

INTERIM SENIOR MINISTER

The Lord said to Moses, “Tell the people of Israel to go forward” (Exodus 14:15).

Our church has been on the move this year, and it’s been wonderful for me to serve as your interim senior minister at such an exciting time.

Each morning as I drive into town, I look up at the white steeple of our church rising above the trees. It’s a sight of beauty and inspiration. Since its founding in 1724, First Congregational Church has been a beacon to people of our community. And today we continue that heritage of faith and service. As our current by-laws put it:

The purpose of this church shall be to worship God; to preach and teach children, youth and adults the good news of Jesus Christ; to celebrate the sacraments; to encourage individual growth in Christian fellowship; to continue the church’s rich heritage in this community; to render loving service toward all people; and to strive for righteousness, justice and peace.

Moses told the children of Israel to go forward. Rick Dacey touched the lives of many people here and is deeply missed. But even in this time of transition First Congregational Church has been on the move. A Senior Minister Search Committee will soon be going out to look at candidates. Our church membership records have been revised for the first time in many years. We now stand at roughly 800 members. A group has been working on updated by-laws. Our members and friends have been very faithful in their pledged financial support for the coming year. Fellowship abounded at our Homecoming and Strawberry Festival – and newcomers comment on the friendliness of this congregation. There is deep caring here for one another – and hands on service to others outside our doors (e.g., Columbus House). New staff members have joined us in the church office and in youth work. We are a safe and nurturing church.

Let the children of Israel go forward. Despite all our progress, I think there are some basic questions for us to discuss in preparation for a new Senior Minister’s arrival:

- How can we increase our grounding in the Scriptures and Christian faith?
- Do we need a more centralized form of government to unite our boards and committees to serve a common vision for the whole church?
- What should the job descriptions be for the new Senior Minister and other members of staff as we look to a new day?
- How can we deepen our trust in one another as people of God?
- Do we want this church to grow?

Picture First Congregational Church at its best. What would that look like? How can we get there?

My deep appreciation to our staff – my colleague in ministry Alison, Joe in Music, Debbie in Christian Ed, Roger in Youth Work, Leslie and Judy hard at work in the office. We’d be lost without Pat and Fred who keep our facilities and grounds maintained. Everyone has been very patient and helpful with this newcomer to the church’s life. The church could not have had a better president than Susan Hostage in this time of change. She has brought us through with flying colors. There is many a star in her crown.

My thanks to the congregation for the many gracious and warm ways you have made Patty and I feel welcome. It is a privilege to serve as the interim senior minister of First Congregational Church. This is a congregation that can soar in Christ’s service.

May the children of Israel go forward!

In Christ,
Dave Buchan

Formatted: Position: Horizontal: 306 pt,
Relative to: Page, Vertical: 2.5 pt, Relative to:
Paragraph

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

The year 2007 was one in which transition began to live out its full expression in our midst. By transition, I mean both the process and the time period in which we become ready to receive, not only a new senior minister, but a new youth minister, to conceive new ways of caring for our congregation: above all, to articulate a vision into which we can all enfold our ministries, time, and talents as stewards of the Gospel as we live and labor in God's world.

Pastoral care needs have been significant this past year. Sadly, we have lost to death an unusually high number of beloved members and friends. In this transition time I have found my ministry increasingly involved with listening carefully, answering questions, caring for those most impacted, and helping people deal with issues that arise whenever a settled system is disrupted through change.

Our transitions also impacted our long tradition (over 50 years) as a teaching congregation, a field education site for the Supervised Ministries Department at Yale Divinity School. In September 2006 I undertook supervision training to carry out the supervision of our student intern with Rick's departure. Unfortunately for us all, in the midst of so many changes our student decided to end her time with us in February, three months earlier than planned. With YDS, we have decided to not offer our church as a learning site until we are once again more settled.

In my 2006 annual report, I wrote of my temporarily setting aside portions of my call as Associate Minister for Parish Life for this one year to pick up *some* of the pieces of the Parish Care minister's job description as we waited to see what the future held for that position. The Parish Care committee has taken on much of the tasks of that job description and has worked tirelessly to keep watch over the various ministries begun by Donna Cassity and later expanded by Peggy Allen. I am continually thankful for our growing and compassionate Stephen Ministry, led by Sue Chatfield, with Karen Gravino and Frank Scinto. The Parish Care Committee has faithfully kept the vision of a "Congregation of Care" in front of us all. I now pick up again those things which I had set aside, and with there being no funding for the Parish Care position, a decision must be made as to how we will continue to support and grow our caring ministries.

In the midst of the needs made evident by transition, new work has also begun. The larger need of our congregation to know one another better that we might care for one another better was the impetus for the new work that I am calling, "The Congregation Project." This is a physical mapping out on a region-wide map, street by street, member by member and friend by friend, who we are and where we are, so that we can develop a systematic way of reaching out and knowing one another. With the help of volunteers, I anticipate implementing this system sometime this spring, involving the Deacons and our Caring Christian ministry. I believe this system will be of great help to our boards and committees in their work.

There has also been much to celebrate. In June members and friends served as a delegate, volunteers and visitors for General Synod--the every other year national gathering of the UCC celebrating, this time held in Hartford. Our congregation baked over 300 dozen cookies (!) in response to the call for hospitality. Our own David Brunetti, delegate representing the New Haven Association, was selected to be the presenter on stage at the Hartford Civic Center as the UCC celebrated its 50th birthday party--a very proud moment. In September we all warmly welcomed each other into the fall with Home Coming Sunday- organized through the Deacons and so capably carried out by a hardworking team. Throughout this summer, members and friends were asked to be on the look out for God, and to take a photo in response to the question, *Where Do You See God?* Over 65 photographs were submitted by photographers ages 5-95 for our first annual Photo Show and gala reception held on November 3. Later this fall, members and friends once again came out for Mission Day, organized by our Board of Outreach.

Formatted: Position: Horizontal: 306 pt,
Relative to: Page, Vertical: 2.5 pt, Relative to:
Paragraph

The team concept of people working on specific projects continues to make its positive impact on our congregations' life. The banner team made sets of banners for most of the church seasons, the Welcoming Team continues to grow the Greeter Ministry and introduced "Pew Pals" in our midst. The Parish Life Team looks at adult faith formation needs and practices and introduced this fall "Church Thursdays": a Thursday evening schedule of small groups, Parsonage Potlucks, a year-long series of all church dinners with special guests speaking on various topics, including a Christmas Carol sing. Each evening ended with evening prayers in the chapel that sent us home blessed by God.

I have had several opportunities this year for which I am thankful. In May I finished my two-year term as Moderator of the New Haven Association, and have begun a three-year-term serving on the Association's Committee on Ministry. I appreciate your support in serving the wider church. Also in May I attended the three-day conference *Church for the 21st Century* at the National Cathedral in Washington D.C. which focused on the ways in which mainline churches can experience renewal through practices of faith. This conference continues to inspire my thinking and ministry. In July I had the privilege of going on the youth mission trip to Lyons, New York. *Renovate: Change and Be Changed* was the theme for the week of hands-on work where I experienced the all-out dedication of our youth and adults working side by side in mission. Thanks all, for letting me drive the truck.

I continue to be thankful and blessed by your faithfulness and commitment to God's work. Our congregation is filled with so many gifted lay leaders working to discern our needs in this time and to listen for God's call to walk forward in faith. I am privileged to work with our staff: Dave, Debbie, Joe, Roger, Marianne, Leslie, (Martha again!) Judy, Fred and Pat. Each one reflects in their ministry a glimpse of the face of God, the reconciling work of Jesus, and the creative and transforming breath of the Holy Spirit.

Faithfully,
Alison McCaffrey

COMMISSIONED MINISTER OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

"All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the people of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17

This has been a year of transition and change for our church family. The Christian Education Ministry has also had change and transition. We have many gifted individuals who have served the Christian Education Ministry year after year. Some of these individuals have moved on to other areas of ministry or Sabbath time. This year we have been blessed with others from among the congregation, who have joined the Christian Education Ministry volunteer staff. We are very thankful to those who have served and to the newest volunteers.

Church School Year at a Glance:

Quality ministry flows out of the whole body of Christ and their commitment to the educational ministry of the church. Our Church School is blessed by the dedicated and committed teachers, shepherds, helpers, nursery caregivers and snack helpers who volunteer at each church school hour. Grace Knipe is so very faithful and dedicated to her ministry as the Church School Superintendent. We are blessed by the many ways she attends to the details of our Sunday morning church schools and special programs.

- Workshop Rotation Model, Bible Journeys, continues to thrive and encourage our elementary age youth in grades 2-6 to engage the Bible as it meets them in their lives.
- This is our final year with Bible Quest for our Preschool 3-1st grades as the curriculum has been discontinued. A Curriculum search team has been formed to select a new curriculum for this age group.

Formatted: Position: Horizontal: 306 pt,
Relative to: Page, Vertical: 2.5 pt, Relative to:
Paragraph

- **Special programs:** Children's Day, Silver Lake Promotion, 4th Grade Bible Preparation, Summer Church School, Communion Preparation, Advent Workshop and the annual Christmas Pageant are additional programs for this year. Many thanks to all who have used their gifts and talents to create these special programs for children.
- **Jr. High Church School** has had a revamping. We have moved to a pre-confirmation preparation curriculum. This consists of an interactive overview of the Old Testament for 2007-2008 Church School year and an interactive overview of the New Testament for 2008-2009 Church School year. This means that an entering 7th grader will spend two years in this program rotation encountering the main characters and scriptures of the Old and New Testament before Confirmation preparation in High School.

Nursery Care

Anne Dacey passed the torch of Nursery Coordinator to Elaine Daly. Elaine and the Nursery Committee continue to recruit and train our new caregivers and keep the nursery running smoothly. Thank you to all who volunteer in this ministry to our youngest members of our congregation.

Stepping Stones Ministry for 5th and 6th graders

This elementary youth group continues to thrive at its monthly meetings thanks to the leadership of Jim Parys, Deb Brown and Marge Williams. This group is the Stepping Stone Ministry for our YUTES program. They average about 10-15 youth each month.

Confirmation

Confirmation preparation has undergone change and transition as well this church year. I am leading this program for the first time. In the past it has been the Sr. Minister with me assisting. The Christian Education Board and Deacons created a small sub-committee to brainstorm with me how confirmation would continue this year. The new model for this year is for those preparing for confirmation to meet as a group once a month with some specific topics as well as a mission project. Mentors graciously agreed to begin the program in the fall instead of mid-way through the year. Youth are spending a longer time with their mentor developing a relationship and studying the Book of Luke together as well as many faith topics. Many thanks to those who have volunteered to form a relationship and help with the spiritual preparation of a Confirmand. This year we have 13 youth who are preparing to make a decision about confirmation this May.

Many thanks to Leslie Holmes Meyer and Judy Hines in the office for the many ways they support the Christian Education ministry. Thank you to Fred and Pat Turner for their ever faithful service and willingness to help with whatever task needs to be done for the Christian Education programs to run smoothly.

It is a privilege for me to participate with you in worship, confirmation, chapel leadership, and leadership of the various programs of our educational ministries. I am eternally grateful to all of the many volunteers that give of their time to share in ministry and create the wonderful nurturing atmosphere we have here in the First Congregational Church School. Without your dedication, talents and gifts we would not be able to minister to children and families.

Debbie Gravell

Formatted: Position: Horizontal: 306 pt, Relative to: Page, Vertical: 2.5 pt, Relative to: Paragraph

INTERIM DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES

This September saw another leadership change as I began in the position of Interim Director of Youth Ministries. The transition went smoothly as the previous director, Matt McCaffrey, had left everything in perfect order and was willing to spend as much time as needed to pass the reins. Implementation of the Safe and Nurturing policy was a primary focus. Medical kits were assembled and procedures were put in place to insure that as many safety contingencies as we could think of were planned for. We also began an on-going program of training for both the Youth Director and volunteer adults. We had formal training from the Red Cross in first aid, a presentation from DCF, and a program that addressed some of the psychological issues that face young people today. The training continues with topics taken from the Safety Manual being discussed at monthly Adult Volunteer meetings. A software program called "YouthTrak" was installed and brought up to speed by Matt as well.

My having been an adult volunteer for some time also facilitated the transition since the youth were already familiar with me. Also, the tireless efforts of those adults who volunteer their time most Sundays was a reason the program has been as successful as it's been this year. Attendance in both the Middle School and High School groups is up thanks to people like Joellyn Jason, Chris Cowles, Don Lee and others. Although more help is needed, many parents and other church members have stepped forward to provide rides and cook meals. I'd like to give special thanks to Carol-Lynn Murphy who coordinates the meal volunteers and to Charlene Black who is handling all the details of the Mission Trip thereby enabling me to concentrate on putting together meaningful programs.

The Youth Group is struggling with finances however. Overall dollars budgeted for Youth Ministries including salary, insurance, travel and outreach is down more than \$13,000 from last year. I realize that we've all had to tighten our belts but that's a very disappointing 35%. As anyone with older kids could tell you, teenagers are expensive. To keep them fully engaged takes more than a discussion every week. The retreats we attend and the yearly Mission Trip are critical to the program but are in jeopardy. Youth are paying a greater share than ever before and scholarships have been all but eliminated. We will do some fund raising but my feeling is that too much fund raising takes away from the primary mission of Christian growth and exploration.

Overall, I believe the Youth program to be headed in a very positive direction. We are blessed to have young people who are well behaved, trustworthy and genuinely interested in growing in their faith and in community with each other. It is my privilege to be a part of this process.

Roger Olander

MUSIC DIRECTOR

I am pleased to write this report reviewing the many wonderful happenings of the Music Board and the music program at First Church in 2007. 2007 was a busy year for both the board and the music program as we continued to provide music for all worship services on Sunday mornings and for services during Advent, Christmas, Holy Week, and Easter. The Senior Choir maintained its schedule of singing twice a month at both the 9:00 and 11:00 services. Membership remained strong and those who participated were incredibly dedicated. The choir remains the crux of the program, singing a diverse range of liturgical repertoire to enhance and inspire the worshipping experience for our congregation. Rehearsing weekly gave the choir a chance to learn approximately eight anthems per month as well as prepare music for additional services and events.

Two of the most prominent services in 2007 were our annual Memorial Music Sunday service and Candlelight Lessons & Carols. The Greater Middletown Chorale joined forces to present Brahms' choral masterwork, "Ein Deutsches Requiem," in April. This special Memorial Music Sunday was presented in the afternoon of Sunday, April 29 and we invited the entire Cheshire community and beyond to attend.

Formatted: Position: Horizontal: 306 pt, Relative to: Page, Vertical: 2.5 pt, Relative to: Paragraph

Pianists Allan Conway and Sara Kohane, organist Donald Funk, timpanist Michael Dobson, and soloists Sheri Hammerstrom and Paul Fletcher joined 110 combined voices for this special presentation of the Brahms. Then, the Senior Choir performed the Brahms with the Chorale in Middletown with full orchestra as part of its 30th anniversary season concert. This collaboration afforded both choirs to prepare and sing a major choral work in two locations that would have been impossible to undertake on their own. This undertaking brought singers together to learn and grow through music and faith, and inspired a tremendous sense of community.

Lessons & Carols was also presented on the third Sunday of Advent in the afternoon. Despite poor weather conditions, the service was well attended by church goers and people from the community. The service included the full nine traditional lessons and carols, with special decorations inside and outside the church. Yale graduate student, Christopher White, performed a half-hour recital before the service and accompanied it as well.

Once again, the music board raised nearly \$9,000 over and above its \$5,300 budget, by hosting concerts, recitals and special worship services outside the usual Sunday morning hours. In addition to supporting the program, we look on these activities as an important way that our church can reach out to the community at large. We have been pleased to see that a significant number of non-church members have continued to attend and enjoy musical offerings at First Church thereby increasing our church's visibility in the area.

Our summer "Music on the Green" concert was held indoors due to bad weather. However, nearly 100 people gathered in the parish hall to hear the band "Higher & Higher" and their lead singer, our own Jennifer France. This concert was sponsored by various local businesses and grants and was our second annual summer concert event. Due largely to the efforts of Jennifer France, this summer concert helped raise significant funds for the music program.

Patricia Barbano continues at First Church as our soprano section leader. She offers an additional soprano voice and leadership to the choir. Patricia participates as an ensemble singer, with warm-ups, special solo work, and coaching. She has been with First Church for nearly three years, and contributes enormously to the program and choir.

The Youth Choirs continue to introduce music in worship to our children and youth. Both the Primary and Junior Choirs sing once per month, as well as participate in the annual Christmas Pageant and Lessons & Carols. The Junior Choir is now providing music for the entire worship service every month when they sing. They sing one anthem and all of the hymns to help lead the congregation in song. Weekly rehearsals are well attended and inspire musical growth and development through learning.

The handbell choirs, under the direction of Marianne Beckmann, continued to involve adults and children in ringing for Sunday worship services once a month and at other special services and events. Adults and children alike continued to learn music through ringing under Marianne's fine leadership.

The Music Board and program would like First Church to be a welcoming place for other musicians, and has continued to encourage the use of our church for recitals. In 2007 we hosted an organ recital, given by three Oberlin Conservatory graduates: Sara Allen, Christopher White, and Noah Clarke. Also, professional harpist Grace Cloutier performed an afternoon recital with several musician friends from Yale. All of these fine young musicians played freely so that funds could be collected for the music program.

Thanks to the many talented singers and instrumentalists in the congregation, there is hardly a weekend or service at any point during the year that does not have someone offering music during worship. Even our

Formatted: Position: Horizontal: 306 pt,
Relative to: Page, Vertical: 2.5 pt, Relative to:
Paragraph

worship services in the summer feature soloists nearly every weekend. Once a month this summer, our Senior Choir sang during the Offertory.

2007 was a remarkable year in that the music program continued to expand and grow offering richer worship experiences and fulfillment to our congregation and the larger Cheshire community. Outreach through music remains a central vision and purpose to the Music Board as we continue to shape the program for the future. Through our music, we hope others in the community who are looking for a spiritual home might feel invited to walk through the doors of First Church to witness how much our church offers as a whole.

Joseph D'Eugenio
Music Director

HANDBELL CHOIR DIRECTOR

January 2007 found the bell choirs doing well with new members following through with rehearsals and once a month Sunday appearances with special music for Christmas and Easter.

Michelle Earley was our newest member who could not continue after the springtime but we saw some fine efforts from Charles Jones from springtime to December. The Advanced bells were playing quartets, trios and duets throughout the year and were especially committed to the program.

Our younger members made extraordinary advances with Hannah Rojas able to perform four in hand and Emma Lasher able to extend her skills to an advanced level. Kaitlin Cavallaro, Jillian Hissick and Caroline Thompson progressed into an intermediate level. Jarret Hissick also returned and started the year in January but had to relinquish his bell participation because of his hockey practices and games. Karalyn and Tyler Wright began the year with the bell choir and left the bells at the end of the school year. Alicia Gray anticipates rejoining after her sports commitments are fulfilled. Ann Marie Jurgilewicz and her mom Wendy (who left the advanced bell choir when she gave birth to her most recent child) were exceptional participants during their time with the bell choirs and when Ann Marie filled in on a part.

It has been an honor to work with the many (too many to list) fine young people who have passed through the bell/chimes program throughout these past years. The advanced (adult) bell choir members have been a joy and inspiration to me throughout and it is sad to see such a valuable adjunct to the church services be discarded. The bell program was eliminated in the most recent budget. The original reason given was that there were no funds available to sustain a salary. Most recently, the reason given was that there were not enough members in the bell choir to justify a continuance. As a result there was an infusion of funds from a generous member of the church and great concern about continuing the bell program. Members who gave the bells to the church as a memorial feel the action taken was unfair. Nevertheless, the future of the bell/chimes program is in great jeopardy; it seems that this will be the last end of the year report.

Marianne Beckmann

THE REVEREND BARBARA BARLOK

Report on the Four-way Covenant of the Rev. Barbara E. Barlok

The four parties of the Covenant of the Rev. Barbara E. Barlok are 1) the United Church of Christ (represented by the New Haven Association) 2) First Congregational Church of Cheshire 3) Interfaith Volunteer Care Givers of Greater New Haven (IVCG) and 4) Barbara.

Formatted: Position: Horizontal: 306 pt,
Relative to: Page, Vertical: 2.5 pt, Relative to:
Paragraph

My ministry is in the community as Executive Director of IVCG, a Friendly Visitor program established in 1984 by Interfaith Cooperative Ministries (ICM) in New Haven to assist older people by fostering independent living and reducing isolation. It is one of over 700 Faith in Action programs nationally. Volunteers of all ages from 25 affiliated congregations, Yale and Quinnipiac Universities, and the community are recruited, trained, and matched with older and disabled people who need visits, rides to medical appointments, assistance with grocery shopping, respite or reassuring telephone calls. About 300 volunteers provide 15,000 hours of service annually to about 400 recipients in 16 towns. About 80% of services are provided through faith communities.

IVCG coordinates the delivery of about 500 hot meals on Thanksgiving Day through ICM. FISH, Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen (DESK), the Community Soup Kitchen and IVCG collaboratively sponsor an annual fundraiser, Cook and Care Walk-A-Thon, in October.

The Rev. Arthur Yost, a retired United Methodist minister from West Haven, and Margret Hofmeister, a recent graduate of Union Seminary and lifetime member of the Branford UCC, recently filled two positions at IVCG after two staff members resigned in December.

In March, FCC hosted IVCG's third annual Talent Show, "On the Other Side of the Pew," for which IVCG is very grateful. About \$1000 was raised at the show, Josh Wyrzten, IVCG's student intern from Yale Divinity School, was so profoundly moved by his visitations with the Rev. Edmonds, retired pastor of Dixwell Congregational Church, that he initiated a new program at IVCG, "Divine Inheritance," which enables YDS students to benefit from the wisdom of retired clergy.

In September, IVCG honored the Rev. Ed Dobihal, retired Chaplain at Yale New Haven Hospital and his wife Shirley, for their loyalty and contributions to IVCG since 1984. Ed, Shirley and Florence Wald, who retired from the Yale School of Nursing, were responsible for bringing Hospice to the United States. The Dobihal Endowment Fund ensures future financing for IVCG.

Two hundred people attended this year's Spirituality and Aging conference of the Connecticut Interfaith Network on Aging at the Mercy Center. I have chaired the conference for about 20 years.

To honor my four-way covenant, I led worship services (including preaching) twice at the Woodbridge UCC in 2007, serving communion at one service. I officiated at the funeral for James Tabor at FCC and baptized Jennifer (Merrill) and Peter McFarland's two daughters at FCC, where Jennifer and Peter were married. I also officiated at a funeral in Stratford for a friend's mother.

There was no Elder Wisdom Sunday at FCC in 2007. I attended and volunteered at Synod in Hartford last summer.

The Rev. Barbara E. Barlok

STEPHEN MINISTRY

The Stephen Ministry at First Congregational Church has successfully completed its fourth year. A total of fifteen people have taken the required 50 hours of training. Four of these were trained in 2007. At present we have twelve active Stephen Ministers, most of whom have extended their commitment beyond the minimum of two years. One Stephen Minister is on leave of absence, and another moved out of state. We were all deeply saddened early in 2007 with the passing of Judy Ozdemirer. She was a wonderful addition to the Stephen Ministry and is missed greatly.

Formatted: Position: Horizontal: 306 pt, Relative to: Page, Vertical: 2.5 pt, Relative to: Paragraph

The following is specific data about the Stephen Ministry program for 2007:

- Number of care receivers assigned to Stephen Ministers	19
- Number of contacts made with care receivers	291
- Number of hours spent with care receivers	200.15

Types of issues care receivers are or were struggling with include:

Chronic illness, terminal illness, grieving the death of friends or family, loneliness, depression, job loss, adjustment to long term care or assisted living, marital difficulties, recovery from surgery, and caring for elderly family members.

This was the first full year of peer supervision of Stephen Ministers at our church. We meet the first and third Wednesday of each month with continuing education provided the first Wednesday, before supervision.

As part of our continuing education, Frank Scinto presented valuable information on how to prepare ourselves for incapacity and had available the necessary forms. He made another presentation on the Ministry to the Dying and Their Families. Judith Kopman-Fried led a very informative discussion on the issues children face when parents divorce. I lead the presentation on Dealing with Losses Related to Age.

This year Stephen Ministers were involved in other areas of our church life. Some were able to assist during the transition period with pastoral care visits. They also assist the Deacons with flower delivery the first Sunday of each month. Two Stephen Ministers participated in the leadership of a Bereavement Group that met this fall. This endeavor to reach out to the congregation was well received. In the Sunday bulletin, one of the Top Ten Reasons for Becoming a Stephen Minister was printed each week. Informational meetings for those who expressed an interest in the Stephen Ministry were held. Four of those have made the commitment to begin the 50 hours of training, beginning in January.

In order to begin to reach out to the community, invitations were sent to several local churches to come and learn more about this Christian care giving lay ministry. While the response was limited, seeds have been planted and hopefully, they can be nourished and begin to grow in the future.

This has been a busy year and I am very thankful for the dedication and commitment of all those who answered God's call to become Stephen Ministers to care for those among us who are experiencing difficulties in their lives.

Sue Chatfield
Stephen Ministry Coordinator

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Change for our church began in a big way in 2006 and continued in 2007. The changes were the most obvious in staffing. We began 2007 with the farewell to the Reverend Rick Dacey, his wife Anne and their three children as they left to meet Rick's call to Australia. Rick had devoted a total of 10 years to our church, six of them as senior minister. Very shortly after Rick's departure, we welcomed the Reverend Dave Buchan as our interim senior minister. Dave has served our congregation well this year by providing stability during this time of transition.

Shortly after Dave's arrival, the Senior Minister Search Committee was called. The group, which has been meeting weekly since February, made significant progress in a process which is expected to take at least 18 months. Staff transitions and interims continued throughout the year in a number of other positions. The Interim Director of Youth Ministries role was first held by the Reverend Matt McCaffrey

Formatted: Position: Horizontal: 306 pt,
Relative to: Page, Vertical: 2.5 pt, Relative to:
Paragraph

and then church member Roger Olander, assumed the role upon Matt's departure. Leslie Holmes Meyer and Judith Hines assumed the vacated positions of church administrator and office assistant respectively. The open position of Parish Care Minister was not filled due to budget considerations but in the meantime, our Associate Minister, Alison McCaffrey, assumed portions of the role for the year. We owe a great deal to our staff for their resilience in a time of change!

In 2006, a number of priorities had been identified for 2007, including improving communications throughout the church and developing a plan for our future. Improving communications, as recommended by the Communications Task Force, included plans to increase the amount of information sharing regarding activity within the church. The Executive Board, through the terrific work of the Clerk, Christine Albrecht, began providing monthly summaries of the Board's work in the Parish Post. Other boards followed suit by providing more information in both the Parish Post and the Sunday bulletin. A second recommendation from 2006 had been to determine the actual membership of the church. Ruth MacDonald Pownall and the Ad Hoc Membership Team devoted many hours to this project and thanks to them, the church now has an updated membership list which is 800 strong. Many thanks to Henry McNulty and the Communications Task Force for their recommendations and follow-up work.

One of the other identified priorities, that of planning for our future, was orchestrated through a team chaired by Bob Mead. This team, made up of new members and long-time members, canvassed the congregation in a variety of ways. In short, they found that church members were not ready to make significant changes and therefore a comprehensive strategic plan was not to be accomplished at this time. It was recommended that we postpone attempting to implement any strategic plan until we have less "transitioning" and more stability.

2007 also brought the identified need for a Response Team to conduct an investigation concerning an event which took place several years ago. As a result of the work done by that team, Regine Hahn-Selzer, Debra Bond, Ford Cole and Susan Hostage, a number of concerns were raised about systems and policies as related to safe practices within the church. Many recommendations were made to the Executive Board, one of which was the creation of a Safe Church Committee. This team, which is chaired by Ann Giddings, has as its members, Alex Demac, Jill Gibbs, Bill Eagleson and Lynn Ryan. The team's task includes the following: to confirm that we are meeting our policies regarding safety; to identify gaps in our safe practices throughout the church and; recommend the creation of new policies or systems.

Also of import to the church was the focus on the budget. Part way through the year the Executive Board determined that in order to call a new senior minister, the church needed to offer a salary which was commensurate with those of other similar churches. This meant a significant increase in the salary package for both the senior minister and the associate minister. These increases, although very important for the future of the church, meant that the rest of the budget for 2008, was affected. Although the pledges for the year were up, both in dollars and numbers of pledges (thanks to great work by Stewardship) the budget (many thanks for the hours of work done by Walt Ryan, Betsy Barber and Sara Buell) as presented at the December budget meeting included a significant decrease in dollars for Outreach, a decrease in hours for the Director of Youth Ministries, and no funding for the Parish Care Minister or the Director of the Handbell Choir. Plans are underway for increasing our pledging for next year so we are able to return the funding of these ministries to our church programs and services.

Amidst all of the activity described thus far, the good works of our church flourished throughout the year. Whether it was the continuation of traditions such as the beautiful music ministry of Memorial Music Sunday, the Yutes Mission Trip and the many small group endeavors or the new programs like Homecoming, Church Thursdays (potluck and presentations) and Pew Pals (small stuffed animals to welcome our youngest members), we were blessed with the opportunity to respond to God's call. May we continue on that road, preparing the way of the Lord, in the coming year.

Formatted: Position: Horizontal: 306 pt,
Relative to: Page, Vertical: 2.5 pt, Relative to:
Paragraph

The Executive Board is made up of representatives from all of the boards, designated representatives of church committees, the church clerk, the president, the senior minister, and associate minister. Many thanks to those who served on the Executive Board this past year: Walt Ryan, Treasurer, Christine Albrecht, Clerk, Robert Mead, Trustees, Howard Murphy, Deacons, Lynn Ryan, Christian Education, Addie Marx, Women's Fellowship, Beth Ross, Outreach, Bob Giddings, Music, Bob Porter, Personnel, Laura Whinfield, Stewardship, Kathy Duffendack, At Large, Dennis Lape, At Large, and Mark Hall, At Large, the Reverend Alison McCaffrey and Interim Senior Minister, Dave Buchan.

Susan D. Hostage
President

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

During the course of the year, the Board of Stewardship made great efforts to review and re-examine both the current status and recent history of pledging by the Members of the Church. Members of the Board were deeply involved with the review and confirmation of the list of active members of the Church, which resulted in the amount of members being reduced from an estimate of around 1100 to a confirmed amount of about 800 members.

In light of the more accurate reflection of the membership, the Board of Stewardship spent the first half of 2007 exploring the status of pledging at the Church and brainstorming ways to improve both the amounts of the pledges as well as the amounts of members participating in the pledging process. As most members of the Church are well aware, the Church is in a time of significant transition resulting from departure of key members of the clergy leadership, most significantly the loss of our Senior Minister. The Board of Stewardship recognized this transition, as well the resulting palpable feelings of uncertainty and unhappiness of many members of the Church. The Board of Stewardship took up the task of attempting to maintain, if not increase, pledging by the membership in light of these difficult circumstances.

While not wanting to greatly change the pledge "process," the members of the Board of Stewardship reviewed a book called *Ask. Thank. Tell* by Charles R. Lane. The gist of the book is two-fold. First, that the focus of pledging should not be about meeting a budget, but approaching and advocating for pledging by the membership as a means to bring them closer to God. A Faith Commitment of Finances as it were. Second, the book advocated methods of seeking pledges by actively asking for pledges, thanking the membership for pledges, and to the extent acceptable to Church leadership, telling the membership about the pledging. Portions of these techniques were incorporated into the pledge process in the Fall of 2007, and the Board of Stewardship plans on expanding its use of these methods and the ideas set forth in the book in 2008.

In addition to the above, members of the Board of Stewardship analyzed in great detail the past pledging history of members, grouping members into pledging "types," and devised group specific means to contact, inform, and ask the members in these particular groups in regard to their pledging for 2008. This tailored approach, while resulting in upsetting a few members, seemed to be accepted by the membership. What cannot be disputed is the increase in total pledges to approximately \$645,000 and the amount of members pledging from 2007 to 2008 from 303 to 325.

The Board of Stewardship looks forward to continuing its efforts and advocating the pledging ideas in *Ask. Thank. Tell* and continuing to fine tune its approach and techniques to help the membership continue to grow closer to God in how it views and carries out its pledging.

Anthony R. DePaolo, Chair

Formatted: Position: Horizontal: 306 pt,
Relative to: Page, Vertical: 2.5 pt, Relative to:
Paragraph

BOARD OF DEACONS

It has been said that there is nothing more constant than change, but we cannot become what we want to be by staying as we are! This year was certainly filled with change that can provide the opportunity for tremendous growth and the Deacons were “in the thick” of much of the activity. As Senior Deacon, I was blessed to work with a wonderful group of dedicated and caring souls. It is my honor to thank the members of this vital Board: Assistant Senior Deacon Ford Cole; Secretary Nancy Brunetti; Treasurer Jim Louys; Corresponding Secretary Robin Sellati; Reception Coordinator Jackie Cole; Communion Co-Chairs Susan Mancinelli and Joy Deegan; Scholarship Committee Elsa Bradford and Don Lee (Don was also Video Liaison); Donna Mead represented Parish Care; Tony Farina assisted with Flower delivery until his business moved out of state, and he was replaced by Peter Gadsby; and, Youth Deacon Jessica Black became a nice mid-year addition. I can not thank this team enough for all its hard work and inspiration.

The Deacons enjoyed their traditional Deacon duties throughout the year. We were privileged to serve communion on the first Sunday of each month, delivered flowers each week to members of our congregation, attended to those in need due to illness, loss or, on a brighter note, celebration of a happy occasion, and sent cards and notes to the sick or infirmed. In the absence of a Parish Care Minister, we also assisted Alison and the Parish Care Committee with some of their very important endeavors.

In January, the Deacons hosted the “Farewell Reception” for Rick Dacey and his family. Although a very somber reason for a gathering, it was a great event that marked the beginning of a transition for the First Church. Of particular significance was one of Rick’s parting comments that this change was not about him, but instead about “our walk with Christ”. This thought became a frequent phrase uttered by Deacons responding to the congregants’ concerns over Rick’s departure and was a comfort to many.

The Deacons were then charged with forming Search Committees for a new Interim and a Senior Minister. Soon after, Dave Buchan was selected and welcomed to FCC with open arms. The Deacons also voted to change Alison’s title to “Associate Minister” and changed the title of “Associate Minister for Parish Care” to “Parish Care Minister”.

Throughout this transitional year, the Deacons assisted Debbie Gravell with the Confirmation process as it relates to CE and the Youth Ministry. We approved Debbie’s request for changing the process while she is overseeing the program. The Deacons also began work with the Ad Hoc Membership Committee to aid in determining the true membership of the church. As part of the by-laws revision this year, the Deacons approved the “Doxology” version of the Statement of Faith.

Perhaps our most enjoyable task, however, was being an integral part of planning and orchestrating our first “Homecoming”, an event that also honored our congregation’s 50-year members! This great affair included representation from every generation. Beautiful weather complimented the wonderful bounty of great food as lively jazz music filled the air! The afternoon then culminated with a celebration of vespers. This occasion was a true celebration of our church community and a testament to the unity we can possess as a congregation. We thoroughly enjoyed several other activities, such as the “Washing of the Feet” on Ash Wednesday and the wonderful special Thanksgiving Service, to name a few.

I firmly believe that our “glass is half full” and, although at times the road becomes bumpy, it offers us a tremendous opportunity for growth. We are all human, filled with human wants and desires. Our walk with the Lord, however, is about Unity and Community, with no one need greater than another. May we remain ever mindful of our greater purpose and enjoy the journey!

Formatted: Position: Horizontal: 306 pt,
Relative to: Page, Vertical: 2.5 pt, Relative to:
Paragraph

I thank you for the fantastic opportunity to have served you as Senior Deacon over this past year and look forward to a very competent Ford Cole assuming that role in 2008.

I wish you peace,

Howard S. Murphy, Jr.

Deacon's Treasurer Report

2007 Consolidated

Fund Name	1/1/2007 Begin Balance	Contributions Received	Interest Earned	Disperse	12/31/2007 End Balance
<i>Memorial</i>	\$7,235.67	\$2,504.00	\$556.30	\$2,182.96	\$8,113.01
<i>S.B. France</i>	\$887.61		\$73.35		\$960.96
<i>All Saints Scholarship</i>	\$2,506.87	\$225.00	\$645.59	\$1,500.00	\$1,877.46
<i>T. Clark Fund</i>	\$235.69		\$70.82		\$306.51
<i>Mary Hotchkiss</i>	\$1,757.90		\$1,873.42	\$25.00	\$3,606.32
<i>Emerson</i>	\$482.96		\$354.70		\$837.66
<i>Stephen Ministry</i>	\$0.00	\$150.00			\$150.00
Total:	\$13,106.70	\$2,879.00	\$3,574.18	\$3,707.96	\$15,851.92

Gifts Received

Memorial
Gifts: \$2,495.00

Gifts given in memory of: Wally Darling
Lois Armbruster
Judy Ozdemirer
Dale Miller
Margaret and John
Meyer
Phyllis Eddy
Roger Waszmer
Maerita Guertin
Ruth Kurtz
Dorothy Shultz
Wesley Alexander

Scholarship
Gifts \$225.00

Trust Fund Income: \$3,574.18

Other Income: \$159.00

Formatted: Position: Horizontal: 306 pt,
Relative to: Page, Vertical: 2.5 pt, Relative to:
Paragraph

Significant Allocations

Scholarships:	\$1,500.00
Pew Cushions:	\$1,596.10
All Other:	\$611.86

Ad Hoc Fund Handling

Staff Gifts:	Income:	\$4,255.00	
	Expenditures:	<u>\$4,240.00</u>	
	Balance:	\$15.00	(to Memorial Fund)

BOARD OF OUTREACH

Meetings were held the 4th Tuesday of each month.

Praise the Lord for the active members and friends of First Congregational Church of Cheshire.

The 2007 Board consisted of Leah Sanders, Matt McCaffrey, Lisa Canas, Amy Webb-Mower, Gretchen Bates, Joy Biggart, Kerrie Dunne and Chris Fitzmaurice. Alison McCaffrey served as liaison to the staff and was our guiding light. This year Matt McCaffrey set up an internet discussion site for Outreach members. Alison McCaffrey initiated the Salt & Light Grants born from Matthew 5:13-16. In January 2008 she will commission the first two recipients of the grants. Gretchen Bates brought fair trade coffee to our church coffee hours and hopefully in the future for sale at the coffee hours. Leah Sanders read through all our mail, putting it in order, and making sense of it. Chris Fitzmaurice, Treasurer kept the outreach budget straight. Thank you board members for your commitment to outreach.

There were many unsung outreach heroes in 2007: We have had anonymous individuals come forward with monetary donations to cover budget decreases.

Jan Cowles, our Covenant-to Care coordinator, and her family planned church collections of: Easter Baskets; Thanksgiving Day Dinners; Christmas presents; and special requests of household items and clothing throughout the year.

Jan Garthwait and helpers, four times in 2007, organized, delivered and served dinner at Columbus House. The meatloaves, potatoes, and desserts were provided by members and friends of church.

Team Steeplechase raised over \$12,000 for the American Cancer Society's, "Relay ~~F~~For Life". Led by Betsy Adams, Rich Grudzias and Carol Ploch, the committee held several fund raisers; a tea, ongoing book sale, a huge tag sale, teacup auction, and collected pledges. During the actual "Relay For Life" there was a person on the track at all times from "Team Steeplechase"--even in the pouring rain!

Each first Sunday of the month over 250 food items were collected for the Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministry's food pantry. But in the summer months our counts were down. G.W.I.M. put out a plea for food. Their shelves were empty, due to children not being in school and receiving lunches, and donations

Formatted: Normal

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

Formatted: Position: Horizontal: 306 pt,
Relative to: Page, Vertical: 2.5 pt, Relative to:
Paragraph

of food were fewer. A mass appeal went out to the church and you came through. But two young ladies went the extra mile. Hannah and Emma Louys made up flyers asking for food donations and brought them around their neighborhood. They collected 20 bags full of groceries!

At our first annual "Homecoming" in September we collected personal supplies for our troops and filled in post cards that we shipped off to our military to show our support.

The Third Annual Mission Day took place in October. About 20 people traveled to two different locations: Sovereignty Place and Chrysalis, where we painted, raked leaves, cleaned and much more. We also had the opportunity to talk to residents of the shelters.

The church continued to support the Malawi Mission started by Amy Webb-Mower. The mission helps children in a village in Malawi, Africa whose parents have died from Aids. In November Robin Sellati and friends put on a wonderful free-will offering concert to benefit the Malawi Mission. There are also 20 individuals/families who sponsor a child from the village. Many people donated their can/bottle deposit slips, five cents goes a long way in Malawi.

These are just a few of our heroes. Please keep doing Jesus' work, for as it is written in Matthew 25:37-40 Then the good people will answer, "Lord when did we see you hungry and give you food? When did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you alone and away from home and invite you into our house? When did we see you without clothes and give you something to wear? When did we see you sick or in prison and care for you?" Then the King will answer, "I tell you the truth. Anything you did for any of my people here, you also did for me."

In addition to Mission Day, the Board continued the ongoing financial support of 25 organizations and the United Church of Christ "Our Church's Wider Mission". We allocated discretionary funds to a number of other causes including several families in need, Yutes mission trip, and start-up funds for Heifer Project, purchased a generator for Taeria Foundation in Haiti, sent monies to St. Vincent DePaul Mission of Waterbury's "Left Outside of the Gate", and financial support to flood victims.

In the coming years, we hope to continue the expansion of Outreach, not only by supporting the individuals and groups who reach out in different ways (Columbus House dinners, Small Groups ministries, food donations, soup kitchen coverage, and the many wonderful efforts through Covenant-to-Care) but also to inspire new ways of reaching out like Mission Day.

The 2008 Board is getting ready for another year, and encourages congregational participation and input to expand and grow the vision of being a Congregation of Outreach.

The Board and many members of the congregation have been disappointed with the erosion of the percentage of the church budget devoted to outreach. In the 2008 budget there will be a dramatic decrease in absolute terms from \$100,000 (2005) to \$25,000 (2008). In 2007 the church supported UCC "Our Church's Wider Mission" with a \$24,000 commitment. 2008? We understand that this is due to the inclusion of other necessary expenses (operations and maintenance) as well as desirable expenses (salary increases for the staff). Our unhappiness with this situation is not born of jealousy or pride but rather of the realization that those in need will receive less.

We can (and will) do more with less in the coming year with the active support of the congregation. We will seek to improve the communication of the outreach message not only within the congregation but also in the wider community. We will increase the opportunities for the congregation to give of their time

Formatted: Position: Horizontal: 306 pt, Relative to: Page, Vertical: 2.5 pt, Relative to: Paragraph

and talents through Mission Days and other venues. We will endeavor to lead the congregation with the spirit of abundance, not scarcity.

Again thank you to the Outreach Board and to all who reached out to others.

Beth Ross, Chairperson

BOARD OF MUSIC

A hearty and loving thank you to all of the dedicated members of the Board of Music, Senior Choir, Children's Choirs, Handbell Choirs, and directors Joseph D'Eugenio and Marianne Beckmann for a most inspiring and up-lifting music and worship experience this past year.

As Joe outlined in his annual report, we accomplished many things in 2007 to enhance and sustain growth to the music programs for our members and for our broader community. We also discovered more ways to raise our own funds to support the program. For the past four years, we have endured little or no increase to our budget, yet we've remained dedicated to our vision providing fresh and new ideas to enhance our music and worship.

In 2003, when we were looking for 'our Joe', we set forth a "Vision of Music in the Church" not only to guide us with our search for a new Music Director, but to set forth goals for growth in the music programs for the coming years. Since 2003 under Joe's caring hands, the music programs have accomplished some very wonderful things, including attracting new members to the church and involving the wider community in special music celebrations. In this annual report, I would like to share this 'vision' with you.

Vision of Music in the Church

At First Congregational Church of Cheshire, music is another aspect of the Word – of God, to God and with God. It inspires us, it channels our feelings in worship, and it teaches us a communal discipline. It also connects us with our diverse Christian heritage through singing of hymns and responses, through performance of more substantial choral and instrumental works and through the encompassing swell of the organ.

In a Music Director, we seek:

A leader of Music –

- a) Selecting music that is not only challenging from a performance perspective, but also creates an appreciation of music history from the traditional to the more modern and the Christian message therein.*
- b) Directing people by inspiring them to participate, in groups and individually, as well as to listen using good interaction and being a proponent of the programs.*
- c) Challenging not only the choirs with substantive works, but also the congregation by exposure to different types and styles of music.*

A minister of the word – able to team and coordinate with the pastors in planning services and has a vision for such worship, which can bring people together in an expression of their faith.

An accomplished performance artist – one who has experience on both the piano and organ and has a knowledge of the instruments.

A music scholar – has a knowledge of the diverse traditions of religious music, both traditional and more recent trends.

Formatted: Position: Horizontal: 306 pt,
Relative to: Page, Vertical: 2.5 pt, Relative to:
Paragraph

An accomplished director of musical groups – this would encompass both adult and children’s groups; people skills are a must so as to inspire continued involvement as well as garnering new interest.

A manager – ability to supervise specifically the bell choir leader and potentially other small group leaders.

Under this new leadership, several goals are seen to be possible in the next five (5) years:

- To continue and possibly expand the integral part which music plays in our worship.
- To grow the music program(s) through increased involvement in the hope of reawakening members to a deeper faith.
- To grow potentially with instrumental groups or individuals as a variation to the norm and to pursue a further openness about our faith toward each other.

May God bless you and keep you. Thank you for your continued support to the music programs. Peace be with you all in 2008.

Jennifer France, Chair

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

To begin this report, may I say Happy New Year to You All! The past one was a difficult year and at the same time productive one for the Board of Christian Education. As most of you are aware we had many hurdles to overcome and changes to deal with in 2007. I can say with confidence and pride, that with great faith, the wonderful people on this board managed to deal with much sadness and extreme pressures and end the year in a place of joy and new beginnings.

The Board spent countless hours meeting to revamp and finalize the Safe and Nurturing Policy. I am happy to report that this Policy and the Youth Safety Manual and Policy are now complete, have been approved by the UCC, our Executive Board, and Christian Education Board, and have been distributed to the proper individuals and various locations throughout the church. We are pleased with the outcome. This Herculean task took much time, energy and the loyal commitment of everyone who worked so tirelessly to get these documents completed.

-At the same time, the regular business of Christian Education carried on. Sunday Church School went on with the help of all the wonderful volunteers we depend on so much. We have carried on with all the normal Christian Education events throughout the year. These include: the Fourth Grade Bible Potluck, Lenten Programming, Children’s Day and Teacher Appreciation, Youth Sunday, Church School Kick-Off, Third Grade Potluck, Confirmation Classes and Stepping Stones to name a few.

This has also been a transitional year as we continue to search for a permanent Director of Youth Ministries. We had Glenn Root move on and Matt McCaffrey graciously filling in as Interim Youth Director. When it came time for Matt to move on, a Search Committee was in place to find a permanent DYM. This has been a challenge and now we have called Roger Olander as our Interim DYM and he is working very hard to keep our YUTES continuing on in faith, fun and “Spirit”. The search continues and we pray we will have a permanent DYM in the near future.

The year ended with several Mission Projects (UNICEF and the Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes) and of course, our spectacular Christmas Pageant. Those of us in the audience were treated to a beautiful

Formatted: Position: Horizontal: 306 pt, Relative to: Page, Vertical: 2.5 pt, Relative to: Paragraph

pageant that came off flawlessly! We owe huge thanks to the director and costumer of the event--Linda Milton. You are amazing and truly a gift to this church!

I want to thank all the outgoing board members--you know who you are--we will miss you! We are looking forward to welcoming our new members in January and February. It is said that many hands make light work: well, this year fewer hands worked harder on this board and are appreciated.

The Board of Christian Education is looking forward to 2008 in hopes of it bringing a productive one that will focus on curriculum and on bringing our children and youth a new and faith-building experience.

“Whoever will be great among you, let him be your servant”. Matt. 20:26

Lynn Ryan

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Your Board of Trustees enjoyed a productive and busy year. Among the highlights of this board-year were the re-staffing of the church office, the negotiated agreement with the Town of Cheshire concerning the re-paving of Church Drive, continued restoration of the parsonage, and continued care of the buildings and grounds.

Long-time and faithful church secretary Jessie Waszmer retired in March 2007. Upon her retirement, the position was re-scaled from 30 hours per week to 20 hours per week with a provision to hire a second part-time office assistant. The second position would not be filled, however, until we have validated specific requirements that were not being met after the scale-back of total administrative hours. Judith Hines was selected to take on the duties and responsibilities left by departing Jessie Waszmer.

In June 2007, Church Administrator Judith Monarca resigned and the search began to fill this vacancy. In the interim, former Church Administrator, Martha Lape returned to her former position, assisted with the training of Judith Hines and kept the office running throughout the summer months.

After a protracted search process, Leslie Holmes Meyer became the new full-time Church Administrator. Leslie joins us with impressive academic and professional credentials, relevant work experience and a positive, up-beat attitude. She hit the ground running and has had a positive impact on the effectiveness and efficiency of the church administrative staff.

Thanks to talented help of highly skilled volunteers, we were able to continue to concentrate on upgrades and restoration of the parsonage. Chimneys were repaired and the upstairs bathroom was renovated, well under budget. Resurfacing of the hard wood floors and repairs to the porches and porch steps remain on the list of tasks that will soon make the parsonage ready for occupancy. In the interim, the parsonage has been used for a gathering place for fellowship, meals and small group discussions.

In anticipation of the arrival of a new Senior Minister, the parsonage will be in “move in” condition. In the event that the new minister opts not to live in the parsonage, the Trustees have completed an analysis of other suitable uses for this facility. For cash-flow reasons, converting this building to leased property is currently at the top of the list.

The grounds and building exterior continued to receive care and attention. The annual spring and fall clean up sessions were successful, as well as the efforts of professional tree care to prune, trim and help preserve our stand of 158 trees located on our campus-like setting. In addition, the northern exterior of

Formatted: Position: Horizontal: 306 pt, Relative to: Page, Vertical: 2.5 pt, Relative to: Paragraph

the Chapel was serviced to correct the pitch of the extended roof which led to problems in the exterior painting. Finally, an additional storm drain was installed between the chapel and the Whiting House in an effort to prevent recurring flooding problems during periods of heavy rains.

Robert C. Mead, Chair

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Phyllis Balsler, Sharon Brenneman, Jan Cowles, Pam Euerle, Karen Gravino, Gary Rowe and Julie Witte

1. We submitted a revision of our committee for By-Law review.
Purpose:
The Membership Committee shall assist the church in inviting, sustaining and nurturing active and faithful membership.
2. We held a new member orientation on March 3 with a hosted reception on March 18. New members included:
Chris and Michelle Barbour, Jamie and Traci Fanning, Tom and Arleen Reid, Irma Stronkowski, Adeline Aurumainayagam, Kathena Nenninger and Jeannine Heavens
3. A second new member orientation was held on October 6 with a reception held on October 21. New members included:
George Albanese, Carol Cummings, Kent and Abby Hurlburt and Lucinda Orsini
4. In reviewing the effectiveness of the Shepherd program, we have determined that not all joining members desire a match. Respecting each individual, we are now asking each person or couple if they would like to be matched with a Shepherd.
5. We have found the Potluck Dinners a resounding success. This is a dinner hosted by the committee to more fully welcome new members into the church family. It also offers a personal connection in a relaxed atmosphere.
6. Goals for '08 include:
 - Church directory of some description to include photos
 - Manual for membership
 - Fine-tuned manual/resource guide for new members (contents need updating)
 - Membership outreach (the old, the new and the in-between)

Our committee realizes the honor and privilege it is to be part of one's journey into membership. Each member has offered much energy, passion, and heart in creating a community within the committee and within the church. Thank you for all that you do.

Jan Cowles Julie Witte
Co-Chairs

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Fellowship Committee's primary role is to provide for refreshments at Coffee Hour. The hosting responsibility is shared by the boards and small groups that exist in our church. This year we have worked toward achieving the following goals:

1. The creation of a calendar of assignments that will remain constant from year to year so that a group will always know when their hosting Sunday is.

Formatted: Position: Horizontal: 306 pt,
Relative to: Page, Vertical: 2.5 pt, Relative to:
Paragraph

2. The adherence to our philosophy that a group host only once (*An exception is Membership who hosts on the two Membership Sundays*)
3. The creation of opportunity for people who are not involved in a small group or board to participate. This has been done by continuing with Alphabet Sunday. A new initiative has been to ask the parents of our children in Sunday School to host.

Marianne Eagleson

FLOWER COMMITTEE

The 2007 Flower Committee consisted of Karin Arai, Kelly Bunn, Ruth Gleeton, Sharon Graver (Chair), Lynn Hackett, Jenell Janes, Marge Kemp, Lori Mann and Karen Pettit.

The purpose of the Flower Committee is to coordinate the donation of the flowers that are given in honor of and in memory of family and friends and to arrange for the presence of flowers for weekly services and special events. A brief meeting was held on February 11 to set up a schedule for the callers/runners and plan special events. A description of the positions was handed out and explained. The flower committee also hosted the coffee hour with flower donation signup for 2007 during the February 18 Service.

At both Easter and Christmas we had people sign up for flowers and we had them delivered. As members in our congregation have plant farms, we will continue to work with two different farms each year; one for Easter and one for Christmas.

Again this past year we set up special arrangements for Palm Sunday, working with Alison McCaffrey. Flowers and palms were specially arranged with palms hung from the balcony. Eighty lilies were purchased for Easter.

At Christmas, the committee received donations for 87 poinsettias. Most of the flowers were distributed to the sick and shut-ins.

During the year, various donations (including interest from the Fred Bens fund) were received from church members and friends to be used for flower donations and decorations. The committee decided to use a portion of the donations to buy new greens to be used in 2008.

The committee continues to be fulfilled by the work that they do. With our assistance, those who are sick or shut-in receive flowers weekly, not just during the holidays. They brighten the lives of many.

Sharon Graver

HISTORY COMMITTEE

In the 1930's eleven volumes of our church's permanent records were microfilmed. The original documents were given to the Connecticut State Library in Hartford for safe-keeping in its controlled environment while we maintain a copy in our record storage. Modern technology enables us to undertake this task in a more cost-effective and user-friendly manner than was possible previously. By converting the records to digital form, they become readily available to anyone with a CD/DVD player. Digital form also permits us to develop means to efficiently retrieve a record when needed.

The committee in 2007 had a 435 page book of the records from the early 1900's converted to a CD. Next year the committee will be developing a plan to finance the conversion of *more* of our records.

Formatted: Position: Horizontal: 306 pt,
Relative to: Page, Vertical: 2.5 pt, Relative to:
Paragraph

First, we need to digitize the records from the one produced in 2007 up to the present time. Then we can go back to the older records that were archived on microfilm - a less useful method, but the best available in the 1930's.

The committee will also be evaluating ways to make the digitized records as user-friendly as possible.

Here are some of the activities that we want to record for those who will look back at what happened at the First Congregational Church of Cheshire in 2007:

1. In early January, the Rev. Richard Dacey resigned to accept a call to a parish in Australia. We have welcomed the Rev. David Buchan as our Interim Senior Minister. His inspiring, yet down-to-earth sermons have done much to keep First Congregational Church moving forward in service to Christ in Cheshire.
2. Supervision and continuing education for the Stephen Ministry program, led by Sue Chatfield, has been moved to our Church this year. Previously, our Stephen Ministers had to go to Southington Congregational Church for their supervision.
3. Upon the retirement of Jessie Waszmer in March, Judith Hines was hired to fill the position of Office Assistant and in September Leslie Holmes Meyer was hired to fill the position of Church Administrator on the retirement of Judy Monarca.
4. Our youth program was very effectively led by Interim Director of Youth Ministry, the Rev. Matthew McCaffrey through August, and is now being led by Roger Olander.
5. We continue to have an outstanding music program led by Joseph D'Eugenio. For Memorial Music Sunday, the Senior Choir joined with the Greater Middletown Chorale in a presentation of the Brahms Requiem.
6. New this year was the blessing of parishioner's crèches during Advent.

Richard A. Eppler
Historian

CHESHIRE INTERFAITH HOUSING COMMITTEE

Vera Keane's donated home was renovated by volunteers and sold to a family who immigrated from Iran. Fashid Hakim, a member of First Congregational Church of Cheshire, is their sponsor through Interfaith Refugee Ministries in New Haven. The family graciously hosted a Mid-Eastern luncheon for CIH volunteers. This was the sixth affordable home that CIH has developed in Cheshire.

CIH is currently looking for affordable housing projects in Cheshire, either new construction or renovated. Finding suitable affordable land is the most critical issue. Barbara Barlok and Glenn Nowie represent First Congregational Church on the CIH Board of Directors. Bill Grime deserves our thanks for his many years of service on the CIH.

The Rev. Barbara Barlok

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Formatted: Position: Horizontal: 306 pt,
Relative to: Page, Vertical: 2.5 pt, Relative to:
Paragraph

This year the Personnel Committee was engaged in a variety of activities consistent with a congregation in transition. As you are all aware, the year started with the departure of our Senior Minister, which followed the departure of our Director of Youth Ministries during the preceding year. The committee's focus was on the following items:

- Meeting with individual members of our staff to offer assistance in a difficult environment.
- Analyzing current market conditions for ministerial compensation and recommending an appropriate amount of salary and benefits to offer a settled Senior Minister.
- Assisting as needed in the hiring of an Office Administrator and an Interim Director of Youth Ministries.
- Participating in an exit interview for our initial Interim Director of Youth Ministries.
- Conducting reviews of procedures and performances as requested by the Executive Board.

While this has again been a particularly busy year for the Personnel Committee, we are hopeful that 2008 will allow us to spend more time anticipating the implication of personnel policies and procedures as opposed to reacting to immediate needs.

I would finally like to take this opportunity to thank all committee members for their work during this past year.

Bob Porter
Chair

DELEGATES-CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE AND NEW HAVEN ASSOCIATION

Our church is part of a larger fellowship of believers who meet regularly as clergy and lay delegates. The local group is the New Haven Association of 21 churches who met on May 17 and October 25, 2007. The statewide gathering, the Connecticut Conference of 272 churches, met May 12 and October 19-20, 2007. The every other year national body, the General Synod, met in Hartford on June 22-24, 2007 in our own backyard.

First Church is well represented at all levels. In the New Haven Association, Alison finished her term as Moderator last spring and immediately began serving on the Committee on the Ministry. Peggy Allen continued her service as the very efficient Registrar. Barbara Barlok finished her term on the Executive Committee, Elizabeth Esty re-upped on the Committee on the Ministry, Norm Thompson finished as Auditor, John Afman continued on the Nominating Committee, and David Brunetti was elected to serve as a General Synod delegate in 2007 and 2009. Many of our folk volunteered at the Hartford Synod in June, while they and many more baked dozens of cookies for the delegates' enjoyment.

Highlights of this year's meetings:

The departure of Kent Siladi, our regional minister to head up the Florida Conference, and the arrival of Mike Penn-Strah to take his place; Mike's address is 5 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge, CT 06525; phone (203) 389-1193.

The death of Rev. Nathaneal Guptill, 90 years old, our former Executive Minister of the Connecticut Conference.

Formatted: Position: Horizontal: 306 pt, Relative to: Page, Vertical: 2.5 pt, Relative to: Paragraph

The honoring of the Rev. Ken Frazier, a former seminary intern at our church, for 25 years of ministry; Ken is now the settled pastor of the First Congregational Church, Waterbury.

The 50th anniversary of Silver Lake Camp and Conference Center, and an ongoing Capital Funds Campaign to bring the center up to date.

The efforts of volunteers and mission agencies to assist victims of Katrina.

The testimonies of seminarians in care of the association on their progress toward or after ordination in various ministries.

The inspiring General Synod in our neighborhood, and addresses by Cheshire's own John Thomas, UCC President, and Bill Moyers, and Senator Barack Obama, a UCC member of a Chicago church; the senator was invited to speak before he declared his candidacy.

Our delegates, who are named on the bulletin board in the Parlor, are glad to answer questions and take seriously your opinions on state and national issues in the UCC. We have copies of the conference budget, for example, and will offer a more timely chance for in-church discussions on resolutions to be voted on that may be controversial.

John Afman

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Fellowship consists of three groups: The Tuesday Circle, The Colonizers and the Ladies Aid. There is a representative from each of the groups who meet when the need arises. We, as the Women's Fellowship, donate to specific Outreach projects. Each group meets separately, once a month, and has its own specific outreach projects and church projects, such as the Church Christmas Fair. All women of the church are invited to join all or any of the individual groups.

Addie Marx

MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

During this year we met eighteen times starting in late September and ending in early June. There are twenty-one current members with an average attendance of fifteen. We meet the first and third Wednesdays of each month in the church Parish Hall at 6:30 a.m. and usually close by 7:30. Members volunteer to provide a "Continental" style breakfast at each meeting. All members are called prior to each meeting. At each meeting we have a member or outside guest speak to us on a variety of interesting subjects. This provides for comments and discussion by the group. Any interested men who wish to join us are welcome. Just attend a meeting or call me at 272-1477 for information. A synopsis of our meetings may be found in the loose leaf binders titled "Men's Breakfast Fellowship" located in the library.

Bob Johmann, Coordinator

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Members: Janet Gordon, Joan Kevorkian, Sally Blakely, Ruth Eppler, Ruth Gleeton, Nancy Turner

Formatted: Position: Horizontal: 306 pt,
Relative to: Page, Vertical: 2.5 pt, Relative to:
Paragraph

The Library Committee met on the first Monday of each month with the exception of July & August.

Objectives: To establish a collection of books, CD's, tapes and videos in the meeting of religious needs of the church family.

Responsibilities: Additions and deletions to the collection is the responsibility of the library committee. Recommendations from staff and the congregation are welcomed and considered, but not binding in these decisions. In September, the Committee served at the coffee hour in the Parish Hall.

Collection Criteria: Materials in various media will be included if the Committee deems them appropriate for the church library. Books not signed out in at least 15 years are being discarded as we continue to weed out books. Discarded books are placed on a cart and are available to the congregation.

Monthly Meetings: We meet to process new books, including typing cards and covering when necessary, "reading" the shelves for proper order, "weeding" current collection based upon age, condition, use, and discarding those that fall into this criteria, file cards, and send out overdue notices. Sad to say, but our downstairs children's library is rarely used despite our attempt to inform the Sunday School children of its availability.

Budget: Our budget is limited and we welcome donations or memorial gifts to purchase books. We sincerely hope that church members take advantage of our quite extensive collection. The various classifications are indicated on the book shelf. The Jr. High and Sr. High and fiction books are located in the parlor. The A-P classifications are located in the library. Classification lists are placed in both locations. You simply sign the book card, leave it in the box and return the book to the same location. We always list new additions in the Parish Post. Enjoy.

Janet Gordon
Chairman

PARISH CARE COMMITTEE

Members of the Parish Care Committee:

Jim Van Der Beek – Parish Care Committee chair

Members:

Martha Lape, Dick Eppler, Sue Chatfield, Ken and Pam Euerle, Charles Jones, Nancy Linton, Kevin and Beth Ross, Lynn Ryan

The Parish Care Committee has gone through a series of challenges in 2007.

In January, the committee was informed that there was not going to be any funding for a Parish Care Minister. The search committee agreed to stay "commissioned", in case there were any changes. As a result, Alison agreed to put some of her Parish Life Ministry duties on hold to take care of the critical issues of Parish Care. Those included: keeping the records of visits, prayer pagers, and identifying caring needs the committee could respond to.

Our committee has tried to meet the needs of the congregation by identifying resources and doing our best to keep our existing ministries active and vibrant. However, without a PC minister, no new ministries have been started. The healing service of past years has been put on hold, and a bereavement group was delayed until Alison could get it started with a qualified resource. The identification of needs is also more difficult without the PC minister interaction with the rest of the staff.

In October, we updated the church's web site to more accurately reflect the Parish Care Ministry. In November, we appropriated money for a new computer for Alison so she can make use of a "Church Windows" program that makes it easier to track needs of the congregation and visitations. The committee also hosted the Coffee hour the Sunday after Thanksgiving.

Formatted: Position: Horizontal: 306 pt,
Relative to: Page, Vertical: 2.5 pt, Relative to:
Paragraph

| This is a summary of our active ministries in 2007:

Meal Ministry: Leadership has been handled by Nancy Linton. She and Ellen Wright have been alternating every 3 months as coordinators. Approximately 140 meals have been prepared and delivered. Lynn Ryan has been running the freezer ministry where prepared meals are frozen for quick turnaround of a request or additional meals for over a weekend.

Ride Share Ministry: Kevin and Beth Ross coordinate this ministry and average 1-2 people driven to church each week. They also have provided approximately 1 ride a month to a doctor's office or treatment visit.

Small Chores Ministry: Charles Jones has done an excellent job of coordinating this ministry. He has a very good pool of resources and completes the requests promptly. Approximately 20 small chores have been completed this year.

Baptism Ministry: Ken and Pam Euerle head this ministry and provide the parents of baptized children a frame for the baby's footprints, a knitted baby blanket, and follow-up a year later with a card. They have done approximately 15 baptisms in 2007.

Stephen Ministry: This specialized ministry has really expanded under the leadership of Sue Chatfield. She is the lead trainer for continuing education. There are 12 fully trained and active Stephen ministers, all are assigned. Our church is now a supervision site, so our Stephen Ministers do not have to travel out of town for supervision. There are Stephen Ministry books and materials in the Library, and "Care Notes" have been ordered and on are display in the hallway.

Pager Ministry: Alison has been coordinating the distribution and return of the 6 prayer pagers. There are 4-6 of them with members of the congregation at any given time. A call to the pager sets the pager off and the person who has the pager knows that someone is praying for their healing.

Caring Christians: There are 6 trained parishioners, who are visiting 9 members of the church weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly, in person or via phone call.

Cards Ministry: Martha Lape coordinates the activity of the five women who send cards to members of the congregation. The cards are thank you, thinking of you, sympathy, get well, encouragement, anniversary, birthday, or significant event. Over 250 cards were sent in 2007.

Phone Ministry: Martha Lape has had to put this ministry on hold, due to her other duties. The calls were made to members on their significant birthdays or anniversaries.

Jim Van Der Beek

CHURCH CLERK

Summaries of the minutes of Church Meetings held during 2007 are listed below. The complete minutes may be found in the church permanent record book and are available to interested parties.

Annual Meeting January 28, 2007 for the following purposes:

1. Accepting the Annual Report for 2006
2. Electing Officers, Board and Committee members
3. Conducting any other business that may properly be brought before the Church.

Resolutions:

1. The Annual Report was accepted.

Formatted: Font: 12 pt, Underline

Formatted: Position: Horizontal: 306 pt, Relative to: Page, Vertical: 2.5 pt, Relative to: Paragraph

2. The report of the Nominating Committee was read and accepted with changes discussed at the meeting.
3. Other Business Items:
 - The revisions to the 2007 budget were accepted and the Treasurer was granted the ability to use the \$16,400 of cash reserves, if necessary, during the year. (Changes were made to the budget originally presented to the congregation on December 10, as a result of additional pledge monies received subsequently.)
 - A nine person Senior Minister Search Committee was accepted. Those on the committee are: Harry Black, Ford Cole, Joy Deegan, Patty Dickinson, Regine Hahn-Selzer, David Hostage, Amy Webb Mower, Jack Sellati, and Kirsten Sullivan.

Congregational Meeting June 10, 2007 for the following purposes:

1. Hearing reports from the Search Committees for: Senior Minister, Director of Youth Ministries and Church Administrator.
2. (moved to item 3*) Approving the proposal to reactivate the search for Parish Care Minister.
3. (moved to item 2*) Authorizing the use of up to \$180,000 through the end of 2008, from the endowment fund, to fund shortfalls in staff and salary benefit packages.

* The order of the call was changed, interchanging items 2 and 3, with the reason given that the proposal to reactivate the search could not be done before the funding is approved.

Resolutions:

1. None; this was an informational item. Search Committees for Senior Minister, Director of Youth Ministries and Church Administrator are actively engaged and progressing.
2. A resolution to authorize the use of up to \$180,000 through the end of 2008 from the endowment fund to fund shortfalls in staff and salary benefit packages, was passed.
 Yes – 50
 No – 46
 Abstain – 4
 Vote was by paper ballots. Actual paper ballots received at the meeting are included in the archived minutes at First Church.
3. A resolution to table discussion on the Parish Care Minister was passed.

Congregational Meeting September 23, 2007 for the following purposes:

1. Review of the Preliminary Proposed 2008 Budget
2. Hearing an update from the Senior Search Committee
3. Hearing an update from the Director of Youth Ministries Search Committee

Resolutions:

None; this was an informational meeting.

Congregational Meeting December 9, 2007 for the following purposes:

1. Hearing an Update on Good Things at First Church
2. Hearing an Update from the Senior Minister Search Committee
3. Hearing the Report of the Nominating Committee
4. Approving the Proposed Budget for 2008

Resolutions:

1. None; informational item. Reports from Stewardship and Membership and on church attendance were presented.
2. None; informational item. The committee expects to begin candidate review in late winter, and for that process to last for several months.
3. None; informational item.
4. A resolution to approve the 2008 budget as presented was passed.

Formatted: Position: Horizontal: 306 pt,
 Relative to: Page, Vertical: 2.5 pt, Relative to:
 Paragraph

CHURCH STATISTICS

Total Membership as of December 31, 2006 **1068**
Adjustment for Membership Audit **+37**

Admissions

Confirmation Class	22
Confession of Faith	1
Reaffirmation of Faith	9
Letter of Transfer	<u>5</u>
Total Admissions	+37

Dismissions

Letter of Transfer	8
Transfer to Inactive	294
Deaths	<u>21</u>
Total Dismissions	-323

Total Membership as of December 31, 2007 **819**

ADMISSIONS

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Alexander Richard Daly	William Cooke Roberts
Mackenzie Jonathan Demac	Amanda Jean Roke
Katharine VanDerbeek Eddy	Robert Andrew Runowicz
Michael Theodore Fiske	Chelsea Donahue Schult
Thomas Anthony Farina	Morgan Magdalena Jean Schwenn
Vaughn Carlson Guetens	Luke Noah Scinto
Julie Ann Hart	Peter Frederick Stephan
Brian Christopher Havlicek	Jacqueline Renee St. Pierre
Nathan Edward Moziak	Krysta Lynn Valerio
Carlene Dorothy Pascale	Aislinn Leilani Walters
Eric Michael Ploch	Ravin Kawailani Walters

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Kent Hurlburt*
*baptism

REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Adeline Arumainayagam	Jeannine Heavens
Christopher Barbour	Abby Hurlburt
Michelle Overin Barbour	Kathena MacDonald Nenninger
James Bernard Fanning	Irlind Stronkowski
Traci Fanning	

BY LETTER OF TRANSFER

George Albanese, Jr	Arleen Reid
Carol Cummings	Thomas D. Reid
Lucinda Orsini	

DISMISSIONS

REMOVED BY LETTER OF TRANSFER

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

Formatted: Position: Horizontal: 306 pt,
Relative to: Page, Vertical: 2.5 pt, Relative to:
Paragraph

Barbara Bergolios
Rev. Donna Cassity
Barbara Curran
Rebecca Degnan

Karen Jones
Whit Lewendon
David Lien
Della Lien

DEATHS

Wesley Alexander*
Anita Amberg*
Arlene Appel
Norton Birdsall*
Beeton Cobb*
Phyllis Eddy*
Betsey English*
Jean Erk*
Maerita Guertin*
Dorothy Innes*
Ruth Kurtz*
Joshua Matzkin
Dale Miller **
Patricia Mitchell*
Fred Mullaney*

Sally Ann Nettleton
Lucille Norton*
Ruth Norton*
John Olsen*
Judy Ozdemirer*
Carolyn Roberts
Dorothy Shultz*
William Stevenson*
James Tabor*
Lindsay Tait*
Frank Vernon
Betty Wang*
Richard Wiese
Theresa Yerkes

*Member
**Inactive Member

TRANSFERRED TO INACTIVE

In accordance with church by-laws, periodically First Congregational Church conducts membership verification activities, contacting members to verify their intentions with regard to First Church membership. If you believe your name incorrectly appears on this list, please contact the Clerk.

Formatted: Font: 11 pt, Bold

Elizabeth Abbate
Sylvia Abbate
Haynes Altobello
J.D. Altobello
James Anderson
Joan Anderson
Daniel Archibald
Donald Archibald
Patricia Archibald
Barbara Armeno
Edward Armeno
Thomas Baldwin
Kelly Balsler
Peter Barber
Albert Barkley
Susan Barkley
Ronald Barlok
Scott Barlok
Daniel Bates
J.D. Bates
Lori Bates
Denise Beckett

William Beckett
Ann Behler
Robert Behler
Caitlin Belford
Justin Belford
Kristin Belford
Marcia Belford
Gladys Benson
John Berg
Patricia Berg
Ronald Biatowas
Matthew Biggart
Frank Boemmels, Jr.
David Bond
Debra Bond
Andrew Braley
Janna Brancato
Jacob Braunsdorf
Mark Braunsdorf
Matthew Braunsdorf
Emily Brightman
Holly Brightman

Sarah Brightman
Gary Brown
Mark Brunetti
David Brys
Jay Brys
Christopher Buell
Elizabeth Buell
David Butterfield
Abigail Cain
Noah Cain
Barbara Canning
Ronald Canning
Ryan Canning
Scott Canning
Anthony Carbone
Donna Carbone
Kenneth Cesca
Susan Cesca
Joseph Champagne
Patti Champagne
Dennis Clark
Nancy Clark

Formatted: Position: Horizontal: 306 pt,
Relative to: Page, Vertical: 2.5 pt, Relative to:
Paragraph

Andrea Close
Caitlin Colwell
Christian Colwell
Hamilton Colwell
Margo Conley
Cathy Cooke
Ryan Corey
Joseph Corsetti
Jared Criscuolo
Kim Davies
Peter Davis
Helen DeMonte
Mark DeMonte
Aimee Dinnis
Scott Dinnis
Megan Donovan
Chad Dorman
Barbara Dowling
Craig Dowling
Michael Dowling
Sarah Dowling
Laurie Dragunoff
Anthony Drozd
Merideth Drozd
Ryan Drozd
David Duchette
Doreen Duchette
Elizabeth Dunbar
Marshall Dunbar
Diane Eissler
Melissa English
Eileen Eppleman
Adam Fackler
Blake Fackler
Judith Fenney
Nicholas Fenney
Tracy Ferguson
Lori Ferrara
Michael Ferrara
Linda Filipelli
Kimberly Fiore
Leslie Fiore
Robert Fiore
Stephanie Fiore
Hadewych Fostini
John Fowler
Kathy Fraher
Celia Frey
Benjamin Fritz
Kristin Frost
Craig Gagne, Jr.
Karen Gallagher
Bonnie Gaudio
Michael A. Gaudio
Greer Gibbs
Robert Giddings, Jr.

Roberta Glidden
Joseph Gravelle
Dion Gravino
Laura Gravino
Ashley Hackett
Julie Hackett
William Hall
Judith Helms
Jennifer Henry
Adam Herbst
Ellen Hintz
Walter Hintz
Gretchen Hug
Matthew Hug
Robert Humphrey
Matthew Huse
Rebecca Huse
Sarah Huse
Keely Jenkins
Donna Jensen
Brad Jerome
Gregory Jerome
Jennifer Jerome
Gail Johnson
Lisa Johnson
Russell Johnson
Julia Jones
Sarah Jones
Judith Kaprinski
Kim Kask
Nicholas Kask
Alison Keller
Katherine Keller
Megan Keller
Annette Kelly
Megan Kelly
Patrick Kelly
Shannon Kelly
Wendy Kemp
Brian Kern
Terry Kern
Glenda Kirby
Sally Knapp
Margaret Kurtz
Dorothy Leavenworth
Eric Ljungquist
Karin Ljungquist
Karl Ljungquist
Matthew Lobdell
Sandra Lobdell
Wayne Lobdell
Mara Maidelis
Sandra Marenholz
David May
Linda May
Todd May

Donald McPartland
Marleen Merriman
Steve Milligan
Ian Milne
Michael Mongillo
Nancy Mongillo
Patricia Murray
Amy Neal
Matt Neal
Connie Nelson
Kevin Nelson
Brad Nicholson
Kate Nicholson
Erin O'Leary
Renee Paul
James Perkins
Jennie Perkins
Deborah Peterson
Daniel Poincelot
Colby Prior
Dorcas Prior
Connie Rand
Arthur Rasmussen
Kathleen Rehbein
Erik Reich
Kadah Reich
Amy Reilly
John Reilly
Kathleen Ramirez
Diane Richburg
Ernest Richburg
Erin Rieman
Kristopher Rieman
Terry Rieman
Mimi Rivard
Evelyn Rowley
Robert Rowley
Cindy Russell
Harvey Russell
Raymond Russell
Brad Ryan
Christopher Ryan
Geoffrey Ryan
Kimberly Ryan
Abbey Sayre
Casey Sayre
Wendy Sayre
Will Sayre
Scott Schaefer
Andrea Schlesinger
Valerie Schlesinger
Gail Schmidt
Gerald Schmidt
Kirsten Schroeder
Megan Schuckers
Penny Schuckers

Formatted: Right: 18 pt

Christopher Scott
Debbie Sidorick
Jennifer Sidorick
Kristin Sienkowski
Richard Sienkowski
Thomas Sienkowski
Tara Skrzyaniarz
Anthony Smaldone
Jennifer Smaldone
Katie Smaldone
Alan Smits
Ivy Stabell
Melissa Stanton
Thomas Stanton
Valerie Stanton
David Stearns
Heather Stearns
Scott Stevens
Cathi Sullivan
Paul Sykes

Robert Szczepanski
Lindsay Theurk
Helen Treat
Garry Trojanowski
Janice Trojanowski
Jennifer Turrill
David Vallone
Julianna Van der Beek
Joy Van der Lek
Kyle Vasina
Logan Vasina
Peter Vasina
Taryn Vasina
Kathleen Viereg-Ljungquist
Steven Voils
Thomas Voils
Marilyn Vosburgh
Cathi Waas
Linda Wallinger
Amy Waraksa

Christopher Warner
Alexander Watts
Benjamin Webster
Emily Webster
Andrew Welch
Catherine Welch
Frances Welch
Jonathan Welch
Christine Wheeler
Curtis Wheeler
Mark Whitlock
Sarah Whitlock
Dale Williams
Karen Sue Williams
Susan Wojtowicz
Joan Woll
Keith Woll
Kelly Woll

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

BAPTISMS

Alexandra Pierce Benni
Hannah Lynn Billado
Jordan Nicole Bokon
Ellie Marguerite Farrell
Reagan Golden Fitzgerald
Mairead Joan Martin Hall
Grace Helen Harlow
Raymond George Heavens
Kent Hurlburt (*)

Earl Alix Kurtz
Gavin Nazzareno Martin
Abigail Carolyn McFarland
Sydney Ann McFarland
Max Mitchell
Noah Alexander Odell
Jeremy Plaster
Jayden Fernando Quintero

* Adult Baptism

Formatted: Different first page header

WEDDINGS

Scott Brewerton to Kathena Nenninger (*)
Kevin Furey to Abigail Cain (*)
David Galvin to Kim Cashman (*)
Michael Kelly to Kimberly Heiligman (*)

* Member

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

In the year 2007, the Financial Secretaries processed receipts totaling \$687,937.02.

Major contributions were:

2007 Pledge Payments	\$558,312.94
Plate & Church School Receipts	61,587.16
2008 Prepaid Pledge Payments	28,750.00

Formatted: Right: 18 pt

2006 Pledge Payments

6,814.00

Significant contributions totaling \$11,620.00 were earmarked for Neighbors-In-Need, OGHS and Miscellaneous Benevolences. Food, fuel and AIDS Orphans totaled \$4,944.58.

Among special offerings were Youth Activities \$4,432.40 and Memorial Music \$5,408.75.

Our members Ann Madden, Dennis Lape ("Mr. Computer" among other efforts), and Louise Petrasko share the responsibility of processing all contributions on a weekly basis. On request, our alternates Peggy Conant, Nora Adams and Dick Mattson came to our rescue. Because of Dick's move to Florida, Charles Jones will be our new alternate. A special thank you to Fred Turner for always being there when we need you!

I sincerely thank each of you for serving on this committee.

~~Respectfully submitted,~~

Emma Norback

CHURCH OFFICERS AND BOARDS/COMMITTEES FOR 2008

OFFICERS

		<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
President	Robert Mead*	2010
Clerk	Christine Albrecht*	2009
Treasurer	Walter Ryan*	2009
Associate Treasurer	Betsy Barber*	2009
Assistant Treasurer	Sara Buell*	2009
Moderator	Robert Giddings*	2009
Assist. Moderator	Elizabeth Esty*	2009
Financial Secretaries	Emma Norback *	2010
	Dennis Lape*	2011
	Ann Madden*	2009
	Louise Petrasko*	2011
Alternates	Charles Jones*	2009
	Peggy Conant*	2009
	Nora Adams*	2009
Auditors (2)	Harry Black*	2009
	Robert Giddings*	2009
Historian	Richard Eppler*	2009
Women's Fellowship Representative	Addie Marx*	2009

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Members-at-large	Mark Hall	2009
	Kathy Duffendack	2010
	David Hostage*	2011

Formatted: Right: 18 pt

BOARD OF DEACONS

Joy Deegan	2009	Jackie Cole	2010
Don Lee	2009	Mark Dickinson*	2011
Jim Louys	2009	Matt Childs*	2011
Ford Cole	2009	Diane Visconti*	2011
Donna Mead	2010	Joyce Mulholland*	2011
Elsa Bradford	2010	*Andrew Stephan (Youth)	2009
Jane Montgomery*	2010	*Amanda Roke (Youth)	2009

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kevin Ross	2009	Tom Reid*	2010
Ed Albrecht	2009	Holly Crowell	2010
Joe Madden*	2009	Rich Grudzias*	2011
Martha Lape*	2009	Alan Skiparis*	2011
Rich Kruczek	2010	John Whinfield*	2011
Bill Eagleson	2010	Larry Pivrotto*	2011

CHURCH OFFICERS AND BOARDS/COMMITTEES FOR 2008 (continued)

BOARD OF OUTREACH

Beth Ross	2009	Joy Biggart	2010
Amy Webb-Mower	2009	Gretchen Bates	2010
Lisa Canas	2009	Cindy Mazzaferro*	2011
Mark Hostage*	2009	Robin Sellati*	2011
Christine Fitzmaurice*	2010	Mark Sullivan*	2011
Kerrie Dunne	2010	Pete Ploch*	2011
		*Eric Ploch (Youth)	2009

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Jim Parys	2009	Linda Milton*	2011
Emilee Ziolkowski	2009	Carol Ploch*	2011
Carol Cummings*	2009	Lucinda Orsini*	2011
Sue Branzell	2010	Beth Barnes*	2011
Grace Knipe	2010	Regine Hahn Selzer*	2009
Peggy Allen	2010	*Hannah Louys (Youth)	2009
Lynn Ryan	2010	*_____ (Youth)	2009

BOARD OF MUSIC

Perry Stevens*	2009	Marty Swartz	2010
Jack Burton*	2009	Ramin Hakim*	2011
Audrey Finkenstadt	2009	Susan Bishop*	2011
Charlene Black*	2010	Andrew Hostage*	2011
Jane Bower	2010	*Peter Stephan (Youth)	2009

Formatted: Right: 18 pt

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Betty Pritchard	2009	Laura Whinfield	2010
Norm Thompson	2009	Ken Allen*	2011
Mike Pownall	2009	Bill Mann*	2011
Tony DePaolo	2010	Leah Sanders*	2011
Ruth MacDonald	2010		

FLOWER COMMITTEE

Lori Mann	2009	Jenell Janes	2010
Ruth Gleeton	2009	Patti Dickinson*	2011
Sharon Graver	2009	Anne McNulty*	2011
Kelly Bunn	2010	Susan Pappas*	2011
Karin Arai	2010		

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Leslie Parys*	2009	Jaclyn Hissick	2010
June Webster	2009	Barb Grudzias*	2011
Martha Triplett-Strollo	2010	Regan Huntley*	2011
		*(Youth) Eric Olander	2009

CHURCH OFFICERS AND BOARDS/COMMITTEES FOR 2008 (continued)

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Audrey Finkenstadt*	2009	Nancy Turner	2010
Ruth Eppler	2009	Lois Splain*	2011
Joan Kevorkian	2010	Arleen Reid*	2011

HISTORY COMMITTEE

Marshall Tucker	2009	Carolyn Garthwait*	2011
Martha Lape	2010		

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Dawn Smith	2009	Jolinda Heavens	2010
Dan Esty	2009	Bill Gordon*	2011
Bob Porter	2010	Roy Pritchard*	2011

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Sharon Brenneman	2009	Carol Tucker*	2010
Kate Hall*	2009	Marianne Eagleson*	2011
Jan Cowles	2009	Ken Stevens*	2011
Pam Euerle	2010	Bobbie Porter*	2011
Jay Knipe*	2010		

DELEGATES

Formatted: Right: 18 pt

CT CONFERENCE & NEW HAVEN ASSN.

MINISTRIES

Terry Hamley*	2009
John Afman	2009
Karen Gravino	2009
Jack Sellati	2010
Norman Thompson	2010
Laura Whinfield	2010
Betsy Adams*	2011
Attila Ozdemir*	2011
Dennis Lape*	2011

GREATER WATERBURY INTERFAITH

Farshid Hakim*	2011
Jan Garthwait (alternate)*	2011

CHESHIRE INTERFAITH HOUSING

Barbara Barlok	2010
Glenn Nowie*	2010

USHERING COMMITTEE

Steve Canada	2009	Glenn Thompson*	2010
Jim Lyke	2009	Charles Jones*	2011
Noureen Hakim	2010	Ken Euerle*	2011
		Hugh Larson (9 a.m. Youth Chair)	2010
		Mark Hostage (Asst. Youth Chair)	2009

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Anne Giddings*	2009	()*	2009
Carol Warner*	2009	()*	2009
Pam Cappiello*	2009	()*	2009
Dennis Lape*	2009		
Joy Deegan*	2009		
Mark Sullivan*	2009		
Ann Madden*	2009		

*(Youth)

to be elected*

Formatted: Right: 18 pt

First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Cheshire, Connecticut

2007 Annual Report

Financial



“Anticipation”

Annual Meeting – January 27, 2008

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CHESHIRE - CHESHIRE CT 06410
Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2007

01/21/08

Page 1

Account #	Account name	Year to Date
<u>Assets</u>		
1.101.110	GENERAL FUNDS- BOA - CHECKING	48,186.05
	Bank of America Checking	\$48,186.05
1.101.200	Receivable - Restricted Fund	9,169.56
	Receivables	\$9,169.56
1.102.100	RESERVE FUND-BK OF AMERICA	51,344.93
1.102.200	RESERVE FD #2 - J. P. Morgan	128,009.80
	Reserve Funds Total	\$179,354.73
1.103.100	George Thorpe Fund -Bk of Amer	2,905.67
1.103.200	Minerva Davis Fd- J.P. Morgan	59,579.16
1.103.300	Martha Haire Fd.- J.P.Morgan	36,240.12
1.103.400	Robert Patterson Fd.-Bk Amer	11,275.13
1.103.500	Fred Bens Fd. - Bk of America	13,530.84
1.103.600	Whiting House Escrow-TD BkNrth	810.68
1.103.700	Anna Speake Fund - Vanguard	13,767.34
1.103.800	E. Ehrhardt Irrev.Trust -Vang.	11,496.67
1.103.900	Martha Lape Fund-Bk of America	11,892.16
	Other Invested Funds Total	\$161,497.77
1.103.999	Internal Loans	83,033.72
	Internal Loans Total	\$83,033.72
1.104.100	JP Morgan Trustee 6011144	234,559.10
1.104.200	JP Morgan Trustee 6011195	864,007.24
	Trust Funds Total	\$1,098,566.34
1.105.100	Sanctuary-Connector-ParishHall	2,037,942.00
1.105.200	Parsonage	200,069.00
1.105.300	Whiting House	234,682.00
1.105.400	Barn	10,804.00
1.105.500	Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment	302,312.00
1.105.600	Fine Arts	8,500.00
	Fixed Assets - Total	\$2,794,309.00
	Total Assets	<u>\$4,374,117.17</u>
<u>Liabilities and Fund Balances</u>		
2.800.100	Thorpe Fund - Misc.	12,068.00
2.800.200	Thorpe Fund - Parsonage Kitch	20,000.00
2.800.300	Thorpe Fund - 1996 Paint	8,000.00
2.800.400	Haire Fund - W.H. Paint	3,000.00
2.800.500	Wilson Trust Fund	18,000.00
2.800.600	ALR loans	21,965.72
	Total Loans	\$83,033.72
2.803.109	Town of Cheshire	1,800.00
2.905.100	Year End Payables	24,116.05
2.910.100	Prepaid Pledges end of year	29,270.00
2.910.200	Income - Restrict. for next yr	9,169.56
	Total Liabilities	<u>\$147,389.33</u>
3.101.160	Investment Fund	1,432,418.84
3.101.170	Fixed Assets	2,794,309.00
	Total Funds	<u>\$4,226,727.84</u>
	Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	<u>\$4,374,117.17</u>

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CHESHIRE
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

	2007 Actual	2007 Budget	2008 Budget	Change 2007
Receipts				
Pledges and Prepaid	585,799	624,338	638,884	14,546
Plate and Church School	61,497	55,000	54,178	(822)
Carryover	6,814			-
Checking Account Interest		100		(100)
Trust Fund Income	40,806	25,000	32,000	7,000
Use of Facilities & Miscellaneous	9,179	2,500	2,500	-
Rent-Whiting House	8,400	8,400	8,400	-
Rent-Daycare	7,200	7,200	7,200	-
Initial Offerings	292	200		(200)
Total Other Income	134,188	98,400	104,278	5,878
Total Receipts - Budget Items	719,987	722,738	743,162	20,424
Staff Salaries and Benefits				
Senior Minister				
Salary	46,392	46,393	51,509	5,116
Parsonage Allow	21,491	21,491	28,907	7,416
Soc Security Allow	5,281	5,281	6,084	803
Annuity	9,328	9,085	11,258	2,173
Health Insurance	7,188	6,621	12,478	5,857
Disability Insurance	90	974	1,206	232
Travel Allowance	446	1,961	2,000	39
Total	90,216	91,806	113,442	21,636
Assoc Minister				
Salary	32,300	32,300	35,610	3,310
Parish Life				
Housing Allow	22,866	22,866	22,866	-
Soc Security Allow	4,220	4,220	4,473	253
Annuity	7,498	7,723	8,187	464
Health Insurance	14,745	14,670	12,165	(2,505)
Disability Insurance	803	827	877	50
Travel Allowance	523	1,000	1,500	500
Total	82,955	83,606	85,678	2,072
C E Director				
Salary	37,805	37,805	38,939	1,134
Annuity	5,138	5,293	5,451	158
Health Insurance	7,464	7,484	7,776	292
Disability Insurance	501	568	584	16
Travel/Educ Allow	895	500	1,000	500
Total	51,803	51,650	53,750	2,100
C E Youth				
Director				
Salary	16,958	28,501	27,250	(1,251)
Health Insurance	-	6,885	-	(6,885)
Travel/Educ Allow	411	1,000	-	(1,000)
Housing Allow	10,002	-	-	-
Total	27,371	36,386	27,250	(9,136)
Music Director				
Salary	37,842	37,492	38,617	1,125
Annuity	5,096	5,249	5,406	157
Health Insurance	14,745	14,670	15,405	735
Disability Insurance	546	565	579	14
Total	58,229	57,976	60,007	2,031
Handbell Choir Director-Salary	6,481	6,481	-	(6,481)
Office Manager/ Secretary				
Salary	37,740	39,140	40,000	860
Annuity	2,301	1,957	4,400	2,443
Health Insurance	-	-	8,400	8,400
Disability Insurance	200	-	600	600
Total	40,241	41,097	53,400	12,303
Assistant Secretary-Salary	15,669	16,995	17,505	510
Supplemental Clerical Allowance	-	-	8,000	8,000
Sexton (Cleaning Service)	23,690	23,690	24,401	711
Sexton (Part Time)	11,591	13,133	13,527	394
Social Security Tax	13,649	15,658	16,128	470
Total Salary & Benefits	421,895	438,478	473,088	34,611
Yale Student Interns		3,000	-	(3,000)
Pastoral Sabbatical Reserve	-	-	15,000	15,000
Conference & Seminar Exp-Staff	1,288	500	1,000	500
Career Devel / Higher Education	-	-	-	-
Professional Exp-Senior Minister	810	500	500	-
Professional Exp-Assoc Minister	929	500	500	-
Total	3,027	4,500	17,000	12,500
Total Staff Salaries & Benefits	424,922	442,978	490,088	47,110

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CHESHIRE
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

	2007 Actual	2007 Budget	2008 Budget	Change 2007
Maintenance & Operation				
Office Supplies	6,074	6,000	6,180	180
Mailing/Postage	3,919	3,160	4,815	1,655
Printing	5,945	5,000	5,150	150
Office Copier (C.E.) Maint Contract	(143)	500	515	15
Office Machine - Purchase	415	500	515	15
Office Machine - Lease	6,945	6,200	6,386	186
Fuel Oil				
Church Building	10,266	14,000	14,840	840
Parsonage	2,757	3,500	3,710	210
Telephone				
Church Building	2,389	2,250	2,329	79
Parsonage	612	750	776	26
Gas	4,741	8,700	9,222	522
Electricity				
Church Building	10,792	11,724	12,427	703
Parsonage	580	2,165	2,295	130
Whiting House	3,688	3,168	3,358	190
Water				
Church Building	802	800	824	24
Parsonage	288	400	412	12
Whiting House	581	500	515	15
Grounds - Maintenance	7,009	10,000	10,000	-
Insurance - Property & Liability	22,982	22,500	23,175	675
Insurance - Workers Compensation	4,036	4,275	4,403	128
Bldg Maint & Church Building	7,994	14,500	14,935	435
Repairs				
Parsonage	8,336	1,000	1,030	30
Whiting House	-	1,000	1,030	30
Instrument Maintenance	1,357	1,250	1,500	250
Supplies & Services	8,539	5,500	5,665	165
Fire Alarm Maint Serv	3,913	3,500	3,605	105
Sewer Use Charge	1,800	1,800	3,686	1,886
Insurance Appraisal Fee	190	190	190	-
Cornerstone Mortgage Interest	-	4,000	-	(4,000)
Total	<u>126,807</u>	<u>138,832</u>	<u>143,488</u>	<u>4,656</u>
Reserves for Major Repair/Improvement				
Organ Maintenance Fund	9,800	9,800	11,760	1,960
Exterior Major Projects	12,250	12,250	14,700	2,450
Interior Major Projects	9,100	9,100	10,920	1,820
Administrative & Office Equip Reserve	1,750	1,750	2,100	350
Bldg, Mechanical & Misc	2,100	2,100	2,520	420
Total	<u>35,000</u>	<u>35,000</u>	<u>42,000</u>	<u>7,000</u>
Christian Education				
Bibles	391	250	250	-
Educational Training	1,102	840	840	-
Conferences	-	-	-	-
Youth Ministry	6,900	4,900	4,900	-
Curriculum (Books) Church Sch	2,669	2,500	2,500	-
Curriculum - Confirmation	(44)	2,750	2,750	-
Curriculum - Adult	495	750	750	-
Supplies	2,254	2,500	2,500	-
Audio Visual	293	300	300	-
Church School & Family	506	750	750	-
Vacation Church School	-	-	-	-
Retreats	-	250	250	-
Summer Church School	358	280	280	-
Nursery	-	125	125	-
C I A	101	370	370	-
Background Checks	510	380	380	-
Total	<u>15,535</u>	<u>16,945</u>	<u>16,945</u>	<u>-</u>
Music Board				
Music Programs	3,955	1,400	2,650	1,250
Office Supplies	48	200	200	-
Fees and Licensing	284	250	250	-
Hire of Musicians	50	1,100	1,100	-
Substitute Organists	75	270	270	-
Professional Memberships	265	200	200	-
Recording costs and credits	-	450	450	-
Handbell and Youth choirs	111	343	343	-
Total	<u>4,788</u>	<u>4,213</u>	<u>5,463</u>	<u>1,250</u>

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CHESHIRE
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

	2007 Actual	2007 Budget	2008 Budget	Change 2007
Other Boards & Committees				
Executive Board	380	430	430	-
Pastoral Search Expenses	200	1,800	1,800	-
Website Committee	-	175	1,000	825
Board of Deacons	1,474	2,400	2,160	(240)
Parish Care Program	2,790	3,000	2,600	(400)
Video Committee	237	700	1,600	900
Membership Committee	464	430	430	-
Fellowship Committee	-	175	175	-
Historian	456	430	430	-
Library Committee	170	175	175	-
Stewardship Board	1,161	2,000	2,260	260
Flower Committee	(1,289)	100	100	-
Lay Delegates	204	430	430	-
Welcoming / Hospitality	134	430	430	-
Treasurer & Fin'l Secretary	1,243	975	795	(180)
Total	<u>7,624</u>	<u>13,650</u>	<u>14,815</u>	<u>1,165</u>
Outreach - (Total only for 2008)			25,000	
UCC, State, Nat'l, World Missions	24,000	24,000		
Greater Wtby Interfaith Ministries	3,500	3,500		
New Haven Christian Com Action	3,500	3,500		
Discretionary Giving	11,135	10,700		
Youth Ministry-Mission Trip Res	6,000	6,000		
UCBWM - Foster Child	450	450		
Fuel Oil	2,000	2,000		
Food	2,000	2,000		
Fish of Greater New Haven	250	250		
Shelters	3,500	3,500		
Cheshire Interfaith Housing	500	500		
Covenant for Care	2,300	2,000		
NH Assoc Scholarship Fund	1,700	1,700		
Taeria Fdn Helping Hands	1,000	1,000		
Back Bay Mission	300	300		
Will Santa Find Me	300	300		
Cromwell Children Home	200	200		
African AIDS/Orphans	525	700		
Habitat for Humanity	500	500		
Fellowship Place	300	300		
Webster Correctional Institution	300	300		
Heifer Project	140	200		
Small Groups Outreach	200	200		
Cheshire Dept Human Services	300	300		
Prison Ministry	1,000	1,500		
Total Discretionary	<u>65,900</u>	<u>65,900</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>(40,900)</u>
CT Conference dues (\$5/member)	4,176	4,176	4,125	(51)
Denominational Dues (NH Assoc \$1.5/member)	1,044	1,044	1,238	194
Total Outreach	<u>71,120</u>	<u>71,120</u>	<u>30,363</u>	<u>(40,757)</u>
Total Disbursements - Budget Items	<u>685,796</u>	<u>722,738</u>	<u>743,162</u>	<u>20,424</u>
NET RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS - BUDGET	<u>34,191</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CHESHIRE
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

	2007 Actual	2007 Budget	2008 Budget	Change 2007
NonBudget Receipts				
Building Fund	13,701			
Special & Other Benevolences	51,354			
Restricted Fund Income for Deacons	1,551			
Miscellaneous Non Budget Income	20,498			
Innes Fund	118,992			
Total NonBudget Receipts	206,096			
NonBudget Disbursements				
Transfer to Reserve Fund	34,191			
Group Workcamps (Ehrhardt Fund)	500			
Chapel Repairs (M. Davis Fund)	2,116			
Building Fund Expenses	13,701			
Other Benevolences	24,857			
Special Benevolences Paid	26,497			
Restricted Fund Income to Deacons	1,551			
Miscellaneous Non Budget Income	17,882			
Innes Fund transfer to JP Morgan Restricted	118,992			
Total NonBudget Disbursements	240,287			
Net NonBudget	(34,191)			
Net Receipts over Disbursements	0			
 <u>Miscellaneous Detail Information</u>				
<u>Other Benevolences Paid</u>				
Youth Activities Fund	14,917			
Memorial Music Funds	3,216			
Music Activity Fund	5,617			
Other	1,107			
Total Other Benevolences	24,857			
 <u>Special Benevolences Paid</u>				
One Great Hour Sharing	1,524			
Food Bank	532			
Fuel Bank	229			
Heifer	1,180			
AIDS Orphans	10,475			
Neighbors in Need	1,023			
Christmas Fund (Veterans)	972			
Other	10,562			
Total Special Benevolences	26,497			
 <u>Year End Payables - Income Received not yet spent</u>				
Youth Activities	9,173			
Memorial Music	3,743			
Bells - Memorial Gift	50			
Stephen Ministries Gift	50			
Church Baseball Team Income	359			
Vacation Bible School	175			
Homecoming Income	2,693			
Thursday Night Supper Fund	67			
Ehrhardt Trust Income	1,006			
Malawi - AIDS Orphans	6,799			
Total Payables	24,116			

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CHESHIRE
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS OF RESTRICTED FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007**

	JP Morgan Minerva Davis Fund	JP Morgan Martha Haire Fund	TD BankNorth Fred Bens Fund	Vanguard E. Ehrhardt Fund	Bk of America Robert Patterson Fund	Vanguard Anna Speake Fund	Bk of America Martha Lape Fund	Bk of America George Thorpe Fund	JP Morgan Restricted Trust	Whiting House Escrow	Total Restricted Funds
Beginning Balance	58,967.13	34,635.44	13,350.72	11,097.16	10,803.45	13,292.33	11,835.68	78.64	128,947.12	808.59	283,816.26
<u>Receipts</u>											
Investment Income	2,728.03	1,604.68	593.90	705.12	488.04	848.76	556.48	11.45	7,672.48	2.09	15,211.03
Appreciation (Depreciation)				93.29	83.64	102.65			(5,884.89)		(5,605.31)
Received from George Thorpe Trust								7,901.67			7,901.67
Wm & Dorothy Innes Trust Fund									118,992.36		118,992.36
<u>Disbursements</u>											
<u>Transfer to Operating Fund</u>											
E. Ehrhardt Fund				(398.90)							(398.90)
Outreach - Martha Lape Fund							(500.00)				(500.00)
Repairs to Chapel	(2,116.00)										(2,116.00)
Reimburse payment from building fund								(5,086.09)			(5,086.09)
For use for operating budget			(413.78)			(476.40)					(890.18)
Deacons Funds, Building Fund & Operations									(13,502.54)		(13,502.54)
Bank Fees					(100.00)				(1,665.43)		(1,765.43)
Ending Balance	<u>59,579.16</u>	<u>36,240.12</u>	<u>13,530.84</u>	<u>11,496.67</u>	<u>11,275.13</u>	<u>13,767.34</u>	<u>11,892.16</u>	<u>2,905.67</u>	<u>234,559.10</u>	<u>810.68</u>	<u>396,056.87</u>

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CHESHIRE
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS OF UNRESTRICTED FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007**

	Bk of America The Reserve Fund	JP Morgan Reserve #2 Fund	JP Morgan Unrestricted Trust	Total Unrestricted Funds
Beginning Balance	16,403.07	55,732.51	836,635.32	908,770.90
Receipts				
Investment Income	751.07	3,309.25	22,474.43	26,534.75
Appreciation			47,791.43	47,791.43
Transfer from Operating Fund				
Fund Reserves		35,000.00		35,000.00
Miscellaneous Special Benevolences		11,246.00	1,000.00	12,246.00
Building Fund Contributions		13,657.11		13,657.11
Innes Building Fund Income		1,015.03		1,015.03
Prepaid Pledge 2008		7,000.00		7,000.00
2007 Surplus Operating Fund	34,190.79			34,190.79
Parking Lot Rent		2,400.00		2,400.00
Disbursements				
Transfer to Operating Fund				
Operating budget use		(1,350.00)	(33,465.40)	(34,815.40)
Investment Fees			(10,428.54)	(10,428.54)
Ending Balance	<u>51,344.93</u>	<u>128,009.90</u>	<u>864,007.24</u>	<u>1,043,362.07</u>

FINANCIAL REPORT COMMITTEE

I have compiled the 2007 Consolidated Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements as of December 31, 2007. The compilation is limited to presenting in the form of financial statements information that is the representation of the Treasurer and Financial Secretary. I have not audited or reviewed the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly do not express an opinion or any other form of assurance on them.

Harry Black

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CHESHIRE
RESERVE FUND II DETAIL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

Date	Comment	Organ Fund	Exterior Major	Interior Major	Admin/Office Equip	Bldg Mech & Misc	Other Sabbatical	Serv	Other CE/Music	Innes Exterior	Building Fund	Misc Repairs	Church Drive	Basement Waterproof	Tree Maintenance	Balance
12/29/06	Balance	\$ 16,391.54	\$ 12,271.08	\$ 6,110.95	\$ 4,596.73	\$ 5,107.97	\$ 5,136.40	\$ 1,044.08	\$ 5,073.66	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 55,732.41
01/31/07	Interest	61.46	46.00	22.91	17.23	19.15	19.26	3.91	19.02							\$ 55,941.35
02/12/07	Withdrawal								(1,350.00)							\$ 54,591.35
02/28/07	Interest	59.63	44.64	22.23	16.72	18.58	18.69	3.80	13.56							\$ 54,789.20
03/05/07	Additions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,000.00							\$ 61,789.20
03/30/07	Interest	64.45	48.25	24.03	18.08	20.09	20.20	4.11	41.98							\$ 62,030.39
03/30/07	Balance	16,577.08	12,409.97	6,180.12	4,648.76	5,165.79	5,194.55	1,055.90	10,798.22	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 62,030.39
04/02/07	Additions	2,500.00	3,100.00	2,400.00	450.00	550.00	-	-	-							\$ 71,030.39
04/30/07	Interest	72.72	59.13	32.71	19.44	21.79	19.80	4.03	41.16							\$ 71,301.17
05/31/07	Interest	75.76	61.60	34.08	20.25	22.70	20.63	4.19	42.89							\$ 71,583.27
06/29/07	Interest	73.68	59.90	33.14	19.69	22.07	20.06	4.08	41.70							\$ 71,857.59
06/29/07	Balance	19,299.24	15,690.60	8,680.05	5,158.14	5,782.35	5,255.04	1,068.20	10,923.97	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 71,857.59
07/31/07	Interest	76.55	62.23	34.43	20.46	22.93	20.84	4.24	43.33							\$ 72,142.60
08/31/07	Interest	76.51	62.21	34.42	20.45	22.93	20.84	4.24	43.31							\$ 72,427.51
09/06/07	Additions		2,400.00													\$ 74,827.51
09/10/07	Additions	2,500.00	3,100.00	2,400.00	450.00	550.00	-	-	-							\$ 83,827.51
09/28/07	Interest	78.58	76.29	39.90	20.22	22.83	18.96	3.85	39.41							\$ 84,127.55
09/28/07	Balance	22,030.88	21,391.33	11,188.80	5,669.27	6,401.04	5,315.68	1,080.53	11,050.02	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 84,127.55
10/30/07	Interest	82.07	79.68	41.68	21.12	23.84	19.80	4.02	41.16							\$ 84,440.92
11/05/07	Additions	2,500.00	3,100.00	2,400.00	450.00	550.00	-	-	-							\$ 93,440.92
11/16/07	Additions									1,015.03						\$ 94,455.95
11/30/07	Interest	82.27	82.13	45.56	20.52	23.31	17.83	3.62	37.07	3.39						\$ 94,771.65
12/20/07	Additions											500.00	4,500.00	4,200.00	1,565.00	\$ 105,536.65
12/20/07	Additions	2,300.00	2,950.00	1,900.00	400.00	450.00	-	-	-							\$ 113,536.65
12/31/07	Interest	79.65	81.46	45.96	19.36	21.98	15.80	3.21	32.84	3.01		1.48	13.28	12.39	4.62	\$ 113,871.69
12/31/07	Additions	481.00									13,657.11					\$ 128,009.80
12/31/07	Balance	\$ 27,555.87	\$ 27,684.60	\$ 15,622.00	\$ 6,580.27	\$ 7,470.17	\$ 5,369.11	\$ 1,091.38	\$ 11,161.09	\$ 1,021.43	\$ 13,657.11	\$ 501.48	\$ 4,513.28	\$ 4,212.39	\$ 1,569.62	\$ 128,009.80