

# 2000 Annual Year Book

Second Congregational Church of Stafford at West Stafford

Annual Meeting: January 28, 2001  
1:00 P. M.  
Fellowship Hall

Dedicated to the Ministry of Jesus Christ and to those whose love and labor have made this year a year of celebrations.

- we dedicate this report to those who have begun their life journey in the church:

Victoria Butler  
Richard Greaves  
Ben Hassman  
Eric Talamini  
Erin Westhall  
Jonathan Westhall

- we dedicate this report to those who have joined us as part of our church family:

Charlie Bettinger  
John Lamoureux  
Robin Lamoureux  
Elizabeth May  
Rebecca Nash  
George Sprague  
Lee-Anne Sprague  
Lorianne Sward  
William Sward  
Jacqueline Yeo

- we dedicate this report to those who have passed into the next life from our church family:

Eva Chapman  
Doris Cramer

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The Second Congregational Church of Stafford  
Established in 1764  
West Stafford, Connecticut

481 West Stafford Road  
Stafford Springs, Conn. 06076  
Telephone (203) 684-2336

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 14, 2001

The Annual Meeting of the Second Congregational Church of Stafford will be held on January 28, 2001, which is the fourth Sunday in January. This date is in compliance with Article XII, Section B, 1, b of the Constitution.

The Annual Meeting will convene at 1:00 P.M. to hear the reports of the officers, boards, committees and delegates; elect officers, boards, delegates, auditors and historian; act on the audit and budget; act on business and petitions legally presented; review work of the past year and recommend priorities for the coming year. No items other than those on the agenda may be acted upon at this meeting.

Signed,

Kim Kowalyshyn  
Clerk

Petitions

None presented.

## Agenda

### 1:00 P.M. Call to Order

- I. Reading of the Call
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Opening Worship
- IV. Determination of Voting Procedure
- V. Adoption of Minutes of the 2000 Annual Meeting
- VI. Adoption of Agenda and Rules of Procedure
- VII. Presentation of Annual Reports:
  - A. Pastor's Report
  - B. Church Council
  - C. Clerk
  - D. Trustees
  - E. Diaconate
  - F. Christian Education
    1. Christian Education
    2. Sunday School
    3. Youth Group
  - G. Stewardship Committee
  - H. Missions Committee
  - I. Ways & Means Committee
  - J. Pastoral Relations Committee
  - K. Music Committee
  - L. Delegates
  - M. Historian
  - N. Sabbatical Report
  - O. Building Committee
  - P. Capital Funds Committee
  - Q. Auditors
  - R. Financial Secretary
  - S. Missionary Treasurer
  - T. Treasurer
- VIII. Nominating Committee
- IX. Election of Officers, Boards
- X. Adoption of 2001 Budget
- XI. Old Business

Recess - [Diaconate and Trustees will elect their officers if quorums are present. Church Council will elect a secretary, if a quorum is present.]

### XII. New Business

- A. Vote on proposed restriction of candidates for Church Secretary to non-members of the church.
- B. Vote on proposed changes to the Church Constitution
- C. Vote on policy to allow lay leaders of the Church to serve Communion in the absence of a pastor.
- D. Vote on the expenditure of monies, under the supervision of the trustees, to repair the foundation of the barn.
- E. Vote on authorization for the trustees to proceed with repairs to the steeple on the Church.
- F. Vote on recommendation from the Diaconate to move listed Active Members to In-active Membership.
- G. Vote on selection of Holly Bazaar Leaders.

### XIII. Closing Worship

### Adjournment

## Rules Of Procedure

“Robert's Rules of Order shall prevail at the Annual Meeting.”  
Constitution of the West Stafford Church, Art. XII., Sect. B, Item 1h.

### From "Robert's Rules of Order":

- Following the Agenda: "If it is desired to transact business out of its order, it is necessary to suspend the rules, which can be done by a two-thirds vote."
- Conducting Business: "Before any subject is open to debate it is necessary, first, that a motion be made by a member who has obtained the floor; second, that it be seconded; and third, that it be stated by the moderator."
- Debate: "Each member has the right to speak twice on the same question ... but cannot make a second speech on the same question as long as any member who has not spoken on that question desires the floor. Debate must be limited to the merits of the immediately pending questions."
- The Previous Question: "The form of this motion is, 'I move the previous question!'. As it cannot be debated or amended, it must be voted on immediately ... the effect of ordering the previous question is to close debate immediately, and to bring the assembly at once to a vote on the immediately pending question."
- General Consent: "Business can be expedited greatly by avoiding the formality of motions and voting in routine business and on questions of routine importance, the chair assuming general consent until someone objects."
- Voting by Ballot: "Where the by-laws do not require the vote to be by ballot, it can be so ordered by majority vote, or by general consent."
- Acceptance of Reports: "If the report contains only a statement of fact for the information of the assembly, the reporting member makes no motion its disposal, as there is no necessity for action on the report. But, if any action is taken, the proper motion, which should be made by someone else, is to accept the report, which has the effect of endorsing the report and making the assembly assume responsibility for it. If it is a financial report ... and when the auditing committee reports, this report should be accepted, which carries with it the endorsement of the financial report. If the report contains recommendations ... the proper motion is to adopt the recommendations."
- To Defer Action: (a) Postpone to a Certain Time. If it is desired to defer action upon a question till a particular time, the proper motion to make is "to postpone it to that time." (b) Lay on the Table. Instead of postponing a question to a particular time, it may be desired to lay it aside temporarily until some other question is disposed of, retaining the privilege of resuming its consideration at any time. The only way to accomplish this is to move that the question "lie on the table".

### Recommended by the Conference Parliamentarian:

- Amendments in Writing: Members proposing amendments to motions, resolutions, reports, or recommendations shall submit the amendments in writing to the clerk at the time the amendment is moved.

## Minutes of 2000 Annual Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. on January 23, 2000, and the Clerk read the Call to the Annual Meeting. There were 33 members present. We needed 20 members for a quorum.

Opening worship: Kay Myott conducted an opening worship reading a hymn.

Determination of voting procedure:

Motion: Ken May, that voting be conducted by a show of hands.

Seconded: Nancy Tripoli

Vote: unanimous

Adoption of minutes:

Motion: Jack Richens, that the minutes be accepted as printed.

Seconded: Eric Tripoli

Vote: unanimous

Adoption of agenda:

Motion: Ken May, that the agenda be accepted as printed.

Seconded: Jack Richens

Vote: unanimous

Presentation of reports:

The writer of each report was given an opportunity to make comments or corrections to the printed report.

Kim Kowalyszyn made a correction to the Clerk's report on page 13, the Total Active Members as of December 31, 1999 should be 206 not 207.

Joe Wadsworth made a correction to the Diaconate's report on page 14, Rev. Howard Putnam should be Rev. Harrison Putnam.

The Ways & Means report on page 18 has slight differences in the numbers from the Treasurers report.

Don Sanger reported on behalf of the Auditors that the books have been audited and the majority of them were found correct. However, the treasurer received \$775.50 more for missions and \$306.00 more for special missions than what the Missionary Treasurer has reported. Dorraine Parker will send letters with a Mission amount and if it is incorrect contact Elaine Hoffman or the new Missionary Treasurer.

Ken May mentioned that the numbers on the Missionary Treasurers report, page 21, were taken from the Treasurer's report because a Missionary Treasurer's report was not done.

John Leavitt highlighted some important points of the Treasurer's Report.

Nominating Committee Report:

There was a change under Diaconate where it says 4+ it should say 4. Under Christian Education where it says 3+ it should say 2. Under Missions where it says 3 it should say 2. Under Auditors where it says Gorgon Myott it should say Gordon Myott. Under Pastoral Relations where it says 3+ it should say 3. Also, John Leavitt volunteered to fill the Diaconate position.

Motion: Jack Richens, to accept the slate of nominations, with additions.

Seconded: Florence Demars

Vote: unanimous

Adoption of proposed budget:

John Leavitt reviewed and answered questions on the proposed budget.

Motion: Ken May, to accept the 2000 Budget.

Seconded: Jack Richens

Vote: unanimous

Old Business:

We will not hire a secretary until Joe returns from his Sabbatical because he would like to help train her or him.

The Sunday school furniture has been paid for.

The search for an Interim Minister is underway. The Conference gave us 3 people who would be interested in the job, however, 2 of these people have backed out.

We no longer have a Ways & Means committee. Council is now in charge of all fundraisers so people are needed to step forward and help. To date we have the following fundraisers scheduled:

Corned Beef Dinner - March 18, 2000

Goods-n-Service Auction - April 1, 2000

Minutes (Con't)

Spring Tag Sale - May 20, 2000 - Headed by Flo Demars

Old committee heads please get together with new chairpersons and let them know what is going on and what is expected of them.

A fifteen-minute recess was taken.

Election of Officers, Board Chairpersons:

During recess the following chairpersons were elected:

Diaconate	Nancy Tripoli
Trustees	Ross Kerr
Capital Campaign	Don Sanger
Council Secretary	Lee Kerr

New Business:

Ross Kerr wanted to thank Norm Lutzen for his contribution of the plumbing and heating in the Parish house.

John Leavitt wanted to thank Lee Kerr for all the painting, staining and work that she did in the Parish house.

A motion was made by Jack Richens and seconded by Shirley Salsbury to move the following people to the inactive list:

Patricia Dewey  
Steven Dewey  
Cindy Sanger

The vote was unanimous.

The meeting closed with a song and prayer by Kay Myott. Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kim Kowalyshyn, Clerk

### Pastor's Report

Part One: STATISTICAL

#### WORSHIP :

At Second Congregational Church - 34	Avery Park – 5
-Communion – 8 services (total)	Evergreen Health Care – 5
Sun Valley - 1 (communion)	Neutral Pulpit – 1
Funerals – 4	Weddings – 2 (Reaffirmation of Wedding Vows – 1 not incl. in tally)
Memorial Service – 1	Baptisms – 9
New Member Sunday – 1	Confirmation Sunday – 1

#### MEETINGS ATTENDED :

Council – 6	Connecticut Conference Annual Mtg. – 1 :3 dys.
Deacons – 6	Tolland Association Clergy – 3
Trustees – 3	Stafford Area Clergy Assoc. – 3
Christian Education – 1	Clergy - 17
"outreach" – 2	community - 17
Pastoral Relations Committee – 2	pre – funeral - 11
Teachers – 1	pre- marital – 7
Acolytes - 1	Sabbatical Report (verbal) – 1

#### OUTREACH, TEACHING, VISITATION

Communion Class – 1	Confirmation - 8 classes
Tutorials - 3	Bible Study - 18 classes
Sunday School Visits – 2	Visits – 93
Emergency – 13 +	Counseling appointments – 32 +

### Pastor's Report (Con't)



In retrospect this year, 2000, has been one of much adjustment around and within the duties and office of your pastor as it has been a year of significant events for me, both personal and professional. This year's agenda was rearranged and tweaked to accommodate my three month sabbatical leave, contractual for my seventh year of pastoral service (The text of the Sabbatical Leave Report verbally submitted to you is included elsewhere in this Annual Report for acceptance by this body), as well as other events and appointments. The Confirmation Class was begun in the Fall, moving the schedule forward in order to allow them time for the classes and the subsequent examination before the Board of Deacons and be confirmed in worship before I left for the sabbatical. Indeed I was very proud of this year's class.

On the personal front I must admit personal issues and events had some impact on my ministry as they demanded time, emotional and mental organization and sometimes patience which drew from my functioning from time to time. My divorce from Robin, the failing and chronic health of my mother in NC and my surprise surgery this Fall added much to the complexity of this year. Even so it was maintained as my goal to have as minimal an impact as possible and I feel I did fairly well here. I must interject many thanks to a number of people, both members and friends of the church, who continued to proactively connect with me at these difficult points by letter, phone call or in person. It did bolster my spirits on many an occasion.

In matters pertaining to the functioning of the parish, the parish house project (dream) is effectively completed with thanks to the Trustees for superior oversight. Ross Kerr and company are to be commended for leadership in prioritizing and leading the management of jobs to be completed with both follow through and attention to quality and detail. The last major hurdles of siding completion and replacement of the septic system were completed and the final classroom in the basement of the parish house was finished and painted. The repayment of our borrowings continue to be on target to the projections we have made and passersby comment on the status of the campaign shown on the sign. We still need to complete the target amount. Even so the comments about the Parish House as a facility have been supremely positive and it is good to see various community groups using the facility once again.

Along these lines I give special kudos to our Sunday School Superintendent and his capable staff members. Ed has helped us maintain our Sunday School Program cohesively for a couple of consecutive terms. I hope you will all offer him a special round of thanks this year. To do this during a time that the building was being overhauled is a difficult task. Pastorally I really enjoyed my visits to the Sunday School during the year. Additionally it is good to see the Youth Group is gearing-up again with thanks to the willing leadership of Tom and Sheila Hoefle. Due to the oddity of scheduling Bible Study met more sporadically than in years past. With the start of the winter term in December I suspect a more regular pace will be forthcoming. I am saddened we were not able to coordinate a pageant this year and that the live nativity was not able to be organized. I look forward to renewed interest in 2001 around these events. Thanks to Becky Wentworth who is feverishly researching this nativity in our area and will get these impressions combined together into a format for Second Congregational Church to try. That is exciting. Additionally the Sunday School's 4+ year theme of "to help those less fortunate" gives a lot of onus to the entire church to reach out. The "outreach" group, a part of our Sunday School Program has undertaken to help an area of our community so easily overlooked and forgotten; the support of women and children that go to shelters because they have been abused. Mostly they arrive with only the clothes they wear; no toiletries, no clothes or toys, nothing as their departure from the home was likely immediate. The collection of necessary items will help to lessen the difficulty of their lives. I look forward to the growth of this outreach. Lynn McCormack and Leslie Bourque are to be commended for their creativity and persistence here. This outreach and other projects of similar venue were completed without detrimentally impacting the other outreach programs we do as a matter of course yearly such as blankets, food boxes and denominational offerings.

A church exists and survives because of its volunteers who are willing to give of their time and talents. The team of Lingleys and Kerrs continued their painting legacy in the Narthex and lower classroom of the Parish House, and Gordon Myott took up the brush this Fall to give the church's exterior doors a new look. As in every year thus far, Jack and Claire Richens have spent countless hours shepherding events of the church from opening doors, setting up Fellowship Hall for many events, hosting and/or cleaning up after said events and doing a multitude of errands and tasks, most of the time without prompting or without prior notice. Our church thanks them. One improvement of note to the church are the new doors on the front of the church. Air leakage, loud rattling of the latches and cracked panels in the old doors were replaced by new, solid and efficient front doors which operate quietly. I'm sure the efficiency of both of our structures are now vastly improved. The rapidity of the heating of the buildings are evidence of this.

Your pastor continues to be involved voluntarily within the community as opportunity and time permit. This activity has benefited this church by visibility and some subtle advertising of events of the day. Services at Avery Park and Evergreen continue to be well attended by the residents there. Interactions with the West Stafford Fire Department as Chaplain continue

#### **Pastor's Report (Con't)**

to involve me in the community as a participant and as a professional clergy. The free Thanksgiving Supper I put together for the community was a joy to do although I was disappointed in the low turnout. The added input of Foodshare's donation was most

helpful. In general if I expect every active member of the church to volunteer or support the church as their abilities direct, I must do the same for the community. It remains a challenge to time and resource but is well worth it.

Along similar venues I was delighted to participate in various ecumenical and meta-church events during the year. The Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference in Southington and a neutral pulpit added "spice" to the ministry. I was saddened to have missed the Tolland Association's Fall Meeting at West Stafford due to emergency health reasons. Additionally it was unfortunate to have to cancel the joint services with the Stafford Springs Congregational Church due to the termination of Rev. Harrison Putnam's tenure. (He sends his well-wishes from Binghamton, NY).

Organizationally we have had an exceptionally strong leadership core this year. The combination of the Sabbatical leave, vacation periods and illness or emergencies have sometimes tested the groups' abilities but reports show me they are each and all to be commended for creativity, organization and sometimes forgiveness. That in itself has made my year much less hectic and harried. Many Thanks indeed. In addition to this the reporting from various officers and committees has been precise and on time. I am both thankful and grateful. The use of posted events, synopses in KIT and formal reporting has continued to increase and its impact on the ease or organization is apparent. Thank you. It is important that this continues within the next leadership team.

It is good to be here and to share in God's work with you. I hear from both new members and long time members that our church touches their lives and helps them grow in faith. Thanks to Lee Kerr for designing and reproducing the worship bulletins and for reproducing and collating KIT for distribution. This year's musical ministry has been a particular blessing and Jim Tripoli's joy in leadership remains a hallmark as does the sound and strength of our choir. The two hymn sings (August and January, 2001) plus the special services of music traditionally offered during the year have all shown his talent. I thank him for taking the additional tasks of this year in pleasant stride. This year he has picked the hymns for worship and as a result there have been less complaints, with the exception of the slowness of the hymn as the music is written. There has been some talk of the creation of a supplemental hymnal, which may address some of that, but nothing formal has been undertaken.

This year, 2000, shall be definitely noted as a unique and challenging year. We must challenge ourselves in 2001 on a few points. I would like to see even better use of KIT for advertisement of meetings and events (calendar) as well as giving an overview of the workings of the committees. The church family needs to know when (as well as where if not at the church) the group is meeting. With the exception of the Board of Deacons and Pastoral Relations, all committee meetings of the church are open. Calendars and KIT are generally due by the 20th of the prior month. Similarly our advertisement for events has not been as visible as it could be. I realize this takes time but the more we can encourage participation from outside the church then the more funds are then incurred with a higher percentage being from outside the church family. The traditional "barrier" of the mountain between Stafford and Somers/Ellington needs to be taken on. Some Somers traffic uses Route 30 now to and from the town instead of 83. The same reticence about Tolland and the vicinity is applicable. The real byproduct of this is that people get to know the church and may become prospective new members.

The biggest challenge I would ask is one of volunteer involvement. Some of the events we now hold have been a challenge for us to staff. I understand that today's life is filled with many things, yet, the church survives because of those who volunteer and care for its mission and ministry. There have been committees without quorum who cannot do their business formally due to low turnout and no communication with the chair if members are not able to attend even given reminders to RSVP. In the Annual Meeting Agenda we find noted there the Holly Bazaar. We must thank those core (few) members who have continued to serve with their creativity and time in this event, particularly the Richens, Pollards and others. If we decide to engage this event, I hope we will have an all-out effort starting now to produce the items to populate the event. Perhaps a review of past Bazaars might coax renewal of some offerings. For example I heard we used to sell the best cheddar cheese around at the bazaar. Let's then begin the challenge today. There is a table stacked with wooden items to be assembled and painted. I challenge this group to empty that table and complete the ornaments by Easter, placing them back on the table assembled. Also if you visit other bazaars or sales note down interesting items or tactics and how widely the event is advertised. If you bought something of interest, can we reproduce it? The challenge is offered.

Last year I offered Psalm 121 as a Scripture for the years 2000 and 2001. May we indeed place our hands in God's hand and give due trust and allegiance.

#### **Pastor's Report (Con't)**

**Psalm 121: "I lift up my eyes to the hills. From whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot to be moved, he who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not smite you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore. "**

As I close my report for the year 2000 I do so with deep gratitude. I have only touched on the highpoints of many events, some unique, of a fast paced year. I thank you for your love, support, prayers and friendship. When I err I thank you for your forgiveness. I look forward to our continued walk together as a church family in 2001. May God bless us in this new Year.

### Part Three: COMMENTS ON OUR 8 YEAR GOALS:

These goals, as mentioned at the 2000 Annual Meeting, are designed to continue to press us on in our mutual ministry, mission and function. We have made some progress even with the oddity of this year.

Under the category of "physical plant", our organ fund has reached nearly \$10,000 on the way towards an improved musical instrument and perhaps sound system. Thanks to the generosity of Norm Lutzon the problems with the men's room fan and toilet are fixed.

Under the category of "staff" we have already approved the hiring of a secretary part-time.

Within the area of "outreach" we have begun the planning for a live nativity projected for the year 2001.

In the area of "membership", thanks to the efforts of Ross and Lee Kerr and Kim Kowalyshyn and their team of workers we will be receiving a directory of the church members in 2001. Perhaps, though in 6 years we may be ready for the next one.

In the rubric of "Misc." the pastor has been granted a marked parking spot behind the parish house.

So you see we have actually made significant progress on some of our goals. I am elated and amazed. Thank you.

Submitted sincerely,  
Rev. Wadsworth

### Church Council

The Church Council has met ten times during the past year to hear reports from the pastor, officers, boards, and committees. Due to the strength and experience of officers and chairpersons the year has passed smoothly.

The subcommittee that had been approved to hire an interem minister read resumes as well as met with and interviewed candidates for this position. After this process the board approved the appointment of Reverend Gregory Kendell. Under the guidance of Reverend Kendell, our Church Council, and Diaconate, Reverend Wadsworth's Sabbatical passed without event.

Another subcommittee consisting of Kim Kowalyshyn, John Leavitt and myself was appointed to review the Constitution and make suggestions for revisions needed. These revisions were then approved by the Council and submitted for approval at the Annual Meeting.

Diane Hassman  
Moderator

### Church Clerk

It has been another quiet year. I have kept both the paper records and the computer records updated. We are finishing up the year 2000 with a total active membership of 217 compared to 206 for the same time in 1999. The calculations are as follows:

### Church Clerk (Con't)

Total Active Members as of December 31, 1999 206

Additions during the year:

1. Confirmation	6
2. Affirmation	6
3. Re-affirmation	0
4. Re-instatement	0
5. Transfers	4

Total		16
Losses during the year		
1. Transfers	0	
2. Moved to in-active	3	
3. Deaths	2	
4. Withdrawal	0	
Total	5	

Total Active Members as of December 31, 2000 217

We had an average worship service attendance of 64.5 compared to 60.6 in 1999 and the Choir had an average of 10.3 compared to 8.6 in 1999.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kim Kowalyshyn, Clerk

### Trustees

The year 2000 saw most of the work on the Parish House finished. As the year ends, the gutters still must be installed, the final vacuum outlet is to be installed, and some additional electrical work is necessary for exterior lighting. The final Sunday School classroom was finished in the basement with a lot of volunteer help for painting and trim work. Finally, a new septic system was installed. Come springtime, the back yard over the new septic system will be graded and seeded. Notwithstanding what still has to be completed, we all should be proud of the "classy" facility we now have.

In addition to the normal monthly Church related meetings, there are four outside groups that utilize our facilities on a regular basis. One Cub Scout pack, two Girl Scout troops, and the Family Academy of Music use our buildings on a weekly basis. Other groups, such as the Roaring Brook Food Coop and the local census personnel have used the facilities on an occasional basis.

With the completion of the Parish house work, our insurance coverage was increased to \$829,000 from \$642,700. This is broken down as \$468,000 plus \$50,000 for contents for the Church and \$301,000 plus \$10,000 for contents in the Parish House. The cost of this total coverage is approximately \$1,000 per year.

New front doors for the Church were installed. These may not be as "holy" as the old ones, but certainly much more efficient. The well water was tested and found to be within State drinking water requirements. The odor may be unfortunate, but it is not a problem. More mundane, but certainly equally important maintenance work included the replacement of the Men's room toilet and overhead fan/light.

The Investment Committee met twice during the year. The initial meeting in February resulted in the decision to change two of our mutual fund investments. Money was moved from T Rowe Price Equity Income and the Vanguard Windsor II funds into the Janus Growth & Income Fund and the Vanguard Total Stock Index Fund. We kept the Fidelity Growth and Income fund. The second meeting was held in May to review the results to date in the three funds. Performance for the full year reflected the market's overall poor performance.

The position of Church secretary was again included in the 2001 budget. The Trustees decided to put the decision on whether the position should be filled with a Church member or not on the agenda for the annual meeting.

Also on the annual meeting agenda is a discussion on what to do with the barn. The foundation is in need of repair and will cost at least \$8,000 to fix. The congregation must decide how the building should be used and whether the overall repair costs are warranted. An alternative might be replacing the barn with a new building.

### Trustees (Con't)

Another agenda item is a discussion about repair and maintenance work on the steeple and bell tower. It needs painting and repair on the wood and to fix leaks. Shanley Associates of Southington has conducted a preliminary inspection on the tower and will give us a quote in the near future.

Respectively submitted,  
Ross Kerr, Chairman      Bill Dupont  
Bob Hoffman              Elaine Hoffman

Norm Lutzen

Ed Parker

**Diaconate**

The position of deacon in the Christian church is an ancient and revered one. The word itself means a person called to serve others in need; a leader in the church. With this in mind, the Board of Deacons at Second Congregational Church has endeavored to be leaders in our church, assisting the pastor in conducting worship, and to be of service to our larger church family. In our ten monthly meetings held this year, this dedicated group of nine men and women gathered to discuss not only the daily and weekly needs of our church but also the spiritual and sacred ones.

In the course of the year, we were presented with many challenges, the first of which was the announcement of Rev. Wadsworth's impending divorce. The extent to which this would affect the congregation was unknown. As with all loving families, we, as a church family, embraced Rev. Wadsworth and offered our prayers and any aid necessary. Challenges are usually balanced with delights and the confirmation of six young men and women was the first of many delights this year. We welcomed Victoria Butler, Richard Greaves, Ben Hassman, Eric Talamini, Erin Westhall, and Jonathan Westhall.

Rev. Wadsworth's planned sabbatical leave, scheduled for late March until early July, meant that the deacons needed to work with a short-term interim pastor, yet another challenge. Rev. Gregory Kendall, in an eleventh hour agreement, became our interim, an arrangement that delighted both the congregation and Rev. Kendall. During this time, we celebrated Lent and Easter, gave flowers to honor special mothers on Mother's Day, and boutonnieres for three special fathers on Father's Day. We also held our first Golden Jubilee Sunday on June 5. Individuals who have been members of Second Congregational for 50 years or more were honored with a special certificate and coffee hour. Those honored included Emerson Davis, Beatrice Cady, Everett Bradway, Jack Richen, Claire Richens, Shirley Salsbury, and Sam and Shirley Hatch. We thank Rev. Kendall and his wife, Janet, for their time with us and their faith shared.

Our dedicated acolytes are to be commended for their attention to schedule and their commitment to making this important part of the service meaningful to all. This year's acolytes include Wayne Bourque, Kyle Hulburt, Jacob Kowalshyn, Kirstie McQuaid, Layne Nash, Echo Paixao, Lauren Parker, Ashley Summers, Corey Summers, Lee Ann Winn, and Ralphie Winn.

The Campership Fund continues to grow with proceeds from both Easter Lily and Christmas Poinsettia sales. This year we had nine young people attend Silver Lake Conference Center.

Diaconate duties encompass many areas of church life. Laity Sunday in October highlighted the organizational aspect of our board. Many lay people of the church shared their time, talents and faith with us as Rev. Wadsworth attended the Connecticut Conference Annual Meeting. The unexpected illness of our pastor this fall brought the challenge of planning and executing several worship services, a task that was embraced with some fear and much faith by all members of the deacons.

As we near the Annual Meeting, it is the difficult, but mandated task of the deacons to review the membership and make recommendations for the removal of names from the Active List of Membership of Second Congregational Church. The following names will be submitted for consideration: Anthony Ambro, Jennifer Ambro Weigand, Penny Burgess, Amy Dondero, William Grotheer, and Terry Seto.

Our year ends with the beloved season of Christmas. Preparations for this lovely time of year included the ordering of altar flowers, Advent bulletin covers, and providing diaconate support for the many special worship services at this time of year.

On a personal note, as a long-standing member of the adult choir, I have never experienced the joy of serving on the Board of Deacons. Always envisioning a conflict of time, I had never before volunteered to be on this board. As my two-year tenure comes to a close, I thank my fellow deacons for their dedication, help, and support. This has been a faith-renewing time for me and I pray that it has been so for the entire congregation. May our most generous God bless you all

**Diaconate (Con't)**  
in the New Year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy M. Tripoli, Chair  
Bruce Ladr  
John Leavitt  
Susan B. Leavitt  
Linda May

Lisa May  
Kay Myott, Secretary  
Gibbie Paixao  
Eric Tripoli

### Deacon's Fund

Balance as of January 15, 2000	\$1786.66
Total deposits	617.75
Total interest earned	46.28
Total withdrawals	< 910.00 >
Balance as of December 31, 2000	\$1540.69

### Board Of Christian Education

This past year has shown continued growth for our Christian Education programs. There have been new programs begun as well as renewed interest in existing programs. The newly renovated parish house has been put to good use for Sunday School classes and the board room is used once a month as a Chapel for the students where they learn about the various parts of the church service, songs and Lord's prayer.

Confirmation Sunday was held on March 12, 2000. It was early this year before Rev. Joe began his sabbatical. Christian Education hosted the coffee hour and Diane Hassman made a cake to honor the confirmands.

Bible Study was held throughout the year lead by Rev. Joe Wadsworth and Rev. Gregory Kendall during Rev. Joe's sabbatical.

Children's Sunday was held on June 11, 2000 with a special presentation of a teacher's award given to Judith Delbene for thirteen years as a Sunday School teacher. Her dedication to the children of this congregation is an inspiration to us all. Twenty bibles were presented to the students by Ed Parker and Rev. Gregory Kendall. They read the scripture chosen for each child by their teacher and inscribed into each bible by Robin Davis. The Sunday School students voted where to donate their offerings collected this year and \$600 was given to the capital fund for the renovations to the Parish House and \$300 to the Campership Fund. A donation of \$300 was sent to Church World Services to assist flood victims in Mozambique and another \$300 was donated to Britany McAllister, a girl from Stafford who had recently moved to New Hampshire and was in a snow mobile accident, to help with medical expenses.

The Youth Group was on hold for the first portion of the year but in May Sheila and Tom Hoefle agreed to lead the group and it has become quite active again. In order to attract more members the age was lowered to allow students in sixth grade and up to participate and it is hoped these students will remain active as they become older.

In May the teachers began receiving communion following the church service and dismissal of Sunday School students. Rev. Gregory Kendall was kind enough to begin this much appreciated service and it has continued this fall under Rev. Joe Wadsworth's ministry.

New members to the Board of Christian Education were welcomed at the June meeting, which was the last one chaired by Kathy Ladr, whose term on the board was ending. New members were Kim Missell and Lynn McCormack. At this meeting Lesley Bourque was elected chairperson and Kim Missell was elected secretary.

Also at the June meeting suggestion was made to have other awards available to students in addition to the attendance awards. Further discussion of this at the August meeting resulted in setting up a subcommittee to look into opportunities for the students to do compassionate acts, such as missions or volunteer work. This subcommittee was comprised of Lynn McCormack, who would chair the committee, Ed Parker, Sunday School Superintendent, Rev. Joe Wadsworth and Lesley Bourque representing the Missions Committee. Also invited to attend were Tom and Sheila Hoefle, Youth Group directors and Robin Davis. The meeting agenda was to review the suggestion to incorporate interactive programs for the Sunday School children, in addition to the youth group. The committee concluded that the personal experiences of an interactive program would be of value to the children, church and community. Therefore the

#### Christian Education (Con't)

"Sunday School Outreach" program was established. It was decided that this would be the responsibility of the Board of Christian Education as it dealt with activities associated with the Sunday School program. The theme for the outreach would be "Helping

Those Who are Less Fortunate". The selection of supporting bible scriptures were Mark 12:29-31, the greatest commandment and Matthew 25: 34-45, serving the Lord by serving others. It was agreed to introduce the theme and scriptures on Rally Sunday 2000. The members in attendance compiled a list of activities appropriate for the children which related to the theme. A schedule of one activity a month would be established.

In October the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Shelter box was presented with a list of items needed at a local

abuse shelter. The box is prepared the first Sunday of every month after the Children's Chapel and picked up by someone from the shelter. A representative from the agency visited during the December Chapel Sunday and spoke with the children about what the shelter was and how the boxes of items were helping the people who needed to go there.

In place of the Christmas Pageant the Outreach calendar scheduled two events for the holiday. In November the children made ornaments for the residents of Evergreen Health Care Center and followed this with caroling and distribution of the ornaments to the patients on December 10, 2000. Nancy and Jim Tripoli helped with the caroling and the children returned to Fellowship Hall for lunch. Also in December a number of the older students served at the Stafford Soup Kitchen.

In closing the response from the children and their families has been great. These experiences have helped the children feel like they do make a difference in the world around them. This also reinforced the children's self-confidence and gave them practical understanding of what they can do to serve the Lord. The church has been able to reach more people within the community and the community joyfully received the loving out reach of the children.

Respectfully submitted by the committee:

Lesley Bourque- Chairperson

Tara Brazalovich

Tom and Sheila Hoefle- Youth Group Advisors

Lynn McCormack

Kim Missell- Secretary

Ed Parker- Sunday School Superintendent

### **Sunday School**

I would like to start by thanking all of you for giving me the opportunity to work with your children. The Sunday school this year has 64 students. The Staff of the Sunday school is as follows

#### Teachers

Pre-k	Lisa Kissane, Ben Hassman
K + 1 <sup>st</sup>	Beth Bolieau
2nd + 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Leeann Sprague
4th + 5 <sup>th</sup>	Lynn McCormick , Lisa Ostrowski
6th + 7 <sup>th</sup>	Kim Kowalshyn , Robin Davis, Dorraine Parker
8th + up	Andy Greaves

#### Helpers

Joe Lorenzetti

Erin Westhall

#### Subs

Judy DelBene

Leslie Bourque

Gibby Paixio

Tina Butler

Suki Milam

#### Staff

Sunday School Treasurer: Dorraine Parker

**Sunday School** (Con't)

Chapel Director: Suki Miliam

Nursery Coordinator: Kim Missell, Karen Kelly, Joyce Tedford, Deanna Baker, Lauren Parker, Emily Hassman, LeeAnn Winn,

Echo Paixio

Sunday School Superintendent: Ed Parker

The good folks taking care of our children, as always, are doing a great job. We have many of the same faces, but we also have many new ones. I also want to mention the help we are receiving from our young folks. Somebody is doing something right. Thanks again for all the help I receive to make my job easy.

This year has been a quiet year. Based on the previous two years it has been nice. I have learned much from the wisdom of your children. It is nice to hear children whine when there is no Sunday school this week. I pledge my continued support of this school and its staff.

Respectfully submitted  
 Sunday School Superintendent  
 Edward Parker

### **Youth Group**

We had a fun and exciting year with our group. Some of our activities included a Halloween party, a Christmas party, going to a petting zoo and out for ice cream. We had a grinder sale for a fund raiser and made a profit of \$?. We will be making a donation to a fund yet to be determined in the spring of 2001.

Many thanks to all the parents for your support, helping with fund raisers and driving to an event or opening your homes for our gettogethers. It is a great experience for Tom and me to be able to spend time with our young people - they-re a great group.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Sheila Houfle

### **Stewardship Committee**

The Stewardship Committee conducted the Annual Every Member canvas once again using materials purchased from Hensley Publishing of Tulsa, OK. This four week direct mail campaign has produced good results for us each of the last three years.

As of the date of this writing, we have received 57 pledges for Current Expenses totaling \$48,544.00. We had hoped to receive 65 pledges for a total of \$ 56,000. We have also received pledges totaling \$ 4,399 towards our contribution to the World-wide Missions program. While these commitments do not reach our goals, nor equal last years total pledges, we believe that it is still a strong result from our campaign. There is still time for those who pledged in previous years or who have not pledged before to fill out a pledge card and be included insupporting the programs of our church.

To provide guidance for our campaign next year we have produced a guidebook relating what we have learned from this year's campaign. We hope that it will provide necessary information to the next committee to provide a timetable that will ease some of the stress experienced this year.

Respectfully submitted,  
 John Leavitt, ex officio  
 Susan Leavitt

Kenneth May, Chairman  
 Lisa Ostrowski

### **Missions Committee**

Another year has come and gone, finding our committee busy with our projects. Each member took care of a special mission from ordering materials, displaying and distributing information for the offerings.

April 2nd was our OGHs with Patty DuPont, Blanket Sunday, May 14th with Lesley Bourque and the help of the 3 and 4 year old Sunday School Class who shared why they had a special blanket and what you could use a blanket for during the

#### **Missions Committee (Con't)**

Children's Chat. September 24th was the Neighbors in Need offering with Linda Sprague. The Thanksgiving and Christmas food boxes, angel and mitten tree were done by the whole committee and the December Veterans of the Cross offering with Elaine Hoffman.

We can always depend on Len Pollard to take care of all our food offerings and deliver them to the Stafford Food Bank all year long. We can also depend on Jean Barton for taking all the tabs up to the Ronald MacDonald House in Springfield along with taking care of our soup labels. Thanks to Len and Jean.

This year our projects included: CL & P Fuel Bank \$1 per bill, Stafford High Safe Graduation - \$50.00, Stafford Fuel Bank - \$450.00, Stafford Soup Kitchen - \$150.00, Thanksgiving - 12 Food Boxes, Christmas - 12 Food Boxes, Angel Tree - presents for 31 children, Hat and Mitten Tree, Campbell Soup Labels and Button-up Connecticut.



During the year we have received several donation and a \$600.00 donation from CL & P. We have received many thank-you notes from all our endeavors, local and wider mission giving through the UCC Conference.

Our committee is grateful for everyone's generous support showing that you are always there to help others during times of need. A special thanks to everyone.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty DuPont  
Co-Chairperson

Lesley Bourque  
Co-Chairperson

### **The Pastoral Relations Committee**

Thankfully this past year was a quiet one for the committee. We met seven (7) times during the year. Our main tasks were to formulate a salary package for the minister and present it to the Board of Trustees, and to carry out a pastoral evaluation. This evaluation was conducted by a short questionnaire for Rev. Greg Kendall.

The Pastoral Relations Committee decided we would conduct the evaluation of the Minister's performance each year in May, beginning in 2001.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Hassman  
Sheila Houfle

Sue Leavitt  
Jim Tripoli

John Richens, Chair

### **Music Committee**

Customary duties of the Music Committee consist of overseeing the music budget, tuning the church piano, and arranging for cleaning of the choir robes.

Our senior choir, under the direction of organist James Tripoli, continues to bring meaningful and worshipful music to our services with weekly anthems. Special services on Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve added a special musical gift to those blessed seasons. Though our numbers may be small, the dedication and musicianship of our choir continues to touch many with the word of God in song.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy M. Tripoli

### **Delegates**

No Report Submitted

### **Historian**

No major issues or discoveries during the course of the year 2000. The final "book of the Second Society" meetings, dates and financial information during the late 1800's and early 1900's was placed in the church cabinet. This completes some of the records of this church from 1781 to the present. Rev Isaac Foster, our 1<sup>st</sup> minister took the first record book

#### **Historian (Con't)**

when he was ex-communicated in 1781 by the Association. Its' whereabouts are still unknown.

Other than small data corrections and some filing it has been a status quo year. The goal for 2001 will be the instillation and organization of the document cabinet to be installed in the Archives Room of the Parish House.

Rev. Wadsworth  
Historian- pro tem.

### **Sabbatical Report**

A Report from the Sabbatical Leave  
 March-June, 2000  
 Rev. Joseph Wadsworth III  
 Presented: July 3, 2000  
 Submitted for approval: Annual Meeting, Jan. 28, 2001

I started planning for the sabbatical leave nearly two years ago. After some reflection over nearly 20 years in local church ministry I came upon several themes that were to apply to the sabbatical period. The areas I wanted to center upon were to be: Education, Renewal of my Ministerial Call, Rest from the day-to-day load of parish life, Recalibration of my ministry at West Stafford, and Recalibration of my personal faith. The church offered me the option of 6 months at half pay or 3 months at full pay. My decision was not simply a financial one. I knew that I would miss all you tremendously and three months was a better option to me away from you all than six. So, with these goals in mind I set out on my quest in March. This report will be a reflection and diary of my study, work and reflection. It is submitted to show that sabbatical is different from vacation and to thank you for your foresight in offering me this time. Some of my remarks will reflect personal situations, some will reflect professional, pastoral and administrative impacts that will be my hope to be integrated into the church operations. This is why I am glad some church leaders are hearing my reflections.

#### THE PARTS OF THE QUEST:

In overview my sabbatical leave had the following parts within the three month period:

- 1> a week-long seminar held in Chicago at Marymount, north of the city, covering techniques of negotiation and mediation. (Hosted by the Alban Institute)
- 2> A short visit to my first parish north of Niagara Falls, NY
- 3> A three-day seminar (Also Alban Institute) covering transition stresses within churches as they negotiate growth beyond certain size and administrative paradigms.
- 4> A fact-finding mission to several places within which I centered not only on Reformed and Evangelical Church History (Branches of UCC) and early religious patriotism in Western Europe (1490-1600+) but also personal family research.
- 5> Spent Palm Sunday with my sister in AL as well as Easter with my mother in NC; at any other time that would have been impossible.
- 6> Self-Study of several Church History, linguistic and Bible Study software databases purchased in Feb.
- 7> Private-reflective 10 day retreat at Enders Island near Mystic, CT.
- 8> 3 Week trip to Germany and England visiting castles, cathedrals, ancient cities and ruins as well as to see the Passion Play at Oberammergau, Germany.
- 9> To read several books, including some for enjoyment, research, devotional and prayer.
- 10> Misc. Playing-

Remarks and specifics concerning the above tasks-

- 1> Seminar in Chicago:

The 24 hour train ride allowed me to get some reading done and to watch the scenery go by. It was crowded on the train but I was able to block the commotion within my reading. Upon arrival I hurried to the subway and took train north to the suburbs and finally a cab to the campus. It was a Catholic Seminary on a beautiful landscape. Each of the 3 dorms could house 500 easily and according to one person the Pope had stayed there on retreat. (I'll bet his room was a little more posh though) The seminar began about 35 min after I arrived and accelerated from there.

#### Sabbatical Report (Con't)

It involved much lecture and discussion of points as well as mandatory reading of the book : **Mediation: The Book, a step-by-step guide for dispute resolvers** by Sam Leonard ( Evanston Publishing, 1994, 1999) <He's the seminar leader.

NOTE: I found this seminar interesting, intellectually challenging but not quite what I expected it to be. If I were to become a professional mediation expert to handle negotiations between companies or factions this would have been great but it was not what I felt I needed. Indeed I finished the seminar and received my CEU credits.

- 2> Visitation of a prior parish

It had been since 1985 when I had left Wilson, NY. It was my first parish and had been a trial by fire for both

Robin and I (we were married after I had been there 6 months). This American Baptist Church was a small-town conservative church who wanted to move more mainstream theologically, ecumenically and pastorally. The group pushing for this contracted me but soon returning divisions in the church were apparent and to the chagrin of my followers I resigned rather than split the church severely and long term. It was a period of my life I viewed as a failure and I had not returned since departing. Several friends met me at the hotel and we had the chance to return to the church. Some of my supporters had moved to other churches, some had stopped worshipping entirely. I had a chance to greet those from both sides of the division and to do so with remembered fondness. I was glad of this. The town had not changed one bit but I was glad the schism was no longer apparent. I continue to e-mail several from there. Again I am glad. Therein was healing for me.

3> Three day Seminar in Southern, CT on church growth.

This Alban Institute Seminar also centered around a book to be read and reflected upon: **The in-between Church: Navigating size Transitions in Congregations** by Alice Mann (Also a leader from the Alban Institute) (Publisher- Alban Institute, 1989, 2000) This seminar was very useful in outlining the inherent frustrations and challenges of churches who wish to grow beyond a certain level and seem to vacillate at a point. I found this very helpful and useful for my administration context and strengthened my resolve of our continued growth. I have a better sense of the traumas of that growth and will not take some of the frustrations personally as a function of pastoral shortfall as I have heretofore done. Indeed this seminar has galvanized my sense that the mainstream, mainline church is not only valuable but has been central in many ways. Those congregations that derive strength from all of the plurality of faith views have a stake in the health of the Church of Christ and participate to act out of faith to grow in our walk with God. I have come to realize that Second Congregational Church is a working picture of that plurality. I hope I have the new skills to help grow into new areas of ministry and new administrative methods necessary to be effective and to stave off leadership burnout (volunteer and employed)

4) Fact Finding Mission with a variety of agendas.

Normally when I travel I have made arrangements along the entire journey. In this case there were only two arranged points of travel: 1) A room at Lancaster Seminary in Lancaster, PA, and 2) A room in Durham, NC around Eastertime. This three and a half week travel window was subject to the information discovered and the people I intended to meet. This trip had several overlapping uses. I wanted to research the early Years of the Reformed Church (and Evangelical Churches) of America in their early years as well as their historical creation and growth in Western Europe amidst the later Protestant Reformation and various exoduses to America. Particular figures such as Bohemia, Mercer, Luther, Sewing, Hues, and Heckle all figure into that picture. Several came to the Colonies and were pioneer ministers. Of this I found as plethora of information although reading German would have been most helpful. The huge Archives of the Evangelical and Reformed Church at Lancaster Seminary proved to be fantastic. I spent three days immersed in many books, pamphlets and original manuscripts (that were subsequently transcribed into English). I expect to incorporate some of it into the confirmation teachings. Those revisions will happen later in the summer.

Additionally I wanted to make contact with a number of persons I had lost contact with. 10 various people met me at various places on the journey and either I stayed with them or we had a meal together. I needed to renew those connections, some lost for 20-25 years. Another agenda of this was a time of personal research. I had the opportunity to walk around several of my ancestor's homes in Virginia (Eastern and Western). I even found the location of a battle fought by an ancestor and while photographing the railroad bridge nearly got hit by a train. In

**Sabbatical Report (Con't)**

this quest I visited 37 local, college, or historical society libraries, 7 museums of Americana and pioneering, and visited to interview a 101 year old member of my family who remembers clearly the storied told two and three generations earlier. The final joy was to spend Palm Sunday with my sister in Alabama and Easter with my mother in NC. This adventure covered around 3, 450 miles. ( I even bought gas at \$1.03 in Tenn!!). It was at this time I started corresponding by e-mail with the curator of the British Library in London to secure permission to view a valuable manuscript when in London.

I found this trek very relaxing and fun. I found out a lot and enjoyed myself as I traveled. I add to this several trips to the Babbidge Library at U-Conn. or the Archives in the New England Historical Genealogical Society in Boston.

## 5&gt; Learning the use of Computer Software

The use of the computer has never been my forte but I was determined it would be of assistance in my research. In Mid March I bought three software packages: Bible Reference Series (LOGOS Systems), Reformation History Library (AGES), and the Master Christian Library (AGES). The central emphasis of these packages were Reformation History, Scriptural reflection and exegesis, and Literature of the Church. The manuals were quite complicated so I spent a concentrated amount of time learning the usages. I am still quite a novice in this area but I could not afford the huge number of (valuable) books available here in CD-ROM. This comprises almost 600 books or sets of books with a potential of almost 200 more that can be downloaded and unlocked. I have already used it several times to look up a reference in a devotional source or Scripture reflection.

## 6&gt; 10 Day private retreat at Enders Island in CT

I had never taken the time for a personal retreat even as far back at my high school days. The idea of non-productive time was never considered as valuable. Clergy manuals, books and resources suggest it as a means to prevent burnout in ministry. I had no idea what to expect. Enders Island is located South of Mystic, CT. It is a Catholic retreat center run by the Edmundite Brothers. To get to it one passes through a rather posh community and then a causeway to a small island (1/3 mile in circumference) which has centrally a beautiful old mansion home. I was ushered to my room from which I could see the open water all the way to Long Island. I was left to my own reflections and ate meals with the brothers of the community and made great use of their library in my readings. (I will allude to these books in a subsequent list of read books) Central to my reflections was a devotional manual titled **A Guide to Prayer for Ministers and other Servants**, by Rueben P. Job and Norman Shawchuck (Upper Room Press, TN, 1983) and **2000 years of Prayer** compiled by Michael Counsell (Morehouse Pub., 1999). I had the opportunity to sit at the rocky shore and watch the tides, birds and boats while reading, sketching scenes, or talking with others there.

I found this time rejuvenating for my faith, prayer life and inner spirit. Perhaps I was not aware as to how close to burnout I was.

## 7&gt; Trip to Europe:

For nearly 20 years I had dreamed to see the famous Passion Play at Oberammergau, Germany. I never dreamed it possible and never expected to be able to go. Two years ago, thanks to my mother's initial generosity Robin and I had plans to go to Germany and see the play. I was the one in charge of the arrangements so I went at it. I had never been overseas and I was a bit scared of the prospect but I kept at it. The trip was to have two portions: 1> Germany for 8 days to include the Passion Play, 2> England for 10 days to include a whirlwind tour of the UK. Some side ventures were arranged and by last summer the tours were bought. Sadly, by fall it was apparent Robin would likely not accompany me on the trip as she had moved to New Haven by then, so other arrangements had to be made. Rev. Barry Cass of Somers (UCC) agreed to go if Robin did not. Eventually by January that was clearly the way things were going to be, so changes were instituted. The excitement continued to build during the spring as final adjustments were made.

The first leg of the trip to Munich was uneventful. The tour guide was very helpful and almost everyone spoke English there. We settled into our room and the next day toured through Munich with its Glockenspiel (a very complex animated clock covering a large portion of a centrally located belltower). That night we enjoyed a fun Bavarian Dinner with Band (OOMPAH, etc) . The next day we traveled to Oberammergau and off loaded the bags. We then went on a sightseeing tour of the area castles and churches (Lindenhoff, Wies, etc) with a later return to our

**Sabbatical Report (Con't)**

room in a hotel that was the town post office in 1600. After breakfast we walked over to the Theater and joined 5500 other people to watch the passion Play.

The question many ask me was "Was it worth it?" I know it was. It was one of the most powerful experiences I have even witnessed. The Play went from 8:30 AM to 12 Noon, then 3:00 PM to 6:30 without a break! It is true the play was stylized in a Catholic format but even so the power of it is riveting. The climactic scenes of the Crucifixion and aftermath were monumental. You felt like you were there. You were in the crowds and at Golgotha. No one was unmoved at these points. Here in this narrative I cannot convey the impact of that. Words do not suffice. Even more than this was the fact that since 1634, every 10 years, as a tribute to God this town of 800 reenacts the Passion of Christ and plays host to nearly 6000 people (6 times per week between April and October). It would be like a town of the size of Stafford (12,000) hosting nearly 100,000 people every day, feeding them as well as housing 1/3 of them.

Incredible!!!

We returned to Munich for a series of day trips. The first one was to Berchtesgarden where Hitler had his Eagle's Nest (hide away) which was a 50<sup>th</sup> birthday present. This was an incredible complex of buildings and a house literally on the top of a mountain. The Alps here were sheer vertical mountains and we climbed significantly to the lower parking lot where we boarded a special bus to take us up to the upper parking lot some 1400 meters (4200 feet) above. The roadway was a series of switchbacks and tunnels with a drop-off of at least 2000 feet on one side wide enough for one vehicle. It was 4 miles of steep grade. Then we exited the bus and entered a long tunnel to an elevator in the center of the mountain and rode that another 4 to-500 feet to the house above. The view was breathtaking. One false step and... well, you know. Curious gift for a man who was greatly afraid of heights.

The next tour went to Salzburg (Salt town). Personally I was disappointed in the lack of color there. The huge fortress near the city was impressive and well worth the tram trip up to it. From there the city and nearby river were visible. I did not have the chance to play chess with the life-size chessmen near the cathedral church which Charlemagne supposedly used. The chess board was there as were a set of pieces each 5-6 feet tall but it was far too hot. After this we went by bus to a large lake nearby and went on a lake voyage. From there one could see the mountains and rugged trails. As it was quite humid and hot and I was tempted to go in. I didn't though.

The next and final tour was on the Romantic Road, an ancient Roman roadway north of Munich dotted with ancient ruins and towns, some dating back 1500-2000 years. Hurchel and Rotenberg were two cities we visited in specific. Rotenberg was completely walled with battlements and secret passageways here and there. Small cobblestone streets tested every step as we walked to the central square. One place I visited was the Kriminalmuseum which showed the history of criminal detention, treatment and the rationale of it all. It had the largest collection of early "torture" (persuasive devices as noted by them then) devices in the Continent, some dating from 700's or earlier. Most were quite gruesome. The process of trial and its consequences were shown. Some documents dated from the 7-900's. The final free day in Munich was a day of rest.

We flew to England where it was much cooler and less humid (it was very hot in Germany). We arrived at the Posthouse in Kensington and had a "standard" room. In actuality the room was a joke!! In total it was 6 X 8 with two beds, a table and stand (luggage) and a sliding door to reveal a small bathroom. To go past the foot of the bed one had to open the bathroom door as the wall angled inwards to encompass the bedroom. It was the size of a prison cell! This was not going to work so we upgraded to a better room where we had room to breath. The first full day was free so I went to the British Library to do some research. The BL is similar to our Library of Congress and is the repository for the United Kingdom. It is massive in size. On entering I had to be interviewed and my credentials approved before receiving a readers card. The letter of recommendation given by the church was carefully checked for authenticity during the interview. Then I had to go to the particular reading room for Ancient and Rare Manuscripts. There I was assigned a seat, given a set of acid free paddles to turn pages and there I waited for the "Chartulary of St Bee's Parish" to be brought to me by the staff. (This was a diary of the Priory of St. Bees (Cumberland - NW England) that covered between 1100's and 1500 and mentioned many entries of land ownership, names of debtors and the like. These diaries were mostly destroyed by Henry VII in early 1500's during his rampage to destroy many of the monasteries in England and Scotland.) The man next to me was reading an ancient piece of music that was gilded and ornately embossed. Finally the chartulary was brought. It was about 16" by 24" on sheepskin vellum written in black ink (Latin). I could tell where one abbot handed the task over to another over the 400 year span of the volume as the handwriting changed. To sit there and read that was humbling. I did find some tantalizing tidbits of information. While there I looked at a few other "reading rooms". Most interesting was a glassed in column of books in the center of the library's open atrium measuring some 100' by 80' with shelf over

### **Sabbatical Report (Con't)**

shelf of very ancient books extending from below the ground floor beyond the visible 5th floor. It was labeled the "king's library" and housed the most valuable volumes.

That night we went to a Medieval night Dinner, complete with king/queen/wenches/ jester/knights and many others. Lots of fun.

The next day we took a day trip around London, seeing the Changing of the Guards at St James and Buckingham Palaces, Westminster Abbey, Tower of London, and many other sites. Of all the Cathedrals visited in Europe I was most impressed with Westminster Abbey. The level of commercialization and tourism is huge in all the palaces, cathedrals and old towns we visited. Shops that offer music, books and "stuff" were everywhere. True this has its place but in Westminster on the hour, **every hour** there is a spoken prayer whereby the people are expected and asked to stop, to remain quiet and reflective in faith. It's purpose is to reconnect the people there to the initial purpose of the

church... the individual's connection to God. I was impressed. Cameras stopped, children were quieted and held and the powerful beauty of the massive church simply sustained you in great awe.

The "Taste of Britain" tour began with a 4:15 AM wake up call and 6:00 Breakfast after loading luggage. OK, I was grumpy. Wouldn't you be? We left London and winged our way (by bus) north along the eastern side of England stopping to see the cities and cathedrals of Coventry, Leichestor and York. In York Minster a wedding was concluding and I got to hear the pipe organ playing several selections and the youth choir (60-70 pre-teenagers) sing their postlude. WOW! Night was spent at Stockton-on-Tees (Tees is the river's name ) where a replica of the 17th Century explorer James Cook's Ship "Endeavor" was moored. The next day we continued north into Scotland seeing Newcastle, and Jedburgh. We stopped and saw a portion of the wall built by Emperor Hadrian (Roman) to keep the uncontrollable Picts (early Scots) out of the area they had conquered. We arrived in Edinburgh and settled in. The visit to Edinburgh Castle was amazing as this was where the queen comes for two weeks once a year and the entire structure, including the royal apartments were open for the tour on this day (not usually). Like in London we saw the changing of the guards at the castle. That night we went to a Scottish Night. Yes, at the last course we had "haggis". As you know I wear the Buchanan Tartan tie from time to time. I have finally found the "ancient" and "hunting" versions of that tartan. As to the age-long question "What do Scotsmen wear under their kilts?" I am under strict cultural and societal oath not to say. Sorry. The next day the group went to an area called the Trossachs, which were to give us a better taste of the highlands. Breathtaking!! We then continued south into England to Carlisle, one of the western terminus's of the Roman wall (Hadrian). We then entered the area called the Lake District. The roads were small, very crooked and mostly without railings. Stopping at several places we saw waterfalls and lakes with tiny towns. A beautiful water trip over Lake Windmere past castles and huge homes granted another window into the opulence of the gentry. We continued south to Blackburn for the night. The next day continued the southward trek to Chester, an ancient walled city. A side trip into Wales was superb. It is a rugged country with an unpronounceable language. I bought a postcard with some of that included. We continued further south, stopping at the Wedgwood factory where we watched artisans create the ornate and beautiful pieces all have come to know. By evening we returned to London, having traveled a total of 1300 miles.

The next day we had a relaxing day and went to see Les Miserables in London. Following this day we took another day trip to Leeds Castle, Canterbury Cathedral and Dover. Upon return to London we packed to return to the US. The flight home was uneventful but it took me the good part of the week to get away from London and Munich time, some 6 hours off.

Overall it was a trip filled with an overwhelming sights and beautiful places which created unnumbered memories. It was a whirlwind tour I will likely never forget.

#### 8> READING:

I have had an opportunity to read a number of books, some for enjoyment, some for education, some for devotion. A list of them are as follows:

##### EDUCATIONAL:

- a> The in-between Church: navigating Size transitions in Congregations (mentioned before)  
Mediation: the Book (Mentioned before)
- b> A guide to Prayer for Ministers and Other Servants (mentioned before)
- c> Worship and Theology in England; from Cranmer to Baxter and Fox, Vol. 1: 1534-1690 by Horton Davies (Eerdmans Press, 1996) 600 pgs
- d> Addictive Thinking by Abraham Twerski (Sanderson Press, 1980) 300pgs

##### **Sabbatical Report (Con't)**

- e> Stage II Recovery: Life Beyond Addiction by Earnine Carson (Winston Press, 1985) 250 pgs
- f> Holy Terror: The Fundamentalist War on America's Freedoms in Religion, Politics, and our Private Lives, by Flo Conway and Jim Siegelman ( Delta, 1984) 500 pgs
- g> The English Wayfaring Life in the Middle Ages (XIVth Century) by J. J. Jusserand (T. Fisher Unwin Press, 1899 (1920). 460pgs
- h> New Documents Illustrating Early Christianity (SERIES) (by S.R Llewelyn. (Marquarie University , 1975-1998)
  1. Volume 2 : 275 pgs
  2. Vol. 3 : 300 pgs
  3. Vol. 4 : 250 pgs
  4. Vol. 5 : 275 pgs

- 5. Vol. 6 : 300 pgs
  - 6. Vol. 7 : 250 pgs
  - 7. Vol. 8 : 300 pgs
  - i> The year 1000 ; What life was like at the tune of the First Millennium by Robert Lacey and Danny Danger (Abacus Press, 2000) 225 pgs
  - j> The Discoverers : The narrative of human discovery and its social impacts (Book is lent out so full notation is not available.) ca 500 pages
- DEVOTIONAL and PRAYER:
- k> A guide to Prayer... <Mentioned before>
  - l> 200 Years of Prayer (Mentioned before)
  - m> The Living of these Days by Harry Emerson Fosdick (Harper and Rowe, 1956) , 280 pages
- ENJOYMENT:
- n> The Mitroken Archive: The Secret life of the KGB (1999) aprox 700 pgs (Loaned out as well)
  - o> Criminal Justice Through the Ages trans. By John Fosberry. (Mediaeval Crime Museum, Rothenberg ob der Tauber, Germany, 1993) 300 pages
  - p> The Book of Cantebury by Marjorie Lyle (B.T. Batsford Press, London, 1994) 130 pages.
  - q> Blind Man's Bluff: The United States Story of Submarine Espionage by Jerry Sontag and Christopher Drew (Harper, 1999) 500 pages
  - r> SSN by Tom Clancy (Berkley, 2000)
  - s> Britain's Royal Families by Alison Weir (Pimlico, 1996)
  - t> Enter the Zone by Barry Sears ( Regan Books, 1995)

## Part II: Impact on my goals-

### l>Education :

Indeed I have learned a lot and I will continue to reflect of this period of discovery for many years to come. As a church I find that we must begin to teach one another before a task is handed down to its next leaders. We have done a good job of outlining and noting the ongoing functions here at 2CC but when new leadership begins or when a traditional event organizer "retires" little training has happened. This can be a source of frustration when new leaders do not have the experience of prior leaders even if they decide to change the event. This is but one thought gleaned from the seminars taken within the context of our growth as a church. It is apparent to that as a "family-style" church now at the maximum level of membership we need to begin to better define and create programs to add enrichment to the ministry we share without burning out core/ key volunteers and leadership.

I have come to affirm and confirm that the main-line Protestant, single-pastor, town church is not an oddity, nor is it to be discounted. Lately there has been much press about the demise of the main line denominations. Indeed there are frustrations and apathy but I have found a church trying to live out its mandate to help the community know Christ, to express that in worship and service, and to live that out in the secular world not as a separated or perfect society but as a COLLECTION OF VESSELS God is using.

Many of the books read for education and ammdementation of my knowledge were of importance. To have the time and opportunity to read was a grand gift. The additional learning of usability of the computer Software might prove to be significant in many areas of ministry from administration to Bible Study.

Social and cultural education happened in the two major trips, the first to the South and the next one to Europe. I was able to interact with many people. Some were old friends, some were a different culture. I have found that in one area

### **Sabbatical Report (Con't)**

time might change people it does not really change friendships. I have also found that there are wonderful people all over the world (as well as a good share of jerks, too) and they are very interesting to talk with. I was impressed that many of our guides knew 3 or 4 languages and was embarrassed I know 1 well and another barely.

I am pleased to have had the chance to do some self study and devotional reading. I will mention more on this later but in the areas of education I re-discovered this arena of my life. I am trying to promote a more balanced life in several areas as a gleaning from this re-enrichment.

During my times away I purposefully tried to pick places that would not have the usual bombardment of news, reports, and scheduling necessities. That was very difficult for me as I have never released that without preparation. I found it most difficult not to go to the office except for sorting the mail. Once while there the phone rang. It was all I could do not to answer it. I still have a long way to go here. My devotion to the church and ministry have heightened and that in turn

increased my drive to ministry in West Stafford.

#### RENEWAL of MY MINISTERIAL CALL-

Ministry is a taxing profession; not just physically but also and especially emotionally and spiritually. It has its share of unpredictable events and moments.

I had not had a concentrated renewal break since entering seminary in 1979! Occupational, logistical or familial events usually disrupted many opportunities. The recent separation between Robin and I greatly accented this fatigue and some futility in ministry, especially from about a year ago onwards. As I alluded to in previous remarks I have reaffirmed the ministry we all share. The impact cumulatively of the trip to Oberammergau and Europe as well as the reflective retreat on Ender's Island aided in this rejuvenation.

My call to ministry here in Stafford is also rejuvenated. I find my trust in Christ's covenant and God's Grace has grown. It is good to be in ministry with you.

#### REST from the DAY-TO-DAY load of PARISH LIFE

To some this seems to be like vacation. It was a discovery of its own. Personally I find it difficult to play and have always been the one to engineer the means so others can play instead. That has always been enjoyable. I still have a long way to go here but some inroads have been made. Even on "vacation" I do try to keep in touch with certain ongoing events in West Stafford. To have an interim in place released me from that responsibility. This was probably the most difficult thing to do in the sabbatical; to NOT interact with all of you. You have become my family and what play I have done has been with you so it was a great difficulty to be away. (I did purposefully keep up on things generally via select people and e-mails. Thanks to a number of folks that had me over for a meal, who wrote very special notes and cards, and who stopped and chatted when we met around town.

In another realm I was able to visit and worship in other churches. I had the chance to visit churches of similar size as ours in Mystic, Stafford, Virginia, and Massachusetts. I visited larger churches in NC, Alabama, CT, and NY. Some of these were not UCC, to include Lutheran, Methodist, Episcopal, R. Catholic, Baptist (ABC), and Presbyterian. I also had opportunity to watch a couple of the TV worship services and to worship with friends. To have the ability of worship with my mother at Easter was a very special day for both of us as her health is not good presently. Likewise the bonus of worshipping with my sister on Palm Sunday was powerful as well. These could not have been possible without the release from worship responsibilities. I was sad not to share the grandeur of Easter with my church family and missed all of you. Still I did need this hiatus.

Unfortunately aside from the physical rest, I was not able to emotionally recover. The continuing process of the divorce between Robin and I is draining and difficult for me. It is hard to not ponder the events that cause stress and anxiety, even while on sabbatical. The ongoing concerns of finances, division of property, lawyer posturing, and upkeep of the home is challenging when there is little clarity to one's situation in the present. So it goes. I am in hopes some of this stress will resolve in the next 3-6 months. Even here I must thank so many of you for your notes, letters, e-mails and calls of support. They are beyond value.

I expect to take more advantage of my personal time.

#### Recalibration of my Ministry in West Stafford.

This responds to the question, "Did the sabbatical change the ministry here in West Stafford?" Yes it did. I reaffirmed our need and mandate to grow as a church. I believe we can be a strong voice of faith in the community that maintains a good balance of evangelical, social and Scriptural foci. I reaffirmed that we are in covenant and that covenant is a covenant of trust mutually. I will give to you the best I have but ask that you forgive me for my shortcomings and

#### **Sabbatical Report (Con't)**

give me your best as well. I have looked at some of my shortcomings in a serious fashion and have worked to either define it better or handle it more effectively.

It is very important to me to share one of those with you in some detail. I have a condition called "frontal lobe" syndrome that impacts mainly the short term memory's transition into long term memory. In short, memory is a battle for me on some levels and is exacerbated by heightened stress when that happens. This has no connection with intelligence level but impacts the way the mind processes and organizes information. It is likely I have had this since childhood. One of the greatest battles is memory of names, even ones I have known for a time. I know that can be insulting and is for me embarrassing. I ask a favor in worship that everyone wear their nametags. I ask that all newcomers be reminded to sign the guest book.

Give me written notes when possible, such as in Coffee Hour or the like or, as I have requested to you, call then office



and leave a message. I do work very hard to counter this situation but need your assistance and patience. Sadly as this is a very new syndrome, so little is known that it has no comprehensive treatment.

The visitations to other churches also served to be helpful. In the variety of churches visited I could do some comparisons. Most that have had recent renovations made sure space was multi-purpose and accessible. Programs were announced and put forth in several mediums 4 weeks or more ahead of the event/ collection or program. This capitalizes on a couple of frustrations I have. First our décor prevents us from advertising events or reporting on ongoing ministry in any comprehensive way. I watched in other places. Places of information were used and looked over before and after church and accordingly by community groups using the facility at other points. We tend to have a two to three week advertising window with nominal advertisement in printed mediums such as KIT. I realize this is a product of volunteer time and effort but it makes a difference in the impact on a wider draw. I reaffirm that even fundraising has the impact of getting people external to the church to come into the facility. This is a beginning as we know to further interactions. I would like to see reinvestment in the programming of our events before the "Last push" period. Some of the Missions offerings information packets, for example, come with prepared inserts useful for KIT or other mailings. I'm sure there may be shut ins who would like to support some of the missions we have as a church and denomination. Let's broaden our scope and allow that to happen by planning not only the dates of events happening but also the informational campaign beforehand. I apologize for centering on "missions" in my example but that was the clearest example. I also realize there is some disdain for and fear of clutter and that is a valid point but must be balanced with the mandate to inform within a facility used by the public who have an ongoing need to know. We are a functioning church whereby our mission and the impact of that mission is shown to those who enter our doors often and regularly. People do look. The same seems to be true for fundraising and social events as well as some administrative timing. You see I am kicking myself here as well. I would like to see a larger majority of income of fundraisers be from external to the church family and the Stafford Community.

In connection to that I would like to create a new position at the church of WEBMASTER to manage the growing electronic realm of our ministry. This ad hoc position would report occasionally to Council and would have the responsibility of a website being updated regularly, the technology of the church systems being kept interactive and useful, the regular coaching of key personnel in usages and software, protection of the memory drives from infections and as an emergency contact for personnel when the system is down.

I applaud the generation of reports for me while I was away and will read them closely over the summer. I hope that this will continue as I know I will not be able to attend some meetings, but would like to either have agenda input into the meeting or would like to hear what went on therefore I would ask that I be kept abreast of ongoing things. Remember with the exception of the Deacons and Pastoral Relations, all meetings are open to the membership therefore if the meeting is NOT at the church its location needs to be advertised in case someone wishes to attend. If this cannot fit in the calendar of KIT it needs to be mentioned elsewhere.

We need a secretary. It's that simple. We have agreed to hire a secretary and I would strongly suggest that he/she be from outside the church. I have spoken with many other clergy, moderators, session leaders (like our moderator in the Pres. Ch.) in churches that have a secretary and without exception want the hire to be from outside the church. The reasons were enlightening. If so 1> it did not reduce the needed volunteer base, 2>it was far easier to evaluate without creating internal schism and 3> Issues of confidentiality were more likely not to be mistakenly entering in the informal/ rumor milieu of a small church.

The Board of Deacons, now a smaller board, is still vested with a tremendous amount of activity to manage. I would **Sabbatical Report (Con't)**

like to alleviate some of that load by creating a group of greeters who would be members of the church (a family ideally) who would greet people as they came to worship on Sunday. One church had a family greet for the regular services the entire month, some had greeters every Sunday that were different. Secondly I would like to propose a variation in the collection of the offering. Given the frustration of those who count the offering after each worship service, I suggest that the offering be brought forward for the Dedication but not placed on the Altar afterwards but taken with the Deacons as they return to the rear of the Sanctuary. At this time the various Financial officers will meet them and retire to the vestry (where the choir robes) to count and note the offering. There is a table there that would also be a better work surface than the front pew. They will be able to still hear the service within close proximity and then would have the offering ready. If there are concerns about the contributions people can be approached after in Fellowship Hall. After the offering is counted the officers return to the congregation. One church of similar size has a glass "crying room" where speakers input the service and they can see the events through the glass. This idea has some merit in my thinking.

I would like to see a renewed use of the church by community groups as a continuation of our interaction with the community. The Parish House is nearly completed and those groups that have gravitated to other places for the past 2 years might remain there. If so I hope other groups might ask for usage space. This interaction is not only important for the community but also for us as a church so that we do not become an exclusive group set off by ourselves. This is in opposition to our mandate as a church and our covenant as a fellowship.

I would like to see some of the newer members mentored towards involvement on committees and boards.

### Recalibration of My Personal Faith

I admit the rigors of fatigue, emotional stress, and the long term emotional drain of my personal life did drain my faith. The sabbatical had indeed reinvigorated this part of my life. I owe this to several factors: The Retreat at Ender's Island, the Passion Play in Oberammergau, the visitation of other churches, devotional study by software, 3 weeks traveling in Europe with Rev. Barry Cass, and many of the cards and call from you. I have strengthened the belief that Christianity, as shown by Christ, is inherently tactile as well as constantly impacted by God's Grace. Whether looking up at the 160 foot ceiling of York Minster, or the smile of an elderly clergy colleague I shared communion with in a retirement home in NC, or feeling the prayers of many friends and neighbors, I have been buoyed up. The task of ministry is challenging and I would not suggest it to the faint of heart but on the other hand I feel so privileged to be able to be a part of a community such as West Stafford Church.

### **Capital Campaign Committee**

Capitol fund committee members for year 2000 were: Donald Sanger (chair), Rev. Joseph Wadsworth (ex-officio), Robin Davis (financial secretary), Nancy Tripoli (secretary), Sam Hatch, Shirley Hatch, John Leavitt (ex-officio), and Gordon Myott.

New church members were presented with a description of the goals of the fund and the refurbishment plan for the parish house, as was presented in the 1998 annual meeting.

Four new pledges (including a one time payment) were received. However two cash pledges and one labor and materials pledge were reduced. The net pledge status is as follows:

Pledges as of Dec 31 ,1999	\$ 147,986.00
New cash pledges	1,201.00
Existing cash Pledges reduced	-1,820.00
Labor and material pledge reduced	-3,599.00
Total Pledges as of Dec 31 ,2000	\$ 143,768.00

Net receipts are as follows:

Total Receipts as of Dec 31 ,1999	\$ 72,183.00
2000 Receipts	
Cash	\$ 17,671.50
Building Fund	2,406.00
Labor and material (net)	1,401.00*
2000 Total	\$ 21,478.50

### **Capital Campaign (Con't)**

Campaign Total as of Dec 31,2000	\$ 93,661.50
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\* \$5,000 new receipts less \$3,599 adjustment for reduced pledge

Respectfully submitted,  
Donald F. Sanger, Chair

### **Auditors**

To be presented at the Annual Meeting

**Financial Secretary**

In 2000 we accomplished the following in pledges and contributions:

Pledges	65	Paid in Full	10
		Overpaid	22
		Underpaid	29

Other 23 Contributed but did not pledge

Respectfully submitted,  
Doraine Parker, Financial Secretary

**Missionary Treasurer**

General Missions Giving	\$ 5,943.60
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**Special Missions:**

1999 Veterans of the Cross	\$ 147.0
One Great Hour of Sharing	148.00
CL&P Donation	600.00
Blanket Fund	495.00
Neighbors In Need	269.00
2000 Veterans of the Cross	<u>542.61</u>

Total for Special Missions	\$ 2,201.61
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2000 Total for Missions	\$ 8,145.21
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Respectfully submitted,  
William Hassman, Missionary Treasurer

**Treasurer**Receipts

R1B	Sabbatical Fund				
	Transfer from sabbatical escrow for expenses			\$8,098.58	
R2A	Book Allowance				
	Refund			17.23	
R4	Pastor's Health Care				
	Transfer from Pastor's Health Care escrow			65.00	
R8	Insurance				
	Refund - Adjustment of WC Premium			211.00	
R10	Miscellaneous				
	Use of facilities	718.75			
	Gift toward purchase of chairs	25.00			
				743.75	
R12A	Christian Education				
	Bible study books	16.00			
	Refunds	53.26			
	Voided check - 1999	100.00			
				169.26	
R12B	Sunday School Offerings				
	Offerings			1,403.15	
R13A	Summer Conferences				
	Donation from Sunday School	250.00			
	Easter lily sale	530.00			
	Poinsettia sale	430.00			
	Easter breakfast	155.41			
				1,365.41	✕
R14A	Postage				
	Gifts toward KIT postage			175.00	
R17	Music				
	Donations to Organ Fund			1,775.00	
R18	Fund Raising				
	Tag, Food and Rummage sales (2)	2,599.66			
	Goods and Services Auction	4,000.00			
	Chicken BBQ	1,564.81			
	Corned Beef Dinner	841.00			
	History books	75.90			
				9,081.37	✕
R19	Freewill				
				2,783.37	
R20A	Transfer of Invested Funds				
	Transfer for General Fund obligations	4,970.12			
	Deposit of proceeds from mutual fund sale	5,094.47			
				10,064.59	✕

**Treasurer (Con't)**

R20B	Transfer interest earned on parsonage proceeds		4,389.19
R22	Youth Group		
	Grinder sale	394.00	
	Return of petty cash from previous year	20.00	
			414.00
R26	Lighting of the Cross		175.00
R28	Pledges		54,565.30
	(not including salary give back = 1560.00)		
R28A	Contributions		1,879.40
R29	Missions - Basic Support		5,943.60
R30	Special Missions		
	Blankets	495.00	
	Veterans of the Cross	689.61	
	Donation from CL&P	600.00	
	Neighbors in Need	269.00	
	One Great Hour of Sharing	148.00	
	Local Neighbors in Need - turkeys	20.00	
			2,221.61
R31	Initial Offering		48.00
R32	Memorial Gifts		
	Gifts toward parish house furnishings	393.00	
	In memory of Eva Chapman	35.00	
	In memory of Thomas Kaluzewicz	50.00	
			478.00
R32A	Living Endowment - Designated Gift		1,000.00
R34	Building Fund Donations		2,406.00
R38	Checking Account Interest		189.78
R-CC	Capital Campaign Gifts		
	Giving in cash	17,671.50	
	Borrowed from SSB 48000789	5,949.00	
			23,620.50
			23,627
			23,647
			\$133,283.09

**Total Receipts****Disbursements**

D1	Minister's Salary		\$16,992.96
D1A	Guest Ministers (including mileage)		290.81

**Treasurer (Con't)**

D1B	Interim Minister's Compensation		11,400.00
D2	Minister's Travel Allowance		1,825.12
D2A	Minister's Book/Study Allowance		218.03
D2B	Minister's Housing Allowance		9,000.00
D2C	Minister's Reimbursed Professional Expenses		8,631.99
D3	Minister's Annuity and Family Protection		3,560.91
D3A	Minister's Social Security		1,988.48
D4	Minister's Health Care		
	Health care premiums	4,354.16	
	Health expense reimbursements	2,168.54	
	Transfer to Health Care Fund escrow	278.63	
			6,801.33
D5	Custodian		
	Net salary	400.16	
	Payroll taxes	121.81	
	Contracted services	866.64	
			1,388.61
D5A	Secretary		0.00
D6	Church Utilities		
	Fuel oil	2,183.15	
	Electric	843.04	
	Telephone	237.65	
	Propane	66.00	
			3,329.84
D6A	Parish House Utilities		
	Fuel oil	952.11	
	Electric	403.23	
			1,355.34
D8	Insurance		
	Property and casualty premiums	1,391.00	
	Workman's compensation premiums	982.00	
			2,373.00
D9	Organist		
	James Tripoli (net)	3,747.36	
	Susan Leavitt	90.00	
	Payroll taxes	773.30	
			4,610.66

**Treasurer (Con't)**

D10	Miscellaneous		
	Purchase of 75 folding chairs	1,100.88	
	<u>These Days</u>	54.00	
			1,154.88
D11	Per Capita Dues		
	Connecticut Conference	412.00	
	Tolland Association	97.29	
			509.29
D12A	Christian Education		
	Sunday School curriculum	1,639.19	
	Bibles for Children's Day	224.49	
	Teacher/student gifts	130.43	
	Confirmation class	127.50	
	Bible Study materials	55.75	
	Sunday School Outreach Comm. Expenses	177.83	
	Other	94.85	
			2,450.04
D12B	Sunday School Funds		
	Donation to Capital Campaign	500.00	
	Donation for camperships	250.00	
	Donation for Mozambique flood relief	250.00	
	Donation to Brittany McCallister Fund	250.00	
	Transfer to escrow	153.15	
			1,403.15
D13	Delegate Expenses		326.25
D13A	Summer Conferences		
	Easter Lilies	354.00	
	Poinsettias	229.50	
			583.50
D14	Office Supplies		
	Financial Secretary envelopes + deposit slips	435.69	
	General office supplies	180.84	
	Copier supplies	154.49	
	Special bulletins	146.66	
			917.68
D14A	Postage		
	Newsletter	440.00	
	Treasurer	66.00	
	Clerk	42.35	
	Pastor	29.60	
			577.95
D15	Stewardship		
	Materials		493.59
D16	Maintenance		
	Replacement doors for church	1,500.00	
	Lawn care	365.00	
	Copier service contract	399.00	
	Supplies for work day	92.90	

**Treasurer (Con't)**

	Furnace maintenance	188.16	
	Processed stone	177.14	
	Light bulbs for sanctuary	92.86	
	Replace bell rope	29.25	
	Cleaning supplies	13.25	
	Other	39.07	
			2,896.63
D17	Music		
	Transfer to Organ Fund escrow	1,775.00	
	Choral music	325.00	
	Organ repair	235.00	
	Choir folders	138.68	
	Speakers and wire	73.93	
			2,547.61
D18	Fund Raising Expenses		
	BBQ	596.39	
			596.39
D20A	Transfer to Invested Funds		
	Reinvestment of mutual fund proceeds	5,094.47	
	Transfer to SSB 48000789	65.00	
			5,159.47
D22	Youth Group		
	Grinder Sale and Halloween party	299.18	
	Mini-golf	121.39	
	Other activities	75.74	
	Transfer to escrow	117.69	
			614.00
D23	Worship Supplies		
	Communion supplies	54.27	
	Jubilee Sunday cake	35.00	
	Flowers	62.00	
	Advent candles	46.40	
	Sun Valley service	44.90	
	Hymn board numbers	43.50	
			286.07
D29	Missions - Basic Support		5,943.60
D30	Special Missions		
	Blankets	495.00	
	Veterans of the Cross	689.61	
	Neighbors in Need	269.00	
	One Great Hour of Sharing	148.00	
	Stafford Fuel Bank	450.00	
	Friendship Kitchen	150.00	
	Safe Graduation	50.00	
	Operation Fuel	24.00	
	Holiday turkeys	20.00	



**Treasurer (Con't)**

		2,295.61
D32	Memorial Gifts	
	Parish House Furniture	393.00
	Christmas carol books	30.00
	Transfer to Memorial escrow	55.00
		478.00
D32A	Living Endowment	
	Designated gift - xfr to Living Endowment Fund	1,000.00
	Deceased members (2) - Eva Chapman, Doris Cramer	20.00
		1,020.00
D34	Building Fund	
	Repayment on Capital Campaign borrowing	2,406.00
D37	Parish House Mortgage	3,235.80
D-CC	Capital Campaign	
	Moulton Bros., Inc	5,949.00
	GNC Home Improvement - Siding	2,650.00
	Air Conditioners	1,010.00
	Arrow Concrete Products - Septic Tank, etc	800.00
	Lighting Fixtures	161.44
	Administrative costs	64.00
	Repayment on borrowing fm SSB #48000789	12,986.06
		23,620.50
	<b><u>Total Disbursements</u></b>	<b>\$133,283.09</b>

**Summary**

Total Receipts	133,283.09
Total Disbursements	-133,283.09
Net Operating Gain/(Loss)	0.00

**Checkbook Summary**

Balance on hand 1/1/00	1,119.86
Plus - Receipts	133,283.09
Less - Disbursements	-133,283.09
Balance on hand 12/31/00	1,119.86

**Premium Passbook Account SSB #48000789**

Living Endowment Funds (Note: Only 90% of the interest may be disbursed. Principal and remaining interest must be reinvested. When a church member dies, \$10 must be added to this amount from the General Fund. This account includes \$3,926.18 in Trust Funds.)

Balance 1/1/00	24,863.27
Deposits	1,020.00
Interest earned in 2000	1009.81
Balance 12/31/00	26,893.08
Principal	17,167.67
Accumulated Interest	9,725.41

**Treasurer (Con't)**

## Other funds held in SSB #48000789

(These funds are in addition to the Living Endowment funds above)

Balance 1/1/00	10,694.15
Transfers from General Fund - not incl. Capital Campaign	2,379.47
Transfers from General Fund - Capital Campaign repayment	15,392.06
Transfers to General Fund - not including Capital Campaign	-17,457.89
Transfers to General Fund - Capital Campaign borrowing	-5,949.00
Interest earned in 2000	323.14
Balance 12/31/00	5,381.93

Account total	32,275.01
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## Fidelity Growth &amp; Income Fund

Asset value 1/1/00	6,420.25
Dividends, capital gains and appreciation in 2000	148.95
Asset value 12/31/00	6,569.20

## T. Rowe Price Equity Income Fund

Asset value 1/1/00	5,789.91
Dividends, capital gains and appreciation in 2000	-695.44
Withdrawal - account closed	-5,094.47
Asset value 12/31/00	0.00

## Vanguard Windsor II Fund

Asset value 1/1/00	5,741.18
Dividends, capital gains and appreciation in 2000	-554.12
Withdrawal - transfer to Vanguard Tot Stk Mkt Index Fd	-5187.06
Asset value 12/31/00	0.00

## Vanguard Total Stock Market Index Fund

Asset value 1/1/00	0.00
Deposit - transfer from Vanguard Windsor II Fund	5,187.06
Dividends, capital gains and appreciation in 2000	-601.99
Asset value 12/31/00	4,585.07

## Janus Fund

Asset value 1/1/00	0.00
Deposit - proceeds from T. Rowe Price Equity Income Fd	5,094.47
Dividends, capital gains and appreciation in 2000	-1058.32
Asset value 12/31/00	4,036.15

## SSB CD#75001323 (5 year, matures 5/20/00, APY 7.00%)

(renewed, matures 5/20/05, APY 7.00%)

Principal	28,000.00
Estimated accrued interest to 12/31/99	10,113.91
Estimated interest earned in 2000	2,673.64
Estimated balance 12/31/00	40,787.55

(Restricted funds in this account - \$19,529.25 - escrowed funds)

**Treasurer (Con't)**

## MBNA CD#42-055982-3 (5 year, matures 11/19/01. APY 6.77%)

Principal	50,000.00
Estimated accrued interest to 12/31/99	11,346.03
Estimated interest earned in 2000	4,159.22
Estimated balance 12/31/00	65,505.25
(Restricted funds in this account - \$55,361.57 - principal of Marie Carlson estate)	

## Merrill Lynch #786-04362 - Capital Campaign Securities Account

Asset value 1/1/00	16.04
Dividends and appreciation	0.05
Commissions and fees	-16.00
Asset value 12/31/00	0.09

## Escrowed Funds in the above accounts include:

Sabbatical escrow	0.00
Organ Fund escrow	9,748.67
Pastor's Health Care Fund escrow	3,968.93
Memorial Funds escrow	3,283.23
Youth Group escrow	1,648.31
Sunday School Funds escrow	815.11
<b>Total escrowed funds</b>	<b>19,464.25</b>

## Invested Funds Summary

Balance 1/1/00	152,984.74
Total restricted interest earned in 2000	100.98
Net unrestricted investment income earned in 2000	5,287.92
Interest on Parsonage Funds	-4,389.19
Escrow and other operating funds transfers (net)	-10,689.23
Capital Campaign transfers (net)	9,443.06
Other receipts	1,020.00
Balance 12/31/00	153,758.28
Restricted or escrowed funds	92,966.03
Unrestricted funds	60,792.25
<b>Net Change in invested funds during 2000</b>	<b>773.54</b>

} 1.0-

**Summary of Capital Campaign Funds**

## Receipts

Giving in cash	20,077.50
Gifts of securities	0.00
Donation of excavation services	5,000.00
Borrowing from SSB #48000789	5,949.00
	<b>31,026.50</b>

## Disbursements

Moulton Bros., Inc	5,949.00
GNC Home Improvement - Siding	2,650.00
Air Conditioners	1,010.00
Arrow Concrete Products - Septic Tank, Beehives, Cover	800.00
Lighting Fixtures	161.44
Administrative costs	64.00

Treasurer (Con't)

Value of donated services	5,000.00	
Repayment on borrowing from SSB #48000789	15,392.06	
		31,026.50

**Summary of Borrowing from SSB #48000789:**

Balance outstanding 12/31/99	49,769.88	
Borrowed 9/2/00	5,949.00	
Repaid 10/7/00	-7,332.50	
Repaid 12/31/00	-8,059.56	
Interest accrued 12/31/00	2,051.87	
Balance outstanding 12/31/00		42,378.69

## Proposed 2001 Budget

**RECEIPTS**

<u>Category</u>	<u>2000 Budget</u>	<u>2000 Actual</u>	<u>2001 Proposed</u>	<u>Change</u>
Pledges	50,500.00	54,565.30	54,000.00	3,500.00
Freewill	2,500.00	2,783.37	2,750.00	250.00
Contributions	4,500.00	1,879.40	1,750.00	-2,750.00
Fund Raising	12,500.00	9,081.37	11,500.00	-1,000.00
Summer Conferences	1,600.00	1,365.41	1,300.00	-300.00
Cross	200.00	175.00	200.00	0.00
Christian Education	50.00	169.26	50.00	0.00
Initial Offering	50.00	48.00	50.00	0.00
Misc. & Other	1,000.00	18,926.56	1,000.00	0.00
Checking Acct Int.	150.00	189.78	150.00	0.00
From Invested Fds	11,319.41	10,064.59	14,356.33	3,036.92
Int. on Parsonage Fds	4,389.19	4,389.19	4,389.19	0.00
<b>Subtotal (not incl CC)</b>	<b>88,758.60</b>	<b>103,637.23</b>	<b>91,495.52</b>	<b>2,736.92</b>
Sunday School Funds	1,500.00	1,403.15	1,500.00	0.00
Basic Missions	5,500.00	5,943.60	6,000.00	500.00
Special Missions	1,500.00	2,221.61	1,800.00	300.00
<b>Totals (not incl CC)</b>	<b>97,258.60</b>	<b>113,205.59</b>	<b>100,795.52</b>	<b>3,536.92</b>

Capital Campaign	17,500.00	20,077.50	17,500.00	0.00
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**DISBURSEMENTS**

Pastoral Compensation	49,000.00	49,018.82	51,450.00	2,450.00
Funding of Sabbatical	3,500.00	3,500.00	2,200.00	-1,300.00
Substitute Preachers	450.00	290.81	450.00	0.00
Secretary	2,400.00	0.00	4,166.67	1,766.67
Custodian	1,400.00	1,388.61	1,400.00	0.00
Church Utilities	3,200.00	3,329.84	4,000.00	800.00
Parish Utilities	1,600.00	1,355.34	1,600.00	0.00
Insurance	2,200.00	2,373.00	2,200.00	0.00
Parish House Loan	3,235.80	3,235.80	3,235.80	0.00
Organist	6,292.80	4,610.66	6,513.05	220.25
Youth Group	200.00	614.00	200.00	0.00
Miscellaneous & Other	1,000.00	16,778.88	1,000.00	0.00
Dues	500.00	509.29	500.00	0.00
Christian Education	2,800.00	2,450.04	2,800.00	0.00
Summer Conferences	1,600.00	583.50	1,300.00	-300.00
Delegate Expenses	200.00	326.25	200.00	0.00
Supplies	1,000.00	917.68	1,000.00	0.00
Postage	400.00	577.95	500.00	100.00
Stewardship	500.00	493.59	500.00	0.00
Maintenance	3,200.00	2,896.63	3,200.00	0.00
Music	850.00	772.61	850.00	0.00
Fund Raising Expense	3,000.00	596.39	2,000.00	-1,000.00
Worship Supplies	200.00	286.07	200.00	0.00
Living Endowment	30.00	1,020.00	30.00	0.00
Trans. to Invested Fds.	0.00	5,159.47	0.00	0.00
Memorial Gifts	0.00	478.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>88,758.60</b>	<b>103,563.23</b>	<b>91,495.52</b>	<b>2,736.92</b>
Sunday School Funds	1,500.00	1,403.15	1,500.00	0.00
Basic Missions	5,500.00	5,943.60	6,000.00	500.00
Special Missions	1,500.00	2,295.61	1,800.00	300.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>97,258.60</b>	<b>113,205.59</b>	<b>100,795.52</b>	<b>3,536.92</b>

Capital Fund	17,500.00	20,077.50	17,500.00	0.00
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## Nominating Committee

### Officers

<u>Position</u>	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>Candidates</u>
Moderator	1	1 Jan 2002	<u>Sue Leavitt</u>
Clerk	1	1 Jan 2002	<u>Kim Kowalyshyn</u>
Ass't Clerk	1	1 Jan 2002	<u>Gordon Myott</u>
Treasurer	1	1 Jan 2002	<u>John Leavitt</u>
Ass't Treasurer	1	1 Jan 2002	<u>Nancy Tripoli</u>
Financial Secretary	1	1 Jan 2002	<u>Robin Davis</u>
Ass't Fin Secretary	1	1 Jan 2002	<u>Claire Richens</u>
Missionary Secretary	1	1 Jan 2002	<u>Lee Kerr</u>

### Boards and Committees

<u>Name</u>	<u>Current Members</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u># Openings</u>	<u>Candidate Names</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Trustees	Norm Lutzen	1 Jan 2002	2	<u>Bruce Ladr</u>	1 Jan 2002
		1 Jan 2002		<u>Janice Gowdy</u>	1 Jan 2003
	Ross Kerr	1 Jan 2003		<u>Charlie Bettinger</u>	1 Jan 2004
		1 Jan 2003		<u>George Sprague</u>	1 Jan 2004
Diaconate	Kay Myott Sue Leavitt John Leavitt <u>Ruth Anne Talamini</u>	1 Jan 2002	4	<u>Lorianne Sward</u>	1 Jan 2003
		1 Jan 2002		<u>Gordon Myott</u>	1 Jan 2003
		1 Jan 2002		<u>Ken May</u>	1 Jan 2003
		1 Jan 2002		<u>Don Sanger</u>	1 Jan 2003
Deacon Emeritus	Jack Richens				
Deaconess Emeritus	Claire Richens				
Christian Education	Lynn McCormack Kim Missell	1 Jun 2002	3+	<u>Karen Keish</u>	1 Jun 2003
		1 Jun 2002		<u>Gibby Piaxao</u>	1 Jun 2003
Stewardship	Sue Leavitt John Leavitt	1 Jan 2002	2	<u>John Richens</u>	1 Jan 2003
		1 Jan 2002		<u>Ken May</u>	1 Jan 2003
Missions	Leslie Bourque Linda Sprague	1 Jan 2002	3	<u>Diane Hassman</u>	1 Jan 2003
		1 Jan 2002		<u>Janice Lutzen</u>	1 Jan 2003
					1 Jan 2003
Missions:ex Officio	Bruce Ekenbarger				
Nominating	Myrna Gambino Shirley Salsbury	1 Jan 2002	2	<u>Lee Anne Sprague</u>	1 Jan 2003
		1 Jan 2002		<u>Kay Myott</u>	1 Jan 2003
				<u>John Leavitt</u>	1 Jan 2003
Auditors	Don Sanger	1 Jan 2002	2	<u>Doraine Parker</u>	1 Jan 2003

**Nominating Committee (Con't)**

Delegates			2	_____	1 Jan 2002
				_____	1 Jan 2002
Alternate Delegates			2	_____	1 Jan 2002
				_____	1 Jan 2002
Historian			1	<u>Bill Sward</u>	1 Jan 2002
Church Council			4	<u>Gibby Piaxao</u>	1 Jan 2002
				<u>Florence Demars</u>	1 Jan 2002
				<u>Rebecca Wentworth</u>	1 Jan 2002
				<u>Linda May</u>	1 Jan 2002
Pastoral Relations	Sheila Hoefle	1 Jan 2002	3+	<u>Cathy Ladr</u>	1 Jan 2003
	Bill Gowdy	1 Jan 2002		<u>Tina Butler</u>	1 Jan 2003
	Bill Hassman	1 Jan 2002		<u>Myrna Gambino</u>	1 Jan 2003

## Goals to be accomplished between 2002 and 2010

### PHYSICAL PLANT:

- To have purchased and installed a new musical instrument for worship,
- To have designed and installed a good-quality sound system for the sanctuary and fellowship hall to allow for: 1) music ministry; 2) pulpit ministry; 3) aid to hearing impaired; 4) audio/visual connection including feed to fellowship hall,
- To have updated the church kitchen and bathrooms,
- To have new well with improved water – both quantity and quality,
- To have the rear parking lot graded and in use,
- To have the barn repair, painted and a gutter installed on the west side,
- To have the wiring and plumbing in the church replaced,
- To have handicapped access to fellowship hall and the bathrooms installed.

### STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION:

- To have a part-time church secretary,
- To have a seminary student (Yale Divinity, Andover Newton or Harvard Divinity) in a paid position for a two year period (could be two one year positions),
- To have fully staffed officers, boards and committees for three years in succession.

### OUTREACH AND MISSIONS:

- To have increased the support of the four denominational offerings and blanket and food collections by 30%,
- To have sponsored, in part, either a missionary in the UCC or a refugee family,
- To have gone on a trip as a congregation to the Holy Land or to ??.

### MEMBERSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL:

- To have a TOTAL active membership of 225 or more,
- To have a Sunday School registration of 90 children or more,
- To have planned and executed a 240th year gala in 2004,
- To have executed a new church directory between 2006 and 2008.

### FINANCIAL AND FUNDRAISING:

- To have created a musical/choral recording for sale,
- To have fully supported the voted budget for two consecutive years without impacting invested funds,
- To have held a Medieval Fair (outdoors in the rear of the property).

### MISCELLANEOUS:

- To have given/granted a designated parking space to the pastor and secretary,
- To have opened a pastoral counseling center located at the West Stafford Church facility.