

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

United Church of Christ  
East Hartford, Connecticut

Organized 1699

**2015**

**ANNUAL REPORTS**

of

CHURCH OFFICERS \* BOARDS \* COMMITTEES \* ORGANIZATIONS

Cover Photo: Installation of Reverend Kelly Jane Forbush



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## PASTOR

My favorite moment from this past year is a toss between the dance party following my installation in June and the moment during my installation worship service when the entire congregation, fellow UCC churches, and the wider community helped me to literally hold up the church. You can see a picture of that moment on the cover of this report. It certainly takes more than one person to hold up a church. As your pastor I have spent a great deal of this year developing the beginnings of a vision to carry First Church through the years to come. Such a vision requires all hands on deck, or all hands on church - the hands of congregants, visitors, town members, and even other churches. Therefore, I propose we use a community organizing approach to narrow in on a vision of the missions that will define us in the coming decades. As we enter 2016, I am excited to begin this process, starting by using the tools of community organizing to help us determine how we use the Woodward House.

### *Social Justice and Community Engagement*

Maintaining the legacy of First Church's active involvement in the community and in hope for deeper partnerships in years to come, I am active in various issues around town and have initiated conversations with fellow clergy and community leaders.

For the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service I worked hard on including as many of the religious communities in town in the planning and leading of the service. The result was an interactive time of offering in which people brought forward diapers (for the shelter), food (for the food bank), money (for the Human Needs Fund; rental and energy assistance), and prayers of thanksgiving. The service drew 114 people, a drastic increase over past years, and the expert hospitality provided by the *Mission Board* kept people socializing and laughing for well over an hour following worship. My hope is that the partnerships sparked in the planning of the Thanksgiving service will deepen and grow, bringing about more partnerships and joint actions by the clergy and faith communities of East Hartford.

I also became involved in the East Hartford Hunger Action Team, which is working on addressing issues of increased hunger in East Hartford. The HAT helped raise money for the school backpack program (sending kids home with a backpack of food) and piloting a summer meals program for adults and children. During Lent in 2015 we partnered with New Covenant Methodist to explore the issue of hunger in East Hartford. The well-attended program included a meal and speakers over the course of four weeks. I also became concerned about the possibility of a casino coming to town, meeting with the mayor to learn more and inviting an author to share the current research on the dangers of casinos. Throughout the year I have attended Hartford area discussions and actions around racial justice and continue to be a regular participant in the East Hartford Community Partners meetings.

First Church's commitment to openly embrace gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people was approved in the 2015 annual meeting. With deep joy I helped to publicize this commitment in a local TV interview, press release to the East Hartford Gazette, coordinating the hanging of a rainbow flag, recording a welcome video, and including our Open and Affirming statement in worship. This publicity opened the door to pastoral conversations with community members overwhelmed to know a faith community that loved them for all of who they are existed.

### *Pastoral Care*

This year I continued my initial get to know you conversations, along with walking alongside those in the midst of crisis or change. It was a joy to baptize three babies as well as trekking out to Gay City State Park for an immersion baptism of an eager ten year old boy. Working with our teenagers sharing real struggles and asking profound theological questions at workcamp was also a blessing. Whether I am with someone in the hospital, in jail, by the bus stop, in the midst of grief or planning a wedding, I feel blessed to be with people within and beyond the congregation during holy transition times in their lives. I hold dear the immense love expressed during the funerals of *Elinor Maynes*, *Valerie McCarthy*, *Janice Arbuckle*, *Elizabeth Bryant*, and *Karen Rozie*, daughter-in-love of *Gerry Rozie*. We remembered these beloved women in a special service on All Saints Day in November.

### *Administration*

Through surveys and interviews, I worked with *Len Specht*, a professional publications designer, our Secretary, *Thory*, and interested members on a redesign of the monthly columns newsletter. The new design will allow us to go "tell it on the mountain" to a broader audience, while still getting important information to church members.

I also oversaw the development of the new Human Resources Committee. *Chuck Holmes*, *Allen Apel*, and *Mary Mourey* have thrown themselves into this new task with wisdom and dedication.

### *Worship*

In worship we have experimented with sung prayers and a multitude of communion styles. Members had a broad range of responses to each experiment - some felt closer to God than ever before and others would be happy if we never tried "that" again. A big hit with many were the "psalm coloring cards" used during the summer sermon series on the Psalms.

### *Wider Church*

As a representative and member of the wider of church, I served as a dean of a Silver Lake conference on food justice - a week long church camp experience for middle school youth from inner-city Hartford and the suburbs of Connecticut. Nationally, I continue to serve as a young adult advisor to the National Council of Churches, a group of different Christian denominations partnering together in the United States. I'm pleased that this organization is increasing its online presence as well as its advocacy. The National Council of Churches is currently focused on two issues: Mass Incarceration and Peace.

### *Continuing Education*

My continuing education programs included a three month course in a special form of counseling (re-evaluation co-counseling), a racial justice facilitator training sponsored by the CT Conference of the United Church of Christ, and participation in a clergy community of practice (a small group of Hartford area UCC clergy meeting monthly). I have also been invited to participate in a metro-Hartford community organizing training, sponsored by the Christian Activities Council. The training is a particular joy for me because community organizing has been a passion of mine for years and I'm thrilled other clergy in the area are interested in it.

*Reverend Kelly Jane Forbush*

## **DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

We are blessed with eight creative and dedicated teachers who are here every Sunday to teach the Word of God to our Sunday School students. They work hard to give our children a strong, consistent, Bible-related foundation. Our program focuses on the stories and teaching of Jesus and the New Testament in the winter and spring and the Old Testament stories in the fall. Child Care for children under age five is available every Sunday, all year, during worship. Our toddlers also hear Bible stories and enjoy coloring pictures.

Twice each year, we have a weekend of fun, faith and fellowship in a different setting. Silver Lake is a camp in the northwest hills of Sharon, Connecticut, owned by the United Church of Christ. Silver Lake is a special get-away where we have a Spiritual program, some Bible study, free time for conversation, recreation, and great food. The setting is relaxing and the company beyond compare! In February, our group of twenty-seven, ages seven to seventy, created videos to go with different Christian songs as part of a weekend called, "Creative Expression". In October, eighteen women shared a musical weekend themed, "Sing to the Lord!" where we shared some of our favorite music and lots of singing. Over the summer, Silver Lake offers week long conferences. This year, *Evan Murdzek*, *Logan Satalino* and *Jacob Orzel* attended a week of summer camp, while *Shawn Murdzek* and *Mackenzie Satalino* served as counselors. *Rev. Kelly Jane Forbush* was a Dean for a week in the summer.

With the support from WEB, EHIM and the Missions Board, our church was able to enhance Christmas for four East Hartford families. Toys, games, books and clothing were wrapped and given to nine children. The families also received fruit, a gift basket and a grocery store gift card.

Our Sunday School offering, together with the congregations' generous donations, have been helping people through Kiva for almost two years now. We began with \$800 to help people in other countries who are in need of small business loans. We have donated toward the goals of twenty-six business people in sixteen different countries, all of which our Sunday School classes have chosen. They repay us a little at a time. We then re-lent to someone else. Several businesses have paid us back in full and we have re-lent that money to others. Our money continues to help through Kiva.

The Board of Christian Education and I work together to have children and family focused activities throughout the year. My thanks go out to all who have helped by volunteering, supporting and donating. You are positive role models for the youth of our church and I appreciate your support!

*Louise Holmes*

## **BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

The Board of Christian Education supports children and family focused activities throughout the year.

Many thanks to our wonderful teachers who serve our Sunday School children year after year. They are *Joe Murdzek, Mary Agnes Innocent, Brenda Murdzek, Kathy Cattanach, Patricia Andrulot, Dawn Clancy, Erin Heller* and *Maggie Sanzo*.

In the spring, our eighth grade Confirmation Class took a “Faith Journey”, where they learned more about their church and faith. Each of the confirmands has a mentor who plays a very important role in their faith development. We all work together to help our young people continue in their spiritual growth. Those who joined our church are *Evan Murdzek, Delilah Ortiz, Raymond Clark, Angela Gunter, Shayla Harris* and *Hailee Guglielmi*.

There was an Easter Egg Hunt for all the children on Easter morning. They decorated bags and collected Easter eggs. They then turned them in for an assortment of toys, candy and goodies.

Each year, in June, the Sunday School is responsible for the worship service on Children’s Sunday. Our classes prepare and look forward to doing their part. This year the theme was “How We Worship God”. Everyone went home with a marigold plant that was donated, once again, by Burnham Farms.

Our Rally Day indoor picnic was a wonderful time of fellowship as we gathered back after the summer and began the school year with our new Sunday School classes.

The Sunday School worked together to make 100 colorful placemats that were used to help decorate for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner. On Thanksgiving Sunday, the congregation donated fruit and snacks while the children made cards and fall decorations for the baskets to be delivered to our elderly homebound members.

The Sunday School also made decorations for the Wish Tree in the dining room where the items generously donated by our congregation went to the Homeless Shelter.

As part of the East Hartford Holiday Fest weekend, children as well as adults dressed up as the Holy Family and their visitors. They took part in the Live Nativity complete with sheep and goats on loan from the *Harlow* and *Ferguson* families. It was a picturesque scene as we sang Christmas songs for the Candlelight Carol Sing. What a wonderful way to begin the Christmas season.

The White Gift service, which supports Elon Homes for Children in Elon, North Carolina, was filled with many of the traditional Christmas carols that were sung as the children acted out the telling of the Christmas Story.

Our Christmas season was complete with *Cindy Woodman* planning and leading the Family Christmas Eve Worship service in the chapel.

*Sean Clancy*

## **BOARD OF DEACONESSES**

The Board of Deaconesses continued its service to the church and its members by making visits, phone calls, sending cards, and by attending funerals. This past year there were 14 active Deaconesses doing the work of the church, and 2 inactive Life Deaconesses.

The Board continues to meet on the first Monday of the month, excluding January, July, August and September. Meetings are held at 1:30 p.m. and begin with tea and dessert, followed by the business meeting.

On Sundays the Deaconesses greet visitors and members at the front and back entrances to the Sanctuary at the guest book tables. After worship, the chancel flowers, along with the Sunday Calendar Bulletin and a copy of The Upper Room are delivered to homebound or sick members. Flowers are also given to members having a birthday or for a special occasion. We also deliver Easter plants and Christmas poinsettias to members who are homebound, ill or who have lost a loved one during the year. We purchase The Upper Room which is available to all members on the tables at the entrances to the Sanctuary.

The Deaconesses make follow-up contacts with newcomers after *Rev. Kelly Jane's* initial contact.

The Deaconesses take our turn providing light refreshments and serving coffee at Coffee Hour following Sunday Worship. We provide refreshments and host the Christmas Wassail Bowl.

We look forward to continuing our ministry to the church.

*Joyce Wolk*

## **BOARD OF DEACONS**

The Board of Deacons is involved in matters concerning the spiritual life of the congregation. Communion was celebrated each month, as well as on Maundy Thursday, held jointly with South Congregational Church, and on Christmas Eve. We tried serving communion in new and various ways during the year.

The congregation finalized the process of becoming an Open and Affirming Church, according to Conference guidelines. The committee brought their proposed Open and Affirming Statement to the congregation's Annual Meeting, where a positive vote by the Congregation officially confirmed our intention and willingness to welcome and accept all persons who wish to join with us in worshipping God.

We partnered with New Covenant United Methodist Church for a Lenten program on "Food Insecurity". Two meetings were held at each church, consisting of a light supper followed by an informational program describing national and local food needs, as well as opportunities available to provide help. An Easter sunrise service was held on the front steps, followed later by the Easter service with a moving Cantata, arranged by *Jerry* and with the "expanded" choir. The Christmas Cantata, "The Winter Rose", was exceptionally beautiful.

The *Rev. Marilyn Kendrix* of the U.C.C. provided a program on "Mass Incarceration", regarding inequalities in the American incarceration system. The *Rev. Kenneth Williams* led an informational service regarding the "Tuskegee Airmen", formed during World War II and describing racial inequalities and misconceptions.

*Reverend Kelly Jane's* Installation was held on June 8, 2015, with an exciting worship service, the Installation Ceremony and a reception. Participants included the Reverends *Matt Laney, Steve Camp, John Selders, Chris Davies, Liz Miller, Marilyn Kendrix, Ted Mosebach* and *Gary Richards*. Lay participants were *Jerry Scheinfeldt, Gerry Rozie, Chuck Holmes* and *Allen Apel*. A wonderful celebration was enjoyed by all.

Laity Sundays were led by: *Joe Murdzek, Cindy Woodman* and *Delilah Ortiz*, the returning Workcampers, the entire Sunday School (Children's Sunday) and *Jerry Scheinfeldt*. Our Christmas Eve Children's Service was led by *Cindy Woodman*. *Joe Murdzek, Howard Satalino* and *Logan Satalino* graced us with special music on several occasions. We are truly blessed by the talents and efforts of many members of our congregation.

We were the host church for the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service this year. A very moving service was held with participation by *Rev. Kelly Jane Forbush* (First Congregational), *Mr. Anwar Hossair* (Masjid Al-Mustafa), *Cantor David Nemrow* (Temple Beth Tefilah), *Father John Gwozdz* (St. Christopher's), *Father Roy* (St. Mary's, St. Rose, St. Isaac Jogues), *Rev. Amanda Nelson* (Faith Lutheran), *Rev. Errol Leslie* (Wesley Memorial Methodist) and the *Rev. Gary Richards* (New Covenant United Methodist Church).

The Board welcomes any comments from our congregation as we strive to make our worship more meaningful for all. We thank *Dennis McCarthy* and *Darrell Basler* for their service as they finish their terms as Deacons.

*Rich Beebe*

## **BOARD OF MISSIONS**

Our church continues to be blessed by a generous and giving congregation. The money given each year allows us to support many worthy causes. The largest portion of our giving goes to Basic Support of our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM). We also support other causes with contributions to:

Friendship Center  
East Hartford Interfaith Ministries  
Youth Mission Workcamp  
YMCA  
Silver Lake Conference Center  
Back Bay Missions  
Heifer International

We participated in special mission collections in addition to our basic support of the United Church of Christ (UCC). They are One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors in Need, Strengthen the Church and The Christmas Fund. We are a "5 for 5!" UCC church. Also, in June we received donations for the Blanket Fund to assist those in need in times of disaster.

There were two Lenten Programs in 2015. The first was March 1 with a presentation by *Rev. Marilyn Kendrix* on Mass Incarceration and its impact on society. The second program on March 22 was an update on the KIVA micro-loan program by the church Sunday School youth and a presentation on Heifer International.

On February 1 the Board brought back the ever popular Souper Bowl Sunday offering hot or cold chicken soup for only \$2. We were able to donate \$125 to the Soup Kitchen. May 30 saw the beginning of the Community Garden on our front lawn. With help from many members throughout the season the garden was a big success with donations to church members, Town food banks and area residents. On October 29 the church sponsored a forum for the proposed Casino project for the Town. This forum presented the Con side with a promise to provide a forum for the Pro side in the near future.

Each year the East Hartford Social Service Department depends on local businesses and churches to help in the collection of toys for the town's needy. Our church members do not disappoint as many toys are collected. And, they do not stop there. Ongoing support of the Food Bank is seen almost weekly with donation of food and money.

The Missions Board would like to thank the entire congregation for the many ways you have supported our programs and greater world missions.

*Darrell R. Basler*

## **CROP WALK**

It is with some sadness that I submit this final Crop Walk Report as the East Hartford Representative. After 17 years, I am stepping down from this position so I can give proper attention to my other volunteer obligations. We are currently looking for a new East Hartford Crop Walk organizer. The work is not hard, and is only during part of the year. If you or someone you know has an interest in this position, please contact me for more information.

The East Hartford Crop Walk is a 6-mile walk against hunger. Walkers collect donations from sponsors. The proceeds go to Church World Services (a charitable Christian organization) to benefit the poor and hungry in the world. 25% of the money raised by the East Hartford Crop Walk goes to the Friendship Center, East Hartford's soup kitchen. This year's walk raised \$762 for the Friendship Center.

The 2015 Crop Walk occurred October 18, began at First Congregational Church, and proceeded down Main Street and Burnside Avenue. A time for fellowship followed the walk at First Congregational Church, and refreshments were served at the New Covenant Methodist Church on Burnside Avenue.

The walk is open to everyone. The 2016 Crop Walk is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, October 22.

*Joe Murdzek*, East Hartford Crop Walk Representative (retired)

## FOOD BANK

The mission of the Food Bank at First Congregational Church in East Hartford for the past 34 years has been to help provide food for East Hartford's hungry. Our clients are referred to us from East Hartford's Department of Social Services. Each client is provided with three days' supply of food, and can return in 30 days. In 2015 we provided 8,541 meals for 949 persons, (768 adults and 181 children).

*Gerry Rozie* continues to act as coordinator for the volunteers, in addition to serving as a volunteer herself. We want to express our sincere thanks to our volunteers for their dedication and service: *Chris Annino\**, *Maria Beaudoin\**, *Carol Callahan*, *Kathy Cattanach*, *Joyce Emerson*, *Linda Goselin\**, *Lena Gubkin\**, *Joan Peters*, *Joanne Powell*, *Zita Register\**, *Elizabeth Roberts*, *Gerry Rozie*, *Jessie Slade*, *Julia Viera\** and *Joyce Wolk*. Those whose names are marked with an asterisk are co-workers of *Kathy Cattanach* at Bank of America. Thank you all for making this effort a success!

Annual food drives conducted by the Boy Scouts and the U.S. Postal Service provide substantial amounts of food, and this year we also received food and money donated from individual food drives by Philadelphia Insurance, Hart Mechanical Group, Riverside Health Care and several others. Our Food Bank is a member of *FOODSHARE*, which allows us to purchase food at their facility in Bloomfield at greatly reduced prices. We began participating in their Matching Grant Program, in which we deposit funds into our account at *FOODSHARE*, and they match those funds, effectively doubling our money. We were once again recipients of a grant from *Shop-Rite* in the amount of \$750.00, credited to our account at *FOODSHARE*. We also receive food through FEMA and CT-NAP programs.

We again hosted the Community Thanksgiving Dinner, cooked and served by *Pam* and *Clarence Douglas* from the Friendship Center Soup Kitchen at St. John's Church, along with their dedicated team of friends and volunteers. They have been performing this labor of love for many years. Pies, breads and pastries were donated by Michael's Bakery, as they have for many years. The turkeys were donated in an event held by the Hartford Harley Owners Group, through Foodshare, then were thawed and prepared by Chef *Asim Etem* and his staff at *A VILLA LOUISA* banquet center in Bolton, famous for their fabulous Sunday brunch. Chef *Asim* also owns *Tastebuds* in East Hartford.

We began the year with less than \$3,000.00 and received monetary donations of over \$8,000.00. We spent over \$4,000.00 on food during the year, including almost \$500.00 for the Thanksgiving Dinner, which is open to all. This left us with a balance just under \$7,000.00, a much better situation than the last two years. Our monetary donations came from members of First Congregational Church, from the Town of East Hartford, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, the East Hartford Rotary Club, the Philadelphia Insurance Company, Paul Buettner Florist, the Windsor United Methodist Women's Club and also *Finalsite*, who used to be our neighbors across the street. You can see from the diversity of those "Angels" helping to keep us viable that many persons are actively striving to make our program more secure, for which we are humbled and forever grateful.

*Abbie and Rich Beebe*

## **BOARD OF MUSIC**

The choirs and special soloists continued to enhance the worship and special services throughout 2015. Your music director is especially thankful for the contributions of the many individuals who gave of their time and talents.

The Senior Choir performs nearly every Sunday, requiring rehearsals twice a week, with additional rehearsals for special services. We must particularly note the contributions of *Connie Holmeen* and *Pam Scheinfeldt* for their fine work with the Children's Choirs. *Connie* has also done a fine job with the Bell Choir which played several times during the year. We face an ongoing challenge due to the relatively small numbers of young singers who are able to rehearse after church on Sundays.

Under the leadership of *Rev. Kelly Jane Forbush*, your Music Director and choirs have adapted and made numerous changes. For example, there has been an even greater variety of music genres and selections and the congregation has been more involved in new—and we think—exciting ways. As always, we welcome your feedback, comments and suggestions.

Once again, the highlight of the musical year was the “Christmas Cantata” on December 20<sup>th</sup> entitled “The Winter Rose” by Joseph Martin. This was an especially challenging cantata, yet many members of the congregation commented once again that this might have been the best Cantata ever! Our special professional orchestra certainly complemented an outstanding, expanded Senior Choir. Once again we thank *Erin Cattanach* and *Chris Basler* for providing wonderful percussion and keyboard accompaniment.

During the summer months, we welcomed various musicians, including different vocalists and musical groups who shared their talents during our worship services. A special thanks once again to *Chris Basler* who filled in at the organ and piano benches very ably on many Sundays throughout the year, including the summer Sundays services. Once again, a special “call-out” to Senior Choir members whose dedication and enthusiasm add greatly to our worship services.

*Jerry Scheinfeldt*

## **BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP**

We are blessed with a wonderful congregation that is always willing to share their time, talents and treasure in the support of Christ's work.

For the economic times that we are living in, our congregation continues to share their treasures as your pledges and support have continued to grow over the years in order to support our balanced budget. We are also blessed with a wonderful staff who has continued their outstanding and dedicated work while giving back substantial amounts of their salary. We need to support our staff with continuing support of sharing our treasures to keep the great work that we all do moving forward.

Your considerable time and talents are shown in the two major fundraisers we have during the year. The golf tournament in May continues to hit the budgeted amount year after year and while the golf may not be at a high level, fun is always had by the golfers along with the tremendous support the non-golfing volunteers give before the tournament and the day of the tournament the make the day fun and run smoothly. It is nice to see our church as a whole join together for a day to enjoy the outdoors, chase the little white ball around the course and then share many stories and laughter at the dinner after the day's round.

There are not enough superlatives to be said about the Fair Committee and all of the work that is done throughout the year in planning and getting ready for the Church Fair in November. It is amazing to see everyone, and I mean everyone, involved in the Fair and believe me it shows. When there are multiple church fairs on that same Saturday in November and there is a line waiting to get into the door right when the fair opens, that speaks volumes about the quality of our fair. For years we have heard comments about our fair being the best around and I would agree. This does not just happen as it takes a large effort to coordinate. Again our church works well together, we have fun doing it and we continue to hit our high bar budget level. Outstanding work by everyone.

We are also blessed by everyone attitudes of what can we do to help or what can we do to share what we have.

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank all of you for sharing your time, talents and treasures with us. Bless you.

*Allen Apel*

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Again, it was a busy year for the Board of Trustees. The Church always has things going on both for the Church itself and for the community. And as always there are many changes and projects the Trustees need to deal with.

Our biggest change of the year was the resignation of our sexton, *Dennis McCarthy*, after 21 years of faithful service to our congregation and to this beautiful, historic, needy building. As the year progressed we found more and more small and large tasks that *Dennis* just did because he was here.

It has taken many hours to fill in the things that *Dennis* just did. Even now when he comes up from his New London home, he answers our questions, changes light bulbs, and finds things for us. *Dennis* good luck in your new venture, we all wish you the best that God can offer you.

The following projects have been completed this year:

- Parking lot potholes were filled.
- Utility shed doors and frame repaired and made sturdier.
- The book room was cleaned out in the Woodward House.
- Folding doors in the dining room repaired.
- Sexton's office cleaned and organized.
- Utility shed cleaned out.
- Boy scouts moved equipment to front room of Woodward House
- Painting of Church's side doors and Woodward hatchway.
- Getting the clock to work and keep good time.

With the absence of a sexton:

- Trustee, Deacons, & Ushers will share the responsibilities to open & close the Church.
- Ernest Wilson* hired for snow blowing this winter.
- Sanitation Systems hired for weekly cleaning.
- DZ Landscaping hired for lawn mowing & landscaping.
- Pinnacle maintenance hired for general maintenance if needed.

Thank you to all that have helped us keep the Church clean, moving tables, cleaning up and sorting out. We appreciate the extra time many of you have put in. Thanks to the *Andrulots* for giving us a snow blower to use after ours was stolen mid season.

*Kathy Cattanach*

## **FLOWER COMMITTEE**

The following message is attached to each bouquet or plant delivered by our Deaconess to our shut in, bereaved or hospitalized members:

"By their beauty and their fragrance they have been a joy and inspiration to the worshippers within God's house and from these hallowed associations they now come to you with a silent message of love, hope and cheer."

Thanks to all of you who donated flowers each Sunday to beautify our chancel. The donations of the Easter and Christmas plants and donations to Food Bank & EHIM (East Hartford Interfaith Ministries) are a special addition and greatly appreciated.

A part of your Easter donation went to Food Bank. We ordered 10 lilies and 5 tulips, as requested by the Deaconess, from Paul Buettner Florist for a cost of \$13.00 each. There were 31 in memory of, 8 in celebration of and 2 in honor of for a total of 41 donations or a total of \$551.00 was received.

We paid Paul Buettner Florist the \$13.00 each for the 15 plants ordered or \$266.00. The balance of the money collected, or \$285.00, was paid to Food Bank.

The donation of the Christmas poinsettias also included a donation to EHIM (East Hartford Interfaith Ministries). We ordered a total of 10 poinsettias, as requested by the Deaconess, from Paul Buettner Florist for a cost of \$13.00 each. There were 31 in memory of and 7 in celebration of or a total of 38 donations or a total of \$486.00 received.

We paid Paul Buettner Florist for the 10 poinsettia plants ordered at \$13.00 each or a total of \$130.00. The balance of the money collected, or \$356.00, was given to EHIM.

Note: The cost of the plants is \$13.00 each but some people donate more than \$13.00 and this adds to our amount.

In addition Newkirk & Whitney/Callahan Funeral Home donated 17 poinsettias and we thank them for their generosity. This made a total of 27 poinsettias in addition to the 10 we ordered.

Our committee consists of 3 people and each one is responsible for 4 months. The following is our committee and the months we are responsible for:

*Jessie S. Slade* - October, November, December, January, Easter and December donations.

*Connie Holmeen* - February, March, April and May.

*Barbara Stevens* - June, July, August and September.

We are always looking for new donors and you can contact anyone on the committee if you would like to donate flowers for the chancel. The standard charge from Paul Buettner Florist would be \$35.00 plus tax and you are billed directly from the florist. You can order a larger bouquet for \$50.00 or more by telling a committee member or the florist. You can also specify a special color or arrangement by letting a committee member or the florist know.

Thanks to *Barbara* and *Connie* for all their help on this committee.

*Jessie S. Slade*

## **HOLIDAY VILLAGE FAIR**

Our Holiday Fair continues to exceed our expectations. This year \$10,718.04 was raised for our General Fund. The Fair Committee thanks the entire congregation for their contributions of time, items and support.

The wonderful variety of booths provided something for everyone. Gift Baskets were assembled with items donated by our generous congregation and 84 were sold at the Basket Shoppe. A variety of choices on the Raffle Table proved popular again this year. Many of the wonderful hand-made articles in the Handicraft Corner were selected by customers.

In the Evergreen Shop, all of the 41 Holiday Boxes were sold! Grandma's Attic, the Cutlery Shop and the Jewelry Booth were also popular with shoppers.

Many delicious food choices were available. The sights and smells of The Popcorn Booth, Country Store, Candy Cupboard, Cookie Walk and Bake Shoppe enticed eager shoppers. Lunch was available in the Victorian Tea Room as well as outside at Chuck's Wagon.

The Boutique was overflowing with Christmas gifts and decorations. This area is open for shopping after Church during December as well as on Saturday during East Hartford's Holiday Fest. In addition to the bouquet offerings, knives, candy and handicraft items were sold.

Beautiful mood-setting music was provided by *Chris Basler* during the fair. The day ended with a delicious chicken dinner.

It truly takes "a village" to put on such a great fair! Thanks to our wonderful congregation!

*Lorraine Trink*

## **LIBRARY COMMITTEE**

The goal of the Library is to provide religious and inspirational books as well as other materials for the use of the Congregation, Sunday School and Staff of the church.

The Library is a rich resource for inspirational and devotional reading, open to the entire congregation. The Children's Library, across the hall, also has many books for a variety of ages. Take time to stop in before or after worship on Sundays. A Librarian of the day will be on hand to help you find what you are looking for.

To direct attention to themes we feel are relevant we have monthly displays on the circular table in the Library. The themes for 2015 were:

- New Beginnings
- Black History
- Lent and Easter
- Jesus
- Focus on Family - Mothers
- Focus on Family - Fathers
- Honoring our Sunday School Teachers
- Life-long Learning at the Library
- Fall Into Reading
- Give Thanks
- Christmas

The Library Committee meets the second Sunday of the month except July and August.

*Nancy Tomlinson, Librarian*

## **CALENDAR DONATIONS COMMITTEE**

Each month members of our congregation and various groups within the congregation donate the weekly calendar for our church services. This year the sponsorship was at a cost of \$20.00. The calendar is given in memory of someone special and some are given in celebration of family members or special events. The choice is up to the person(s) who is donating the calendar for that particular week. Also, Newkirk and Whitney and the Benjamin J. Callahan Funeral Home generously donated the weekly Calendar for the months of July and August as they have done for many years.

The following groups have provided the calendar this past year: WEB (Business & Professional Women's Club, and the Mother's Club), the Deacons, the Deaconesses, the Trustees, the JYF and the PYF.

As with everything, we lost some donors due to a death in the family or families moving away. We are always looking for new donors, so if you are so inclined, we would very much appreciate hearing from you at any time. A BIG thank you to all of you who continue to provide our weekly calendars. With your help the work of our church continues to grow.

*Pam Scheinfeldt*

## USHERS REPORT

The ushers are a dedicated group of men and women who serve our church in many ways. They escort persons to their seats and lend a helping hand to anyone in need. They serve at all church services including holidays and Christmas Eve. The ushers collect the offering and record attendance at all services. At the completion of events, they are responsible for the tidying up of the sanctuary. At all times they keep a watchful eye for the security and safety of our membership and guests.

During the year of January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015 the attendance was as follows:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Regular Sunday Service	3079	3381	3090	3295
Ash Wednesday	16	24	14	19
Maundy Thursday	SCC	82	SCC	76
Easter Sunday				
7:00 a.m.	21	20	32	29
10:00 a.m.	124	139	193	151
Children's Sunday	97	98	103	96
Carol Sing	51	30	56	68
White Gift	62	92	81	95
Christmas Eve				
7:00 p.m.	22	37	22	42
10:30 p.m.	67	78	93	77
*3 One-Time Events	290			
	-----			
	3829	3981	3684	3948

SCC - Worship at South Congregational Church

\* 3 One Time Events

June 7 - Rev. Kelly Jane's Installation	142
Sept. 27 - Baptism at Gay City State Park	30
Nov. 22 - Interfaith Thanksgiving Service	<u>118</u>
	290

*Chuck Holmes*

## **INVESTMENT COMMITTEE**

2015 was a frustrating year for investors. Some markets were up slightly, while others were down a fair amount. Large Cap stocks, represented by the S & P 500, were up 1.38%. The Russell 2000, a measure of small-cap stocks, was down 4.41%, and the MSCI EAFE index of International stocks, was down .81%. The Barclays Capital Aggregate bond index was up .55%. The Fed raised interest rates in December for the first time in 9 years, while Japan and Europe's ECB continued stimulating their economies. Concerns surrounding the plunge in oil prices, a stronger U.S. Dollar, and the economies of Europe, Japan, and China all weighed on investors' minds.

Going into 2016, a potential weakening of producer level inflation and concern over the growing possibility of a recession will establish a headwind for U.S. markets while slowing growth in China, the world's second largest economy, will again be a concern. Morgan Stanley Wealth Management economists forecast that 2016 nominal GDP growth will come in at 3.1% in Europe, 2.2% in Japan, and that the U.S. will grow at a rate of 3.6%.

As of December 31, 2015, the total value of the First Congregational Church portfolio was \$1,345,677. That amount is up from the December 31, 2014 value of \$1,289,091. The Church deposited \$115,000 and withdrew \$52,473.08 from the portfolio this year. Gross total return was down 1.18% before contributions and up 4.38% after contributions. Currently, the portfolio asset allocation is 53.6% in stocks, 25.9% in bonds, 8.2% in alternatives, and 12.4% in cash.

The Investment Committee is a sub-committee of the Board of Trustee's and its members include *Jerry Scheinfeldt*, *Randy Holmeen*, and *Chuck Holmes*. The advisor to the Investment Committee is Brett Cavalieri. For any questions, please do not hesitate to contact *Randy Holmeen* at 860-275-0771 or [randy.holmeen@morganstanley.com](mailto:randy.holmeen@morganstanley.com), and thank you for the trust you have placed in the FCC investment committee.

*The Investment Committee*

## **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

The awards committee granted scholarships to these 4 worthy applicants:

*Ashley Clancy*

*Emily Gunter*

*Shawn Murdzek*

*Mackenzie Satalino*

The awards were presented on Children's Sunday. We should remember to continue contributing to the scholarship fund as the opportunities arise.

*Scholarship Committee*

## **JUNIOR YOUTH FELLOWSHIP**

Junior Youth Fellowship (JYF) is made up of our youth in grades 6-8. We meet twice each month after worship for lunch, fun and fellowship. We have thought provoking activities, where we learn more about ourselves and each other as well as enjoy fun, Bible-related activities that we do as a group.

We support our church by selling fresh popped popcorn at the Holiday Village Fair. Our alumni also come back to help us when needed. Our youth not only work the Popcorn Booth but also serve in the Victorian Tea Room. Many of our members also wait on tables, clean and reset the tables at the Pancake Breakfast with Santa during the East Hartford Holiday Fest.

With our JYF money, each member purchased a share of stock to support our High School Youth Groups' efforts to go to Workcamp. We were then invited to the Stockholders Banquet, where we heard stories and saw pictures of their trip to Pocahontas, Virginia. It gave us a better understanding of what will be available to us when we are in high school.

We ended our year by serenading some of our church's senior members with Christmas carols, along with the PYF.

I would like to thank *Darrell Basler* for his continued support and assistance with our junior high youth.

*Louise Holmes*

## **HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH**

Our High School youth meet for Sunday School every Sunday at 10am with teacher, *Joe Murdzek*. The youth are also active in various church events throughout the year. They worked at the Church Fair, served at the Pancake Breakfast, helped decorate the church for Christmas, went Christmas caroling to some of our home-bound members, and participated in other church activities.

For our Youth Mission Work camp this past summer, the group traveled to Pocahontas, Virginia. Participants this year were *Emily Ciccolo*, *Karissa Correnti*, *Kaylee Correnti*, *Allison Gunter*, *Ryswick Innocent*, *Tobias Jones*, *Shawn Murdzek*, *Shari Pike*, *Logan Satalino*, and *Mackenzie Satalino*. Adult leaders were *Rev. Kelly Jane Forbush*, *Erin Cattanach* and *Howard Satalino*. During the week of July 18<sup>th</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup>, the group was divided into work crews with about 300 other youths and adult leaders. Each crew was assigned to work on a particular residence where they painted or made other repairs during the day. In the evening the crews came together and participated in inspirational programs. For their Wednesday afternoon break, our group toured an old coal mine, as well as some of the old buildings of Pocahontas.

We greatly appreciate the congregation's spiritual and financial support of this mission trip. Thank you also for your prayers. Thank you also for your support of our fundraisers, such as the can and bottle drives and the stock sale. Without this support, many of our campers would be unable to attend. The mission trip enables the youth group and their leaders to grow spiritually through the deep personal satisfaction of doing God's work by helping others in need.

*Howard Satalino*

**W.E.B.**  
**Women Empowered & Blessed**  
**A Sisterhood in our Faith**

W.E.B. is a social group of women from the Church, ages 20 and older; open to all First Congregational Church members and their friends. We meet on the third Thursday of the month (except in January) during the school year. Our meetings start at 6:30 p.m. for dessert, with a program afterwards. Some of our programs involve Church members providing an interesting look at our Church (*Howard Satalino* spoke about our Minister during the Civil War), and from speakers outside the Church.

During the social portion of our meetings, we have the chance to share stories about our lives, and listen to others go over their experiences. Our members are grandmothers, mothers and grown children, with many different occupations.

We are busy during the year at many Church events, such as working at the Fair, and helping with a Lenten program. We host a reception for the East Hartford Fine Arts Commission's Paul Bisaccia Concert in the late spring. We had two rummage sales, one the Saturday before Mother's Day and the other just after Labor Day. The proceeds from these events went to various areas of the Church, such as the Scholarship Fund, providing flowers on the altar on Sundays, etc. W.E.B. has also provided gifts to the Riverside Health Center.

W.E.B. also helps with the pancake breakfast with Santa during the East Hartford Holiday Fest. The profits from this event helped provide presents for three families with nine children this year. We would like to thank all non W.E.B. Church members who helped with the pancake breakfast, and donated presents to the three families. You were a huge help!

W.E.B. is open to all women of the Church, both to those who have been members for quite a while, and any woman who would like to get to know us.

*Sharon Walters*

## **THE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE**

This has been a most exciting year for First Church. *Rev. Kelly Jane* celebrated one year as settled pastor with an Installation party of food, fun and dancing! Most significant of all was the official recognition of First Church as An Open Affirming Church. In December our Rainbow Flag was hung on the front of the church, brilliantly announcing who we are.

We were saddened to say goodbye to four of our devoted members. We rejoiced for the very special Baptisms by immersion of Jacob Orzel in the waters of Gay City State Park. All these events and many other happenings at First Church are pictured in the scrapbook for 2015.

A display of crosses, many from our archives, as well as from individuals, was arranged in the display case at the back of the sanctuary during the first part of the year. That display was replaced by memorabilia from Youth Work Camp Missions, thanks to *Kathy Cattanach*. It was interesting to see the various shirts, booklets, souvenirs from the places our youth had gone to work and spread the word of God's love.

Now we embark on a new way of documenting the history being made here at First Church. We spread the news daily via the internet. Our events, our words, our faces, our comments, our missions are flying out to the world, reaching the eyes and ears of many people beyond our wildest dreams. What a fantastic opportunity to spread the word of God's love. So I trust that each of you, now our historians, will tell the message of First Church's welcome to all and about our good works!

*Historical Committee*

# **EAST HARTFORD INTERFAITH MINISTRIES**

## **HUMAN NEEDS FUND**

The words that come to the forefront in regard to the Human Needs fund during 2015 are *Piles and Gaps*. Late January through March we all experienced large piles of snow everywhere and very cold temperatures. Many East Hartford residents found that their oil tanks were hitting bottom and their grants from our state energy assistance program had ended. This caused gaps in services that they were accustomed to receiving. And no funds to fill their tanks and keep warm.

Although the Human Needs Fund has no control over “piles of snow” - the fund is there to help bridge the gaps in services and keep people warm and keep their gas or electricity from being cut off. It is also available to prevent a family from becoming homeless. This is done by combining a small grant from EHIM and the client’s funds for rent until the crisis situation is over. Sometimes referrals are made to other helping agencies that also provide assistance.

For the first time in years, the Human Needs Fund felt its very own *Gap*. In September our fund slipped to a low \$200 and it was necessary to cut back on services for about three weeks. This was a crucial period as September and October are the months utility companies cut services when a bill is high for nonpayment. At this time this coordinator worked to do advocacy and referral services on behalf of our clients to insure continued service and a safe home for the family.

Donations continue to drive the fund and create the services available to East Hartford residents. Donations come from East Hartford Women’s Club Tree of Lights, the restricted fund of Masonicare and the offering received at the Interfaith Thanksgiving Day service. Each year John Larson’s Bocci games make a large contribution, but this year it was our saving grace coming when the fund was at its lowest. We also receive donations from our member churches and individual donations. Many thanks to all the donors listed above and to First Congregational church staff and volunteers. Also for the use of the building and equipment.

### **HUMAN NEEDS FUND**

During 2015 there were sixty seven heads of household requesting the \$100+ donation in order to prevent eviction from their housing. A total of one hundred sixty eight were assisted with utility or fuel needs. A total of nine requesting other financial needs.

A total of **243** heads of households were seen in 2015. The total amount of grant to individuals and households was **\$25,451.33**. Fuel costs remain the highest basic need totaling **\$18,076.33**; rental costs were **\$7000**; and other **\$700**. There was a slight decrease in the number of households seen in 2015 by 31.

*Beth Harlow, Counselor, Human Needs Coordinator*

## **BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA TROOP 1**

Let me begin by saying Troop 1 would like to thank the Church for their continued sponsorship of our troop. We are proud and honored to be able to say that 2015 marked the 106th year of sponsorship of Troop 1 by the First Congregational Church of East Hartford. That fact makes us the oldest continuously sponsored troop in the country. We greatly appreciate your assistance in helping us achieve our mission of preparing young men to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

Troop 1 meets most Tuesday nights in the Church Dining Room, and is open to boys ages 11 to 17. Currently, Troop 1 has 21 registered scouts and 22 registered leaders. Tim Lynch continues as Scoutmaster of the Troop. Chris Basler has become our new Troop Chartered Organization Representative and Vincent Mazzotta is completing his third year as the Troop's Committee Chairman.

The Troop camping activities include the following:

- ❖ In January the Troop participated in the District Klondike derby and camped out at Camp Webster in Ashford, where our scouts demonstrated their outdoor survival skills.
- ❖ In February we camped in a cabin at Camp Yawgoog in the State of Rhode Island.
- ❖ In March we camped out in a cabin at Camp Mattatuck in Plymouth, CT.
- ❖ In April we camped out at our property in Glastonbury, known as Camp Neipsic.
- ❖ In May, the Troop attended a Spring District event called a Camp-o-Ree at Camp Workcoeman in New Hartford, CT.
- ❖ In July, 12 scouts and 3 leaders attended summer camp at Camp Webster in Ashford. Our scouts had a tremendous amount of fun while earning numerous merit badges.
- ❖ In September, we camped out at our property in Glastonbury, Camp Neipsic.

In October, the Troop participated in another District Camp-o-Ree this time at Fort Niantic in Niantic,

- ❖ In November, Troop 1 participated in the annual Scouting For Food event. We collected over 200 bags of food to distribution to our most needy East Hartford families. Our annual Thanksgiving feast took place in November at Camp Neipsic in Glastonbury. We had fantastic weather and everyone ate very well.

December concluded the calendar year with our annual Spaghetti Supper as part of the Town's Holiday Fest. From the proceeds of the dinner, we were able to contribute approximately \$650 to the East Hartford Interfaith Ministries (EHIM).

In addition, I would like to note the following individual scouting achievements that happened in 2015:

- ❖ 1 scout, Zylund Lynch, attained his Eagle rank. This is the highest rank a scout can earn and marks the zenith in Boy Scout achievements.

Vincent Mazzotta  
Troop 1 Committee Chair

## **FRIENDS OF CAMP NEIPSIC, INC**

Friends of Camp Neipsic, or FCN, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which was created by the organization's Board of Directors, *Jim Sime* (President), *Ken Kulo* (Secretary), *Chris Basler* (Treasurer), *Joe Murdzek* (Director), and *Phil Ward* (Director), with the tremendous aid and consultation of *Jack Ranney*.

FCN's purpose is to protect a parcel of land in Glastonbury that was originally purchased by leaders of Troop 1 in May 1941. The land was in a trust for the use of Troop 1 until 2014, when the land was transferred to FCN. In a trust, the land was vulnerable to being lost due to any number of minor changes to Troop 1, such as a different sponsorship or new troop designation. Due to the land transfer, the land known as Camp Neipsic, will be available indefinitely for local youth groups to use.

The Board would like to thank First Congregational Church for their continued support of Troop 1, as well as being the meeting place for our Board meetings. We also extend the invitation to the church's youth groups to enjoy our land and the beauty of nature.

To learn more about Friends of Camp Neipsic, Inc or see the beauty we offer, please visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/friendsofcampneipsic](http://www.facebook.com/friendsofcampneipsic).

Friends of Camp Neipsic Treasurer, *Chris Basler*

**CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF**  
**THE UNITED CHURCH**  
**OF CHRIST**

Connecticut Conference  
of the United Church of Christ  
148<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
Newington High School                      October 23 & 24, 2015

Andover First Church's blue grass band got us off to a knee slapping, hand clapping start!

As keynote speaker, we were honored to have *Rev. Dr John C. Dorhauer*, the new General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. A dynamic speaker coming from his conference minister position in the UCC Southwest Conference.

Two statements that shape his theology: "God is love. God is just."

The theme for this year's annual meeting was Leadership - WHO ME?

The still speaking God is asking the Churches to take leadership in our communities to support opportunities to that ensures reconciliation and justice.

The goal is to identify, affirm, nurture, network, and build the capacity of lay and clergy leaders, through leadership development.

Leadership is the key component, helping our congregations remain adaptive, authentic, and faithful to God.

The next generation of leaders will bring our Churches into the future.

"Have you ever thought about working for God?"

The two resolutions were discussed and passed:

- 1) The delegation was asked to urge the legislative and executive branches of the Connecticut and United States governments, through their agencies and commissions to grant all adult adoptees access to their original birth certificates, and to have this resolution to be put in proper form for submission to the next general synod.
- 2) We ask the Board of directors of the RI/ MA/CT Conference UCC commits to joining with the other two UCC Conferences in southern New England to issue a common invitation to the pastors, leaders, and congregations of our three conferences to use the 2015-2016 program year as a season of discernment as we listen to how God may be calling our three conferences over the 2016-2017 calendar years to either federate or merge. We do this seeking to advance the mission of the UCC in southern New England and beyond as a sign of faithfulness to God's call.

For the third year in a row, the delegates voted and passed a balanced budget.

Reports from Social Justice, Youth Ministry, and Silver Lake were heard.

First Congregational Church of East Hartford was recognized as becoming one of 81 churches in the CTUCC to be as Open and Affirming.

We were also recognized for being one of 30 "Five for Five" Churches.

Inspiring, innovative worship services with great music were enjoyed.

God is still speaking! Where ever you are in life's journey – You are welcome here.

*Kathy Cattanach & Pat Sirois*

## **HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

At the 2015 annual meeting, the congregation voted to establish a Human Resource Committee. We have met to examine our mandate and draft a mission statement, which is below.

### **Mission Statement of the Human Resource Committee:**

The Human Resource Committee at First Congregational Church is to provide a structure and support to help staff grow professionally. As such the HR committee:

- a.) builds consistent and long-term relationships
- b.) maintains and collects ongoing reviews of successes and opportunities for growth
- c.) is a gateway of communication between boards, staff, and colleagues
- d.) facilitates changes to staff positions

In the first year we have met with every staff member to learn what they do, what they love, and how we can support them in their professional growth.

*Allen Apel, Mary Mourey, Chuck Holmes (moderator), Rev. Kelly Jane Forbush*

## REPORT OF THE CLERK FOR 2015

### BAPTISMS

Paige Isabella Andrulot	February 8, 2015
Joshua Aedan Snay	April 12, 2015
August Ezra Wittenzellner	May 3, 2015
Jacob Orzel	September 27, 2015

### RECEIVED BY CONFIRMATION

Evan Murdzek	May 31, 2015
Delilah Ortiz	May 31, 2015
Shayla Harris	May 31, 2015
Raymond Clark	May 31, 2015
Angela Gunter	May 31, 2015
Hailee Guglielmi	May 31, 2015

### RECEIVED BY LETTER OF TRANSFER

Kelly Jane Forbush	January 22, 2015	approved by Standing Committee
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### NEW MEMBERS

Jacqueline Blinn	March 26, 2015	approved by Standing Committee
Elizabeth Spring	March 26, 2015	approved by Standing Committee
James Snay	March 26, 2015	approved by Standing Committee

### DEATHS

Elinor Maynes	March 17, 2015
Valerie McCarthy	June 5, 2015
Janice Christensen Arbuckle	July 29, 2015
Elizabeth Bryant	September 9, 2015

### PLACED ON INACTIVE ROLLS BY STANDING COMMITTEE October 22, 2015

Apel, Andrew	Fournier, Andrew	McMahon, Lisa
Boyle, Brendan	Gillette, Cynthia	McMahon, Michael
Boyle, Caitlin	Gillette, Garrett	McSweeney, Kristen
Boyle, Daniel	Gillette, Matthew	Mosebach, April
Brousseau, Isobel	Gillette, Scott	Owens, John
Christensen, Gail	Hampton, Michael	Powell, Ruth
Dufresne, Allison	Hampton, Victoria	Puffer, Michael
Dufresne, Ashley	Jesensky, Monica	Romaniw, Rachael
Dufresne, Jennifer	Lemire, Alison	Ross, Ronald
Forte, Alex	Lemire, Bonnie	Sprague, Andrea
Forte, Erik	Lemire, Daniel	Vanderjagt, Marinus
Forte, Neal	McMahon, Harold	Vann, Carol
Fournier, Aimee	McMahon, Justin	Williams, Barry

REMOVED FROM ROLLS BY VOTE OF STANDING COMMITTEE October 22, 2015

Brigette Dufresne	Matthew Hollis	Dominique Roy
Derek Gaston	Susan Lyon	Margaret Satalino
Donald Gaston	Kenneth Masslon	Jennifer Sikoski
James Harlow	Robin Masslon	Margaret Stumpf
Steven Harlow		

TRANSFERS TO OTHER CHURCHES

<u>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHURCH – January 1, 2015</u>	236	
Removed from Rolls	13	
Losses by Death	<u>4</u>	
	17	<u>-17</u>
Received by letter of transfer	1	
New Members	3	
Received by confirmation	<u>6</u>	
	10	<u>+10</u>
<u>TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP – December 31, 2015</u>		229

*Jayne L. Apel, Clerk*

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Recommendation of the Nominating Committee for Church officers, Boards and Committees as required by the by-laws of the Church for presentation at the Annual Meeting, to be held on April 3, 2016, as well as recognition of the members serving as representatives to councils and conferences and members serving in other ways.

### **Officers**

Moderator	Chuck Holmes	(2) 2017
Assistant Moderator	Howard Satalino	(2) 2017
Clerk	Jayne Apel	
Treasurer	Donna Basler	
Assistant Treasurer	Lauren Basler	

### **Boards of the Church**

#### **Board of Christian Education (8)**

Dawn Clancy	(1) 2017	Sharon Walters	(1) 2018
Logan Satalino	(1) 2017		
Sean Clancy	(2) 2017		
Connie Holmeen	(2) 2017		

#### **Board of Deaconesses (24)**

Marilyn LaFontaine	(7) 2017	Joyce Wolk	(5) 2018
Shirley Foster	(7) 2018	Nancy Tomlinson	(4) 2018
Ruby Passon	(7) 2018	C. Knight-Sloley	(2) 2017
Joan Peters	(6) 2018	Joy Gaston	(1) 2017
Bethia Granston	(5) 2018	Erin LaFontaine	(1) 2017
Jackie LeBrun	(5) 2018		

#### **Life Deaconesses: Thank you for your many years of devoted service!**

Flora Ranney	Josephine Sale
Gerry Rozie	Lillian Saunders

#### **Board of Deacons (16)**

Erin Cattanach	(1) 2017	Linda Cronkhite	(1) 2018
Mary Agnes Innocent	(1) 2017	Gail Saunders	(1) 2018
Tobias Jones	(1) 2017	Cindy Woodman	(2) 2018
Joe Murdzek	(1) 2017	Rich Beebe	(2) 2017
Delilah Ortiz	(1) 2017		
Elizabeth Roberts	(1) 2017		

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT(continued)**

### **Board of Missions (8)**

Evan Murdzek	(1) 2018	Darrell Basler	(2) 2017
Salome Sellers	(1) 2018	Brenda Murdzek	(2) 2017
Patricia Andrulot	(2) 2018	Sue Randall	(2) 2017
Elizabeth Roberts	(2) 2018		

### **Board of Music (2)**

Erin Cattanach	(1) 2018	Shawn Murdzek	(2) 2017
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### **Board of Stewardship (8)**

Allen Apel	(1) 2017	Chris Basler	(2) 2017
Sharon Walters	(1) 2017	Dave Gaston	(2) 2017
Darrell Basler	(2) 2018		

### **Board of Trustees (8)**

Joanne Powell	(1) 2018	Pam Scheinfeldt	(2) 2018
Kathy Cattanach	(1) 2017	Frantz Innocent	(2) 2017
Dick Stevens	(1) 2017		

## **Committees of the Church required by the Bylaws**

### **Budget Committee (Member at large)**

Brenda Murdzek

### **Flower Committee**

Connie Holmeen	Jessie Slade	Barbara Stevens
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### **Historical Committee**

Howard Satalino – Archivist	Margaret Sanzo
Erin Cattanach	Barbara Stevens
Joyce Wolk	

### **Library Committee**

Linda Cronkhite	Gerry Rozie
Toni Fish	Jo Sale
Jackie LeBrun	Nancy Tomlinson
Joan Peters	

### **Nominating Committee**

Kathy Cattanach	(2) 2018	Dave Gaston	(1) 2018
Beth Harlow	(2) 2018		

### **Human Resources Committee**

Allen Apel	Mary Mourey	Chuck Holmes (Moderator)
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## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT(continued)**

### **Positions Required by the Bylaws**

#### **Archivist**

Howard Satalino

#### **Auditors**

Howard Satalino

Jack Ranney

#### **Historian**

Howard Satalino

#### **Librarian**

Nancy Tomlinson

### **Positions Required for Mission and Ministry**

#### **Book of Remembrances and Scholarship Fund**

Beth Roberts - acknowledgements and inscriptions

#### **Calendar Committee**

Pam Scheinfeldt

#### **Capitol Region Conference of Churches**

#### **Christian Activities Council**

#### **East Hartford Interfaith Ministry**

Kathy Cattanach

Margaret Sanzo

#### **Hartford East Association**

Beth Harlow

Dennis McCarthy

Sharon Walters

#### **UCC State Conferences**

Kathy Cattanach

Chuck Holmes (as Moderator)

Julie Wittenzellner

Erin Cattanach (as Alternate)

#### **Ushers**

Chuck Holmes





