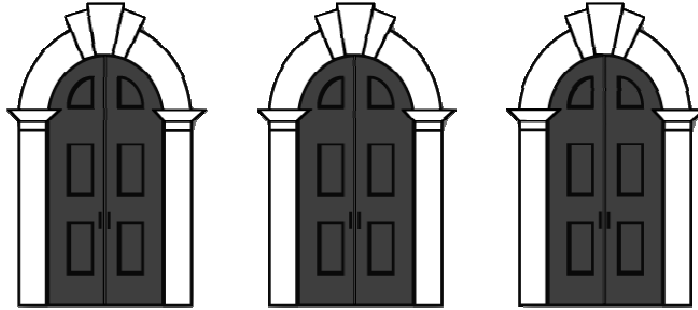


printed 1/19/2010



**THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
IN EXETER, UCC**  
*a home for your spirit*

**The Congregational Church**

in Exeter, New Hampshire

United Church of Christ

Gathered in 1638

**ANNUAL MEETING  
JANUARY 24, 2010**

## COVENANT

We covenant by the help of the Holy Spirit to hold fast to God as our greatest good, and to the Lord Jesus by faith and Gospel obedience, as becomes God's people forever. And we do solemnly promise and engage before God and with one another to make the Gospel of Jesus Christ the rule of our walk and actions; and also duly to attend all the ordinances of the church; to uphold its ministries, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ; and to serve God and our neighbors.

We pray that God may help us. Amen.

## Warrant of Annual Meeting

To the members of the Congregational Church in Exeter:

**The annual meeting of the Congregational Church in Exeter will be held on Sunday, January 24, 2010, at 11:15 a.m. in the Vestry, for the following purposes:**

To receive, consider and act on reports from staff, officers, boards and committees for the ministries and mission of the church in the year 2009;

To hear the report of the Nominating Committee, and proceed to the election of officers, boards, and committees;

To see if the church will vote to raise and appropriate funds for church program expenses and church property expenses for the calendar and fiscal year 2010; and

To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Petitions to add items of business, signed by ten members, must be received at the church office no later than January 11. Staff, officers and chairpersons are asked to submit their annual reports for the year 2009 no later than January 4, 2010, so that they may be printed and made available to the members in advance of the meeting.

**Child care will be available during the Annual Meeting.**

*By vote of the Church Council. Jesse Stevens, Moderator*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Agenda .....	4
Minutes of 2009 Annual Meeting .....	5
Minutes of Special Meetings, March 2009 .....	6
STAFF REPORTS	
Senior Pastor's Report.....	7
Associate Pastor/Director of Christian Growth's Report.....	9
Director of Music's Report .....	11
OFFICER, BOARD, & COMMITTEE REPORTS	
Christian Growth Committee .....	12
Clerk's Report .....	14
Diaconate Report.....	15
Membership Committee Report.....	13
Hospitality Committee .....	16
Historian Report .....	16
Mission and Action Report.....	17
Food Pantry.....	19
Memorial Garden Report .....	16
Music Committee Report .....	20
Stewardship Committee Report.....	22
Trustees Report .....	21
MOTIONS	
Bylaws.....	none
ELECTION of NOMINEES	
Nominations Report.....	23
FINANCIAL REPORTS	
Auditors Report.....	24
Investment Account Report.....	24
Proposed Budget for 2010.....	loose

**THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN EXETER**  
**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**Annual Meeting, January 24, 2010**

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order, Prayer, and Covenant (see inside cover)
2. Memorial Roll Call
3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of 2009
4. Consideration of staff reports
  - Senior Pastor
  - Associate Pastor/ Director of Christian Growth
  - Director of Music
5. Consideration of reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees
  - Clerk
  - Christian Growth Committee
  - Diaconate
  - Hospitality Committee
  - Membership Committee
  - Memorial Garden Committee
  - Mission and Action Committee
  - Music Committee
  - Trustees
6. Election of Officers, Boards, and Committees
  - Nominations Report
7. Consideration of financial reports for 2009
  - Auditors Report for FY 2008
  - Stewardship Committee
  - Investment Account
8. Action on 2010 Budget
9. Other business
10. Adjournment

**The Congregational Church in Exeter  
The United Church of Christ**

Minutes of the Annual Meeting, January 25, 2009

- Jesse Stevens, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 11:25. There were 61 members present.
- Nancy Rockwell led the reading of the Covenant, recited a prayer and the Memorial Roll Call of church members who had died during 2008.
- The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of 2008 and the Special Meeting of April 2008 were approved as written
- Consideration of staff reports: Senior Pastor, Director of Christian Growth and Director of Music passed with the following change: Change Director of Christian Growth to Associate Pastor for Christian Growth
- Consideration of reports of Officers, Boards and Committees passed with the following changes: Stewardship should be listed in this section of the report, not in the financial reports and 'The garage was hand painted by Carl Peterson' should be added to the Trustees report. Jesse: I am overwhelmed with what we have accomplished over the past year. The building has really turned into a blessing. All the committees have really done well this year.
- Motions: Motion to approve change in by-laws, regarding Trustees check signing procedures seconded. Passed
- Election of officers, boards and committees: Nominating Report: Discussion: There are 4 positions still open, 2 Auditors, 1 Trustee, 1 Membership. Coordinating Usher should be filled as well. Passed
- Consideration of financial reports: Passed
- Action on 2009 budget: Discussion: Currently 134 pledges totaling \$220,351., goal is \$280,000. 14 new, first time pledges which is very gratifying; the Stewardship Committee will contact 33 families who have pledged in the past who have not pledged as yet. Susan Scales reviewed 2009 budget. The budget does not include raises for church staff. In addition, the church has decreased its pledge to the Conference from \$45. per member to \$25. per member. We needed to cut costs somewhere. About \$37,000. was donated to the church for various causes such as the Blanket Drive, Neighbors in Need, etc. This should be reported somewhere. The Tower principle is down to about \$57,000. we pay off around \$10,000 per year. We use the money we receive from renting out the steeple as a cell tower to pay down this debt. We needed to use some of this money to pay expenses last year. This is a deficit budget. 2008 was a deficit budget. We start out 2009 in the hole. This is a bare bones budget. Everyone needs to complete 2008 pledge and consider increasing 2009 pledge; how do we handle a deficit? We have considered interest only payments on the Tower, last year a lot of people took an additional pledge. We have had bigger deficits in the past. Budget passed.

We applied for and received a grant from the Ella Anderson Trust for \$5,000. for continued upgrades to the vestry

Meeting adjourned at 12:30

*Submitted by*

*Nancy Brown Duffie, Clerk*

Congregational Church in Exeter, UCC  
**SPECIAL CHURCH MEETING OF** March 3, 2009

Bill Modlin called the meeting to order at 11:35. Enough members were present to make a quorum. Nancy Rockwell led in prayer.

Susan Scales: We are facing a difficult financial year for the church

Beth Brosnan: Express gratitude for the generosity of the members of the church. As of April 30, we have received 142 pledges, 19 are first time pledges, 123 repeat. 68 maintained or increased from 2008. Significantly fewer pledges than last year. 26 pledged in 08 who have not pledged in 09. If we are behind right now, we will continue to get more and more behind. Total amount pledged. \$238,285

Susan: There has been an increased demand for our services and concrete needs. Food pantry requests are up but donations are more difficult to come by. Overall deficit \$21,883 so far. Why? Bad weather, bad economy, fewer paid entire pledge in January, more/higher expenses, paying two pastors, greater problems to come. Where do we get the money if we don't have enough income? We have taken money out of the Endowment fund in the past to pay expenses. Now is a bad time to be taking money out of accounts.

Finance Committee actions: Monitor expenses closely, look for creative ways to fund activities, reduce spending by 10%.

Trustees actions: Defer work on boiler, reduce office spending, make only 9 of 12 tower loan principle payments (still pay interest). Stop funding sabbatical, publish a wish list, adjust NHUCC payment to 3.5% of collected pledge and plate income rather than fixed amount up to \$10,550

Still looking at a deficit even with these changes.

Costs \$31,500. to run this church each month.

What can you do to help? Remind your friends to pledge, increase your pledge, one time gift as part of your legacy. Automatic withdrawal is helpful to the church for church's expenses to be met.

Many thanks to the Trustees for all their hard work.

Meeting adjourned 12:05

*Submitted by Nancy Brown Duffie, Clerk*

# Staff Reports

## SENIOR PASTOR REPORT 2009

It is now five years since you called me as your Senior Pastor and Teacher. These have been busy, challenging, satisfying and amazing years. When I first arrived in the fall of 2004, you were in the process of replacing the Tower, hoping the old one wouldn't fall down before the new one went up. In March of 2005 the new Tower arrived from Vermont and filled the driveway for a couple months while assembly was completed. In May, the old tower came down, falling to pieces, and the new one was raised by a crane nearly as large as the church.

And so began an invigorating time of imagining how our life together as a church could be improved by renovating and re-imagining our buildings and their uses. One new possibility led to another: having the pastor live outside the parsonage allowed the offices to move into that house, and that made it possible to move the church school into the church, after more than fifty years in Bixler House. It wasn't easy to end the rich years in Bixler. Every change is a leaving and a new beginning. Together, we found our way. Selling Bixler made possible renovations to the parsonage, Vestry, and kitchen, all worried over and then welcomed. In my first year I recommended to the Christian Growth Committee that they explore Godly Play, and Elizabeth Barnum, then Director of CG, arranged for a number of us to attend a workshop. Jenn Sanborn was moved to commit to Godly Play and has since used her considerable skills to design classrooms, train teachers, and develop our church as a regional site for training.

In my second year I urged the Mission Action Committee to develop more opportunities for involvement. The able lay leadership of M&A, particularly Karen Prior, Steve Wood and Steve Sanborn, has brought our mission life alive – we now have volunteers participating in a program of housing homeless families (SINH), in our own Jacob's Ladder program helping local folks with home repairs, in our Food Pantry, and in outreach programs shared with the schools and other churches, such as Darfur Tents of Hope and Three Cups of Tea. M&A has also developed sales and use of Fair Trade coffee, and this past year, the Uncommon Mall, and has increased Thanksgiving and Christmas basket outreach for local families in need. Our Ukama partnership has taken stronger hold as a number of new activities have been introduced by Erik Hobbie and Rebekah Bergeron. This fall Erik facilitated a change in our partner church which looks quite exciting. And the Food Pantry has flourished, in new space, with expanded volunteers, and serving nearly double the clients as before. Assembling a new church staff took the combined hard work and time of lay leaders and Sr. Pastor. The excellence of the church staff we brought together has added a great deal to the life of the church. With Rushan's help, Christian Growth has developed a number of family programs, skiing, camping, pizza parties; confirmands now take a field trip to Night Watch at Cathedral of St. John the Divine; youth activities have increased and church school has grown. He began our Praise Choir, now under the leadership of Don Erdbrink, and created a drumming circle. He has also shepherded Christmas pageants, several of which I have written for adults and children, and some of which have been traditional all-children pageants.

The choir, under Bev's leadership, has doubled and increased in excellence, and the bells are now playing by invitation off site, as well as in worship. My stated hope for the Music Program, the developing of a program of public offerings apart from worship, has been accomplished by Bev and the Music Committee in our coffeehouse concerts. Renay is a wonder at church administration, her attention to detail, skill at organization, enthusiasm for what we are doing together as a church, and her artistic sensibilities all add luster to our life. By no means least are the Walshes, Jim who has taken care of our buildings for some years, with love and concern, and Faith, who took on our bookkeeping three years ago, in coordination with the able financial team of the Trustees. All the staff have brought imagination to their work.

The Trustees have overseen tremendous changes to our buildings, guided the management of our financial affairs in very challenging times, and handled one crisis after another (always part of life in antique buildings, and always, shall we say, exciting.) In rocky and trying times their skilful lay leadership has righted our boat again and again, and they have guided us into these new times with strength and discernment. Special thanks to Bill Modlin, who has chaired for two years now.

Stewardship, under Beth Brosnan's able leadership this year, has imagined and tried a number of new things this year, and greatly increased pledges from this responsive congregation. Attending workshops (recommended by the pastor) proved to be fruitful and fun and brought us the jigsaw puzzle our pledges are completing.

The Deacons have encouraged Kathy James, our cloth artist who this year made a beautiful Advent parament, and the Petal Pushers, whose imagination has brought new life to the front of the church. The Deacons have also added a gluten free option to Communion, and have inaugurated the Early Service with a different worship style, and Maundy Thursday as a Vestry supper service. The Deacons and I together have inaugurated the ordinations of Michael Denney, Elizabeth Barnum, Rushan Sinnaduray, and soon, Abigail Henderson, all in our church and by the Committee on Ministry of the Rockingham Association of the UCC.

We've begun to use more technology in worship, with historical slides accompanying my sermon on Martin Luther King Day last year, story and song slides on St. Francis Day this October, and with Rushan's help, slides on Children's Day last spring. And adding a large screen to the Vestry has allowed after-worship slides with speakers, and films to be shown by groups such as *We the People*, an interfaith group I founded, that includes three churches (us, Christ Church and the UUs) and Phillips Exeter Academy.

The first youth sermon in recent memory happened three years ago, when Nick Johnson and Tori Bean accepted my invitation to speak about Harry Potter one Sunday. Since then, there have been two Youth Sundays, with Byron Bunda and Lily Zwaan as preachers, and we hope to hear from Alex Jones this spring. And the tradition of Lay Sunday has continued, with Bill Modlin delivering a sermon last May. As well, I have introduced a number of sermon themes which have appealed to many, such as One God-Many Faiths, the Ten Commandments, the Bible and Short Stories, and soon to come, the Spirituality of Work

Both Petal Pushers and Lay Visitors are committees under the Deacons, and each group, with a Deacon as Chair and the Pastor as advisor, has been serving in increasing ways. The Lay Visitors, who now have quite a well organized list of folks to tend, have embraced my suggestion that they take flowering plants at Christmas and Easter.

Each year I offer several adult education opportunities, discussion series on weekday evenings, retreats, forums after church on Sundays, sometimes leading these myself and sometimes coordinating others to be leaders. There are also occasional guest preachers and after church events involving them – John Kemp from Plimoth Plantation came in November, and Richard Schubart, along with historical actor Steve Wood (Abraham Lincoln) will come in March.

Most weeks for three years now I have written a parish spiritual e-letter. And every week I am involved with some of you individually through pastoral visitation or counseling, in memorial services or weddings or baptisms. You have taken root in my heart and I am blessed by being in ministry among you.

There remains much to do together, as we grow our hearts and minds in the service of God, in the spirit of Jesus, and in the way of the Holy Spirit who invites us to risk and to revelation.

I am grateful to be among you, as we move on together in the journey of life and the courage of faith.

*Blessings, Nancy Rockwell, Sr. Pastor*

# Staff Reports

## ASSOCIATE PASTOR/DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN GROWTH ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Our Christian Growth programs for children, youth and families have continued to develop and grow during 2009. We have been working to develop and build on many of the new initiatives we began in previous years.

We have continued to make good use of the Godly Play rooms and the new child care room. They provide such warm and welcoming spaces for the children and families in our midst.

Godly Play continues to be enjoyed by all who experience it. This past year, thanks to the hard work of Jenn Sanborn and Renay Allen, we were able to play host to another Godly Play accreditation event. Participants in the training event had many wonderful things to say about our church, our Godly Play rooms and the hospitality they experienced here. Godly Play continues to grow and develop here as we continue to add new stories. Thank you to our storytellers and doorkeepers: Kathy Schreiber, Muffy Prescott, Arushini Sinnaduray, Tom & Rebekah Bergeron, Amy Collins, Laura Montagno, Jenn Sanborn, Steve Wood, Gwyn Coogan, Wes & Deb Gundersen, Bob Devantery, Sara Strohecker and Jenny Labrecque. We continue to need more storytellers and doorkeepers.

Our youth led another energetic and spirit-filled worship service in the spring, with Lily Zwaan preaching the sermon and Byron Bunda presenting the children's message. The idea for youth-led services came from some of our high school youth and the first one was held in 2008 with the support of the Deacons and the Christian Growth Committee. It has been exciting to see and be a part of the new perspectives that youth bring to our understandings of faith and life. I hope that we will continue to offer these youth worship services into the future.

This past year's confirmation program was fun and exciting for the young people who were a part of it. The highlight was the overnight trip to New York City to participate in NightWatch at the Cathedral of St John the Divine. The young people and adults who took part in this had a great time. I have to thank Ted Wingate, Suzan Stough and Arushini Sinnaduray for their assistance with making this trip such a success. We confirmed 3 young people in June: Zach Stough, Liana Swanson & Tracey Wingate.

The Friday Service continues to happen on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month. It has a core group of families who meet for fellowship, a pot-luck meal and worship with a difference. It has been energizing to be a part of this group that has continued to grow and develop since it started in the fall of 2005. If you haven't experienced the service, we encourage you to come along and see what it is all about.

Carl Nickerson from the group Foté, led a series of African drumming workshops for adults and youth culminating in a "performance" at the Easter Sunday service. All who participated had a wonderful time and we hope to organize another service of drumming workshops in 2010.

Our Christmas Pageant was a success again this year. Our children and youth did a wonderful job presenting a traditional Christmas pageant during a service that was full of energy and vitality. The music provided by the Rainbow Ringers, the Praise Choir and Beverly Caldon helped create a worship service that was meaningful to all who were there. Thank you to Laura Williams, Sara Ream, Carol Dawson and Susan Scales for their help with making the pageant such a success.

We continue to struggle to find people to volunteer to work with our programs for children and youth. Youth and children's ministry is a vital part of our life as a church and needs the energy and the time and talent of every member of this faith community if we are going to be successful in helping our young people as they embark on and continue to travel along on the journey of faith. So, please take the time to consider ways in which you can help – we have so many opportunities for participation: Godly Play storytellers, doorkeepers, activity group leaders for youth groups and much more.

Thank you to the Christian Growth Committee for their hard work and their support this past year. Thank you to Ted Wingate and Laura Williams for chairing the committee this year. Grateful thanks to Susan Porter, Chuck Fowler, Patti Wood, Tom Bergeron, Kathy Schreiber, Sara Strohecker, Amy Collins, Laura Montagno, Deb Gundersen and Karin Bouvier. Thank you also to Laura Al-Hashmi for her work in staffing the child care room every Sunday – this is such an important job and we are lucky to have someone with Laura's gifts and commitment performing this role for us.

The year ahead is going to be full of excitement and new discoveries as we work together to explore new and different ways to meet the needs of our children, teenagers and families and journey with them and help them grow in faith.

*Blessings and peace*

*Rev. Rushan Sinnaduray*

# Staff Reports

## MUSIC DIRECTOR ANNUAL REPORT—2009

This is a factual perspective of the music program of 2009, and a description of the choirs, concerts, and status of the instruments.

The Senior Choir, with 33 members, continued to be a cheerful, loyal crowd, willing to sing a wide variety of anthems. They sang Sundays, Maundy Thursday, at the Holiday Open House, and at the 8PM service on Christmas Eve. They celebrated Abraham Lincoln's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday, and his connection to our church, by singing American music of the 1860s on Feb. 8. Other Special Music Sundays were offered: March 8 with violinist Ava Grusser, and Nov. 8 with music on Thanksgiving texts.

Instrumentalists were hired occasionally to augment the anthems and to add a new dynamic to the worship services. I appreciate greatly that Tootie Cole served as choir librarian. We mourned the passing of Lew Royal. Our 4-octave hand bell choir, the Heritage Ringers, played in church one Sunday a month, at the Holiday Open House on Dec. 3, and at the late service on Christmas Eve. By invitation they played at the memorial service for member Ruth Scott, and remembered her enthusiasm for the bell choir. They performed a concert at the Exeter town library in June with most of the audience hidden in the stacks..

The Praise Choir, directed by Don Erdbrink, brought an opportunity for high schoolers and adults to sing more popular contemporary music, accompanied by keyboard and guitar. The group ranged from 5-10 singers and took part in worship one Sunday a month and at the early Christmas Eve service. The Rainbow Ringers/Junior Bell Choir met with Alison Hobbie on Tuesday evenings, and under her enthusiastic leadership, played in church in May, in the fall, and at the early Christmas Eve service. The Cherub Choir sang at Easter, directed by Karen Prior and Gladys Westerberg, and included 6-8 children ages 3-7. The group was inactive in the fall. Throughout the year, Andy Inzenga worked as improv keyboardist at the 8 AM service in the sanctuary. Forty men from the area came together to sing at our Annual Men's Choir service on May 17, with Bev conducting three anthems from the front of the sanctuary. John Martin, as in past years, worked on recruitment.

With the success of the previous years' Coffeehouse series, the Music Committee scheduled four concerts in 2009. The first was a Valentine coffeehouse on Feb. 14 with Joyful Rain, followed by Tom Palance's Jazz Quartet for the Mother's Day Tea + Jazz on May 10. October 10 saw the Caribbean band Grupo Mofongo, and Nov. 14 featured Tuckermans at 9, an a cappella singing group. The Music Committee was very active in selling tickets, baking, setting up, cleaning up, and distributing posters for all events. The workload for the May concert was shared by the Christian Growth Committee, which likewise brought a new audience and shared the profits. A new instrumental group, featuring banjo, guitar, folk harp, fiddle, and sometimes hammered dulcimer, was born on a whim and named the Ransomed Sinners Quartet. Comprised of Senior Choir members, it quickly became the house band for the Church Suppers and set the mood for a good time.

The church's Holiday Open House (Festival of Trees) on Dec. 3 turned into a gala event, with the addition this year of an outdoor Live Nativity in front of the church. The cast consisted of 8 people, and a real donkey, two sheep, and two goats rented from McDonny Farm. Standing from 4-5:30 PM, the "first annual" Nativity benefited from warm weather, daylight visibility, and a big crowd of people out to see Santa. The Youth group dispersed free cookie coupons downtown, which also encouraged people to come to the church. The Open House was from 4-7 PM, with Connie Cox running the hot food component. Renay Allen did publicity, worked with the crafter/vendors and Mission + Action SERRV tables, and, together with Bev Caldon, organized, brainstormed, and recruited for the Nativity. Live music was presented in 10-minute intervals, with the Heritage Ringers playing four times and the Ransomed Sinners Quartet twice, which kept the audience on its feet and in a shopping mood. The Senior Choir sang carols in singalong style twice, interspersed with piano music. Profits from hot food and vendor/crafter table rental fees went into the Organ Enhancement Fund.

In the summer Andover Organ Co. completed Phase I of the 3-year plan to re-leather the air reservoirs of the pipe organ. The proceeds from the four CoffeeHouse Concerts and the Holiday Open House went into this fund. I am grateful also to the church leaders for designating moneys from the Bittersweet Bazaar and the church suppers of September and October.

I appreciate the support of the staff, the music committee, Lori Cunningham (chair of the Music Committee), and Susan Scales. The job continues to challenge and reward.

*Respectfully submitted, Beverly Caldon, Music Director*

# Officer, Board, & Committee Reports

## CHRISTIAN GROWTH COMMITTEE REPORT – 2009

The purpose and philosophy of the twelve-member Christian Growth Committee is to introduce persons into the life and mission of the Community of Christian Faith and to determine the policy and curriculum as it relates to this mission. Christian Growth is a very active committee and this year was no exception. To best address and support these responsibilities, the committee is structured into the following sub-committees:

1. Church School/Godly Play/ Childcare
2. Confirmation Group/Youth Group/Mission Trip
3. Special Events

### **Church School/Godly Play/Childcare**

Of particular note for the Fall 2009 church school year, was the decision to revert back to our previous plan where children begin worship in the church and leave for Godly Play after the children's message. The children, however, will continue to share in communion once a month. The congregation seemed generally pleased with this change.

Our Church School program is called Godly Play, "a Montessori-related approach to learning for children in pre-Kindergarten through Grade 6 to experience the presence of a loving God and discover how to "speak the language" of their biblical faith." Each Godly Play class is led by a Storyteller and supported by a Doorperson, the staffing of which is coordinated by the Christian Growth Committee, as is the childcare room, which is staffed for both services, year-round by Laura Al-Hashmi and many volunteers. A concerted effort was made to maintain and upgrade Godly Play materials. In October of this year, our church held its second three-day regional Godly Play training event, conducted by Jenn Sanborn, Accredited Godly Play Trainer. Members of our own congregation participated in this event. In addition, we are offering a one day Godly Play Workshop in January 2010.

### **Confirmation Group/Youth Group/Mission Trip**

In June 2009, three participants of our two-year Confirmation Program were confirmed. In September, a pot-luck supper and meeting for all 7th, 8th & 9th graders and parents who are interested in being a part the confirmation program this year. Another highlight of the confirmation program was Night Watch at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City in May. Members of the confirmation class and those planning on beginning the confirmation process next year spent the night in the Cathedral, for numerous planned activities.

A new group for senior high launched in September for grades 9 through 12. The group meets weekly on Sunday afternoons for discussions, games and a variety of activities. The program for the group includes special events, retreats, social outreach activities and trips. For instance, the youth of our congregation (high school and confirmands) planned, prepared and served a meal at Salvation Army.

In addition, the high school youth group participated in the Mother's Day Tea fundraiser, a joint effort between our High School group, the Christian Growth Committee and the Music Committee. Unfortunately, the summer mission trip was cancelled due to lack of participation. A similar co-sponsorship between the Christian Growth and Music committees is offered in February 2010, with guest musician Susie Burke.

Our middle school youth and their friends, grades 6 through 8, participated in an Easter lock-in, where they spent a night in the church with games, food, movies, and worship. The next morning they woke early to help lead the sunrise service at Swazey Parkway.

### **Special Events**

The special events offered in 2009 were a mix of old and new. While we continued to plan and coordinate series of services that continue to grow in popularity with each passing year, such as The Friday Service, Children's Sunday, the Advent Event, and the Christmas Pageant, we strove to introduce new activities that would appeal to a broad spectrum of our church family. Of note was the series of African Drumming Workshops offered in

March/April of 2009. The drumming classes were open to adults and young people, grades 3 & up. This popular workshop had been offered before, but the Congregational Drummers made their first appearance in church on Easter Sunday, with a powerful and resonating performance. A Church Cookout was planned for August, but had to be cancelled the morning of the event, due to severe weather conditions. However, as a result of this cancellation, the Pizza Party was introduced as an indoor alternative, immediately following the 10am service one Sunday in October, to which all were welcome to partake. A similar event is planned for 2010.

There were two very successful family ski trips in 2009 and the committee is currently planning two more ski trips for early 2010. Families joined in our annual Advent Event, which includes a simple meal of soup and bread and a special craft, to prepare for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Perhaps it is the annual Youth Service, Children's Sunday and Christmas Pageant that best epitomize this committee's mission, for it is at these events where the enthusiasm and generosity, the gifts and talents of our entire church family are so publicly displayed. These events may highlight the generosity of spirit, but it is these same qualities, quietly given by our congregation throughout the year that inspire our children and youth to grow in faith.

The committee is thankful to all of those in our church community who gave their time and talent in meeting the spiritual needs of our congregation, young people and families alike, thus helping to make our programs a success. We continue to celebrate the gifted Rev. Rushan Sinnaduray, Associate Pastor/Director of Christian Growth, under whose direction and influence our youth programs continue to flourish. It is with profound gratitude that we acknowledge the efforts of our Christian Growth Committee members, whose commitment and abilities helped us to carry out our mission.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Laura Williams and Ted Wingate, Christian Growth, Co-Chairs*

### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT-2009**

The committee worked hard to keep up with Membership responsibilities this year. Whenever possible, we have continued to have a committee member was on hand to welcome visitors, invite them to sign the guest book, hand out literature and to make introductions. Visitors who signed the guest book were contacted by the Caller of the Month. If they chose, they were entered into the church database to receive The TOWER, Pastor's letter and pertinent information. An informal Coffee Chat was held after church on the second Sunday of most months to discuss 'what's this church all about anyway?'

The committee continues to look for new and interesting ways to welcome visitors and new members. New name tags with the church "logo" were moved to their new bulletin board location. While we are considering other ways to store the tags, the new location seems preferable. Membership has also offered several Joining Sundays throughout the year. These events have allowed us to welcome 10 new members, as detailed in the Clerk's Report. Our congregation is blessed!

**We commend you the congregation for extending a warm greeting to visitors and to those we've missed seeing for awhile. Please continue!**

*Margie Matlack, Jane Derby, Peg Hampton, Marilyn Spoerl, Rebekah Bergeron, Deb Albee, BJ Wall-Chase,*

# Officer, Board, & Committee Reports

## CHURCH CLERK REPORT – 2009

New Members Received into Active membership:

Profession of Faith

Deb Albee  
 Anne Cerrato  
 Scott Cerrato  
 Dorothy Durbas  
 Kent McConnell  
 Lisa McConnell  
 Dave Roger  
 Kathy Roger  
 Don Tucker  
 Lily Zwaan

Confirmation

Zach Stough  
 Liana Swanson  
 Tracey Wingate

Baptism

Garrett Charleston  
 Jack Charleston

Removed from Active Membership:

Death

Cushing Colby  
 Ben Condran  
 Will Cori  
 Bettina Emmons\*  
 Buck Hollaman\*  
 Edith Holland\*  
 Elizabeth Ladner\*  
 Jonathan Moore  
 Tom Pine\*  
 David Robinson\*  
 Annette Rountree\*  
 Lewis Royal\*  
 Ruth Scott\*  
 Margaret Tunstall\*  
 Martha Uhlinger\*  
 \* *Member*

Removed by Request/Moved

Charles Walker	Caron Callahan
Lynne Walker	Meghan Callahan
Sarah Walker	Daniel Callahan
Suzanne Walker	Lindsay Mantell
Denise Leonard	Megan Mantell
Dottie Nutt	Michael Mantell

*Respectfully Submitted by Nancy Brown Duffie*

Total Active members 12/31/2008	418
Total Additions in 2008 (excluding baptisms)	13
Total Removals	-23
Total Active members 12/31/2009	408
Associate Members	2
Active Non-Members	159
Average Sunday Attendance 10:00*	186
Average Sunday Attendance 8:00*	21

# Officer, Board, & Committee Reports

## DIACONATE REPORT 2009

The year 2009 was filled with joy but also with financial challenges as our church and the congregation felt the impact of the country's economic struggles. Yet we were spiritually supported by strong leadership from the pulpit and also by the beauty we found here, thanks in great part to the work of the petal pushers and the wonderful music offered at each service. And the church family that is our parishioners was sustained by the vibrancy and caring of our community on so many levels, from so many directions.

Moments of remarkable joy in the life of the church this year occurred on a number of occasions. Of special note is Bill Modlin's preaching on Lay Sunday. His strong words of hope and thoughtfulness were indeed a blessing to hear. This day was additionally joyful as we welcomed a representative of the UCC in Zimbabwe, John Madhuku, a member of the Ukama partnership. Another memorable event was the preaching of Deacon Samuel Fuller of Plimoth (a.k.a. John Kemp) on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. His words enlightened us to the many changes in methods of worship that have occurred over the centuries and reminded us of the importance of change, of continually finding "more light and truth" as we journey together in faith.

Certainly each worship experience is different, and there were a number of occasions through the year when a portion of a service were especially meaningful. We were pleased to have so many lay readers step forward to contribute to the reading of the scriptures on Sunday services this year. Many found this a wonderful opportunity to participate more directly in worship, and we encourage anyone who feels drawn to this calling to contact one of the deacons to find out more. 2009 was also the year in which technology was used more effectively during church services. This is a reflection of the efforts being made to try to appeal to a wider range of parishioners in the congregation. With the procurement of a large screen and a projector that could connect with a computer, a number of sermons, prayers, and children's messages were supported by visual images that could be seen by the entire congregation. This was especially effective on Youth Sunday this year, when images of needs throughout the world were projected while the prayer was said and while the congregation sang a prayerful refrain.

In October an open meeting was held to hear comments about the early service to help the diaconate evaluate the success of this alternative offering, which had begun one year earlier in October of 2008. Since its inception the service had changed somewhat, as its attendance included fewer families with children than had first been anticipated. But the more relaxed feel and the different style of music remained. After a thorough evaluation of the attendance at these services and hearing from many about the wonderful, different feeling this service offered to the community, it was decided to continue the service in its current form.

As the year drew to a close, a health concern in the broader community necessitated some small changes to the services. Specifically, the anticipation of a particularly virulent strain of flu virus, H1N1, required us to take preventative measures in the church, especially around the serving of communion. Upon the advice of many physicians in the community, it was decided to serve only by intinction through the winter months. An effort was also made to greet each other during and after church with heartfelt words rather than handshakes.

The Diaconate has been blessed this year with many hard-working members, some of whom are ending their terms or have already ended their terms, as of the annual meeting. Many thanks to the countless hours of service they have given to this church: Bruce Cunningham, Barbara Garand, Julie Gilman, Doug Hartwell, and Mary Swanson. We also owe special thanks to Gary Giles, who works closely with the Diaconate and who has been a wonderful help on communion Sundays. Finally, we, the current co-chairs of the diaconate, are grateful for the support and guidance we received from the committee as we took on these leadership roles in October. We are honored to work for such a spirit-filled congregation and with such devoted members of the diaconate. We look forward to our continued work with Betsy Burke, Gordon Clark, Lew Hitzrot, Sarah Ream, and Chris Scales.

*Respectfully submitted: Sue Engle and Alison Hobbie. Co-Chairs, Diaconate*

# Officer, Board, & Committee Reports

## HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE REPORT 2009

This annual report is dedicated to Tom Pine whose mild demeanor and warm smile epitomized the cordial reception the Hospitality Committee endeavors to radiate. Members, this year, included Caroline Michaud, Mary Ellen Murphy, Pat Pine, Sue Schick, Marilyn Wentworth, and myself.

We were supported by a group of loyal unofficial committee members. These treasures included Nancy Brown, Kimball Walen, Arushini Sinnaduray, and Jesse Stevens. Many thanks for your helping hands along with the thoughtful people (you know who you are) who dropped off cookies for the coffee hour and/or helped out with kitchen chores.

Committee members and volunteers organized coffee hours- setting up, serving, and cleaning up after each service. Sweets were served along with coffee, tea, and juice during the fall, winter, and spring with a switch to lemonade during the summer months. These people also took turns serving as Greeters in April and Ushers in December.

Four members are retiring having finished their terms. First, Mary Ellen Murphy and Nancy Brown. Your presence and good humor will be missed in the kitchen. And second, as my husband and I leave, I would like to thank everybody who was a part of this Committee. I sincerely appreciated all your efforts as you worked to keep the coffee and conversations flowing each Sunday morning.

*Respectfully submitted, Jean Walen, Chairperson*

## HISTORIAN REPORT 2009

An index of all historian files is now available. To use the index please contact the Historians or the Office Manager.

*Respectfully submitted, the Historians, Carl & Nancy Peterson*

## MEMORIAL GARDEN REPORT 2009

Membership in our Memorial Garden offers our congregation and associates a dignified interment of ashes after cremation. The garden is located in the yard on the east side of the church building.

Ashes interred in 2009:  
Lewis Royal

Two new members were welcomed during the year, and additional memberships are available. For more information and a brochure, please contact the church office or a committee member.

*Memorial Garden Committee: Nancy Peterson, Pat Pine and Lois Royal*

# Officer, Board, & Committee Reports

## MISSION & ACTION REPORT 2009

2009 Members: Laura Al-hashmi, Gwyn Coogan, Carol Dawson, Kate Derosier, Cindy Driscoll, Gabriele Lieberg, Muffy Prescott, Judy Rick, Karen Prior (Co-Chair), Steve Sanborn (Co-Chair), Sheryl Scott, Steve Wood

Finances: Our church pledged and paid \$9,625.00 for basic support to the New Hampshire Conference and Our Churches Wider Mission. In addition, \$2,273.75 was paid in dues to the Rockingham Association for a total of: \$11,898.75

<u>Category &amp; Organization</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Website</u>
<u><i>Sick &amp; Abused</i></u>		
A Safe Place	\$500.00	<a href="http://www.asafeplacenh.org">www.asafeplacenh.org</a>
Seacoast Hospice	\$500.00	<a href="http://www.seacoasthospice.org">www.seacoasthospice.org</a>
Sexual Assault & Support Services	\$500.00	<a href="http://www.sassnh.org">www.sassnh.org</a>
AIDS Response Seacoast	\$500.00	<a href="http://www.aidsresponse.org">www.aidsresponse.org</a>
<u><i>Hungry &amp; Homeless</i></u>		
Feed My Lambs	\$500.00	
Seacoast Interfaith Hospitality Network (SIHN)	\$1500.00	<a href="http://www.sihnh.org">www.sihnh.org</a>
Cross Roads House	\$500.00	<a href="http://www.crossroadshouse.org">www.crossroadshouse.org</a>
New Generation	\$500.00	<a href="http://www.newgennh.com">www.newgennh.com</a>
<u><i>Youth</i></u>		
Mission Trip	\$500.00	
New Outlook Teen Center	\$300.00	<a href="http://www.newoutlookteencenter.org">www.newoutlookteencenter.org</a>
Girls on the Run	\$300.00	<a href="http://www.girlsontherunnh.org">www.girlsontherunnh.org</a>
Seacoast Outright	\$300.00	<a href="http://www.seacoastoutright.org">www.seacoastoutright.org</a>
AIR (Arts in Reach)	\$300.00	<a href="http://www.artsinreach.org">www.artsinreach.org</a>
<u><i>Peace &amp; Justice</i></u>		
Ukama	\$500.00	<a href="http://www.ukama.net">www.ukama.net</a>
Heifer Int'l	\$100.00	<a href="http://www.heifer.org">www.heifer.org</a>

One of the goals of Mission and Action Committee for the past year has been to continue and build upon past missions and activities and to provide opportunities to further engage our congregation in putting our community's faith mission into action.

Once again in 2009, the committee allocated mission funds to various local, national, and international service organizations, as outlined above, as well as coordinated traditional appeals including *Neighbors in Need* (\$2,280), *One Great Hour of Sharing* (\$3,421), *Tools of Hope* (\$455), *Blanket Sunday* (\$620), and the *Christmas Eve offering* (\$2,887) which was donated to *A Safe Place* in Portsmouth, NH whose mission to provide shelter for and support those affected by domestic violence. These contributions of over \$9,500. shows the tremendous generosity of our church family.

Economic hardship increased the demand on our Food Pantry but need was consistently met. Our congregation expanded participation in Seacoast Interfaith Hospitality Network by providing meals and supervision support. More families than ever before were served Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets and gifts in response to higher demand. Church members served hot meals six times during the year at the Salvation Army.

New projects evolved this year including the recent Uncommon Mall in which church members were offered the opportunity to divert some of their gift giving dollars from the malls and department stores toward the purchase of various gift items from Project Serrv, Heifer International, fair trade coffee, and our own Food Pantry. After a

couple of years in the planning stages, our Jacob's Ladder service group completed its very first project with hopes for significant growth in the upcoming year.

Our committee would like to thank everyone who participated in some way in supporting the various projects and missions organized by the M & A Committee. We also challenge everyone to do even more to transform faith into action and to identify and meet the many needs of those in the world around us.

Finally, we would like to recognize and thank Kate Derosier, as she heads off to college, Sheryl Scott, as she heads off to become a Deacon, and Judy Rick for their time and effort as they complete their terms on Mission and Action as well as Rushan Sinnaduray for his logistical and spiritual support.

A few highlights of our year....

### **Fair Trade Coffee & SERRV**

Mission and Action sold shade-grown, environmentally friendly coffee under our own brand name throughout the year. The coffee was grown by a farmers' cooperative in Costa Rica and roasted and packaged here in New Hampshire providing jobs here and in Latin America. This outreach also provided delicious coffee for our coffee hour and many of our dinner tables.

During Advent, Project SERRV goods were on display in our vestry and at our Open House following the lighting of the Exeter Town Tree. SERRV merchandise included textiles, Christmas decorations, ceramics and jewelry. Items from the sale of these fair-trade products found their way into many Christmas stockings and amounted to over \$1,300 dollars for SERRV craftspeople. – *Sheryl Scott*

### **Jacob's Ladder**

The seed for Jacob's Ladder was planted during a church mission trip to Biloxi, Mississippi a few years ago when it recognized that while the journey south was worthwhile on many levels, there were many people in the Exeter area also in need of the kinds of small service projects being done on our mission trip. With our first project completed this fall and numerous people volunteering for future projects, we look forward to assisting many local people in need of help in the upcoming year. – *Steve Sanborn*

### **Holiday Baskets**

Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets are a group effort of Exeter's churches. These congregations also take part in the Christmas basket and Gift Drive with support from local civic organizations including the Fire Department and Lions Club. This year's distribution of Thanksgiving baskets from our church set a new record with a total of thirty-five baskets distributed to local households. The baskets were overflowing with good things including traditional holiday fare as well as homemade goodies, flowers, and napkins. The Christmas baskets included toys and clothes for children. This activity is a perfect example of Mission and Action, both internally in the church and externally in the community. It is easy for many, maybe even most people, in our congregation to participate in, and it reaches out into the most needy in our community in a tangible way. – *Gwyn Coogan*

### **SIHN**

Sixteen of our Church members volunteered in the Seacoast Interfaith Hospitality Network during 2009. This network of eight churches in the Seacoast host homeless families for one week every 8 weeks. We helped the Brentwood Pilgrim Church cover dinner and overnight on three days each rotation at their church. Our sixteen volunteers prepared dinner, served dinner, and stayed overnight. There are between 10 and 20 people in these families and all have children of all ages. This year our volunteers participated in five of these weeklong rotations, donated over 300 hours of time, and purchased about \$500 in food for the 15 meals cooked and served. – *Steve Wood*

### **Food Pantry**

It was my pleasure to have the admission to Exeter High School's annual musical be two dry or canned goods for our Food Pantry. The community did an outstanding job bringing in over 12 boxes of food, which the students brought to the Food Pantry on November 3rd. This is the second year Exeter High School has done this project, and their goal is to continue this endeavor at the next play in January. As a member of the Mission and Committee it is wonderful to bring together the efforts of the students and members of the Exeter Area community with our own Food Pantry. – *Carol Dawson*

## **Uncommon Mall**

We are surrounded by so many glaring needs near and afar, and so many of us have more than our fair share; thus, we decided to create a place where holiday gift giving could be for worthy causes. We created the *Uncommon Mall*, which allowed our congregation many choices of gifts that make a difference in people's lives. Gifts included solar stoves for Darfur, gift certificates to our local food pantry, gift certificates to the Heifer Project and globally handcrafted items from Serrv. We also included our continued sale of fair trade, shade grown coffee. Just like the mall, we offered gift-wrapping for those who wanted it. To promote the *Uncommon Mall*, the youth performed a skit each Sunday to make the congregation aware of this opportunity. We hope this is the beginning of what will become an annual event. – *Carol Dawson*

The Mission & Action committee would like to thank all the volunteers of our church family who have helped to carry out our church's mission to our local and global community this past year. A special thanks to our fellow committee members who have taken on, with enthusiasm and boundless energy, the oversight of some of the many activities of our church this past year.

Respectfully submitted, *Karen Prior and Steve Sanborn, Co-Chairs*

## **COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY REPORT 2009**

Even our relatively small pantry, like pantries all around the area, finds itself serving more people, up from an average of 14 patrons per week last year to 17 this year. We helped to feed some 2160 people in 2009. But thanks to the consistent generosity of the members of our congregation, weekly donations from Synergy, and our portion of the Post Office and Boy Scout food drives our food supply has remained sufficient. We want to thank the countless people who help with the big food drives as well as the weekly helpers, Betsey Burke, Nat Walker, and Betty Merrill.

As usual, the canned meat products disappear from the shelves first even though patrons are limited to only one per week. Fortunately, the pantry also has cash on hand to purchase around \$25 worth of canned meat products (and, oddly enough, elbow pasta) per week as needed. We also want to thank Cy and Margaret Theobald for frequent boxes of staples as well as Christ Church Episcopal and the Exeter Methodist Church for their monthly and weekly gifts of food often filling in the gaps on our shelves with specialty foods such as ketchup, salsa, salad dressing, and sweets along with the staples. This fall the Methodist church collected boxes and boxes of cold cereal, enough to last through the winter. Many thanks to all of you who make monetary donations or drop plastic bags of food into the wicker basket throughout the year.

We owe a special thank you to Dorothy and Joe Durbas for collecting baked goods from Me and Ollie's every week.

*Sue Bowman and Liz Dodge*

# Officer, Board, & Committee Reports

## MUSIC COMMITTEE REPORT – 2009

This year the Music Committee has again had the pleasure of working alongside our Senior Pastor Nancy Rockwell, and our wonderfully talented Director of Music ~ Beverly Caldon. Bev has continued to use her musical expertise bringing a true variety of music to our church and community, through choral and instrumental direction of our church members. In addition, she has searched out local musicians that bring various musical presentations to us during worship services and coffeehouses. Under Bev's direction, the Senior Choir now has 30 members, and the 4 octave Heritage Ringer bell choir has 11 members. Each group continues to expand on the musical repertoire they offer. Bev also coordinates with the following:

- Don Erdbrink who leads 10 members in the Praise Choir, bringing us fabulous contemporary and gospel sounds.
- Alison Hobbie who directs 10 delightful children who ring bells in the Rainbow Ringers.
- Dr. Andrew Inzenga who infuses our 8:00 worship service with uplifting sounds from the Clavinova.
- The Ransomed Sinners Quintet our "house band", who provide us with an extensive instrumental/choral blend of gospel, folk and jazz sounds.

The Music Committee is so thankful to all of the choir members, instrumentalists and leaders whose time and commitment is given, providing us all with highly enriching and joyful musical experiences during this past year.

Activities, Events and Projects: In conjunction with the Director of Music, the Pastors, and several other committees the Music Committee has sponsored another series of coffeehouses. In February we heard Joyful Rain a spicy South-American band with a sweet harmonious vocalist. Jazz was featured at the Mother's Day Tea in May with Tom Palance. Grupo Mofongo an African Cuban band led by percussionist Andres Espinoza performed in October, and the 2009 series ended with Tuckerman's at 9, a fantastic a cappella group from the seacoast giving us well known tunes from pop, rock, blues and jazz in November. These coffeehouses have helped us raise funds for our Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ that requires releathering. This is a 3 year project that we have undertaken with the Andover Organ Company, and have completed step 1 in this process this past summer. The last two phases of releathering will take place over the next two summers. The Music Committee would also like to extend thanks to the Bittersweet Bazaar, Church Supper and Holiday Open House groups for donating funds to this special project.

Thank you to all of the Music Committee Members: Will Eaves, Pat Lavery, Sally Wool, Sally Oxnard, Kim Walen, Pamela Gore, Norma Roberts and Don Erdbrink who have worked tirelessly to support the musical programs we offer. You have handed out advertising flyers, made announcements, baked goodies, sold tickets, set up and cleaned up too for which we are all grateful! Thank you also to Renay Allen who has created such beautiful flyers in a variety of sizes, making tickets and supporting us with her creativity. Lastly, thanks to all those who volunteer their time, talent and energy to support the music ministry of our church. We are all blessed as a result!

Respectfully submitted,  
*Lori Cunningham, Music Committee Chair*

# Officer, Board, & Committee Reports

## TRUSTEES REPORT 2009

As 2008 ended, so 2009 began with great financial uncertainty for the church. In that sense the main focus for the Trustees during the year was to be fiscally responsible with the limited funding available. We knew right away that the beginning budget would not hold. Under the leadership of Susan Scales, the finance sub-committee began working on a new reduced budget early in the year.

The new budget was submitted at a special congregational meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The “relatively happy” result was a budget that ended up very near our actual results. Among the cuts and changes to the budget were reducing and changing the amount contributed to the NH Conference of UCC to 3.5% of giving and deferring 3 principal payments on the line of credit. The replacement of the sanctuary boiler was deferred. The finance sub-committee was also able to identify some unused restricted funds that various church committees could tap to fill the gap between available funding and needs.

The Trustees also continued an on-going effort to improve fiscal controls and bring financial reporting in line with standard business practices. We also implemented the changes related to the approval of expenses and check signing made in the church by-laws at the last annual meeting.

A new 3 year lease was negotiated with the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire for office space in the parsonage with annual increases of \$50 per month for each of the 3 years. The Land Trust was given additional space and some space was reallocated to better meet their needs. They have proven to be an excellent tenant for the church and the revenue is important to our Building and Grounds program.

A few major projects were accomplished outside the budget (see below). These projects were possible through giving of members beyond their pledges, bequests to the church and the hard work of special committees such as the Bittersweet Bazaar and Church Suppers. This testifies to the strength and energy of our church community.

Some of the outside budget projects that were accomplished this year include:

- Installed new zone controls, valves and circulating pumps on the sanctuary building boiler. This should extend the life of our existing boiler for some years and result in energy savings.
- Major organ maintenance (phase I)
- Creating a new web site for the church (on-going)
- Purchasing large floor fans for the sanctuary and vestry
- 2 new hearing assistance devices

*Respectfully submitted, Congregational Church in Exeter Board of Trustees members*

- *Wayne Driscoll*
- *Wes Gunderson*
- *Linda Jones*
- *William Modlin, Board Chair*
- *Sam Mukarkar*
- *Tom Oxnard*
- *Susan Scales, Finance Chair*
- *Robert Spoerl*
- *Mark Swanson, Building & Grounds Chair*
- *Cy Theobald*

# Officer, Board, & Committee Reports

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT-- 2009

“May you live in interesting times.” So goes the ancient, perhaps apocryphal, Chinese curse. For many of us, 2009 was indeed an interesting time, filled with uncertainty of every kind, particularly economic.

Our 2009 pledges reflected that uncertainty, with declines from 2008 in both the number of pledges (from 153 to 142) and the total amount pledged (from \$265,250 to \$238,285). Faced with those diminished figures, the congregation reconsidered the original budget adopted at our January 2009 annual meeting, and approved a new, reduced budget in May. Our goal was to raise a total of \$275,000 in program revenue, which includes both pledges and contributions.

Yet if 2009 sometimes seemed like a cursed year, it also carried its share of blessings. In times of trial, church is a good place to be—a place where we can lay down our fears and rediscover our faith, as well as our sense of possibility and purpose. In June, when we asked the congregation to help close our 2009 budget gap, you responded by joining our “Bucket Brigade,” signing out dozens of buckets and pledging to feed them 50 cents a day, every day, for the rest of the year. You also increased your general contributions and your plate donations.

And so a year that began in uncertainty ended in hope. As of December 31, through your pledges, your buckets, and your contributions, we raised a total of \$282,618—exceeding our program revenue goal of \$275,000 by more than \$7,000. Also heartening has been the response to our 2010 Pledge Campaign. As of early January, we have already received 136 pledges totaling \$229,000, putting us well within sight of our \$250,000 pledge goal.

In interesting times, these are impressive results. We are so grateful to each of you for all the leaps of faith, large and small, you have made to support the church that sustains you. We are grateful as well to those who lent their eloquent voices to the pledge campaign with their personal testimonies: Townley Chisholm, Jody Pellerin, Pat Pine, Jason Schreiber, and Lily Zwaan.

As chair, I am deeply indebted to the members of the Stewardship Committee—Chuck Fowler, Noreen Johnson, Susan Keeble, and Bob Prior—who have given so generously of their time (lots of it!) and their talents (considerable!). Our brave leader, Reverend Nancy Rockwell, and Deacon Alison Hobbie and Trustee Cy Theobald have been invaluable resources to us in our work. Finally, Office Manager Renay Allen-McManus and Financial Secretary Faith Walsh have kept us organized, on schedule, and in good spirits—they are our patron saints.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Beth Brosnan, Stewardship Committee Chair*

# Election of Nominees for 2010

## REPORT OF THE 2009 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

### Officers

#### *Moderator*

**Jesse Stevens** 2011

#### *Clerk*

Nancy Brown Duffie 2012

#### *Treasurer*

Bob Devantery 2011

#### *Historians*

Carl & Nancy Peterson 2011

#### *Auditors*

**Lew Hitzrot** 2013

**David Rodger** 2011

#### *Financial Sec'y*

Carl Peterson 2012

#### *Usher Coordinator*

**2013**

### Deacons (12)

Chris Scales 2011

Susan Engle, ch 2011

Sarah Ream 2011

Chris Conti **2011**

Betsy Burke 2012

Gordon Clark 2012

Lew Hitzrot 2012

Allison Hobbie, ch 2012

**Sheryl Scott** **2013**

**Rich Aaronian** **2013**

**Bill Sawyer** **2013**

**Greg Gilman** **2013**

### Trustees (12)

Sam Mukarkar 2011

Cy Theobald 2011

Tom Oxnard 2011

Susan Scales 2011

Linda Jones 2012

Wes Gundersen 2012

Wayne Driscoll 2012

**Bob Wentworth** **2012**

**Mark Swanson** **2013**

**Bob Spoerl, ch** **2013**

**Julie Gilman** **2013**

**Vic Bilodeau** **2013**

### By-Laws (3)

Dan Jones 2011

George Olson 2012

**Fred White** **2013**

### Christian Growth (12)

Chuck Fowler 2011

**Jean Walen** **2011**

Patti Wood 2011

Tom Bergeron 2011

Kathy Schreiber 2012

Laura Montagno 2012

Amy Collins 2012

Sarah Strohecker 2012

**Deb Gundersen** **2013**

**Amy Scott-Bent** **2013**

**Susan Porter** **2013**

**Lisa McConnell** **2013**

### Delegates (6)

Bill Sawyer 2011

Erik Hobbie 2011

Miriam Stahl 2012

Arushini Sinnaduray 2012

**Kris Vaughan** **2013**

**Michael Denney** **2013**

### Hospitality (6)

Pat Pine 2011

Caroline Michaud 2011

Sue Schick, chair 2012

**Karen Campbell** **2011**

**Erin/Bob Getschmann** **2013**

**Peg Aaronian** **2013**

### Membership (8)

Jane Derby 2011

BJ Wall-Chase 2011

Margie Matlack 2011

Peg Hampton 2012

Deb Albee 2012

**Bill Modlin** **2013**

**Marilyn Spoerl** **2013**

**Jan Bilodeau** **2013**

### Mission & Action (12)

Karen Prior, ch 2011

**Kate Tapley** **2011**

Carol Dawson 2011

Wayne & Cindy Driscoll 2011

Laura Al-hashmi 2012

Steve Sanborn, ch 2012

Muffy Prescott 2012

Gabriele Lieberg 2012

**Gwyn Coogan** **2013**

**Deb Fournier** **2013**

**Julia Hobbie** **2013**

**Steve Wood** **2013**

### Music (9)

Don Erdbrink 2011

Will Eaves 2011

Sally Wool 2011

Lori Cunningham, ch 2012

Pamela Gore 2012

Kim Walen 2012

**Pat Lavery** **2013**

**Norma Roberts** **2013**

**Sally Oxnard** **2013**

### Nominating (4)

Peg Aaronian 2011

Sue Bowman 2011

**Sue Jones** **2013**

**Barbara Garand** **2012**

*(Plus five appointees: Diaconate, Christian Growth, Mission & Action, Music, Trustees)*

### Publicity (5)

Linda Rousseau 2011

Jason Schreiber 2011

Kathy James 2012

Wayne Wolfe 2012

**Rebekah Bergeron** **2013**

### Stewardship (6)

**Lynda Erdbrink** **2011**

Bob Prior 2012

Susan Keeble 2012

Noreen Johnson 2012

**Beth Brosnan, ch** **2011**

**Chuck Fowler** **2013**

*(Plus one Trustees liaison)*

### Memorial Garden

Pat Pine 2011

Nancy Peterson, ch 2012

**Lois Royal** **2013**

### Safe Conduct (3)

Mary Swanson

Barbara Garand

Rebekah Bergeron

### **KEY:**

**Bold names** = nominees

Ch = chairperson

# Financial Reports

## 2009 AUDITOR'S REPORT OF FY2008

The audit analysis included the following:

For the General Account (Memorial Fund)

- A review of all checks drawn on the account to ensure that checks were recorded accurately in the general ledger and that all checks issued were accompanied by appropriate authorizing signatures.
- Verification that all deposits reported in bank statements were accurately recorded in the general ledger.
- Confirmation that monthly payroll tax deposits were made.

For the Money Market Account

- A comparison of deposits recorded in the financial records with actual deposits as indicated in bank statements.
- A comparison of transfers between the money market account and the Memorial Fund shown in the financial records with those reported in the bank statements.

The auditor has reviewed the financial records of income and expenditures for 2008 and finds that they are in order and accurately represent the financial standing for that year.

*Respectfully submitted, The Auditor, Lewis H. Hitzrot*

## INVESTMENT ACCOUNT REPORTS 2009

The endowment of our church is managed by Citizens Bank. The account includes gifts made to our church by past and present members. Each month a percentage of the assets of the endowment are transferred to the churches checking account. These funds are used to pay property expenses as outlined in the annual budget. Our endowment lost a significant amount during the recession of 2008. The 2009 stock market had a bumpy start but recorded gains by the end of the year. Our endowment recovered somewhat with a gain of almost 8%. *Submitted by: Linda Jones, finance committee*

### INVESTMENT ACCOUNT COMPARISON

	12/31/08	12/31/09
Cash	\$30,257	\$36,159
Fixed Income	\$268,831	\$227,141
Equities	\$335,144	\$420,007
Total	\$634,232	\$683,307

# The Congregational Church in Exeter...*a home for your spirit*

## **Mission Statement**

We are a vibrant Christian community,  
open and affirming,  
blessed by tradition, embraced by grace,  
and inspired by all that is possible with God  
Whatever brings you here, you are welcome!

We are open...

...to everyone,  
regardless of things that might divide us  
(race, creed, color, age, sexual identity,  
economic status, disability)

...to the mysteries of faith

...to encountering God and Jesus' teachings  
with heart, mind, & voice

...to the tension that comes when  
tradition meets innovation

...to the hard work required to  
serve God by serving others

...to the gifts of the young, the old,  
and the in-between

...to holding fast together,  
in times of trial and in times of blessing

**Senior Pastor:** Rev. Nancy Rockwell, 772-8080  
*nrockwell@exetercongchurch.org*

**Associate Pastor/Director of Christian Growth:**  
Rev. Rushan Sinnaduray 294-4166  
*rsinnaduray@exetercongchurch.org*

**Director of Music:** Beverly Caldon  
*bcaldon@exetercongchurch.org*

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