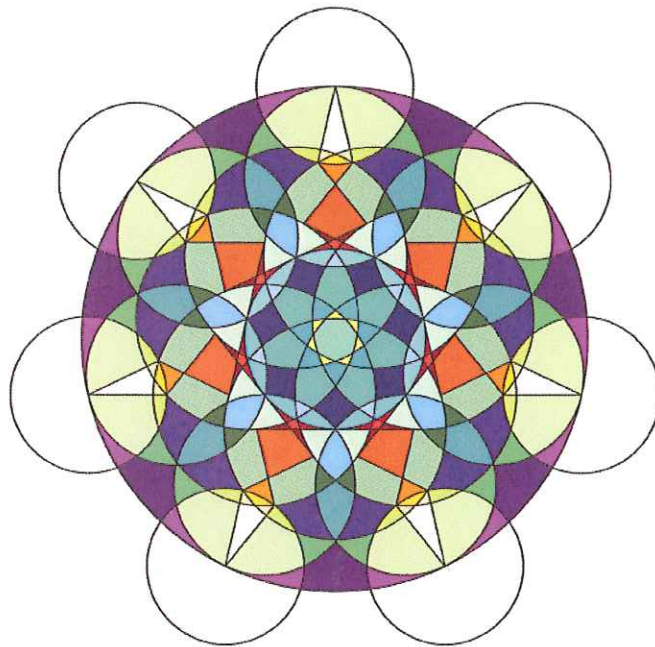


FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



"UNITY"

*ANNUAL MEETING - JANUARY 24, 2010*

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**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT  
272-5323**

**CHURCH STAFF**

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## SENIOR MINISTER

To lift up every aspect of our congregation's ministry or to thank everyone adequately and individually would be impossible. Nonetheless, I thank you! Profusely. And humbly.

I thank the staff, with whom I'm blessed to serve: Alison McCaffrey, Deborah Gravell (who retired in December after nearly 14 years of service), Donna Mead, Joe D'Eugenio, Todd Skrzyniarz (whom we welcomed in August), Roger Olander (whom we thanked after his two-year interim), Leslie Holmes Meyer, Michael Lombardi, Fred Turner, and Pat Turner. And, on our staff's behalf, I thank the entire church. Through Christ's grace and the Spirit's spark, all of you have helped Jesus' mysterious and marvelous ministry to *come alive*... for our congregation... for friends and guests... for our brothers and sisters of the world... and for me, as well.

By all measures, 2009 has been a promising, Spirit-filled year. A new excitement, a renewed sense of purpose is afoot. I have heard it. The entire staff has heard it. We have sensed it and *seen* it!

We have seen this refreshed, "time-is-now" spirit in our congregation's response to challenging economic times. We have seen it in the courage and openness required to expand or (still more challenging) to re-envision and re-vitalize long-running projects and initiatives. And we have seen it in the "*what if...?*" creativity that has spawned new projects, new perspectives, new mission activities, new events... and new opportunities in Christ!

We have witnessed this renewed sense of mission not only in the introduction of fresh elements and movements in worship... but in our congregation's *receptiveness* to these fresh forms. And we have seen it alive and enfolded in the countless and-often-unseen ways that this congregation transformingly cares for its own and for our neighbors.

Your love for the world, for one another, and for us (your staff) marvels and moves us. *Thank* you. And thanks be to God for the light that, weekly, breaks from your faces — in meetings, both chance and planned; in our mutual ministry; and, of course, in *worship*... where, thanks to the Spirit and each of you, Christ's love washes, with liquid warmth, from choir loft to pew to pulpit, then back again.

The Church universal, and, our congregation, perch on the threshold of a new age, a new awakening. It is our Christian commission, our sacred call, and our humbling (if sometimes challenging!) pleasure to discern how to *lean* into that new age, with active minds and open spirits. To do so, we must be true to our rich tradition, yet in a way that is relevant for the present and that rises in the hope of what is yet to be. How else will we expand our vision of what is possible? How else will we foster a mind- and heart-set of bounty (versus scarcity)? How else will we share the Good News in ways that are both compelling and compassionate, challenging yet welcoming, contemplative yet celebratory, multi-generational and multi-sensory?

What excites me, and the entire staff, is that in 2009... our congregation began to do *precisely this: to lean into this new awakening*.

Our work will continue in 2010, as we continue to increase not only our communication, but our collaboration. As we further enhance the breath-like exchange between worship (our nuclear center) and the programs and partnerships that radiate out from (and then flow back into) worship. As we broaden our already-rich sense of Christian hospitality and what it means to welcome someone extravagantly in Jesus' name. As we continue to cultivate transformative, hands-on opportunities for people to reach out to those in need, both nearby and farther afield. And as we continue to explore how the Word can come alive (again and again)... through our readings and our reflections, our songs and our services, our faith and our fellowship, our private and our public moments.

As I look simultaneously both back and forward, I give thanks for the Spirit's call to this church. I thank the Search Committee, with whom I felt such a kindred and joyful connection. I thank our talented leaders and every board and committee member, who serve with such selfless distinction. I thank our staff for investing themselves so passionately. And I thank everyone for so reflexively revealing your good hearts, great gifts, and deep care.

Christ is alive within "The Church on the Green." Unmistakably *alive!* And the more we open ourselves to his Spirit... the deeper our faith will grow, the more we will realize our spiritual potential (of which our congregation is *but beginning* to learn!), and the deeper our ground and our joy will be in the One whose very name, whose very being... is love.

It is with God's Peace, and the Spirit's spark, that I submit this report. And it is in Christ that, together, we will continue... to rise!

God's Peace,  
The Rev. Jeffrey D. Braun

### **ASSOCIATE MINISTER**

Dear Friends,

As I write this, images from our beautiful Christmas Eve services replay themselves in my mind. Under the canopy of heaven's stars, Christ was born in our midst, once and again; God's love enfleshed among us. I saw it happen as a couple—new to our congregation—held their candles, only their faces were illuminated by Divine love newly inflamed from within. I saw it happen as two acolytes lit the candelabras; and with such tender respectful care, one lit the highest ones for the other. I saw it in the exuberant ringing of our youngest as they rang their new Christmas bells, celebrating like Heaven itself, the joyous Good News.

Come January 6, 2010, I will have had the privilege of serving as your Associate Minister for eight completed years. I speak from this perspective when I reflect on the depth and fullness of the Spirit's presence with us Christmas Eve and in so many other ways. God *is* among us: "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert," promises God to the Hebrew people in a time of transition (Isaiah 43:19). God was in their midst; God is surely in ours. Perhaps you, too, perceive God marking new pathways, carving new streambeds for the pulsing Spirit to flow into and through us.

December 9, 2009 marked the completion of our 285<sup>th</sup> year as a congregation – 285 years of God walking with us through many "a new thing." In the course of nearly three centuries, I can imagine that there have been occasions when "new" felt overwhelming for some. For others, "new" might have felt like it took so long to happen that it's not "new" anymore when it arrived. But the same God who announces new things has walked, and promises to walk with us: *Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.* With our hands so firmly held by God's, let us trust that we are in God's care and operating in God's time, and walking into the blessings of this newness of Spirit so palpably present.

In our 285<sup>th</sup> year as First Church, on the green in Cheshire, I perceive God doing these new things:

*A new thing:* God is at work in our staff worship team helping us design worship services whose forms bring us more deeply in touch with the Spirit. Atmospheric is the term we are using to describe the tangible materials and symbolic expressions we bring into the sanctuary and the transformation of our spaces. In February our Ash Wednesday service saw our church building transformed into a literal pilgrimage into Lent that journeyed onward to the hospitality of Maundy Thursday's Upper Room meal. In March we welcomed our new Senior Minister, Jeff Braun, whose

energy and visioning gifts have opened up the possibility of new, creative, and visual avenues of faith's expression, such as World Communion Sunday where we welcomed in the world, to All Saints/ Memorial Music Sunday where we celebrated All the saints, named and unnamed of our congregation, to the presence of all creation—stars and heavens included—at the coming of Christ once and again. In each worship experience, these atmospherics are not meant to merely decorate but to provide a beyond - words portal through which our hearts enter more deeply into worship, and so to meet more fully the presence of the Holy Spirit.

*A new thing:* God is doing a new thing in the hearts of our adults, moving more of us to recognize the need for basic knowledge, understanding of, and growth in our faith. In her book, *Faith Formation in Vital Congregations*, Marion R. Plant notes that Jesus welcomed and blessed the little children and he taught the adults. In the past few years I have been working with a small group called the Parish Life Team to talk about Faith Formation for adults. We have been intentionally *not* calling it Adult Education, as that term does not take into account all the various ways adults learn and are formed in our Christian faith. Just as Jesus taught adults through many modes of learning, we seek to offer various experiences that take seriously our desire to grow in faith and the reality that we learn in different ways to be his followers; that we are formed in our living faith through living out our faith.

With that in mind, traditional Bible Studies have –and will be offered—but so too, other avenues of learning. In March eleven adults traveled to Gulfport, MS to Camp Coast Care for a weeklong hands-on experience of faith in action restoring hope for those whose lives and homes were devastated by Hurricane Katrina. We returned and offered in worship our words and heartfelt emotion the power of God's love we felt. On Maundy Thursday we experienced Jesus' powerful hospitality, as we felt welcomed in his name and presence to share a meal in the Passover tradition, the roots of our sacrament of Communion. In October Peggy Allen and I co-led a daylong Walking Retreat, a spiritual journey in the woods. In November we once again shared the results of looking through a literal camera lens and faith's lens as we considered the question, *What Unites Us*, and answered it in photos, music, wonderful food, and table fellowship. For Advent, adults studied hymns and offered their meditations in booklet form for our Advent journey. Our Men's Group continues meeting faithfully nearly every Saturday morning (8 am, bring your cup of coffee!) to talk, to study, and to pray. The Bereavement Group ran a five-week session to provide comfort and care for our grieving members and friends, which ended with our annual Advent Service for the Grieving. Other small groups continue to meet for fellowship, learning, to create, as an expression of the reality that God meets us right where we are.

*A new thing:* Several years of work is beginning to bear fruit as we launched our geographic districts, which we have named, Church Life Communities. The idea is simple: our church membership is grouped into 12 geographic towns (each with biblical names), but the result is profound: eight "towns" hosted fellowship dinners this fall, where small groups from 6 to 20+ enjoyed one another's company over a meal, made new friends, and deepened the bonds of church ties. These 7 @ 7 Dinners are offered several times a year, and are the first use of these CLC's. To find out your "town", see the map in the parlor.

*A new thing:* This year I have continued to serve in the wider church, but with new responsibilities. I still serve on our New Haven Association's Committee on Ministry, but now as its chair, a role that takes time each week to fulfill, and one with weighty responsibilities as we oversee the authorized ministries and members in the discernment process towards ordination. I now also attend meetings of the statewide gathering of COM chairs. And in October I had the privilege to serve as one of many facilitators for the Sacred Conversation on Race at our CT Conference's Fall Annual Meeting. I am grateful for your support of my time and work in these settings of the UCC.

I also need to express my deepest thanks to you for your love, care, and support of my family and me this past April, when my father died. From that first phone call I received on Tuesday of Holy Week to Good Friday's plane trip to North Carolina, through the next weeks of being away to take care of his estate, I knew I was surrounded by your prayers. I was constantly assured by Jeff and our church President, Bob Mead, that I was where I needed to be. It was hard to be away from you at Easter, but I did experience its power. On Easter Sunday, the day before he died, one of the hospice nurses said to me, "I'm sorry this is happening at Easter." I thought about it and replied, "but this is what Easter is really about. Christ IS risen, risen indeed."

I need also to express my gratitude to be able to serve with such a gifted, faithful, and talented staff who daily live and work in the attitude of giving one's best self to God's call: first Dave Buchan and now Jeff Braun, Joe D'Eugenio, Debbie Gravell, Roger Olander and now Todd Skrzyniarz, Donna Mead, Leslie Holmes Meyer, Michael Lombardi, Fred and Pat Turner; all blessings to me, and to our congregation.

May God richly bless us in the coming year that we may be powerful witnesses to God's abundant love and grace at work in us and through us.

Faithfully,  
Alison McCaffrey

## **COMMISSIONED MINISTER OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

I write this final Annual Report to all of you with profound gratitude for the 13+ years I have had the privilege to serve you as your Commissioned Minister of Christian Education. I have so many wonderful memories of our time together. Over the last several months I have reflected many times on those special memories. I will truly miss each and every one of you. "May the Lord watch between me and thee while we are absent one from the other". This phrase from Genesis has ended our CE board meetings for many months over the years. I pray those words for you all now.

### *Church School Year at a Glance:*

Quality ministry flows as you all follow Christ and his teachings. 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 retired also at the end of the Church School year in May. Thank you, Grace for your many years as our Church School Superintendent. We are blessed by Kirsten Sullivan and Karen Guerrero who are serving as 9:00 Church School Superintendents and Noureen Hakim and Carolyn Brown serving as 11:00 Church School Superintendents as of this fall. We are blessed by the many ways they attend 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 6<sup>th</sup> year with this model.
- This year continued the LIVE Big Curriculum for Preschool 3-1<sup>st</sup> grades. Teachers and children continue to be blessed by this curriculum. We continue to use the LIVE Big Praise Time, Backyard Time and Children's Sermons from the curriculum to companion the lessons during our Chapel Time.
- **Special programs:** Children's Day, 4<sup>th</sup> 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** this year is also using the LIVE Big curriculum designed especially for that age group. Teachers are preparing exciting hands-on lessons and using the special Tweens DVD and contemporary Christian Music that goes along with that curriculum. Teachers report this is going well.

#### Nursery Care

Lisa Skelly continues as our Nursery Coordinator. Lisa 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 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders:

This elementary youth group continues to thrive at its monthly meetings thanks to the leadership of Joyce and Steve Mulholland, Kate Hall, Kerrie Dunne and Mark Sprankel. This group is the stepping stone ministry for our YUTES program. They average about 15 youth each month. Joyce is the coordinator and communication person for the leadership team. Thank you to you all for your hard work with this age group.

#### Confirmation

In March of this year, Rev. Jeff Braun joined our Confirmation leadership team of Emilee Ziolkowski, Mark Dickinson and me. We all finished out the year together. Thank you so much to Mark and Emilee for their volunteer dedication to this group. Leadership of Confirmation was transferred to Jeff as our new Sr. Minister over the summer.

Many thanks to Leslie Holmes Meyer and Michael Lombardi 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. A special thank you to Fred and Pat who have served with me all the years I have ministered in this church. Their support was indispensable.

It is a privilege for me to participate with you in worship, confirmation, church school, 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 this church would not have the wonderful programs for children and families. I will continue to pray for all of you as you continue to minister in the name of our Lord.

Debbie Gravel

#### **DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY**

We had a great 2009 filled with exciting new activities, games, off campus events, and lively faith discussions. Regular Sunday meetings are a combination of games, faith discussions and activities, and worship. Some of our off-site activities included bowling and the zipline canopy tour in Middletown.

We had a number of service opportunities this year including participating in the church-wide cleanups as well as other church sponsored events such as the strawberry festival and Christmas fair. Thanks go out to the Strawberry Festival committee and Christmas Fair Committee for their continued show of support for the YUTES.

We had our first annual 30-hour famine. It was a very successful event. Raising awareness of hunger related issues both in the community and to ourselves was our main goal this year. We did this both through the famine, putting the crosses on the green, and in our food drive.

In order to save funds we remained local this year for our summer mission trip. We traveled to Groton, CT through Group Workcamps Foundation which allowed us to bring much needed repairs to many elderly, disabled, and low income families. We look forward our trip in 2010 as to Mifflinburg, PA.

We continue to be thankful to those individuals and groups that support our ministry outside of the amount budgeted for our group. We thank the Strawberry Festival, Christmas Fair, Board of Outreach, and others within our church family who support our group. We would be unable to reach out and serve without their support. Our program would not be the success it is now without the consistent support of our many adult volunteers. These include, but are not limited to Chris Cowles, Kevin Ross, Joellyn Jason, Mark Hall, Christine Pittsley, Don Lee, Cameron McDonald, and Carolyn Murphy. The YUTES owe great thanks to Roger Olander for his leadership not only as the Interim Director of Youth Ministry but for his support for this group for many, many years.

We are thankful for the love and support the staff and members of First Church have demonstrated to our group. Any visitor to our church would surely notice the emphasis and support our church shows to its young people. Thank You!

Todd Skrzyniarz

### **PARISH CARE COORDINATOR**

The position of the Parish Care Coordinator was established two years ago to provide a caring link between those in need and those who are answering Christ's call to love and care for one another. Specifically, the position was created to fill the unfunded position of Minister for Parish Care. Although there is no substitute for an ordained minister, with God's help, we, as a church, have made great strides in organizing our efforts to address many needs.

It takes many moving parts and caring hearts to provide care to a large congregation such as ours. Our clergy are often the first to respond, but in many cases, follow-on or continuing care moves to the hands of special volunteers. This year over 125 members of our church family have provided direct, hands-on assistance and care to over 600 individuals. Statistically, this reflects a 30% increase in the number of care providers over last year which, in turn, has enabled us to nearly double the number of people we have assisted. Of course, these numbers do not reflect the many spontaneous acts of kindness that often go un-reported (but not unappreciated).

Examples of the types of care provided were: sharing the joyful time of baptism with a plaque and, those born into the congregation, with a home made baby blanket; home-delivered meals during recuperation from surgery or times of stress; rides for those who were home bound; phone calls and cards for special occasions and support during difficult times; comforting visits to the home bound; chores people were unable to do themselves; bereavement groups to help and support those who had lost a loved one; presentations of prayer shawls to those who had suffered a loss or were going through a difficult time; and the prayer pager program. Many of these caring events were carried out by members of the Parish Care Committee or our very special Stephen Ministers. Others were church members performing on-the-spot acts of kindness in response to a situation or event.

Although it is impossible to measure the value of this program, we can conservatively estimate that over 2,000 hours of volunteer time have been expended. Moreover, the volunteers have donated approximately \$6,500 in goods and services out of their own pockets. This includes over 450 hours that I invested in administering the program this year.

Caring for others is one of the pillars of our faith and it is therefore important that we continue to grow the Parish Care component of our church. Despite the noteworthy expansion we have seen this year, there are some early signs of “volunteer burn-out.” As we look to the coming year, my goal is to recruit and train others who can share in this vital and rewarding ministry. I’m entering my third and final year and I will be looking for a replacement that I can train. I’m hoping with the infusion of new volunteers will come new, better ideas of how to make our Parish Care even more meaningful and appropriate to those in need. Being your Parish Care Coordinator is a very satisfying, rewarding position because I am dealing with so many loving, caring people who are giving so generously of their time and talents. May God bless you all and keep you in his care.

Donna C. Mead  
Parish Care Coordinator

## **DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

The music program continues to thrive and provide music for worship services, special recitals, and musical events for both our congregation and the larger Cheshire community. The Senior Choir maintained its schedule of singing bi-monthly at both the 9:00 and 11:00 services. During the seasons of Lent and Advent, the choir sang for both services every Sunday enhancing the worship experience for our congregants on a weekly basis. The members of the choir continue to be incredibly dedicated. As in the past, for special events and services, the choir grew to be as large as 30 voices. All singers on our roster are kept informed about choir happenings and are invited to sing regularly. The choir provides most of the music for the music program, singing a diverse range of liturgical repertoire to enhance and inspire the worship experience for our congregation.

Three of the most prominent services in 2009 were our annual Memorial Music Sunday services—this year performed twice in one calendar year—and Candlelight Lessons & Carols. Memorial Music Sunday was presented at one 10:00 A.M. service on Sunday, March 29 and on Sunday, November 1. The choir was joined by singers on both occasions from the Greater Middletown Chorale and from the Cheshire community. Two major choral works were sung: “Lux aeterna” by prominent contemporary composer Morton Lauridsen and “Chichester Psalms” by Leonard Bernstein. These masterworks brought our choir members together to learn and grow through music and faith, and inspired an ongoing sense of community.

Candlelight Lessons & Carols was also presented on the fourth Sunday of Advent in the afternoon. The service included the full nine traditional lessons and carols, with special decorations inside and outside the church, and was very well attended.

The music board once again raised approximately \$4,000 over and above its \$5,300 budget, by hosting concerts, recitals and special worship services outside of the usual Sunday morning hours. 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. We hope that music continues to be a source of outreach for First Church by more of our church family.

Our summer “Music on the Green” concert was held on the green in July. The “Heartbeat Dixieland Jazz Band” played to a crowd of about 75 concert-goers in the Parish Hall. The rain forced the event inside, but great fun and fellowship was had by all.

Patricia Barbano continues at First Church as our soprano section leader. She offers an exceptional soprano voice and fine musical 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 five years, and contributes enormously to the program and choir.

The Youth Choirs continue to participate in worship. The Junior Choir tried a pilot program which expanded rehearsal time and offered more extensive instruction for our choristers. Patricia Barbano and Megan Stephan helped and supported this new initiative. The Junior Choir continues to provide music for the entire worship service every month. They sing one anthem and all of the hymns to help lead the congregation in song. The Primary Choir continues to thrive and grow. Weekly rehearsals and singing once a month in worship provides our youngest choristers a chance to learn about the music they sing and to begin to develop their voices.

The hand bell choir, under the direction of Marianne Beckmann, continued to involve adults and children in ringing four times per year for Sunday worship and other special services and events. Even though the hand bell choir director position was eliminated from the central church budget in June of 2009, Marianne has graciously continued her work at the church for a fraction of her former salary. She also involved the Senior Choir in ringing for special services as well as to build the bell choir.

Our church is fortunate to have such talent in the congregation that there is either a choir, or soloist(s) every Sunday of the calendar year. We are grateful for everyone who provides music for worship throughout the year, including during the summer!

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 more welcomed at First Church and discover how much our church offers as a whole.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joseph D'Eugenio  
Music Director

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

As you read the various sections of this annual report you can see a church that is growing and responding to God's call in so many remarkable ways. We are blessed with a dedicated staff, energized boards and committees, as well as a variety of small groups and individual efforts that collectively have brought scripture to life. As you walk through the church, you can hear and feel the excitement. We have much to be thankful for and yet much to do.

Among our blessings we now enjoy some stability within the ranks of our staff. After a two year search process, we have called the Reverend Jeffrey Braun to be our senior minister. Arriving in March, Jeff and his family have fully immersed themselves in the life of our church and his vibrant style of ministry reverberates throughout the congregation. Also joining the staff is our newly called Director of Youth Ministry, Todd Skrzyniarz who has hit the ground running. The "YUTES" response to Todd's leadership is clearly evident. We would be remiss in not paying tribute to the Reverend Dave Buchan and Roger Olander who admirably served as Interim Senior Minister and Interim Director of Youth Ministry respectively. Without their steady and reassuring leadership, this period of transition would have been a rough road indeed.

Countering the good news of Jeff and Todd's arrival, it is with deep regret that we bid farewell to Debbie Gravell, our Commissioned Minister of Christian Education, who retires after 13 years of faithful and dedicated service. Debbie has envisioned, nurtured and guided a Christian Education program that other churches strive to emulate. Most importantly, she has touched the lives of our church's most precious assets...our children. Debbie leaves behind a legacy of excellence and finding a suitable replacement will be a major challenge for the coming months. A search for an

Acting Director of Christian Education has already begun and a search committee to locate a permanent director has recently been approved by a congregational vote.

Your Executive Board continues to coordinate and communicate the activities of a multi-faceted church family while also evaluating our progress and planning for the future. Part of our monthly agenda includes watching key indicators. Nationwide we see that mainstream churches are suffering from a decline in attendance and a significant loss in revenues. Here in Connecticut, many churches have cut vital programs and reduced staff. We have bucked these trends and are pleased to report that we are “holding our own.” Although we can point to these vital statistics as good news, the sad truth is that we are stagnant when God calls us to grow and spread the good news.

This apparent stagnation has been, and will continue to be, a focus of your Executive Board. The center of the discussion is not how to recruit and retain more members nor is it how to increase our pledge income. But rather, the true task before us entails a much larger effort...one that focuses on how we as a church grow in faith to become more spiritually mature. We continue to engage in conversations and listen to the voices of the entire congregation, seeking ways to bolster those activities that help us grow, add new ones where there is a need, and to challenge those activities and events that limit or impede our growth. And it is with this challenge in mind that we conclude, “there is much to do.”

As I conclude this two-year opportunity to serve as your president, I pass on my heartfelt thanks to the clergy, staff, boards, committees as well as my brothers and sisters in Christ who have all made this a most enjoyable and rewarding experience.

God bless you all.  
Robert Mead  
President

#### **BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

To say that the 2009 Christian Education Board membership has been very busy this year is an understatement!! The 10 active members have supported the traditional CE Board sponsored activities of Children’s Day and Teacher Appreciation, Youth Sunday, Church School Kick-Off, Third Grade Bible Potluck, Fourth Grade Bible Potluck, Christmas Pageant support and reception and Operation Christmas Child, Heifer Project International, and the Advent Workshop. We had a presence at Homecoming (a table to remind and obtain some of the outstanding Church School registration forms) and we donated a Family Faith Fun Basket for the Christmas Fair. We welcomed Todd Skrzyniarz as the part time Director of Youth Ministry and will fill the gap at the end of the year for Debbie Gravell’s resignation. Our “new” Board members became part of the CE Board family – acclimating quickly to the busy schedule and robust meetings.

Todd Skrzyniarz accepted the call and began in the Youth Ministry position in August, 2009. He transitioned into the role easily having been a Resource Adult in prior years. The 72 hour Famine program brought visibility via newsprint and television to the Church Green- an austere sight to remind us that around the world, poverty and famine is real!! The YUTES Mission Trip was another huge success. Special thanks to Roger Olander who served as the Acting Director of Youth Ministry for longer than he originally expected. We are excited about what Todd brings to the position and grateful to Roger for the energy and excitement that he rekindled and sustained.

At the end of the summer, we said goodbye to our CE Board Youth representative Hannah Louys, who left for college after serving on the CE Board for 1.5 years. Hannah was a strong presence on the CE Board bringing fresh ideas and the YUTES perspective to discussions. She completed the re-

design of the 2009 updated Sunday School Registration form which now has a sunny yellow border and is more user-friendly.

In August, the updated Family Ministry Handbook was introduced. This version utilizes some of the wonderful pictures from Don Lee and Mark Hall and incorporates them into a 2009 version of the treasures (details) and policies of our various Sunday School programs. Special thanks to Ted Bloschichak and Carol Ploch who spent endless hours editing and identifying gaps/improvements to a few versions, Linda Milton who coordinated the revisions, and to Will Arpaia for technical assistance with MS Publisher. The FCC office printed the handbook in color and distributed via U.S. Postal Mail to registered families the last week of August. The new updated Family Ministry Handbook is available on the First Church Website.

The tryouts for the Christmas Pageant speaking parts were very popular this year; 27 children participated and Linda Milton revamped the script to include a part for all of them. The pageant also included some new talent with Michelle Barbour taking over as costumer and Chris Barbour helping with some set design changes. A number of volunteers in rehearsing the groups, to section leaders helping direct and provide cues for the cast, it was an endearing (and adorable) pageant with some of the youngest speaking angels ever! The traditional Christmas story was presented through the eyes of the children.

While planning for the Christmas Pageant and reception were in progress, we accepted Debbie Gravell's resignation effective 12/20/09 and began planning another search committee for the Director of Christian Education position. The Church accepted Debbie's resignation on December 6 and celebrated her 13 years of service in that position on December 20. A position posting for an Acting Director of Christian Education position for 25 hours per week is currently in progress. The CE Board is covering the gaps in the short term until that position is filled; concurrently a Search Committee to fill the permanent position with the "updated" job description in hand was initiated after the 12/6/09 Church Meeting (in accordance with the bylaws).

At the end of this year, we have some "senior" leadership of the board moving on-- Grace Knipe, who has so capably fulfilled the CE Board secretary position rotates off the CE Board and has stepped down as the Church School Superintendent to pursue interests in another church committee; Lynn Ryan stepped down from the Chair of the CE Board a little early due to health and family issues, has completed her term and will be missed for the wealth of knowledge in CE Board activities and action. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Lynn who has had more than her share of Life challenges this year; and our congratulations to Grace, who is moving on to another church committee.

For 2010, the CE Board is looking to set goals and objectives to build the Sunday School program and bring staffing to its full strength. We are studying the attendance statistics and find that the weekly record keeping might be the cause for the unusual fluctuation in the numbers. Because Sunday School has not been offered on the single service Sundays, we are looking for a way to incorporate a program like Sunday School for single service Sundays. Another change in the curriculum is the extended Sunday School at 11 A.M. service to end at 12:15 P.M. We found that many parents wanted to depart right after church and the additional 15-20 minute program often ended with parents/children's departures before 12:15 P.M. The CE Board is revisiting.

We are looking at providing benchmark measures for certain functions through the introduction of a (Survey Monkey) Christian Education Sunday School survey which will be introduced in December or January, 2010 to understand the issues and preferences.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lynn Ryan and Linda Milton  
Chairs, Board of Christian Education

## BOARD OF DEACONS REPORT

Last March, the Deacons were privileged to witness the beginnings of Jeff's ministry here at First Congregational Church. His energy coupled with Alison's creative flair invigorated our worship services. The Deacons worked to support these efforts and resulted in wonderful Holy Week, World Communion, and Advent worship services.

Other highlights of the year included a very successful Homecoming. The green people are still making their way through our congregation. Special thanks to Joyce Mulholland for leading this and also for documenting the process that subsequent festivals should follow.

Jim Parys and Mark Dickinson are also commended for their vision of a congregational Thanksgiving meal in our own parish hall open to those who didn't have others to gather with.

Not many will forget that steamy July meeting where Peter Gadsby asked us to bless a wooden cross he had built for a fledgling church in New Haven. The sight of Peter trudging along the back lawn with the cross over his shoulder is permanently etched in our souls.

As usual, Jackie Cole and Donna Mead anchored the group and made sure that everything moved as it should. Visitations were made to the right people and communion was prepared and administered flawlessly. Donna and Jackie will be missed as they go off the board.

Elsa Bradford, who is also going off the board, continued to be a staunch advocate for scholarships and her efforts will be missed as well.

All is not lost however as there is a strong returning core. Mark Dickinson will be the 2010 Senior Deacon and Matt Childs will return as the Deacon's Treasurer.

Thank you to all for your help and support during the year.  
Mark Sullivan.

### Deacon's Treasurer Report

<b>Fund Name</b>	<b>1/1/2009 Beginning Balance</b>	<b>Contributions Received</b>	<b>Interest Earned</b>	<b>Disperse</b>	<b>12/31/2009 Ending Balance</b>
<i>Memorial</i>	\$1,194.35	\$2,911.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$3,105.35
<i>S.B. France</i>	\$1,075.20	0.00	\$55.53	\$0.00	\$1,130.73
<i>All Saints Scholarship</i>	\$982.87	170.00	\$488.82	\$1,200.00	\$441.69
<i>T. Clark Fund</i>	\$416.78	0.00	\$53.61	\$0.00	\$470.39
<i>Mary Hotchkiss</i>	\$4,835.38	0.00	\$832.65	\$552.35	\$5,115.68
<i>Emerson</i>	\$1,390.05	0.00	\$268.56	\$500.00	\$1,158.61
<i>Stephen Ministry</i>	\$135.60	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$135.60
<i>Salt &amp; Light Fund</i>	\$5,330.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$2,700.00	\$2,630.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,356.23</b>	<b>\$3,081.00</b>	<b>\$1,699.17</b>	<b>\$5,952.35</b>	<b>\$14,188.05</b>

**Income Received**

**Memorial Gifts:** \$2,911.00  
*Given in memory of:*

Dorothy Swanson	Bill Gager
Bob Montgomery	Phyllis Fetscher
Polly Oxnard	Robert Nims
Jeffrey Norback	DeWitt Weschler
Ethel Prentice	Bernice Anderson
Dorothy Swanson	

**Scholarship Gifts:** \$170.00  
**Trust Fund Income:** \$1,699.17  
**Other Income:** \$0.00

**Significant Allocations:**

Mission Trip:	\$1,052.35
Salt & Light Grants:	\$2,700.00
Scholarships:	\$1,200.00
World Communion Sunday:	\$250.00
Deacon Fund:	\$500.00
Adele Paxton Music:	<u>\$250.00</u>
	\$5,952.35

**BOARD OF MUSIC**

This has been another busy year as the Board of Music has continued to support and expand the music ministry at First Church. Members of the Board included Joan Benedetto, Susan Bishop, Charlene Black, Jane Bower, Patrick Hackett, Ramin Hakim, Andrew Hostage, Perry Stevens, Megan Stephan, Marty Swartz and David Wyllie.

Under the excellent leadership of Joe D'Eugenio, the Senior Choir of First Church is a dedicated group of strong musicians and singers who devote their time and talents to learning and performing sacred music as a regular part of worship. Through discussions and reflections, the Board has offered input and feedback regarding the incorporation of music as a means of expression, sharing, and contemplation within worship and fellowship activities. Through fundraising efforts, the Board has supported the hiring of Patricia Barbano, soprano, as a section leader and assistant to Joe.

The Board supported several musical services as an expansion of traditional Sunday morning worship. One such program was the traditional Memorial Music Sunday which, this past March, featured a performance of Morton Lauridsen's *Lux aeterna*. In keeping with this year's calendar change of moving MMS to November, on All Saints' Day (November 1) the choir offered Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, accompanied by members of the Greater Middletown Chorale, Allan Conway on organ, Don Holm on percussion and Grace Cloutier on harp. Both of these moving services provided members of the congregation with meaningful opportunities to honor and remember people who have been important in their lives and who have passed on before us.

During the Advent Season, the Board assisted with plans for our traditional Candlelight Lessons and Carols Service. This was planned with the assistance of the ministers of the church, and provided an expanded worship opportunity for the congregation to participate in the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, a celebration dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Our annual L&C service was well attended and one of the year's most anticipated services.

The Board continues to recognize the power of music as a means of providing outreach to the entire community, and seeks to offer First Church as a gathering place for recitals and performances beyond worship. This past year, the Board sponsored two afternoon recitals by young artists, soprano Regina Walter and high school senior Carly Carlow. These recitals provided excellent afternoon musical programs which were very well received. Both events, and the receptions following, were well attended by regular church goers as well as members of the larger community.

A major event sponsored by the Board was the third annual Summer Music on the Green event in July. While the weather did not cooperate on that day, this wonderful program gathered people of all ages from the greater Cheshire area for fellowship and an enjoyable listening experience. The Board extends special thanks to the Heartland Dixieland Jazz Band for their wonderful performance, and our plan is to invite this band back again for the 2010 Summer Music on the Green.

The Board has also made considerable progress in planning for a more formal annual First Church Music Series which will encompass the musical events that are presented outside of traditional worship services. Several church members have offered to participate in a subcommittee dedicated to the implementation of the series. The approach of placing the varied events into the context of a dedicated music series will facilitate planning, fundraising, publicity and ensure that the events are in keeping with the broader church mission of community engagement.

All of these events would not have been possible without the active contributions of those Board members mentioned above. In addition to adding meaning to our worship and fellowship activities, these events have enabled the Board to raise approximately \$4,000 over and above our budget. These additional funds will be utilized to further the development of the music program, purchase new music, and support the section leader, an absolutely vital part of our choral music program. It has been our pleasure to sponsor these events for the church family and to foster the continued development of a strong music program.

Martha Swartz and Jane Bower  
Co-Chairs

## **BOARD OF OUTREACH**

The Board of Outreach was co-chaired by Gretchen Bates and Kerrie Dunne, with members Rev. Alison McCaffrey, Joy Biggart, Chris Fitzmaurice, Pam Cappiello, Chris Eisbach, Cindy Mazzaferro, Eric Ploch, Pete Ploch, Rev. Peggy Allen, Will Arpaia, Jack Guetens, Annette Shoop, and Amy Webb.

### **The Board of Outreach sponsored, supported, or helped with the following in 2009:**

- **Salt and Light Grants given.** Grants included: tambourines to Pete Gatsby; 2009 Confirmation Class for materials for Americares; funding to Peter Gadsby to help build a handicap accessible bathroom at a New Haven church; CE Heifer project; and funds to help support the Adult Mission Trip.
- **Donations** (monetary, toys, artwork, and dishes) from church members disbursed to such groups as Chrysalis.

- **Allocated funds to several groups/missions**, including: Cromwell Children's Home; GWIM; CT Food Bank; FISH of Greater New Haven; NH Assn. Scholarship; fertilizer for Malawi; shipping shoes to Haiti; Will Santa Find Me; local fuel bank; Operation Fuel; and to Christian Community Action. The Board also sponsored a Malawi child.
- **Monetary Support for UCC Connecticut Conference.** Also invited Patsy Bjorling, CT Conference of UCC, to speak at our church with an invitation to all boards.
- **Malawi Night** (March 12). Amy Webb spoke about her trip to Malawi and we also learned more about the AIDS orphans we help, plus enjoyed some African drumming.
- **Gulf Mission Trip** (March 15-21). Eleven (11) volunteers worked at Camp Coast Care, Mississippi, on various projects, including building and painting. Previously, in January, a concert was held to raise funds for the trip. Also, Gulf Coast Mission Dinner was held on May 21 to tell everyone about the mission trip.
- Developed a **brochure for the Board of Outreach** (Will Arpaia) and **for the Malawi Orphan Project** (Amy Webb).
- **Covenant for Caring Easter Baskets.** Collected over 70 baskets which went to DCF.
- **Bottle/Can Collection for Malawi.** Kevin Ross collects bottles/cans the first Sunday of each month.
- **Barrel collection for Haiti.** Items collected included shoes, school supplies and personal hygiene items.
- **Gently used shoe collection for Haiti** (April 19). Collected approximately 200 shoes.
- **Blanket Sunday for Church World Services** (May). Approximately 170 blankets sold.
- **Baby bottle collection** (July) for Chrysalis and Covenant for Caring (DCF), which collected approximately \$525 and many baby items.
- **Hygiene Kits to Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, Mississippi**, collected through September 27.
- Sponsored **Break the Cycle of Poverty**, an educational program about poverty in Connecticut.
- **Strawberry Festival table** – June 13. Plant sale to raise funds for our adult mission trip and also distributed educational materials about the Board of Outreach. Collected pennies for Malawi. Also had a table at the **Christmas Fair**.
- **Backpacks** to Cheshire Human Services (August) for ten (10) fourth graders in Cheshire.
- **KIVA micro loans.** Researched this program which is a UCC approved on line loan facilitator and made two loans.
- **Malawi Aids Concert** (November 22). With an arts & craft silent auction and alternative gift fair.
- **Raked leaves** for a church member (November 21).
- **Midnight Run** – This is a project to support the homeless in New Haven with food and clothing. Outreach members went out on a run and are presently setting up this program for 2010.
- Monthly collection and counting of **food items** (all cereal to FISH).
- Sponsored an educational program presented by **Simply Smiles**, a mission in South America that started with orphanages and now works on other projects, such as with people living in the dumps.
- **Thanksgiving Dinners (56)** were gathered and delivered.
- Provided twelve (12) hygiene packages to **Webster Correctional Facility** (December).
- Joy Biggart coordinated the **mitten tree**.
- Collected fifty (50) Christmas gifts for DCF Waterbury.

The Board also explored other potential future missions, including Grow a Row (to produce food for food banks).

And finally, the Board of Outreach held a Planning Meeting on July 12 to discuss the direction of Outreach, projects and funding.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kerrie Dunne

### **BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP**

During the course of 2009, the Board of Stewardship focused on a) a continuation of its incorporation of the concepts of the book “Ask.Thank.Tell.” and b) coordinating our efforts with new Senior Minister Jeff Braun from a logistical, theoretical and spiritual standpoint. The book preaches two main concepts: First, 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. 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, tell the membership about the pledging.

The Board continued its active outreach to the members of the Church via contact with the membership to find out about why some don't pledge, and to encourage them to do so. In addition, we have stepped up our efforts to educate and advocate stewardship throughout as many aspects as possible of parish life, from new church members as part of the new membership orientation process, as well as via “stewardship moments” during services in the fall and numerous Parish Post articles.

The Board “Thanked” the Congregation by providing lots and lots of pie at Coffee Hour on Stewardship Sunday (October 25, 2008) open to all, to raise the spirits and blood sugar levels, and to celebrate the stewardship season.

The Board, with the approval of the Executive Board, now has a great “tell” opportunity in being authorized to publish a list of those members who pledged and that have given permission to have their names (not pledge amounts) on such a list. This process is in development—the results and parish response should be interesting.

The result of these efforts was that pledge levels for 2009 pretty much matched those of 2008. This is a “victory” of sorts in light of a long troubled economy, but disappointing in that it's apparent that a sizable percentage of the members of this Church continue not to make a pledge. There are increased costs associated with refilling our capital project reserves and staff cost increases on the horizon, and the church will need greater participation from non-pledgers, as well as more significant participation from current pledgers, to meet these needs.

That being said, the Board continues its dual practical and spiritual approach to improving stewardship amongst the congregation, and remains optimistic that our efforts and the efforts of all throughout our congregation who support our church will be successful.

Respectfully Submitted  
Anthony R. DePaolo  
Co-Chair, Board of Stewardship

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

In the 2002 Annual Report, the report of the Board of Trustees said, “There were significant challenges to be met in dealing with an uncertain economy and in completing the labor of love of maintaining a magnificent yet aging facility with limited resources.” Here we are in 2009, and we can say the same thing!

Our major projects for this year were replacing the leaking slate roof on the Parish Hall, replacing the connector slate and rubber roof, and replacing the side porch on the parsonage. The slate was 59 years old and had been deteriorating for some time and the porch was falling down. Because the church is part of the Cheshire Historic District, we had to receive approval of our planned replacements from the Historic District Commission. This expenditure for the roof project was not covered by 2009 budget funds so the Trustees reluctantly agreed to take the money from the Capital Maintenance and Repair Fund that we have been trying to grow with yearly deposits from the church budget and used other available funds for the porch work.

The bathroom in the Whiting House apartment was also replaced and because it was done at the end of the year, we were able to use budgeted maintenance money from 2008 and 2009, buying the fixtures in 2008 and doing the installation in February 2009.

Our "Adopt-a-Flower Bed" program was a great success with many parishioners signing up to take care of a specific flower bed or landscaped area from April to November. Many hands made lighter work for the Trustees! Our Spring and Fall grounds cleanups were excellent examples of this when over 60 people came out to help, including parishioners, YUTES, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Cub Scouts and their parents.

Our Columbarium sub-committee has been hard at work on the church's proposed columbarium. The Trustees and the Executive Board have both approved the rules and regulations, application, general information, giving opportunities, and duties of the Columbarium Governing Board as drawn up by the committee. A presentation will be made to update the congregation on the columbarium status at the Annual Meeting in January. The committee hopes to begin the sale of plots early in 2010.

New hard-wired exit signs, as required by the Fire Marshall, have been installed in the Parish Hall and the sanctuary.

These are the major projects undertaken this year, but there are also the day to day operating and maintenance items that occur – things that get taken care of before you notice there is a problem.

Our sincere thanks to Chris Barbour, Holly Crowell, Bill Eagleson, Bob Johmann, Tom Reid, and Anne Giddings, who are leaving the Board, for everything they have done to make you proud to say you are a member of First Congregational, that beautiful church on the green. We would be negligent if we didn't also thank our Treasurers: Walt Ryan, Sara Buell, and Betsy Barber and our staff: Leslie Holmes Meyer, Michael Lombardi, Fred and Pat Turner for all they do for First Church.

Martha Lape and Alan Skiparis, Co-Chairs

### **CHESHIRE INTERFAITH HOUSING**

CIH has built five affordable houses in Cheshire that are still owned and occupied by their original owners. Since land to build an affordable house is so expensive in Cheshire, CIH works with the Senior Center to identify older citizens who need some home improvements, such as ramps, so the residents can "get out of the house!"

CIH is currently looking for affordable housing projects in Cheshire--new construction or renovations. A bid on an existing house is currently under construction. Finding suitable, affordable land is the most critical issue. Considerations have been explored with Cheshire Human Services, the Cheshire Senior Center and the Cheshire Housing Authority.

Rev. Barbara Barlok represents FCC on the CIH Board of Directors along with representatives from at least 8 other congregations. Please contact Barbara if you have any interest in serving or ideas for CIH.

Rev. Barbara Barlok 203-272-7994

## **FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE**

Committee Members: Martha Triplett-Stollo, Jaclyn Hissick, Leslie Parys, Lisa Canas, Jane Richard and Regan Huntley.

This year, a member of our committee stepped down due to family circumstances. Everyone that remained on the committee worked diligently to make sure that this absence did not debilitate our work.

We are extremely grateful to all of the boards, committees, small groups and individuals who helped out with the setting up, the serving, the cleaning up and of course the baking for the weekly church coffee hours and the other special receptions which the Fellowship Committee is responsible for.

This year we have continued to work on establishing a calendar of assignments that will remain constant from year to year so that all of the organizations will know when their hosting date is. Thankfully, the church is not static and while we try to maintain a constant schedule it is not always possible. This past year for example we had special receptions to say goodbye to our interim minister and to welcome our new minister. The schedule was also thrown a bit off by the late date of Labor Day this year.

We are always looking to create new opportunities for people who are not members of any boards, committees, or small groups to take part in the hosting. This year, the establishment of “Group Districts” has opened new opportunities for potential group hosts of Coffee Hour.

The Fellowship Committee is happy to be serving Fair Trade Coffee at all of our functions. The Board of Outreach purchases this coffee for our use from the organization “Equal Exchange – Fairly Traded Coffee”. They are able to cover the cost with the donations received at coffee hour. Buying this coffee is an opportunity for Outreach because it helps to support small-scale farmers in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Through this project, farmers earn a fair price for their products, have access to affordable credit and gain a long-term trading partner they can trust in Equal Exchange. In short, the profits go back to the farmers instead of a large corporate conglomerate. In addition, we are drinking organically grown coffee helping to promote a “green” earth as well as supporting the small farmer.

This year the Fellowship Committee also participated in discussions with the Welcoming and Membership Committees as to ways we can improve our service to the church and make First Congregational more welcoming than it already is. It was tasked to the Fellowship Committee to decide whether we were willing to expand our role to helping out with service during special programs sponsored by other committees. We met to discuss this possibility and it was decided that our commitments should remain the same without expanding our description. It was suggested that perhaps a new committee be established to help out with service during special programs sponsored by other committees.

It is wonderful to see so many people staying after the church services to socialize and enjoy the refreshments. Good things happen over coffee and goodies.

Regan Huntley

## **FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT**

In the year 2009, the Financial Secretaries processed receipts to our church as follows:

2009 Pledge Payments	\$547,102.80
Plate & Church School Receipts	45,681.04
2010 Prepaid Pledge Payments	33,833.03
2008 Pledge Payments	10,243.00

Other significant offerings were received for the Building Fund, Memorial Music, Music Activities, Miscellaneous Benevolences, Adult Mission Trip, Neighbors in Need and Other Contributions which totaled \$40,530.73.

Our regular team, which meets weekly, includes Ann Madden, Dennis Lape and Louise Petrasko. Reliable alternate Peggy Conant arrives on request. Charles Jones makes bank deposits each Sunday. Fred Turner is always helpful.

Happily, Marianne Eagleson has joined us and performs all aspects of this position.

My sincere appreciation to all,  
Emma Norback

## **HISTORY COMMITTEE**

The committee has continued the digitizing of our permanent records. So far we have 4 CD's with the following records:

1. Minutes of church meetings and other official actions 1900-1951.
2. Minutes of church meetings and other official actions 1951-1979.
3. Annual reports from the beginning in 1946 to 1960.
4. Ecclesiastical Society 1864-1950. (Replaced by the Board of Trustees in 1950)

These CD's are readable on any computer having Adobe software.

The committee will continue the digitizing process in the coming year. Our limitation on the rate of digitizing is the cost of the process. Thus, the committee is developing a plan to finance the conversion of the rest of our records. We need to digitize the rest of the records from the ones produced so far, 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 1939 when they were done.

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 2008:

1. On March 16, 2009 we welcomed the Rev. Jeffrey D. Braun as our Senior Minister.
2. At the end of the year Commissioned Minister of Christian Education Deborah Gravel resigned. A committee has been formed to seek a replacement.
3. The Rev. Alison McCaffrey led the Scripture by Heart group in a presentation of the Matthew passion story on Palm Sunday.
4. We continue to have an outstanding music program led by Joseph D'Eugenio. For Memorial Music Sunday, the Senior Choir presented the Chichester Psalms by Leonard Bernstein.
5. In September, member Todd Skrzyniarz became our Director of Youth Ministry, replacing Interim Director of Youth Ministry, member Roger Olander.

Richard A. Eppler  
Historian

## **LIBRARY COMMITTEE**

**Members:** Audrey Finkenstadt, Nancy Turner, Ruth Eppler, Shirley Albanese, Lois Splain

The Library committee met on the First Monday of the month throughout the year. I met with a different member of the committee during the summer months to begin the processing of the influx of donated books. After a death and a resignation, we were down to four members. Shirley Albanese and I weeded out half the collection books that had not been signed out for the past 15 years.

**Objectives:** To establish a collection of books and audio/visual materials meeting the religious needs of the church family, adults and children alike.

**Responsibilities:** Additions and deletions to the collection are the responsibility of the library committee. Recommendations from staff and the congregation are welcomed and considered, but are not binding. We now assist the Board of Music at Coffee Hour since all but two of their members are in the choir.

**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. This does not apply to religious classics and reference books. The Senior Minister now approves all discarded books before their cards are removed from the card file. They are then made available to the congregation on the Free Book cart.

**Monthly Meetings:** We meet to process new books and the typing of cards for the card files, categorizing, and recording of the books. Hardbacks are covered. Returned books are also processed and returned to their proper shelves. New cards are filed and new books are placed on their proper shelves. Overdue notices are sent out when necessary.

**Budget:** Our budget is limited so we welcome donations and memorial gifts to purchase new books.

We sincerely hope that church members take advantage of our quite extensive collection. The various classifications are indicated on the shelves. Junior High & Senior High books and fiction are located in the parlor. Also in the parlor is our new video/DVD corner. The A-P classifications are in the Library. Classification lists are in both sites. The Children's Library is located downstairs. Simply sign the book card and leave it in the appropriate box and return it to the same location. New additions will be listed in the Parish Post. Enjoy!

Audrey Finkenstadt  
Chairperson

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

The 2009 Membership Committee included Marianne Eagleson, Pam Euerle, Stacey Groshart, Jay Knipe, Bobbie Porter, Arleen Reid, Ernie Swartz, Ken Stevens and Carol Tucker. Mark Hostage participated in our monthly meetings as our deacon representative.

Each committee member displayed extraordinary dedication to the significant tasks confronting membership this year. The primary task was planning and implementing the June and October orientation sessions for potential new members. The goal was to insure an exuberant welcome while providing a comprehensive understanding of the UCC and specifically First Church Cheshire UCC. Information was shared about the joy of participation in stewardship, boards and committees of the church. A discussion of each individual's faith journey (so far) and questions about what membership means was followed by a tour of the Church and the Whiting House. The day concluded with all sharing in communion in the sanctuary.

Midway during the orientation Saturday, a luncheon was prepared and served by the membership committee to the potential new members. It was served in a decorated parish hall rearranged to provide an intimate setting for fellowship, conversation and warmth.

On New Member Sunday, a commitment to full membership to First Church was made by the newly oriented potential members. The new members were presented a Bible, were introduced to the congregation and honored at a reception in the Parish Hall hosted by the Membership Committee. Photos taken at the orientation session of our new members were on display.

About two months after new member Sunday, a wonderful new tradition is offered to the new members. The Membership Committee, clergy and new members join together for fellowship and fun in the home of an individual from the Membership Committee. This informal gathering enhances new friendships and connections among church members.

The monumental task requested of this Membership Committee was the responsibility for the Church new photo directory. Life Touch was researched and chosen to photograph and provide directories to the congregation. The Membership Committee coordinated appointments, provided staffing for photo registration, coordinated directory information, and design layout. With a Herculean effort each directory was capably completed and will be available in January 2010. Special appreciation is due to Bobbie Porter and Marianne Eagleson, co-chairs of the project, Jay Knipe for maintaining and organizing the photo session appointments, and Stacey Groshart's talented layout design and implementation. Also, thanks go to Don Lee and Mark Hall for taking pictures of people who were unable to schedule a LifeTouch photo session as well as providing photographs for the directory activity pages.

The individuals who chose to commit to membership in First Church during 2009 are: Jeff and Lori Braun, Don Machado, L. Brian Castler, Angela Michaels, Adam and Alison Perrin, Erik Biggart, Suzanne and Joe Robinson, Tom and Kathleen Davies, Nicole Griffin, Mark and Kim Poole, and Arthur and Nancy Dayton, an extraordinary group.

The Membership Committee treasures each new member and the honor of being responsible for the welcome orientation, process of membership commitment, and sustaining the joy of becoming a part of this Church family.

*“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.”*  
*1 Corinthians 12:12*

Bobbie Porter and Pam Euerle, Co-Chairpersons

### **MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP**

Our group of eighteen members met the first and third Wednesday of each month with the exception of our summer recess during July and August. A continental style breakfast is served, furnished by various members on a volunteer basis. We try to have an interesting speaker or program for each meeting. Those in attendance question the speaker and lively discussion results. All male church members are invited to attend. Call 203-272-1477 for more information.

Bob Johmann, Coordinator

## **PARISH CARE COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **Members of the Parish Care Committee:**

Jim Van Der Beek – Parish Care Committee lead

Donna Mead – Parish Care Coordinator

**Members:** John Bates, Sue Chatfield, Jackie Cole, Marianne Eagleson, Dick Eppler, Ken and Pam Euerle, Jan Garthwait, Charles Jones, Martha Lape, Bobbie Porter, Kevin and Beth Ross, and Lynn Ryan.

As always, the Parish Care Committee has been very busy taking care of the needs of our congregation. In addition, the committee hosted a coffee hour and continued to recruit volunteers at the Parish Life Expo in the fall. Donna Mead, the Parish Care Coordinator, has done an outstanding job of logging all the committee activities in Church Windows and was constantly on the look out for members of the congregation who could benefit from our ministries. This year she logged over 425 volunteer hours.

A summary of our active ministries in 2009 follows:

**Baptism Ministry:** Ken and Pam Euerle head this ministry and provide the parents of baptized children with a hand printed picture of the praying hands in a frame for the baby, a knitted baby blanket for members of the congregation, and follow-up a year later with a card. They have done approximately 23 baptisms/births in 2009.

**Bereavement Group:** Jan Garthwait and Jan Cowles are the leads for this ministry. A Bereavement Support Group met every month until it was decided that a 6 week Bereavement session would be more beneficial to those suffering a loss. The 6 week session ended with a quiet Remembrance Service. It was very special and meaningful to all who attended.

**Cards Ministry:** Martha Lape coordinates the activity of the 4-6 women who send the cards to members of the congregation. The cards are thank you, thinking of you, sympathy, get well, encouragement, anniversary of church membership, birthday, weddings, or other significant events. Approximately 228 cards were sent in 2009.

**Caring Crafts Ministry:** This is the first year that the Caring Crafts Ministry has been “officially” part of the Parish Care Committee. They have been in existence since 2002 and have approximately 40 women making items for this ministry. The items include prayer shawls, baby blankets, Alzheimer quilts, fleece blankets, Teddy Bears (for the Christmas Boxes), and bags to hold the prayer pagers. The items have been given to those in need of comfort and blessing. Since 2002, 135 shawls, 77 baby blankets, 11 quilts, 48 fleece blankets, 200 Teddy Bears and 7 bags have been made. The Parish Care Committee, on behalf of the congregation, would like to thank all the women who selflessly worked on these items of God’s love.

**Caring Visitors:** This ministry was renamed from the original Caring Christians, as it more appropriately represents what we are doing. There are 7 Caring Visitors visiting 7 members of the church on a regular basis.

**Meal Ministry:** Leadership is handled by 3 people: Jackie Cole, Bobbie Porter, and Marianne Eagleson. They rotate leadership, every two months. Approximately 73 meals were prepared and delivered to 27 families. We had over 30 cooks preparing meals. Lynn Ryan ran the freezer ministry where prepared meals were frozen for quick turnaround of a request or additional meals for over a weekend. Due to a decreased demand for this type meal, we have suspended this part of the Meal Ministry. Lynn is taking a long deserved rest from heading up this worthwhile ministry. We thank her (and her freezer) for her over 5 years of service!

**Pager Ministry:** Donna coordinates the distribution and return of the 7 prayer pagers. On an average, 4 of them are held at any given time. This year, 13 people found comfort in the 2,704 calls made to the 7 pagers. A call to the pager sets the pager off and the person who has the pager knows that someone is praying for their healing.

**Phone Ministry:** Martha Lape is coordinator for this ministry. Calls are made to members of the congregation on their significant birthdays or anniversaries. Martha has a team of 12 people who made the calls to 169 people this year.

**Ride Share Ministry:** Kevin and Beth Ross coordinate this ministry. They were able to personally provide transportation for 6 people (that we know about!). Kevin and Beth are very special angels in our church that contribute far more than we will ever know.

**Small Chores Ministry:** Charles Jones did an excellent job of coordinating this ministry until other responsibilities made this difficult for him to continue. John Bates has graciously stepped in and from all reports is doing a “bang up” job. He has performed 5 chores that have ranged from moving furniture to fixing items around the house to raking leaves. Thank you, John, for stepping up and volunteering to be in charge of Small Chores and to Charles for over five years of service in this ministry.

**Stephen Ministry:** This specialized ministry continues to expand under the leadership of Sue Chatfield. She is the lead trainer for continuing education. She also keeps track of ordering the “Care Notes” on display in the hallway, which have been very helpful to many. A complete report of this very beneficial ministry can be found elsewhere in the Annual Report.

## **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Members: Charlene Black, Jeff Braun (Ex-officio), Bill Gordon, Dennis Lape, Robert Porter (Chair), Roy Pritchard, June Webster

The members of the Personnel Committee completed an active year. The highlights follow.

A review of all active personnel files was conducted for completeness and several deficiencies were noted. Action was initiated, although not completed, to remedy the deficiencies. The work will be completed next year.

During the year at least one member of the Personnel Committee visited one-on-one with each member of our Church staff. The primary purpose was to simply discuss how things seem to be going from the employee's point of view. Particular emphasis was placed on any problems the employee was encountering and what could be done, if anything, to help the employee in the fulfillment of their respective job responsibilities.

A primary focus during the year was working with the all of the Church boards that have supervisory responsibility for our Church staff. Members of the Personnel Committee met with each board and reviewed the still relatively new employee performance appraisal process. All employee reviews were successfully completed.

The Committee fulfilled its responsibility to recommend appropriate compensation changes to be included in the annual budget. A lump sum amount for all employees was presented to the Budget Committee for the preliminary budget in September. Subsequently, the Personnel Committee convened a meeting including all of the Chairs of Church boards that have supervisory responsibility for our Church staff. The combined group prepared a recommendation on how the lump sum amount

should be allocated to each individual employee. The final amount recommended was based on the employee's rate of pay, the portion of the year 2009 that the employee served the Church, and the results of the current performance appraisal of the employee. The resulting recommendations were not based on any specific formula but on a subjective analysis of the three factors considered.

Other activities of the Committee included work organizing a salary and benefits survey for a group of peer churches in Connecticut. While the Connecticut Conference, UCC provides compensation guidelines it was felt that additional information would be very useful. Performing such a survey will be a very significant task and the work was initiated but not completed. The Personnel Committee also provided responses to any questions raised concerning our Employee Handbook and Personnel Policies Manual.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all committee members for their hard work during this past year. Our Church employees are our most valuable asset.

Robert Porter  
Chair

### **STEPHEN MINISTRY**

The Stephen Ministry has successfully completed its sixth year. To date twenty people have had the required 50 hours of training. Three of these were trained from mid-January through mid-May of this year. Presently there are fourteen active Stephen Ministers and one on leave of absence. Many of the Stephen Ministers have extended their commitment beyond the two year minimum.

The following is specific data about the Stephen Ministry program for 2009:

- Number of care receivers assigned to Stephen Ministers - 20
- Number of personal contacts made with care receivers -342
- Number of hours spent with care receivers - 271.91

The types of issues care receivers are or were struggling with include: chronic illness, terminal illness, grieving the loss of loved ones, recovery from surgery, loneliness, depression, adjustment to long term care, relationship issues, and job related stresses.

Peer supervision takes place on the first and third Wednesday of each month. The purpose of supervision is to give support to Stephen Ministers working with those dealing with difficult times as well as to provide accountability for the Stephen Ministry Program.

Continuing Education is provided on the first Wednesday each month before supervision. Topics from the training classes are chosen for continuing education to review or expand on. This fall we had the Social Worker from the Cheshire Senior Center explaining what services she was able to provide. This was very informative as well as helpful. Other months Stephen Leaders or Stephen Ministers with expertise in various areas present topics for the group. This fall we also met at Alderson's Funeral Home and had another very informative visit regarding services, general costs, and procedures.

This year Stephen Ministers have participated in other areas in the life of the church. They assist the Deacons with flower delivery on the first Sunday of each month. Two Stephen Ministers have participated in the leadership team of a Bereavement Group. In addition Stephen Ministers hosted a coffee hour in November.

In the Sunday Bulletin you may have read “One of the Ten Top Reasons for Becoming a Stephen Minister” that was printed each week this fall. If these bulletin announcements and the recruitment posters in the halls have piqued your interest in finding out more about the Stephen Ministry please contact me, one of the other Stephen Leaders, or the church office. If you know of someone who is struggling with challenges in their life and would benefit from having a Christian friend walk alongside him/her until the difficulty has lessened, please contact one of the above people.

This is a very rewarding spirit-filled ministry and I am so thankful to those answering God’s call to reach out and help others in our church and community through the Stephen Ministry.

Sue Chatfield  
Stephen Ministry Coordinator

### **STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL**

On June 13, 2009, a large crowd of church and community members enjoyed one of the most successful Strawberry Festival’s in recent memory. Some highlights of the day include:

- Approximately 1,500 shortcakes were served using 480 quarts of strawberries and we ran out just before the festival ended. Long lines at the food tent kept the burger flippers hopping.
- New attractions including the dunk tank, a cake walk for the kids and a Beatles cover band were all very popular and added to the fun atmosphere. Jeff, Alison and Roger were all good sports and received numerous dunkings from those with a good aim.
- The success of the entire event was due to the extraordinary effort of over one hundred church volunteers of all ages. The Strawberry Festival committee comes up with the ideas for the event, but the execution of these ideas would not be possible without the extraordinary effort of our church members. Whether working a two-hour shift or working for two full days, the combined effort of our congregation was the only way possible to successfully pull off such a large-scale event.
- The \$17,000.00 gross is the highest ever in the history of the festival. After paying our bills, the net proceeds will benefit church outreach, maintenance of the church, and the youth group mission trip.
- Some of the proceeds from last year’s festival were used to cover the cost of the ceiling fans in the parish hall which bring welcome relief from the summer heat and also help with our winter heating costs. The YUTES also received a donation for their mission trip.

The festival committee would like to thank all of those who helped and looks forward to seeing everyone (and many new faces) at the next festival to be held on Saturday, June 12, 2010. It’s a good opportunity to get to know your fellow church members as you work together on this great event!

The Strawberry Festival Committee: Brad Fuller, Martha Lape, Jim Louys, Addie Marx, Beth Ross, Carol Warner, Gary Warner, Jessie Waszmer

## **CHURCH CLERK**

Summaries of the minutes of Church Meetings held during 2009 are listed below. The complete minutes may be found in the church permanent record book and are available to interested parties.

### **Annual Meeting January 25, 2009** for the following purposes:

1. Accepting the Annual Report for 2008
2. Electing Officers, Board and Committee members
3. Approving plans to move forward to create and develop a Columbarium
4. Discussion on the potential of a change to the schedule of worship services
5. Conducting any other business that may properly be brought before the Church.

*Note: Moderator executed prerogative to change the order of business, since Item #2 (Election of Officers, Board and committee members) is a subset of Item #1 (Accepting the Annual Report for 2008). Voting to accept the Annual Report first would not allow for discussion on the Nominating Report, should there be any. No objection was raised and the order of business was amended.*

### **Resolutions:**

#### **Item**

1. (*amended*) The Nominating Committee Report as contained in the Annual Report and as posted in the Church Connector was approved as printed.
2. (*amended*) The 2008 Annual Report as published in two volumes: 2008 Annual Report and 2008 Financial Annual Report, was accepted.
3. Approval was granted for: Construction of a columbarium encompassing the “Memorial Garden” to be funded through the sale of plots. Also the establishment of a 5-7 person committee with at least one member from the Board of Trustees to set regulations and oversee the columbarium. The Columbarium Committee will report to Trustees with the Executive Board approving final plans.
4. This was an informational item. No vote was taken.
5. The Other Business Items:
  - a. Treasurer’s use of the surplus reserves, if necessary, for purposes of cash flow during the 2009 calendar year, was approved
  - b. Use of surplus reserve funds for the purpose of moving expenses for the new minister was approved

### **Preliminary Budget Meeting September 20, 2009** for the following purposes:

1. Reviewing the preliminary 2010 budget

### **Resolutions:**

#### **Item**

1. This was an informational item. No vote was taken.

### **Congregational Meeting December 6, 2009** for the following purposes:

1. Accepting the resignation of Debbie Gravell, Director of Christian Education
2. Accepting the job description for hiring a new Director of Christian Education
3. Approving a Search Committee to hire a new Director of Christian Education
4. Reviewing the Nominating Committee’s Slate for 2010
5. Accepting the Proposed Budget for 2010

### **Resolutions:**

#### **Item**

1. The resignation of the Director of Christian Education was accepted.
2. The job description for the Director of Christian Education was accepted.
3. The Search Committee to hire a new Director of Christian Education was approved.
4. This was an informational item. No vote was taken
5. The proposed budget for 2010 was accepted.

**CHURCH STATISTICS**

**Total Membership as of December 31, 2008** **816**  
**Adjustment for Membership Audit** **-2**

**Admissions**

Confirmation Class	12	
Confession of Faith	1	
Reaffirmation of Faith	6	
Letter of Transfer	10	
<b>Total Admissions</b>		<b>+29</b>

**Dismissions**

Letter of Transfer	2	
Removed By Request	3	
Deaths	11	
<b>Total Dismissions</b>		<b>-16</b>

**Total Membership as of December 31, 2009** **827**

**Membership Audit:**

Eleanor Adkins – Membership record corrected  
Fred Adkins, Jr. – Membership record corrected

**Admissions:**

**Confirmation Class**

Ryan Austin Black  
Quinlan Demac  
David Patrick Dickinson  
Jesse Winship Eddy  
Max Peter Fleischmann  
Jennifer Lynn Granoth  
Nathan Richard Howard  
Lee Carrington Hurlbert  
Tyler Bailey Izzo  
Meghan Alexandra Shoop  
Jake Noah Scinto  
Erin Blaine Williams

**Confession of Faith**

Erik Biggart

**Re-affirmation of Faith**

Kathleen Davies  
Thomas Davies  
Nicole Griffin  
Angela Michaels  
Joe Robinson  
Suzanne Robinson

**By Letter of Transfer**

Jeff Braun  
Lori Braun  
L. Brian Castler  
Arthur Dayton\*  
Nancy Dayton\*  
Donald Machado  
Adam Perrin  
Alison Perrin  
Kim Poole  
Mark Poole

\* Associate Member

**Dismissions:**

**Removed By Letter of Transfer**

Jack Huse – Barrington Congregational Church, Barrington, RI

Meredith Huse – Barrington Congregational Church, Barrington, RI

**Removed By Request:**

Daniel Petruzella

Stacy Petruzella

Ruth Veleber

**Deaths & Funerals**

Bernice Anderson\*

Ronald Barlok\*

Marge Beard

Albert Bozzuto

Lawrence Bray\*

Gertrude Cumming

John Denton

Charles Ewaskio

William Gager\*

Margaret Harrison\*

Robert Montgomery

Robert Nims\*

Jeffrey Norback

Polly Oxnard\*

Robert Patterson\*

Ethel Prentice\*

Lois Splain\*

Dorothy Swanson\*

Edgar L. (Ted) Upson

\*member

**Baptisms:**

Benjamin Roy Asbury

Katherine Elizabeth Chapman

Lila Elten Devine

Cadence Reese Fasano

Meena Lily Groshart

Jonathan Robert Heavens

Trey Jeffrey McCauley

Sawyer James Mitchell

Austin Blake Mosebach

Connor William Murtaugh

Ian David Pittsley

Blake Armstrong Poole

Aubrey Jane Powers

Bianca Anne Primero

Kaila Marie Primero

Lily Nicole Recknagel

Gianna Karyn Silas

Kaitlin Ryan Spring

Lia Tao Steskla

Mia Eve Syme

Jack Albert Syme

William Thomas Syme

Ava Whitney Watts

**Weddings:**

Michael Cropp and Bernadette Luster

Jordan Dorsey and Kristin Sienkowski

David Maliar and Cassie Novak

Eric Pope and Erin Casey

**CHURCH OFFICERS AND BOARDS/COMMITTEES FOR 2010**

OFFICERS

TERM EXPIRES

President	Ford Cole*	2011
President-Elect	Robert Porter*	2011
Immediate Past President	Robert Mead*	2011
Clerk	Jackie Cole*	2011
Treasurer	Walter Ryan*	2011
Associate Treasurer	Betsy Barber*	2011
Assistant Treasurer	Sara Buell*	2011
Moderator	Robert Giddings*	2011
Assistant Moderator	Elizabeth Esty*	2011
Financial Secretaries	Emma Norback*	2013
	Dennis Lape*	2011
	Shirley Albanese*	2013
	Ann Madden*	2012
Alternates	Marianne Eagleson*	2013
	Peggy Conant*	2011
	Charles Jones*	2013
Auditors (2)	Harry Black*	2011
	Robert Giddings*	2011
Historian	Richard Eppler*	2011

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Members-at-large	Mark Sullivan*	2013
	Jim Louys	2012
	Susan Hostage*	2011

BOARD OF DEACONS

Matt Childs	2011	Mark Hostage	2012
Mark Dickinson	2011	Jim Parys	2012
Diane Visconti	2011	Rich Grudzias*	2013
Joyce Mulholland	2011	Joellyn Jason*	2013
David Hostage*	2012	Anne Giddings*	2013
Peter Gadsby	2012	Kirsten Sullivan*	2013
		Meghan Shoop* (Youth)	2011
		Connor Jason *(Youth)	2011

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Martha Lape	2011	Ken Euerle*	2012
Larry Pivrotto	2011	Robert Giddings*	2012
Brad Fuller*	2011	Alison Perrin*	2013
Alan Skiparis	2011	L. Brian Castler*	2013
Betsy DePaolo	2012	Jack Sellati*	2013
Jack Burton	2012	Kevin Ross*	2013

\*To be elected

BOARD OF OUTREACH

Pam Cappiello	2011	Jack Guetens	2012
Chris Eisbach	2011	Patti Dickinson*	2013
Cindy Mazzaferro	2011	Martha Wylie*	2013
Peter Ploch	2011	Susan Harris*	2013
_____	2012	Toni Moldenhauer*	2013
Peggy Allen	2012	Ryan Black* (Youth)	2011
Amy Webb	2012	Amanda Massa* (Youth)	2011
Will Arpaia	2012		

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Linda Milton	2011	Ted Bloschichak	2012
Carol Ploch	2011	Carol Cummings	2012
Lucinda Orsini	2011	Beth Rojas*	2013
Patrice Noah-Scinto*	2011	Beth Ross*	2013
Suzanne Lawson	2012	Adeline Arumainayagam*	2013
Barbara Lyke	2012	Tom Reid*	2013
		Patrick Hackett* (Youth)	2011

BOARD OF MUSIC

Susan Bishop	2011	_____	2012
Andrew Hostage	2011	Audrey Finkenstadt*	2013
Ramin Hakim	2011	Angela Michaels*	2013
David Wyllie	2012	_____	2013
Joan Benedetto	2012	Patrick Hackett* (Youth)	2011

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Bill Mann	2011	Charles Jones	2012
Leah Sanders	2011	Don Machado*	2013
Ken Allen	2011	Henry McNulty*	2013
Elizabeth Pritchard	2012	Joe Pettit*	2013
Glenn Thompson	2012		

FLOWER COMMITTEE

Anne McNulty	2011	Lynn Hackett	2012
Patti Dickinson	2011	Dawn Klinner-Albright*	2013
Sue Pappas	2011	Jill Gibbs*	2013
Kathena Nenninger	2012	Suzanne Fackler*	2013
Tracy Bloschichak	2012	Sharon Brenneman*	2013

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Regan Huntley	2011	Lisa Canas	2012
Jaelyn Hissick	2011	Abby Hurlbert*	2013
Jane Richards	2012	Dolores Bozzuto*	2013

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

_____	2011	Marilyn Gordon*	2013
_____	2011	Joy Hostage*	2013
Shirley Albanese	2012	Audrey Finkenstadt	2012

\*To be elected

HISTORY COMMITTEE

Carolyn Garthwait	2011	Christine Pittsley*	2013
Joy Deegan	2011	Perry Stevens*	2013
Marshall Tucker*	2012		

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Roy Pritchard	2011	Dennis Lape	2012
Bill Gordon	2011	Jan Cowles*	2013
Charlene Black	2012	June Webster*	2013

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Ken Stevens	2011	Stacey Groshart	2012
Bobbie Porter	2011	Grace Knipe*	2013
Marianne Eagleson	2011	Melanie Pivirotto*	2013
Arleen Reid	2012	Jane Brown*	2013
Ernie Swartz	2012		

DELEGATES

CT CONFERENCE & NEW HAVEN ASSN.

Dennis Lape	2011
Martha Lape	2011
Attila Ozdemirer	2011
Anne Giddings	2012
Grace Knipe	2012
Jay Knipe	2012
Karen Gravino*	2013
Kathy Duffendack*	2013
L. Brian Castler*	2013

GREATER WATERBURY INTERFAITH  
MINISTRIES

Farshid Hakim	2011
Jan Garthwait (alternate)	2011

CHESHIRE INTERFAITH HOUSING

Barbara Barlok	2011
Tim Graver	2011

USHERING COMMITTEE

Noureen Hakim	2011	Charles Jones	2011
Glenn Thompson	2011	Barbara Voegeli	2012
Ken Euerle	2011	Jim Lyke	2012
Hugh Larson (9 A.M. Youth Chair) 2010		Mark Hostage (Asst. Youth Chair) 2012	

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Rich Grudzias*	2011	Kerrie Dunne*	2011
Anne Giddings*	2011	Joyce Mulholland*	2011
Nancy Brunetti*	2011	Susan Pappas*	2011
Susan Hostage*	2011	June Webster*	2011
Regina Hackett*	2011	Robert Porter* (Pres.-elect)	2011

\*To be elected