preaching texts for Sunday morning). I figured if I was preaching from Mark on Sunday, it would be nice to have background information. This too was a small group but we were dedicated to discovery Mark’s gospel, and peeling the layers of meaning. With a little context we were able to expertly exegete (sounds good).

During Lent—**If You Want to Walk on Water, You’ve Got to Get out of the Boat!**

I hosted a “video” Bible discussion series. The curriculum was based on John Ortberg’s series of the same name. Unfortunately, yet comically, the video did not arrive until before the last session (a series of technical and postal glitches). We ranged from 9 to 14 in attendance each night- and there was no shortage of conversation. Hopefully, we learned to let go of some of our fears, leave the safety of the boat and step out onto the sea!

Look for more opportunities in the year to come!

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Will Sencabaugh

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Confirmation**

---

These are the areas that I try to cover with the Confirmation Class....

**The United Church of Christ-** What is the UCC and where does it fall in the spectrum of the world's religions. When someone asks, "What is the UCC, or what are you?" The Confirmands will have an idea that they are Christian, Protestant, Congregational, UCCers. Also, it is my hope that our Confirmands will have a basic understanding of the beliefs of the UCC as well as worship practices, sacraments and the basic structure of our denomination.

**The Congregational Church of South Dartmouth-** It is important that our youth understand what it means to be a member of the church, and more directly they understand the church they are joining. This includes an education on the ministry teams, stewardship and financial considerations, as well as where to go when they have a concern. Fundamentally, they need to know that Jesus Christ is the head of the church, and that the church operates because of the gifts and talents of the many members that make up a congregation.

**The Worship Service-** We will at some point go over the worship service of our congregation. Why do we do the things that we do in worship? There will be some historical background as well as defining the sacraments and rites of the church.

**The Bible-** We will discuss the Old and New Testaments. It is important that they have a basic understanding of where to go in the Bible to read about the life of Jesus.

**Prayer-** Prayer is only one tool for the Christian- but it is significant. We will talk about the different types of prayer.

**What Membership in the Church Means-** What does it mean to be a member?

Last year, six of our young adults were Confirmed on May 17, 2009...

Stephanie Starrett	Erin Reardon
Maddie Lynch	Shawn DeMello
Drew Sencabaugh	Sarah Lake

This year we have four young adults who are on the spiritual journey toward Confirmation.

The day of Confirmation is planned for May 16, 2010

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Will Sencabaugh

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Junior Youth Fellowship**

---

The Junior Youth Fellowship had a good year (2009-2010) with a group of non-denominational youth in grades 6-8. This year's group initially consisted of 76 youth [20 6<sup>th</sup> graders, 33 7<sup>th</sup> graders and 25 8<sup>th</sup> graders]. Of the youth registered, there were only 18 registered church members, of which only 8 participated regularly. Average group participation was 45-50 youth prior to the winter retreat with membership dramatically dropping off in the new year. This was a transitional year with a change in leadership, as I assumed the role that Daphne Seigal had held for the past 6 years. She was invaluable in orientation and extending her support throughout the year.

The programming included emphases on fellowship, community service, and building relationships. The themes for the year included respect for self, others and property and inclusion of everyone- applying the "Golden Rule". Regular meetings were held with games, discussions, and team-building activities.

The fellowship was active in church events, including making Christmas stockings for the Holiday Hope project, hosting a Christmas coffee after church services and collecting donation items for the Out-Reach project for the Girls and Boys Club of New Bedford. The youth made Valentines for the military and will also provide the clean up after the rummage sale. Other activities included a Halloween party, the Winter Ski Retreat. An evening at Healthtrax to swim and play games is forthcoming. We look forward to our annual cookout in May which will be held out in the church yard.

Historically there is one fundraising event for the program. Unfortunately this year the response was so low, that the dinner was cancelled. Although the group ran a loss with the Winter Retreat, the funding remains in the black.

Our parent leader this year was Justine Clarke who volunteered her time all year long helping with planned activities. Due to the size of the group and not as many parent leaders as in past years, there was a request to all parents of participating youth to help at the activities.

Due to personal reasons, I have offered my resignation as the director of the junior youth fellowship program at the end of this contract year. I thank you for this opportunity given to me by the church and will be available to help transition my replacement into the new year.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Olivier,  
Junior Youth Fellowship Director

29 March 2010

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Senior Youth Fellowship**

---

Our high school youth group is made up of youth from our church and community. The group meets once or twice a month for community service opportunities as well as meetings for fun and fellowship. Each year we like to find a balance between activities we have enjoyed in the past along with new ideas for meetings and service projects. It is a great group of kids who are always willing to help out and get involved.

We started off the year helping the Women's Guild in September with the rummage sale, setting up clothing racks (we can now appreciate what our beloved Al DeMello goes through twice a year to put those racks together!) as well as clean up after the sale. In October our group spent an afternoon at the Slocum River Reserve walking through the woods where we were able to enjoy sculptures of local artists specially created to encourage conversation about art and nature. We had a great turnout for our outing to Providence to see the musical, *Rent*, in November, and were treated to a second "show" on the way home on the bus. In December, we made Christmas cookies and delivered them to some of our elderly church members. This is one of the favorite activities of the group as it offers an opportunity for visits between our high school youth and our valued elderly church members. Since those visits I have seen these relationships in evidence at church and coffee hour.

In January, we put together an awesome care package to send to one of our graduates from last year, C. J. Merchant, who is currently stationed in Germany. In February we had our second annual Souper Bowl Sunday sleepover. We were fortunate to have local artist, Karen Snyder, join us for the evening to present a program on masks, with photos of masks from around the world and a lesson in making individual masks with casting materials. Our youth group members paired up to make a unique mask for each individual which was made using their own face for the form. On Souper Bowl Sunday, we joined Reverend Will to lead the morning worship service as part of a national effort to collect canned goods and monies to be donated to those in need. It was a fun service and there was great spirit in the congregation with just about everyone dressed in their favorite sports jerseys. We had special music by the choir along with some enthusiastic singing by the congregation followed by the tailgate party in the lower social hall. In March, we met to complete our masks - we painted and decorated and the finished project was quite impressive. We also volunteered at the New Bedford Half Marathon again this year helping to start the race off along with members of the New Bedford Track team and were stationed at the finish line to hand out water and oranges. In April we joined the Outreach Committee for their church wide service project at the Boys and Girls Club of Greater New Bedford. We will wind up the year in May with a meeting and a scavenger hunt which always gets rave reviews from the kids.

This year we had members of the youth group volunteer to be responsible for two of our church's days at Market Ministries; in August and then again in December. It was time well spent and we plan on continuing this in the future. The youth who are members of our high school youth group are hard workers and they really enjoy those projects where there is opportunity for hands-on work, they do not like to stand around. We also like to have fun and we always manage to enjoy each other's company whether we are playing games, participating in community service projects or just hanging out at meetings.

***RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Senior Youth Fellowship (Continued)***

We are grateful to the families of the youth who participate in our high school youth group, they are so generous and supportive of every activity that we undertake. We are thankful to all those parents and adults who have shared their time and energy with us throughout the year. In particular we would like to recognize local artist - Karen Snyder, master bakers – Pam Bermudez and Beth Gormley, and Holly Wheaton, who joined us as a parent leader for every meeting and Reverend Will.

Our youth are blessed to have the opportunities which our church provides through our youth group as well as this year's mission trip. Our church is blessed to have the participation of these young people who truly love to be a part of our congregation.

Respectfully submitted,  
Daphne Fogg Siegal  
Senior Youth Director  
April 11, 2010

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Sunday School**

---

Our Sunday School year began on Rally Day, September 13<sup>th</sup>. Our year long theme was introduced, "LIFE...by The Book".

On this day we began our journey back in time, back to the time of Jesus' life. A time when God spoke to people and His Son walked the Earth! A time when faith was the center of life. Stories were told, experiences shared. There was work to be done and rules to follow.

This year we journeyed together back to the time of Jesus. Together we researched by reading the Bible and many, many other books, we "surfed the web", we talked with many different people with different backgrounds and ideas. We heard stories and traveled to different places.

Of course, it was not enough to read about and hear about it...we had to experience it! We saw with our own eyes, we smelled, tasted, planted and built it. We recreated and re-enacted! We began our year by transforming Hay Hall into a village from the time of Jesus. Our research helped us to recreate the landscape, topography, climate and vegetation. We accomplished this with oil paints, latex paints and several different methods of painting including brushes, sponges, canvas and hands! Our village includes a home, marketplace, workshop, vineyard, potter's shop and temple. To authentically recreate the preceding, we visited a family owned vineyard, working cattle farm, tried our hands at making our own pottery and did extensive research on the Temple in Jerusalem at the time of Jesus' life.

We discovered the way people ate and what they ate! We learned where they got their food. We tasted many of the foods that Jesus and His disciples ate. Our green house was filled with many of those plants! We learned about hospitality in those days. We learned about table etiquette and how to be a polite host and guest!

We learned about the education of the time - who was taught, where they were taught, and what they were taught. Many discussions followed... how different it is for us today!

We read about many of the laws of the Bible and the rules that people had to follow. We made comparisons to our lives today. We learned about how people worshiped God and what role God played in their lives. We discussed how this did or did not differ from our lives today.

We researched and discussed how people today worship God in many different ways. We focused on the different Christian denominations and Judaism today.

We researched to learn about the artwork of the time. We learned how the Romans and the Greeks shaped Jewish art. We tried sculpting, carving, gold leafing, painting, mosaics and paper mache. We also learned about music and discovered the importance of music and song in religion and life.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Sunday School (continued)**

Sunday School is for learning about our faith. Every year our focus has been to find a way to be more like Jesus. This year to better understand Jesus and His teachings, we learned about His culture and His life. Together we tried to come as close as possible to “life” as it was lived in the days of Jesus. To learn Jesus’ teachings and carry them with us in our hearts. To live by them in our lives, by the choices we make, in the way that we treat each other and in the good that we do.

Whether it is; standing up for, helping, or loving another or making choices that protect our environment and planet. We all affect the world we live in. If we can find a way to understand Jesus’ message and take it with us everywhere we go, each of us individually can make the world a better place.

As well as our Sunday school studies and projects we also continued our Roots & Shoots Congo Kids. This year we completed 9 service projects:

1. **Hands Across the Sea** We collected almost 2,000 items! Books, art and school supplies.
2. Volunteered our time and efforts at **Sharing the Harvest at the YMCA**
3. **Homelessness Awareness** Sleep-over and Breakfast
4. **Great Pie Challenge** We made over 200 pies. 100 were sold, proceeds going to the Sunday School Mission Fund.
5. **Market Ministries** We donated 100 pies to their annual Thanksgiving Dinner for area homeless.
6. **Santa’s Workshop** We held a day of crafts, gift making and fun. All proceeds going to the Sunday School Mission Fund.
7. **Mission-Green Greenhouse** We once again planted over 400 seedlings. We had a Congo-Kids Greenhouse Sale to benefit the Sunday School Mission Fund
8. **Sharing the Harvest** We once again donated approximately 300 seedlings to the YMCA to feed area homeless and needy families.
9. **Help for Haiti** We had a bake sale and raised over \$300.00 for Haiti relief efforts

**The SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION FUND** has raised well over \$3,000.00 this year, all of which is being donated to the Pipestem, West Virginia Mission Trip. The Sunday School Mission Fund also received approximately the same sum in donated goods! All of which were given to or used to help others in our community and beyond.

That’s not all! We also planned, performed and shared with the congregation: our annual Christmas Pageant, celebrated Shrove Tuesday with a “king’s Cake”, rejoiced in Jesus’ Triumphant Entry with a parade and dramatic reading, and lead the congregation on a journey through Holy Week with “Passover to Passion.”

We enjoyed a very successful school year!

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Reardon, Director Religious Education

## **STAFF RELATIONS MINISTRY**

---

The Staff Relations ministry was established by the Church Council 2009.

Members of this ministry are: Rich Brosky, Kathryn Duff, David Fentress, and Kathy Pappas.

The purpose of the ministry is:

- To write and review staff job descriptions
- To determine and review staff salaries and benefits
- To establish an employee handbook
- To monitor and update staff polices described in the employee handbook
- To administer policies concerning the hiring and termination of employees
- To collaborate with the Pastor, the Moderator and other church ministries

To date, staff job descriptions have been reviewed and revised. All but one contract has been renegotiated. Two new contracts were written for positions of an additional teacher for the Children's Circle Nursery School and for a new director of the junior youth fellowship.

Goals for the upcoming year are to increase ministry membership, to update staff policies as the need arises, and to begin work on the employee handbook.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Pappas, Chair

## WORSHIP MINISTRY

---

We began this year, as did the other “Boards”, with a new name: Worship Ministry. Although we often refer to ourselves as “deacons”, it is only because it is simpler than referring to ourselves as Worship Ministry members. Serving on this ministry are: Larry Bedell, Tena Coley, Peter Hindle, Cyndi Mikkelson, Rose Murphy, Jeanne Paradise, Bill Shattuck, and Linda Gouveia as Chair.

Our mission statement evolved out of a discussion with Reverend Will about how we can make worship and the experience in the sanctuary a “thin place”, meaning a place where we behold God, where we experience the sacred, where our hearts are opened. Our mission statement reads: “To create, provide, and engage our congregation in “awesome” services and opportunities, helping them to live their beliefs.”

To help us in our work, we have been reading *The Heart of Christianity*, by Dr. Marcus Borg. Each month we read a different chapter and begin our meetings with a devotion based on our reading. This has enabled us to not only explore what it means to be Christian, but also to begin to know one another on a deeper, spiritual level.

Working toward greater participation from lay people in the service, we asked the other ministries to each take a month in which they would serve as greeters, readers of scripture, and participate in the offering or invite others to participate.

We introduced the “Joys and Concerns Cards.” Any concerns or celebrations in the congregation are written on the cards which are then read by Reverend Will during the appropriate time in the service.

The worship service now begins with a musical prelude and a request that this time be for preparation and quiet meditation. This is printed in the Sunday Bulletin along with a request to kindly refrain from casual conversation once the music has begun.

The announcements, which have been encouraged to be kept brief, now follow the “Words of Welcome”, rather than later on in the service where it was felt they interfered with the flow of the service.

The Confirmation students are serving as acolytes. Their primary responsibilities are lighting the candles and ringing the bell in the choir loft prior to the beginning of the service.

We began the process of forming a new music ministry that would be a sub-committee of the Worship Ministry. This ministry will represent the diverse nature of the congregation and work to bring variety to the music program by inviting other musicians to play, introducing different styles of music, and providing songs and pieces of music that have greater appeal to the congregation.

The Worship Ministry wishes to thank Rose Murphy, who will be leaving this year. We have loved having her with us. A special thanks goes to David Schell, who has continued to generously serve our church and lend support to the Worship Ministry. We thank Bill Jones and the choir for their professionalism and dedication in providing us music. We thank

## **WORSHIP MINISTRY (continued)**

Wendy for her enthusiasm and for what she brings to the worship service with her children's moments. We wish to thank Linda Keith for her support, which is *always* given cheerfully. We are very thankful for Al Demello who makes our church shine with his love and devotion. Finally, we appreciate so much the vitality, creativity, and humor that Reverend Will brings not only to our meetings, but to all of us in the church. We are indeed blessed to have him.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda R. Gouveia, Chair  
Worship Ministry

## **WOMEN'S GUILD**

---

We have been in existence for 81 years in our Church. The year we have 2 Rummage/ Recycling events . Our next one is scheduled for May 1, 2010 from 8:00am-2:00pm. We donate clothes and items to many organizations after the sale. This is our way of fund raising to generate money we use to benefit our Church family.

We have just purchased and are installing an industrial dishwasher that can wash dishes in 2 minutes. We funded Sunday morning childcare. We donated money so the Haiti care packages could be sent. Last year we contributed to the scholarship fund and plan to do so this year. In December we contributed to the Dartmouth Youth Commission, Neediest Family Fund, Salvation Army, and Friends of the Elderly.

The Women's Guild will be making May baskets to give. We send cards and flowers to those in need. Any women can join our group and/or help us in any of the above events we do. Members include: Elise Gela, President; Sonja White, Vice President; Phyllis Pettengill, Treasurer; Nancy DeWolf, Historian; Molly Little, Pam Joyce, Debbie Czorny, Shirley Davenport, Joyce Borden, Eleanor Beanland, and Linda Paradise.

Respectfully submitted,

Elise Gela  
President

## YOUTH MISSION TRIP

---

This year our church has provided two separate opportunities for high school aged youth from our church and community. Along with our senior youth fellowship group, the church is sponsoring a mission trip for the high school youth. Many of the youth are involved in both groups while some have opted to take part in either the mission trip or youth group.

Our mission trip group will be traveling to Pipestem, West Virginia in June of 2010 for 10 days. The planning committee has been meeting since February of 2009 and has put many hours in to researching the trip, fundraising and teambuilding with the youth and chaperones. There will be 34 youth and 12 chaperones going on the trip. We will be staying at the Appalachian South Folklife Center in Pipestem which will arrange our service projects while we are there. Due to the size of our group we will be assigned to two worksites doing a variety of work such as general home repairs, painting, and yard work. The Folklife Center will offer us evening programs exploring the history of West Virginia and coal mining; another evening we will be entertained by some local musicians. The group will be visiting an exhibition coal mine for a day to see firsthand how coal mining has played such a huge part in the lives of the people of Appalachia.

The congregation and the families of the youth have been wonderfully supportive of our various events and have contributed to our success every step of the way. Led by our energetic fundraising committee we have had many great events which have not only raised money but have also created opportunities for fellowship between our church members, mission trip youth and families. Hats off to the fundraising committee for the golf outing and silent auction at Allendale, the spirit medium, soup and bread sale, Easter Bonnets and the Chinese auction, dinner promotions at Fay's and Not Your Average Joe's. We are very grateful to our Sunday school for their participation throughout the year raising funds to contribute to our mission trip through various events throughout the year including the Thanksgiving pie challenge, Santa's workshop, and the upcoming plant sale. Thank you to the many committees in our church who have so generously contributed to our trip all year long. Finally, we have been fortunate to have the support of St. Mary's Church, just down the street, as well as the Smith Mills Congregational Church in our fundraising efforts.

The youth committed to the trip in August of 2009 and have been a very dedicated group. We look forward to this exciting adventure with the opportunity to serve others and to get to know each other as we spend the week together.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mission Trip Planning Committee  
Janne Armstrong  
Daphne Fogg Siegal  
Michael Gouveia  
Tina Nauman  
Laurie O'Neil  
Wendy Reardon  
Cecelia Roberts  
Rev. Will Sencabaugh  
Paul Sleight

**Quarterly Meeting**

Caregiving Ministry

October 25, 2009

The Caregiving Ministry seeks to surround our church family with a sense of community and inclusion and to be present in times of difficulty and joy.

Under the umbrella of this ministry, there are four teams. The Lay Shepherds make monthly visits to church family. Also, in July, we began sending birthday cards to all church family who are 80 years old and older.

Presently the Membership Team is seeking ways to welcome and introduce new members into the life of the church and to keep in touch with our college-age young people.

The Prayer Chain Team offers prayers for church family and friends by email. Marcia Hathaway writes beautiful, thought-provoking prayers. You, too, can pray along with her by simply adding your name to the prayer chain email list.

Finally, the Prayer Shawl Team meets once a month to knit shawls to be donated to church family to recognize special times of need and joy. Later this year, we plan to send shawls along with our young people who are participating in the Mission Trip.

By serving on the Caregiving Ministry, as it is for all the other ministries of our church, the members truly receive much more than what they give.

Jane Rioux