



***Congregational Church
of Somersville
United Church of Christ***

Reports for Annual Meeting

January 28, 2012



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CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOMERSVILLE, UCC

VISION STATEMENT

We will be a faith-based church welcoming diversity, empowering the individual, growing in faith and doing God's work in the global community in unity and love.

BEHAVIORAL COVENANT

- We will follow a process that includes unconditional listening and time to collect thought, enabling all individuals to comfortably express their opinions.
- Our actions and demeanor will support and empower all participants.
- All opinions will be welcomed, reflectively considered and respected.
- Opinions will be expressed with humility, self-control, gentleness, and kindness.
- We will look for common ground as we search for consensus, and we will respect that consensus.
- We will affirm by our works and actions our common goal to serve God.

ACCEPTED 1/31/2004

Congregational Church of Somersville
Minutes from Annual Meeting, January 29, 2011

Members Present: Rev. Van Keuren, B & M Chillson, G. Liberty, J & R Bruch, S Cohen, L Longueuil, L Arnone, R & J Foster, M Morrill, A Andrews, Y Wood, W & M Hare, M Hare, E Hancock, G Farnham, D & P Pinney, D Robidoux, C & L Elwood, L McEwen, G Liberty
Others Present: R & A Carey, T Hancock

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Ray Foster, moderator; Rev. Graham Van Keuren offered an opening prayer that was followed by the unison reading of the Behavioral Covenant and Vision Statement. Mr. Foster thanked all for coming out this evening, for the great food and participation in the life of the church. He thanked those who serve this church and stated it's a pleasure for him to serve as moderator. Ruth Bruch, clerk, read the roll call of members who responded with a verse of scripture. Friends, Ardie Carey and Tom Hancock also shared verses.

The minutes of the January 2010 meeting were adopted by consensus. Reports from Officers, Boards and Committees were reviewed with the following additions/comments.

Pastor: Pastor Graham is thankful for the completion of the parking lot and the final support and commitment of the church. He is thankful for the missions outreach this year; he is thankful for the hunger for the word of God with the Bible Studies and evening study groups. He is excited for 2011.

Clerk: Ruth Bruch stated one significant and important task for her position is in keeping accurate minutes and she looks forward to working with the Deacons on membership updates.

Treasurer: Syd Cohen stated one significant task this year was the parking lot. There have been a number of changes in the format of financial reports; she has been trying to think of how others may be reading the reports and writing them so all can understand. Bert Chillson made a motion to accept the report as written; seconded by Dave Pinney; motion carried.

Historian: Johanna Karbonic was not at the meeting; however, Graham Van Keuren stated he is thankful she's once again doing the "who am I" column in the Spire.

Deacons: Yvonne Wood stated the Board is working on job evaluations and an ad hoc committee has been formed. The Board listens, and responds, to the congregation.

Missions – Joan Foster reported the Board has started a missions trip fund in the hopes of seeing a group go somewhere soon. The Church applied for, received and are using a grant for the new parking lot area and green.

Nominating: The committee was successful in filling open slots; thanks were extended to all for responding to the call.

Trustees: Ray Foster explained the parking lot began through the persistence of Bert and Mae Chillson. We are grateful to all for their backing and support. Bert and those present thanked Mr. Foster for the "shove" to follow through with the project.

Finance: Bert Chillson, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Syd Cohen for all her effort and work as treasurer, to Johanna Karbonic as assistant treasurer, and to those who served in these positions in the past. It's a lot of work.

Stewardship: Our church members exceeded the goal of the committee; and still came through with funds for the parking lot.

Ladies Aide: All women of the church are welcome at meetings; new ideas are welcome.

Old Business:

- 1) Comma Pins – are \$3 each. "Don't put a period where God has put a comma" .. because God is still speaking.

New Business:

- 1) 2011 Budget – The budget is broken into 3 parts: operating income and expenses and flow through income/expenses. Operating income is money brought in for the running of the church; operating expenses are for the running of the church; flow through covers money that comes in and goes right out. We did have a loss for the year. We are proposing increased hours for the sexton for 2011 and a slight salary increase for paid employees. Dave Pinney asked about a balance sheet, and asset/liability form, and why there isn't a checkbook balance for the beginning and end of the year. Syd replied all the information has not yet been received. He also asked where the \$2500 loss is: Syd replied some is because donations were down but there were no outrageous expenses for the year. Graham added that we started the year with a surplus. A question was posed regarding the snowplowing fee; Graham replied it is by storm and severity. Bert elaborated that only 3 bids were received and those were based on 10 plowings. Mae Chillson made a motion to approve the 2011 budget; seconded by Millie Morrill; motion carried.
- 2) Election of Officers/Boards – Yvonne Wood made a motion to accept the slate as presented; seconded by Deb Robidoux; motion carried.

Other:

- 1) Al Andrews, who has been a member for 2 years newly elected to the Board of Deacons, commented on the lack of a music report. Rev. Van Keuren replied that music is a responsibility of the Board of Deacons. Bert Chillson reminded us that other committees had been reorganized and streamlines within the new bylaws.
- 2) Deb Robidoux commented on the low turn-out tonight and asked if the annual meeting might be held on a Sunday after worship? Ray Foster told her, and all present, to be sure to attend the Feb. 20 Cabinet meeting when the topic of annual meeting would be addressed.

Adjournment: Following a motion made by Bert Chillson to adjourn at 8:15 PM; seconded by Dave Pinney, all formed a circle to sing "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth M. Bruch, Clerk

REPORT OF THE PASTOR

Dear Friends in Christ,

The recent burning of the Somers Congregational Church Meeting House raises a number of points for consideration within our own congregation in 2012. For example, devastating church fires are more common than you might realize. There are several reasons for this, such as:

1. many church buildings are older, historic structures that do not approach contemporary building codes for fire resistance;
2. fires often spread when the church building is unoccupied and the flame goes unnoticed until it is too late;
3. approximately 200 church fires in the U.S. are started intentionally by arsonists each year; and
4. various and diverse people and groups often use church buildings and its appliances with only a limited understanding of how they work and what safety precautions to take.

Some of these concerns can be mitigated by the congregation while others cannot. Please be assured that the relevant Boards and Committees are in the process of implementing ways we can be safer here in Somersville as well as how we can be prepared in the event a fiery tragedy occurs on our property.

While the loss of the Somers Congregational Meeting House is a sad event for the church there (filled as it was with rich history, wonderful memories, and numerous gifts given in honor and memory of beloved people), I have no reason to believe that the Somers Congregational Church – defined as the people of God called together in that fellowship – will not in fact emerge from its time of trial as a stronger and more vibrant witness to the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. For while church fires destroy buildings, they rarely damage a healthy and prudent congregation.

I joyfully report that the health and prudence of our own church body is good. I say this for several reasons, such as:

1. our worship life remains strong and faithful, enjoying a dedicated choir, lay readers, greeters, ushers, and congregants;
2. we are a giving people (and increasingly generous), having exceeded our budgeted pledge amount again in 2011;
3. we have strong boards, committees and officers who take their work seriously and perform it diligently; and
4. we continue to reach out to our community through numerous, vibrant mission programs, dinners, and events.

I sincerely hope and pray that our building is kept safe from fire and remains a place we all can enjoy. But I hope and pray even more that we would be the church of the Holy Spirit's power in whatever space we meet for worship, fellowship, witness, service and formation.

Let us pray:

Almighty and ever-living God, ruler of all things in heaven and on earth, hear our prayer for this congregation. Strengthen the faithful in all goodness, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life and bestow upon us the Holy Spirit working through us in power. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May God richly bless you and Christ's church in Somersville,

Graham Van Keuren

REPORT OF THE CLERK

Activities relating to membership, baptism, marriages and losses for the year have been recorded and include:

New Members (7)	Tina Brzezinski Ardis Carey Wendy Foster Ulysses Orduz	Richard Carey Elma Fletcher Bill Moran
Losses death (3)	Catherine Briggs Donald Graham Marjorie Harmon	
Members Transferred to Associate Status (53)	Michele Bellafronte Roger Carlo Tom Carriere Charles Cornish Sally Cornish Anna DeFusco Andrew Farnham Tricia Foster Scott Gelineau Richard Handly Eric Hannan Everett Johnson Ed Kenney David King Tiffany Kopacz Kathy Loughman Lori McQuade Ashley Netten Doreen Netten Kasey Peters Leigh Pinney Nora Pinney April Salvas Stacy Seibert Kimberly Such Mary Unger Donna Vine	Marcia Bernatavitz Carrie Carlo Lisa Carriere Lisa Cornish Peggy Coxon Kelly Dooley Brian Farnham Angela Gelineau Donna Gelineau Carol Handly Cindy Heagie Rita Johnson Shirley Kenney Lou Kopacz Joe Libby Jeanne MacDonald Mickey Moselsky Jason Netten Karen Peck Jeninne Petkis Aidan Pinney Kimberlee Reel Cindy Seibert Jennifer Sherman Lissandra Torres Ryan Unger

As of December 31, 2011, active membership at the Congregational Church of Somersville was 104.

Minutes of meetings of the Church have also been recorded, distributed, posted and are on file in the office.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth M. Bruch

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

The year 2011 was one of project completion. To help us with that, we started a Capital Campaign Fund. The finance committee took the lead by pledging the first \$8,000.00. Our goal was to raise about \$18,000 to be used for some big projects in the church and parsonage. By year's end, we had accomplished some of those goals. The members pledged \$13,010.00. By December, we had collected \$12,360.00.

The total income for 2011 was \$130,780.18, including \$3,000.00 from the Endowment Fund. Our total expense was \$132,553.62, leaving us with a loss of \$-1,773.44. These numbers do not reflect any restricted income or expense.

Some notes of Interest:

Under Income:

- Pledges exceeded our budget by 1,646.50.
- Our fundraiser net total was 21,436.69. Heartfelt thanks go to Ruth Bruch, our coordinator and to all those who dedicate time and money every month to make the suppers a success.
- The Endowment Input was 3,000.00. This is probably the lowest amount taken from the Endowment in some time. This was due to generous donations from church members and families.

Under Expense:

- The disbursal of the Restricted Funds was mostly for the parking lot and the capital campaign projects.
- The Parking Lot disbursal was 6,901.83
- The Capital Campaign disbursal was 12,353.50.

The finance committee is represented by a group of people who are dedicated to the growth and spiritual well being of this church. Many thanks go to Ed Sharpless, David Pinney, Jimmy Graham, Angela Ceppetelli and Graham Van Keuren for their time and personal commitment to this church. Extra thanks to Johanna Karbonic, our assistant treasurer for all her help in preparing the assets & liabilities reports.

Respectfully submitted,
Sydney Cohen, Treasurer

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOMERSVILLE
TREASURERS REPORT 2011

			1/1/11-12/31/11	1/1/11-12/31/11
INCOME			ACTUAL	BUDGET
	COLLECTOR			
		Loose	1,649.99	2,575.00
		Pledges	82,496.50	80,850.00
	DIVIDENDS		2,492.37	2,200.00
	DONATIONS			
		Facility	300.00	300.00
		Keeney Foundation	0.00	400.00
		Ladies Aid	0.00	0.00
		Missions	25.00	0.00
		Parsonage Fund	250.00	0.00
		Unrestricted	8,115.00	1,000.00
	FUND RAISERS			
		Non Designated	25,573.70	25,000.00
	INTEREST		28.20	30.00
	MISCELLANEOUS		849.00	500.00
	REFUNDS		3,200.42	0.00
	REIMBURSEMENTS		2,800.00	
	TOTAL INCOME		127,780.18	112,855.00
	ENDOWMENT INPUT		3,000.00	0.00
	TOTAL OPERATING INCOME		130,780.18	112,855.00
	EXPENSES			
	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION			
		Supplies	1,675.17	1,250.00
		Youth Ministry	230.00	100.00
	COMMITTEES:			
		Deacons	556.86	2,500.00
		Music	438.84	700.00
		Stewardship	155.88	430.00
	COMPENSATION			
	Pastor	Salary	40,986.00	40,986.00
		Insurance & Pension	13,315.15	8,798.00
		Professional Expenses	937.60	1,500.00
	Church Adm.	Salary	12,275.04	12,275.04
		Social Security	939.04	939.00
	Music Director	Salary	11,475.12	11,475.00
		Organ Supply	0.00	0.00
	Sexton	Salary	2,990.00	3,120.00
	FEES			
		Insur: Property & WC	6,235.75	4,600.00
		UCC Assessments	1,184.00	977.00

	CT. CONFERENCE ANNUAL MTG.	100.00	204.00
	FUND RAISERS		
	Fund Raisers	4,137.01	4,300.00
	MISCELLANEOUS	600.00	700.00
	OFFICE SUPPLIES		
	Copier Maintenance	805.10	500.00
	Copier Consumables	213.94	300.00
	Postage	746.95	725.00
	Printing	13.10	150.00
	Supplies	901.70	650.00
	Website	0.00	70.00
	PROPERTY		
	Groundskeeping-snowpl	2,925.00	3,000.00
Church	Building Maintenance	3,031.96	2,500.00
	Fuel	6,454.21	4,200.00
	Electricity(Inc. parking light	3,246.44	3,000.00
	Telephone	1,369.00	1,326.00
	Water	161.41	120.00
	Sewer Assessment	250.00	400.00
Parsonage	Building Maintenance	1,552.40	1,500.00
	Fuel	2,819.71	1,938.00
	Electricity	1,578.96	1,800.00
	Water	255.73	250.00
	Sewer Assessment	250.00	400.00
	MISSIONS OUTREACH		
	UCC Wider Mission Support	3,600.00	3,600.00
	Elective Disbursements	2,671.85	3,200.00
	Missions Programming	185.85	200.00
	Pastor's Discretionary	1,200.30	1,250.00
	Tolland Association	88.80	0.00
	Reconciliation Discrep.	-0.25	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		132,553.62	125,933.04
NET INCOME/LOSS		-1,773.44	-13,048.04

FLOW-THROUGH ITEMS			
		1/1/11-12/31/11	1/1/11-12/31/11
	INCOME	ACTUAL	BUDGET
	Missions Field Trip	400.00	0.00
	Fund Raiser: Mission	1750.00	2300.00
	Monthly Missions Collections	4670.90	4000.00
	Capital Campaign	12360.00	0.00
	Parking Lot	6567.72	
	Pastors Designated Fund	5100.00	0.00
	TOTALS	30848.62	6300.00
	EXPENSES		
	Missions Dinner Disbursal	1489.00	2050.00
	Missions Dinner Expenses	261.00	250.00
	Mon. Miss. Collect. Disb.	2219.90	4000.00
	Capital Campaign	12353.50	0.00
	Parking Lot	6901.83	
	Restricted Disbursal-Other	1625.35	
	Pastors Designated Fund	5095.92	0.00
	TOTALS	29946.50	6300.00

Congregational Church of Somersville

Memorial Funds

As of November 30, 2011

	Value 11/30/2011 \$	Value @ Donation* \$
MISSIONARY SOCIETY FUND:		
UNRESTRICTED:		
Belbruno	\$462.19	220.00
Butler	\$724.51	624.24
Blain	\$1,743.82	1070.00
Chism	\$1,294.10	1115.00
Chouinard	\$33,349.49	22677.00
Cooley	\$466.56	255.00
Cowan	\$1,177.68	1014.69
Daniels	\$271.07	145.00
Follansbee	\$649.56	364.00
General Memorial	\$4,800.50	2946.00
Hartwick	\$429.71	232.00
Hastings	\$226.32	195.00
Holcolm	\$11,606.29	10000.00
Luddy	\$4,543.18	1000.00
Pease	\$430.96	287.00
Persson	\$999.30	861.00
Pinney	\$862.67	410.00
Schnare	\$2,177.28	1035.00
Smith	\$28,934.18	15216.00
Trimmer	\$184.60	100.00
Unas	\$851.92	500.00
Total	\$96,185.89	60266.93
RESTRICTED:		
(1) Brink	\$3,462.23	2500.00
(1) Collins	\$2,320.21	1675.00
(1) Gowdy	\$2,174.68	1570.00
(1) Griswold	\$692.53	500.00
(1) Henry	\$1,384.98	1000.00
(1) Keeney	\$2,487.12	1795.00
(1) Liberty	\$3,427.70	3300.00
(1) Meacham	\$6,924.96	5000.00
(1) Wood, E.	\$381.96	500.00
(1) Holcomb Scholarship	\$4,187.13	3000.00
(1) restricted - use earnings only	\$27,443.49	20840.00
Total	\$123,629.38	81106.93

REPORT OF THE HISTORIAN

On Saturday, April 16, 2011, I attended the annual Church Historian's Workshop which was held at the Immanuel Congregational Church. It was perhaps one of the most interesting workshops that I have attended. Jessica Steyler of the Congregational Library in Boston spoke on "Records Management": How to care for records, how long to keep files, getting started, how to care for records, etc. From her presentation, I realized that we have no system to indicate where our records can be found. My goal for last year was to try to make a chart of where our church records are located. As of December 31, 2011, I am still in the process of doing this chart. I have enlisted Everett Baker, who belongs to the Enfield Historical Society, to help me with this quest. Together we will review our old records and try to record events up to the present time. Hopefully with the new safe or deposit box, I will be able to put old original deeds and letters in a fire & water proof protected area.

I interviewed a few parishioners to get a feel of what our church was like before I became a member. I have had many interesting conversations as we traveled down memory lane. I hope to continue this in 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Johanna Karbonic

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Following the annual meeting in January, 2011, the Board welcomed new members, Bert Chillson and Al Andrews at the February meeting.

In 2010 an Ad Hoc Committee was charged by the Deaconate to review and update job descriptions for all paid staff. To develop a recommendation for an evaluation process, including timelines and documents to be used. A Personnel Development packet was developed and approved. This was the first year this was used. It was a positive experience for both staff and review committee members who participated. We would like to thank the Ad Hoc committee members for their hard work in establishing such a successful program.

We solicited feedback from the congregation regarding worship service, music, and pastoral relations issues during a Meet the Deacons Sunday. We had a good response and it was helpful to us in meeting the needs of the congregation. We hope that this will be an ongoing program and encourage anyone having a question/concern to feel free to let one of us know.

We continue to discuss ways to support those in the congregation that have physical and/or spiritual needs.

From September 2010 to May 2011 we were fortunate to have Kate Carlisle (a third year student at Yale Divinity School) join us as student intern. She participated in the life of our church through Pulpit Ministry, Pastoral Visits, Evening Bible Study, Lent and Advent services to name a few. We wish her well in her future ministries. It is our hope that we will be matched with another intern as both and congregation and student benefit from learning from each other.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Hancock, Jack Collins
Pat Pinney, George Liberty
Bert Chillson, Al Andrews

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday school classes are offered for preK - grade 2 and grades 3-5 currently. We are optimistic that future opportunities will be created for our older youth regarding Christian Education. Our Christmas Pageant remains a delight and involves both active families and friends of our church. Our children actively participate in Children's Sunday, Halloween party, Vacation Bible School, and children's mission activities.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Scully

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MISSIONS

The year opened with a food collection that was donated to All Saints Church. The congregation responded generously to help feed those within our community who are less fortunate.

A total of \$518 was collected for Heifer International. This will buy a cow, some goats, or help in one of the many programs they offer.

During the first two weeks of June, we collected perishable food items for Enfield Loaves and Fishes. The last two weeks of June we asked for monetary contributions that were used to purchase paper goods and cleaning supplies. Both the perishable foods and the goods were much appreciated by them.

In November, we introduced a new mission called KIVA and collected \$685 for this cause. We are in the process of establishing an account and selecting the loan recipients.

The December dinner netted \$1489 and a large number of non-perishable food items. The food items were donated to All Saints Church food pantry which serves the Somersville area. The proceeds were divided between three missions. Gift cards were purchased for a family in need from Somersville. A \$500 donation was made to the Cornerstone Foundation. The remainder was spent on gifts donated to Enfield Loaves and Fishes for their annual Christmas party.

The Christmas Fund was collected throughout December and was also the recipient of the offering from the Christmas Eve service. A total of \$853 was collected this year, well over our goal of \$600.

The Missions Board used the Small Church Outreach grant to install water access on the green. With the small amount left over, we were able to purchase three 12 X 12 canopies to use for functions on the green.

At the end of July, we had our first Ice Cream Social on the green for the Somersville community . There were games and face painting (very popular) for the children. Speakers from Somers offered information on what is available in town. Lee Pinney brought his donkeys which were a big hit for children and adults alike. And of course, there was the yummy ice cream. Many thanks to those who helped set up and clean up for this event.

Financial Analysis for the year:	Collections	3823.96
	Dec. supper	1489.00
	Budget	3200.00
	Total	8512.96

The Missions Board would like to thank the congregation for their generosity and commitment in supporting all the missions which help those in our community as well as around the world.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Longueuil, Co-Chair

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

I would like to thank the Nominating Committee for their support, diligence, and perseverance in filling all the open positions for 2012.

The Nominating Committee is pleased to report that after much thoughtful communication all of this year's openings are filled with members who are exceptionally capable, faithful and innovative. We are proud to submit to you our slate of candidates for your consideration.

We wish you all God's blessings for 2012 as you continue your involvement in the life of the Congregational Church of Somersville.

Respectfully submitted,

Mae Chillson
Marge Butler
Barbara Baugniet
Jack Collins
Marilyn Hare

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

As 2011 began, the Trustees Board made plans to complete work on the new parking area. This consisted of ordering and planting a line of shrubs along the north and west sides of the area as required by the Town of Somers.

We then turned our attention to creating a prioritized list of needed repairs and improvements. From that list, unbudgeted items were brought to the congregation at a special meeting held following Worship on June 19, 2011. At that time, the congregation was asked to approve a Capital Campaign in the amount of \$ 14,795, of which preliminary pledges of \$ 9,000 had already been received. The funds would pay for the following projects:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------|
| • Repair the front wheelchair ramp | \$ 200 |
| • Crack-fill and other parking lot repair | 2,800 |
| • Install gutters over front ramp and door | 2,100 |
| • Parking lot striping & handicap signage | 400 |
| • New carpeting in selected areas | 3,100 |
| • Exterior painting of the parsonage | 4,800 |
| • Contingency Fund (for unanticipated overages) | 1,345 |

To date, some of these projects have been completed, and others have not. The Property Committee may report concerning this.

The Trustees Board was also asked to appoint a sub- committee to act as a Personnel Committee for Church Administrator, Ruth Bruch. The Board accepted this responsibility and the sub-committee performed its function well, completing its work according to schedule.

It has been a pleasure to work with the Trustees Board as Chair. Your participation and creativity and generous spirits have been refreshing for me, and together we have accomplished some great things because the congregation has heartily approved of the leadership you have offered.

Raymond Foster, Chair

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Finance recognizes the time and dedication of Treasurer Sydney Cohen and Assistant Treasurer Johanna Karbonic whose skills keep the church operating financially. Pastor Graham Van Keuren provides significant guidance and insight into activities of other boards that influence income and spending, which is most helpful in the management of the church operations. The Board also recognizes the support of Al Andrews, Angela Ceppetelli, Bert Chillson, Jimmy Graham and Dave Pinney during the year.

Noteworthy items during 2011 include:

- Newly implemented this year was a church meeting in November to review and approve the CY 2012 church budget
- Retirement of the Parking Lot debt from pledges and a large, generous gift
- A payment request form was designed for use by any board or individual who requests reimbursement of an expense. The form helps the Treasurer track payments and creates a paper trail for audit purposes
- There were lengthy discussions of management of the church endowment with emphasis on a mission or purpose for the endowment. The endowment has historically functioned as the church's 'piggy bank' and is an important component of the church's income. Discussions included eliminating its current use over time as church income, and using endowment earnings to support new activities in advancing the ministry of the church tied to a long term plan for how we will use the endowment to empower ministry. This important discussion and reflection is ongoing.
- Ladies Aid made significant contributions to the church building and parsonage property, with the most visible being repair of the front doors of the church. Thank you Ladies Aid!
- New this year, during budget development, was welcome input from Deacons regarding compensation for church employees. Finance historically has been uncomfortable making arbitrary changes in employee compensation and recognize the helpful input provided this year.
- The annual church audit was completed with no negative findings. Gratitude is expressed to Treasurer Sydney Cohen for the excellent record keeping.
- The annual audit of Ladies Aid was completed with no negative findings, again because of the excellent record keeping.
- A photo record of all rooms and assets in the church building was completed by Sue Comparetto with thanks from Finance. The photos are on CD with one copy on site and one off-site.

Respectfully submitted for Finance,
Ed Sharpless 2011 Chair

REPORT OF THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

This year's Stewardship message focused on Gratitude. Gratitude is our response to the realization that everything we are and have is a gift from God. Gratitude is the door to inner peace, allows us to foster a sense of abundance, and lets us appreciate that we are enough and we have enough. Gratitude frees us to be generous with ourselves, our time and our treasure.

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" Matt. 6.21

For our Stewardship campaign this year, "**An Attitude of Gratitude**", we asked members to search their hearts and make a response that matched their thankfulness and their commitment to our church community. Combining our treasure with the treasure of others enables us to do and be more as Christ's church in the world. Our faithful stewardship helps to magnify God in our community.

"And Mary Said: 'My soul magnifies the Lord'" Luke 1:46

At last year's annual meeting, the congregation set an ambitious goal to raise \$80,850 in pledges. As expected, our members stepped up to the challenge. In addition many members gave generously to the capital campaign for church building/property improvements. If all that weren't cause enough to celebrate, we can add that the pledges collected in 2011 **exceeded** the budgeted amount.

The Stewardship committee would like to thank all of our members for their generous giving of time, talent and tithe. In the end it is not budgets and numbers that make our church strong. It is the community of faith that gives so much time, effort and heart to our committee work, outreach, teaching, caring for one another, cooking, serving, accounting, repairing and countless other tasks done daily to serve the church. Our church is truly strong in faith, and we look forward to another fruitful year in 2012.

Gratefully,

Deb Robidoux
Linda McEwen
Graham VanKeuren

REPORT OF THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Property Committee Thanks You for Helping Our Church

Thanks go to all those who contribute to the upkeep and safety of our property; they are too numerous to list all of them. Some people deserve special mention for their many hours of faithful property care. **Nick Wood** and **Dave Pinney** continued to provide regular lawn care. **Patrick Forbes** served as snow blower and shoveler-in-chief throughout the exceptionally snowy winter of 2011. **Everett and Millie Morrill** frequently subbed for other property workers, provided leadership and equipment for our church-wide clean-ups, and worked on a few special projects, too. **Bobby Bourque** kept the sanctuary vacuumed and did a great job sprucing up the social hall. Many others of you step in on an as-needed basis; know that **you are valued and honored, too!** You do great work.

REPORT OF THE COLLECTOR

Week Dates	Mission Name	Pledges	loose	Missions	Totals
January		\$ 11,311.00	\$ 138.20		\$ 11,449.20
February	Souper bowl & Hygiene Kits	\$ 6,027.00	\$ 75.79	219.21	\$ 6,322.00
March	OGHS	\$ 5,099.00	\$ 148.69	517.05	\$ 5,764.74
Total		\$ 22,437.00	\$ 362.68	736.26	\$ 23,535.94
April		\$ 8,646.00	\$ 264.25		\$ 8,910.25
May	Blankets of hope	\$ 7,511.00	\$ 186.42	\$ 365.00	\$ 8,062.42
June	2nd mile nission for loaves & Fishes	\$ 6,122.00	\$ 112.45	\$ 227.00	\$ 6,461.45
Total		\$ 22,279.00	\$ 563.12	\$ 592.00	\$ 23,434.12
1st Half		\$ 44,716.00	\$ 925.80	\$ 1,328.26	\$ 46,970.06
July	Ice Cream Social	\$ 4,963.00	\$ 138.50	\$ 25.00	\$ 5,126.50
August		\$ 3,737.00	\$ 120.50		\$ 3,857.50
September	Heifer International	\$ 7,329.00	\$ 209.00	\$ 787.14	\$ 8,325.14
Total		\$ 16,029.00	\$ 468.00	\$ 812.14	\$ 17,309.14
October	UNICEF	\$ 5,547.50	\$ 82.00	\$ 327.75	\$ 5,957.25
November	Kiva	\$ 7,741.00	\$ 50.40	\$ 685.00	\$ 8,476.40
December	Xmas Fund	\$ 8,463.00	\$ 123.79	\$ 803.00	\$ 9,389.79
Total		\$ 21,751.50	\$ 256.19	\$ 1,815.75	\$ 23,823.44
2nd Half		\$ 37,780.50	\$ 724.19	\$ 2,627.89	\$ 41,132.58
Total		\$ 82,496.50	\$ 1,649.99	\$ 3,956.15	\$ 88,102.64

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Dunn, Collector

REPORT OF THE LADIES AIDE SOCIETY

We have had another successful year in Ladies Aide thanks to my very dedicated officers ~ Linda Longueuil, Genny Farnham and Ruth Bruch for keeping me organized as much as they possibly can! I would also like to thank Barbara Abbe, Marge Morgan, Joan Lange, Art LaChance and Dan Dunn for their constant devotion to managing the Blacksmith Shoppe during May, June, September and October. It takes a lot of hard work and time to make the Shoppe successful as it always is a great source of income for our society which ultimately continues to assist our church and community at all times. Actually, 2011 was our most profitable year at the Shoppe!

Last, but by no means least, all of our ladies of our church who are always there to help out with meetings, suppers, funerals, prayer shawls, coffee hours, Christian Education and all special events, etc, etc! Thank you for all of your support in everything you do! Also we thank our church men for all of their help too.

Now on to my report!

Throughout the year we hosted 4 funeral receptions and financially supported the church in the capital campaign property projects as well as paying for our student pastor's (Kate Carlisle) mileage expenses. A new refrigerator was purchased (especially for use at suppers and receptions) and we provided four complete holiday meals (2 each at Thanksgiving and Christmas) to the Town's Social Services Department for distribution to Somers' residents.

In January, 2011 we nominated officers for the year. We didn't have a program chairman so we continued our year and decided each month to follow a similar pattern from the year before. In February we enjoyed a pot luck luncheon followed by the installation of officers officiated by Graham, our pastor whom we love to have present at all our functions.

In March we hosted the Somers' Seniors luncheon and in April we put together just over 200 health kits for world disaster areas. Those were taken to Middletown Methodist Church who distributed kits from all over the state to a huge warehouse in Maryland where they are inspected by many volunteers before they are sent on to wherever needed. Johanna Karbonic, Barbara Baugniet and I were so honored to deliver such precious gifts. Thank you to all in the church family for purchasing the contents of the health kits and also for boxing all the kits for shipment. The Ladies Aide pays \$2 per kit for shipping.

In May we enjoyed a pizza lunch before putting together May baskets that were delivered to seniors in our local area. June featured a pot luck picnic at my home. Unfortunately the weather was cool and wet so we shared a buffet inside our rather small home. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves as much as I! We did not have a formal meeting, just great fellowship!

There were no meetings in July or August but in September we enjoyed a trip to the Golden Corral in Springfield for a buffet luncheon. In October we had a regular meeting; but unfortunately, our guest speaker from the ambulance crew who was to present a demonstration of the defibrillator was not able to attend due to an emergency call.

At our November meeting we focused on our bake sale that proved to be very successful thanks to the great support of church members and friends who contributed and bought goodies. Our December meeting was a pre-Christmas pot luck luncheon followed with personal Christmas memories and a delightful carol sing organized by our special friend, Ellie and her husband Tiny Parker. Ellie shared some of her own music with us that she had written – and sang so beautifully. Ellie moved us into the spirit of Christmas and, as always, we so enjoyed her presence. This was a wonderful way to end our year of 2011.

Yours in Christ,

Mavis Collins, President
Ladies Aide

SLATE OF NOMINEES

* NEW NOMINEES TO BE VOTED UPON

One Year Positions

Clerk	* Ruth Bruch
Treasurer	* Sydney Cohen
Asst. Treasurer	* Johanna Karbonic
Collector	* Dan Dunn

Two Year Positions

Christian Ed.	Pat Scully (term remaining thru 2012) * Judy Liberty
Missions	Linda Longueuil (term remaining thru 2012) Art Lachance (term remaining thru 2012) * Ulysses Orduz * Laura Elwood
Nominating	Marilyn Hare (term remaining thru 2012) * Ardie Carey
Stewardship	Deb Robidoux (term remaining thru 2012) * Lois Sharpless
Property	Everett Morrill (term remaining thru 2012) * Rich Carey

Three Year Positions

Moderator	* Yvonne Wood
Deacons	George Liberty (term remaining thru 2012) Pat Pinney (term remaining thru 2012) Bert Chillson (term remaining thru 2013) Al Andrews (term remaining thru 2013) * Allison Matczak * Mavis Collins
Finance	Ed Sharpless (term remaining thru 2012) Dave Pinney (term remaining thru 2013) * Angela Ceppetelli
Christian Ed.	*

The Ministry of the Connecticut Conference, UCC, in 2011

2011 was a year of storms in Connecticut: Record-breaking snowfalls in January, more snow and ice in February, tornadoes just north of the border in June, the second warmest summer on record, and then the one-two punch of Tropical Storm Irene in August and the “Halloween snowstorm” of October, both of which left thousands of people without electric power for days at a time. A volatile economy took its toll on church members’ lives and livelihoods, and on the value of local churches’ investment portfolios, before coming back more or less to where it all started by the end of the year. In cities around the United States, including Hartford and New Haven, the protests of the Arab Spring found an echo in the Occupy movement, raising awareness of economic disparities.



Despite it all, members of UCC churches continued to give. They gave thousands of dollars to aid survivors of the March earthquake and tsunami in Japan, then those flooded or wind-struck by spring storms in the U.S. Through the First Congregational Church UCC in Wallingford, New England recipient of the “Imagine What’s Possible” award from the United Church of Christ, they sent tons of coffee to U.S. military chaplains overseas for their Holy Joe’s Cafes. They supported three CTUCC churches which suffered major damage to their facilities: Plainville Congregational Church UCC after the collapse of its social hall roof in February, Saugatuck Congregational Church UCC in Westport after a major fire damaged meeting and rehearsal spaces in November, and the Somers Congregational UCC after a blaze destroyed its 1842 worship space on New Year’s Day, 2012. Silver Lake offered thanks for its most successful Annual Fund ever. And the denomination as a whole collected over 1.4 million food items, over \$270,000, and over 37,000 letters to Congress in November through the fantastically ambitious and successful Mission:1 effort.

Appointed in April, the Conference Minister Search Committee got to work, holding scores of listening sessions and generating hundreds of pages of information. At year’s end, chair the Rev. Gordon Rankin wrote church leaders that they would discuss their findings with the Board of Directors in February, and with their input turn to work on the position description and Conference profile. The Committee reports its direction and progress at www.ctucc.org/cmsearch.

Amidst all the generosity, local churches, the Conference, and the national setting of the church all felt the strains imposed by an economy that continued to struggle. At year’s end, the Conference has not yet closed its books, but gifts to Our Church’s Wider Mission Basic Support, local churches’ primary means of contributing toward Conference and UCC ministries, had been down most of the year, continuing a trend disturbingly longer than the poor economy. The Board of Directors and Interim Conference Minister, the Rev. Charles Wildman, expressed their confidence in the vitality of the churches and the importance of Conference ministries in March and April, increasing the Regional Ministry positions in Fairfield County and the Eastern Region, plus the Minister of Christian Education position, to full-time.

The Conference’s Regional Ministers — Michael Ciba, Ineke Mitchell, Mike Penn-Strah, Susan Tarolli (then Tom Clough) and Sarah Verasco — offered much of the Conference’s covenant presence throughout the year. They worked with churches in transition and pain, they stood outside the damaged buildings, they supported association committees on the ministry, they preached and taught and comforted.

The Conference experienced several staff transitions during the year. At Silver Lake, Jennifer Kronholm Clark became Registrar and Office Assistant after the departure of Jenn McBurney. Site Manager Dave Kobersmith left in late spring, and as the year closed the Conference celebrated the appointment of Greg Arifian, to arrive in mid-January.

After the departure of Susan Tarolli, the Eastern Region welcomed its new Interim Minister, Thomas Clough, in October. Mia Douglas was appointed part-time Coordinator for Sacred Conversations on Race. The expansion of the Conference’s youth and young adult programs brought in two new part-time leaders: John Ramos for Young Adult Ministries in Service, and Debby Kirk for Giv². Sadly, several former members of the

staff left this world in 2011, amidst much grief: Ruth Gilchrist Addison, Richard Griffis, William Inderstrodt, Joseph Neville, and Alden Tyrol.

In May, Andover Newton Visiting Professor of Worship and Preaching J. Mary Luti gave a dynamic and inspiring address to those assembled in Naugatuck for the Spring Meeting on “Worship Remix!” “Christian worship gains strength, beauty and transformative power in any style,” she told them, “when it brings the wisdom of the ancients into creative conversation with the culture of our own day.”

Inspired by a Holy Week visit to South Korea, Interim Conference Minister Wildman brought new energy to the partnership with the Kyung-Ki Presbytery. Drummers from the Conference’s newest church, the Storrs Korean Church UCC, emphasized a poignant and moving prayer led by their pastor, Chang Ho-Jun, at the Fall Meeting in Guilford, and Wildman celebrated communion with the pastor who had hosted him in Korea, Gwak Seonkeun. HOPE, Inc.’s Marilyn Graham received the Living Waters Award for lay ministry.

In July, delegates from around the UCC came to Tampa, Florida, for a momentous 28th General Synod. They voted the Constitution and bylaws revisions recommended by the Unified Governance Task Force — chaired by the Rev. Bernard Wilson, pastor of the Norfield Congregational Church in Weston — which will significantly streamline the national structures of the denomination. The changes now must be ratified by the UCC’s Conferences. Synod delegates also approved a major agreement on mutual recognition of baptism and enjoyed a well-choreographed “flash mob” that raised energy, spirits, and awareness of the virtues of exercise.

Ten churches participated in the Crossroads Project during the year, which helped them assess their situations and make decisions about their future. Twenty-eight clergy and lay professionals used a new grant program for spiritual and educational enrichment thanks to the generosity of the Linden family. New worship, programming, and resources emerged from the five churches in the Threshold Project, which is now being evaluated for its next iteration. In addition to YAMS and Giv² activities, young people gathered for an inaugural Youth Revival the night before the May Conference meeting, and over a hundred signed up as Members of Thinking About Working for God for a Living. Preparations are now under way for next summer’s National Youth Event.

976 young people from 146 CTUCC churches received the life-changing benefit of a summer session at Silver Lake — and some received more than one — coming to “love God, love their neighbor, and love themselves.” 2,722 people enjoyed a retreat experience during the winter, spring, and fall. Renovations began on the Retreat Center, and “high ropes” participants found a new cooperative challenge helping each other up the Jacob’s Ladder.

ConnTact published four “themed” issues in 2011, with CTUCC.org, the *CTUCC ConferenceCast* podcast, and *CTUCC This Week* email assuming the task of keeping the Conference up-to-date. The weekly *Spirit Calendar* continued to offer reflection and prayer via email, website, Facebook, and Twitter each Monday.

2012 will likely be a year of some decision. The Search Committee will engage in the active phase of their task to identify the Conference’s next leader; the Board of Directors will seek to address the support of Conference ministries in light of declining OCWM contributions. Amidst it all, the Conference will continue to strive, in Interim Conference Minister Chuck Wildman’s words at the Fall Meeting, “to empower the churches, from the smallest to the largest, to fulfill their Christian mission.”

As clergy and churches of the Connecticut Conference, he said, “We are not alone. We are the servants of Christ’s Church, and we have a covenant ministry together.”