

PASTOR'S REPORT

Submitted by Rev. Zachary Mabe, Pastor

Dear Members & Friends,

I send greetings to you and blessings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 2013 marked the end of my eighth and beginning of my ninth full year working with our church. Since I write monthly pastor's which can be reviewed for detail at any time, I thought I would take the opportunity of the annual report simply to name some highlights of the year 2013, and some hopes for our future.

First, I was overjoyed to have been a part of a total of 8 services of marriage and 14 baptisms in 2013, making for a great year of life's celebrations! I was also overjoyed to be a part of all of our 175th Anniversary Year celebrations. With almost one event per month, 2013 was truly special! Especially meaningful was the Rededication Service held in April, which brought together many former ministers and special guests.

Other joys of 2013 include (in no particular order):

- ❖ seven new members joined our church
- ❖ meaningful worship including special services such as a service of remembrance, Holy Week services, and Christmas services
- ❖ a beautiful, maximum-capacity, ecumenical Vacation Bible School
- ❖ meaningful visitation and home communion with the sick, those undergoing surgery, shut-in, and those who are healthy, and many, many prayer shawls and care packages going to people in need and touching their lives
- ❖ a wonderful 30-Hour Famine which raised \$2679 and 162 lbs of food, both of which went 100% to our local food pantry
- ❖ weekly youth group meetings in the spring, and monthly meetings in the fall – held in unity with other students from town at our town's Lyceum - including making Christmas cards for the residents of Eli Terry Retirement Community
- ❖ special bonds created in our weekly Bible Study group
- ❖ two grants from Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation, Inc., one for new doors and one to do meals for Eli Terry Retirement Community and Gosinski Park
- ❖ beginning our 2013-2014 Confirmation Class in the fall with 10 bright students
- ❖ continued meaningful work with our Called to Care team (Diane Pratt, Dacey Pratt, Michele Benson, Cheryl Brazee, Pam Eggleston, Jeannie Zalaski, Louise Sweatt, Russ Wagoner, & Bill Hall) and training new five new team members (Dickie Zalaski, Ellen Cifone, Jennifer Zalaski, Roberta Layton, & Lexi Jachimski)
- ❖ continued work with our newly restructured governance
- ❖ participation in our town's ecumenical events including Lenten lunches, Easter sunrise, & Thanksgiving Eve (Christmas Walk canceled due to snow)
- ❖ celebrating the completion of a 2013 mission trip to South Dakota, and preparations for a return trip in 2014 (including having President of Simply Smiles, Bryan Nurnberger,

speak at our church, and wife Kristin Graves play and sing – and celebrating with her that she is the 2013 CT State Troubadour)

- ❖ continued radio messages on 88.9fm
- ❖ continued work in the *Plymouth Schools* mentor program
- ❖ attendance at an educational and informative workshop at South Glastonbury
- ❖ Beginning discussions with the national guard about the possibility of one day becoming a reserves chaplain
- ❖ Welcoming previous student intern Daniel Meyers back for regular visits, including celebrating his ordination with him with a special reception in the fall
- ❖ Welcoming new student intern Mark Koyama for the 2013-2014 year
- ❖ Watching and celebrating the growth of our cub scouts, boy scouts, and daisies groups
- ❖ Continued involvement in our town clergy group as well as involvement in a regional clergy group
- ❖ Arrival of a new picture directory to coincide with our 175th Anniversary
- ❖ Working with the Town of Plymouth Schools on the superintendent search committee
- ❖ A Beautiful Sunday school including a special, children-led worship in May and a Christmas program in December
- ❖ Field of Flags held at our church June-July
- ❖ Updating of our church website thanks to Dave Nichols
- ❖ Updating my boundary training with the CT Conference, UCC
- ❖ Saying invocation prayer at the inauguration service for the Mayor of Plymouth
- ❖ Continued work on my Doctor of Ministry degree, including preparations for the final project
- ❖ Giving prayer at the opening day of Plymouth Little League Baseball
- ❖ Working with Matthew Reed to complete his “God & Family” pin for the Boy Scouts
- ❖ Receiving a donation of pew cushions from the UCC church in Redding, CT, to provide cushioning for our balcony pews.
- ❖ Beginning work on a special prayer book for our congregation, made up of favorite poems, prayers, hymns, scriptures, stories, jokes and more
- ❖ Helping families at Easter and at Christmastime with gifts, both families in our church and families in the community
- ❖ Successful events such as BBQ dinner fundraiser, Roast Beef Dinner, June fair, Christmas Bazaar, jewelry buyback, t-shirts, cookbooks, music CDs, and BINGO- thanks to all our helpers, this was one of our best fundraising years ever!
- ❖ Working with our TCC Theater group on the play, *Cinderella's Glass Slipper*
- ❖ Watching our building get some needed updates, thanks to the gift from the Preston estate, such as doors, paint (including our Sanctuary), energy-efficient windows, social hall sound system, and energy-efficient lighting and light sensors.

Finally, something that is not a joy but that is meaningful is being able to be there for one another in times of loss. In 2013 there were fourteen funerals or memorial services. Our prayers continue to be with all the families who experienced loss in 2013.

Brief Month –by-Month Highlights

Below is a brief look at what took place in our church this year, month-by-month. I may have missed something below - please see the individual committee reports for other events that took place. *The following are in addition to Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals/Memorial Services, monthly BINGO, and dinners for Eli Terry Retirement Community & Gosinski Park which took place throughout the year. Finally, there were two other events that took place throughout the fall that are not on the list below: “Girls’ Nights” offered by Jen Zalaski for our middle & high school girls, and a “Memoire & Poetry” class offered by Mark Koyama. What a wonderful year!*

January: Special sharing of historic pictures & info to kick off our 175th Anniversary

February: Boy Scout Sunday; Chocolate Festival; Annual Meeting; Ash Wed. Service.; giving of the “Lincoln” Sermon (sermon delivered after Lincoln’s death) as part of our 175th Anniversary

March: Service of Remembrance for families who have lost loved ones; Ecumenical Lenten Lunches; BBQ Dinner Fundraiser; church bowling outing; day of leadership workshops in Glastonbury; awarding Matthew Reed the “God & Family” badge for Boy Scouts; Holy Week and Easter Services (Maundy Thur., Good Friday, Easter Sunrise, and Easter); Outreach Easter Baskets

April: Roast Beef Dinner; new member orientation; special 175th Anniversary Rededication Service; Called to Care Team Commissioning; “mock ordination council” held for Daniel Meyers, to assist him with his ordination preparation.

May: Spirited Sisters Retreat; Mission Trip to South Dakota; Welcome New Members; Sunday School led worship one day; Scholarships presented at Terryville High School; Memorial Day service at Eli Terry Retirement Community; Memorial Day parade; May Social.

June: Church Fair; Cemetery Walk (175th Anniversary Event); Prayers said at Terry Nursery Graduation; Scholarships presented to graduating seniors; special music concert; Field of Flags (including a special dedication ceremony & the Hot Cats Jazz Band).

July: Vacation Bible School; summer services held at 9:30am

August: Terryville Fair baked goods booth.

September: Rally Day; special youth play, *Cinderella’s Glass Slipper*; ordination reception for Daniel Meyers; celebration of 25-50 year members

October: 30 Hour Famine; stewardship Sunday; Bibles presented to children; new member orientation

November: special guest Bryan Nurnberger and Kristin Graves from Simply Smiles mission (in preparation for 2014 mission trip); Christmas Bazaar; welcome new members; Thanksgiving Eve Service; Harvest Table; Operation Christmas Child.

December: Advent and Christmas Services; Youth made and delivered cards to residents of Eli Terry; Christmas Eve Services 5pm and 11pm; Christmas gifts for families in need; special Confirmation mini-retreat held at church (tour of bell tower).

It's important for any church to ask time and time again, "What do we love about our church? What strengths do we have? What are our gifts? Why do we come here? What would we miss if this was gone? What would our community miss if our church was gone?" When you read this Annual Report, I think you'll see many things we love and the many things that would be missed if our church were not here. We have been a bright light in Terryville for 175 years, and I look forward to many more years of shining God's light & love in this community and beyond! As I look to 2014, I am especially excited for the following, just to name a few: seeing our new Sunday school curriculum, Godly Play, at work with our children as they interact with the multi-sensory lessons; taking part in the 2014 TCC Play "Oz"; using our new screens to see new possibilities for assisting us in worship; continued work with Mark Koyama and welcoming (hopefully) a new intern in the fall; continued developments in our partnership with Immaculate Conception church as we look to strengthen our youth fellowship; our 2014 mission trip and (hopefully) a return trip, including youth, in 2015; welcoming our new conference minister, Kent Siladi, and other conference staff to join us in worship during 2014; our upcoming 2014 men's breakfast; and engaging our Deacons & others in some new adult education classes and devotional time shared together.

Speaking of sharing time with one another, before I close I want to say thank you to all of the people who work so hard at this church – our elected lay leaders, our church mice, our spirited sisters, our youth, our Sunday school children, other behind-the-scenes volunteers (you know who you are), and our staff. And I want to say a special thank you to Jerry Wunsch, Jake Armbruster, and Dickie Zalaski, who spent many hours at the church helping with various tasks.

In closing, as I continue to put together a prayer book (made up of our own favorite prayers, poems, scriptures, hymns, etc.), I am especially mindful of this simple prayer which I hope will be a guide for us in 2014 and beyond. Said by many of our church families at dinner time, and submitted by Doris Bondeson, may this be our prayer throughout the years ahead:

*For food, for friends, for loving care;
For gifts to us, for gifts to share;
For all that makes life sweet and true;
Dear God, we give our thanks to you. Amen.*

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Zachary Mabe

MODERATOR'S REPORT

Submitted by Gerald Wunsch, Moderator

The year 2013 will go down as one of the busiest years in recent time. Being the year of our 175th Anniversary, we seem to have had an event almost every weekend. The Anniversary Committee did a fabulous job, putting in many hours of documenting and organizing material for display and updating records and photos for future generations to review the churches history. It was a pleasure to see Rev. Swett and the other past clergy here for the re-dedication service reminiscing of years gone by. My thanks to Ray Douyard and Richard Foote for Co-Chairing the committee, along with Charlotte Crockett, Mary Alice Wilbanks, Annalee Wenslow and Jake Armbruster.

The Field of Flags was a huge success for our congregation and many visitors came from around the state, thanking us for the display and shared with us what it meant to them. I want to thank Ellen Anderson and Rev. Zack for organizing the event.

Other highlights of the past year was the painting of the sanctuary which added to the splendor of the rededication ceremony for our anniversary. The energy audit which will help improve our lighting bill and the window replacement which will help in our heating and maintenance costs. My thanks to the congregation for supporting the Trustees and the Board of Finance in these projects.

Our fund raisers were successful again this year thanks to the work of the committees and its volunteers and the support of our congregation and town residences. Our newest fund raiser, Bingo has shown increasing support. Our thanks to John Reek for getting it off the ground the past year, turning it over to Sue Piercy this new year to carry on and improve its popularity. I want to thank the member of the Church Council, Vice-Moderator Ray Zalaski, Group Leaders Allison Reed, Diane Pratt, and Peggy Witecy, At-Large Members Jean Goodwin and Janet Waldron for their dedication to meetings and advising, supporting and working with the committees and especially myself.

Special thanks to all the committee members, without you none of the fund raisers or projects would have been possible. Also, to the Congregation for your support in these events. Finally, I would like to thank the staff, Rev. Zack for his spiritual guidance and support, Dan Brownell for his work with the choirs, Jennifer Zalaski and her teachers for their dedication to our youths and especially to Sue Kiszka for her recording of council minutes, keeping our church calendar organized, and the office running smoothly.

Thank you, the congregation for your help and support the past year.

REPORT OF THE CLERK
Submitted by Charlotte Crockett

MEMBERS AS OF 1/1/13	407
Lost by Death	- 2
Dropped from Church Rolls	- 4
Removed to Inactive Status (per members request)	-20
Removed to Inactive Status	-80
Returned to Active Status	+ 2
Received by Reaffirmation of Faith	+ 7

TOTAL MEMBERS AS OF 12/31/13 310

MEMBERS LOST THROUGH DEATH: 2
Mary Ann Hogenson 9/22/13
William Faragher 10/6/13

DROPPED FROM CHURCH ROLLS: 4
At own request
 Karen Austin
 Emery Austin
 Amy Masse
 John Reek

REMOVED TO INACTIVE STATUS	20	
(per member request)		
Elizabeth Audet	Jesse Caron	Kristina Cyr
Cameron Eggleston	Scott Ericson	Toni Ericson
John Griffin	Brenda Griffin	Leonard Johnson
Muriel Miner	Lisa O’Leary	Jessica Piccirillo
Jody Piccirillo	Deborah Rhault	Lynn Soltis
Connor Soltis	Cameron Soltis	Parker Soltis
Karen Squires	Cari Viera	

REMOVED TO INACTIVE STATUS		80
Gregory Armbruster	Stephen Armbruster	Christina Audet
Edman Austin	Tesslynn Bergin	Jessie Burns
Eric Burns	Michael Cifone	Kristi Colasanto
Michael Colasanto	Jeanette Davey	Katie Denoncourt
Paul Denoncourt	Curt Dorau	Jessica Dorau
Carrina Echeandia	Nate Filipak	Lori Filipak
Erica Graff	Ali Greider	Drew Grosof
Jacob Hanscom	Paul Hawes,Jr.	Heather Hemphill
Jeremy Hemphill	Jennifer Hemphill	Amanda Hubbard
Stanley Jachimski	Erin Keenan	Ashlee Keyser

Kum Im Langevin	Ellen Laverty	Keith Laverty
Kim Lee	Suzanne Licki	Jolene Lozewski
Tracy Lutters	Rob Lutters	Holly Lutters
Jay Majersky	Dawn Manzi	Terri Marshall
Travis Marshall	Linda Merchant	Steven Merchant
Alex Merrell	Audrey Merrell	Lisa Merrell
Jenna Ouellette	Janelle Partelow	Sandra Partelow
Betsey Petruzzi	Joe Petruzzi	Mariah Petruzzi
Leah Petruzzi	Lisa Phillimore	Jessica Phoenix
Marjorie Piercy	Douglas Piercy	Emily Piercy
Christopher Rochefort	Steven Sauvron	Karen Sauvron
Cody Smith	Grace Stevens	Katie Toth
Richard Toth	Ben Wagoner	Dan Wagoner
Nicole Warkowski	James Wartonick	Christine Wartonick
Katie Wartonick	Nicholas Wartonick	Edward White
Sarah White	Dakota Winkelmann	Nicole Zalaski
Erin Zalaski	Kyle Zalaski	

RETURNED TO ACTIVE STATUS:

Sara Berry
Valerie Clark

MEMBERS RECEIVED:

7

Ruth Guay 4/22	Michelle Anderson 11/10
Alan Dominy 11/10	Judy Holloway 11/10
Elizabeth Tyler 11/10	John Westover 11/10
Monica Westover 11/10	

BAPTISMS

Performed by the Rev. Zachary Mabe

Child

Gianna Rylanna Baylock 3/3/13
Ryan Joseph Catenza 4/21/13
Jaxen Scott Scholl 4/21/13
Elliana Rae Anderson 4/28/13
Johnathan Tole 6/16/13
Emma Rose Marie Ryan 6/23/13
Savannah Hailey Medina 7/28/13
Evangeline Berry 7/28/13
Christine Mahner (adult) 8/11/13
Mason Christopher Gooch 8/25/13
Chase Johnson 8/25/13
Connor Jonthan Hanscom 9/1/13
Zoie Lee 10/20/13
Zaccary Lee 10/20/13

Parents

Tricia Kozikowski & James Baylock, Jr.
Jessica & Scott Scholl
Jessica & Scott Scholl
Chelsea & Chris Anderson
Kristy Martin & Craig Tole
Tanya Griffin & Tommy Ryan
Donna & Adolfo Medina, Jr.
Sara & Michael Gracie
Cheryl Brazee & Brian Cote
Monique & Nathan Gooch
Janet & Aaron Johnson
Cassandra & Daniel Hanscom
Laurali & Thomas Correll
Laurali & Thomas Correll

WEDDINGS

Performed by the Rev. Zachary Mabe

Laurence Hawes & Sarah Negro 5/18/13

Paul Hawes, Jr & Katie Schmidt 7/6/13

Timothy Goodridge & Dominique Ponticello-Collins 8/23/13

Bob Struzenski & Erin Clark 10/5/13

Glen Gorettel & Pam Edward 12/3/13

FUNERAL, MEMORIAL or PRAYER SERVICES

Performed by the Rev. Zachary Mabe

Amber Dawn Hall 1/12/13

Pierette Hart 2/2/13

Wanda DellaVacchio 2/10/13

Kenneth Mayhew 4/2/13

Edman Niewinski, Sr. 5/11/13

Mary Ann Hogenson 9/22/13

William Faragher 10/6/13

Milton Magid 1/31/13

Philip Duffy 2/6/13

Warren Dion 3/25/13

William Angus 5/6/13

Betty Whittier 7/19/13

George Jenkins 9/30/13

DROPPED FROM MEMBERSHIP ROLL:

Alan Aubin

Alan Aubin, Jr.

Mark Austin

Grace Aubin

Benjamin Aubin

Nathaniel Austin

Belinda Audin

Matthew Austin

Randy Austin

Tracy Barile

Leonardo Bilello

Heather Carone

Chester Case, Jr.

Kevin Coons

Owen Crosbie

Sharon Dery

Gerald Doty

Kevin Gatto

Christine Hogan

Lisa Hopkins

Karen Johnson

Lynn Kelly

Heather Laur

Patricia Ledingham

Stephen Luko

Eric Marin

Krista Marrone

James Mitchell

Rose Nash

Nancy Salvatore

Chester Scoville,

Elizabeth Bergeron

Tori Bilello

James Carone

Michael Clark

Bruce Craighill

Gail Dayton

Nicole Dolbow

Walter Drwiega

Linda Hamm

Thomas Hogan

Jocelyn Huffman

William Johnson

Kevin LaFland

Samatha Laurer

Stephen M Luko

Ruthie Lynch

Jaclyn Marin

Kimberly Mentone

Karen Mosback

Anthony Phoenix

Tony Salvatore

Cindy Scoville

Diane Berry

Vicky Brown

Carrie Case

Charlene Coons

Colleen Crosbie

Bernice Derick

Beverly Doty

Krista Ellegard

Timothy Higley

Grant Hopkins

Don Jarvie

Dave Johnson

Maureen LaFland

James Ledingham

Nicholas Luko

Beth Majersky

Joseph Mariotte

Steven Merchant, Jr.

Robert Mosback III

Donald Pike

Margaret Scoville

Chester Scoville, Jr.

Jenna Scoville	Jessica Shadruck	Kyle Sorenson
Michelle Spencer	Lisa St. Onge	Pamela Tedesco
Darlene Ureseti-Gatt	Jessica White	Matthew Willard
Wendy Willard	Florence Yurchyk	Steven Yurchyk
David Zukowski	Kellie Zukowski	

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Submitted by Jean Goodwin and Janet Waldron

During 2013, when any member approached us with feedback, we in turn provided that feedback to the Church Council for their awareness. We also participated in many of the church's activities and fundraisers, to include: hosting Coffee Hour, Chicken Barbeque Dinner, BINGO, CT Conference UCC Workshops, Easter baskets, Roast Beef Dinner, May Social, June Fair, Field of Flags, Christmas Bazaar, and Operation Christmas Child boxes.

Serving on the Church Council is a learning opportunity about our church, as well as to get to know your church family and to work together in the goal of serving Christ. It has been our pleasure to be members of the Church Council and we wish the incoming new Members at Large the same wonderful opportunities that we have experienced these past two years.

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

Submitted by Charlotte Crockett

The Communication Committee continued to assist to get out fliers for coming advents. Louise Sweatt and Annalee Wenslow keep our event board up to date with coming advents. We continue to look for other ways to get information out to the public.

This year we have also continued with our communication board in the Social Hall, and are most happy to see members taking a look.

We have also tried to come up with new ideas, to keep us all in touch with each other as a church family, we have just started an article Confirmand of the Month.

We want to also thank Rosanne Hannon, and our Church Secretary Sue, for all their help this year.

THE CHURCH HISTORIAN

Submitted by Mary-Alice Wilbanks, Historian

The year 2013 began with a great deal of excitement and anticipation as we looked forward to events we could enjoy and historical happenings we would learn of during the yearlong celebration of our **175th Anniversary**. Much enthusiasm, planning and research went into

preparing for the year, especially by those who were directly responsible for specific projects. Many others became involved even before activities were actually initiated by attending “Time Line Reflection” meetings that began in 2011. We learned much about TCC, our community, its early industries, the economy over the years, former ministers and members of our church.

Things began in earnest in 2012 resulting with the final completion and sale of our **2013 Commemorative Cook Book**. A 1925 TCC Cookbook was recreated and sold at a nominal fee to cover the expense of copying and producing it.

Also, in conjunction with our anniversary, a large **175th Anniversary Banner** was created and displayed on the front of our church throughout 2013; a new TCC Picture Directory and 175th Anniversary T-Shirts were produced and sold.

Major activities included the following:

- Sunday, January 27 - Numerous historical church records and pictures, many provided by members of our church family, were on display in the Social Hall following worship service.
- Sunday, February 24 - Rev. Zack read a copy of a sermon that had been written and delivered April 23, 1865 at our church by Rev. E.M. Wright on the Sunday following President Lincoln’s assassination. This was one of a number of sermons handwritten, bound and given by Rev. Wright some 148 years ago.
- Sunday, April 28 - A Rededication Service was held at 2:00pm. Ministers and leaders from around the state participated, including Plymouth Mayor Vincent Festa who read the proclamation. A well-attended reception followed.
- Sunday, May 26 - During our regular service, a time of special tribute was spent in honoring those who served our country in the military by listing their names and their periods of service.
- Monday, May 27 - TCC was represented by many of its members, young and old, walking or riding in John Zalaski’s truck proudly bearing our Anniversary Banner.
- Sunday, June 1- A wonderful concert planned and organized by Dan Brownell, our Director of Music, was held combining groups from surrounding churches and communities. These included TCC Sanctuary Choir, First Baptist Church of Plymouth, Bristol Choral Society and the Spring Glen Church, UCC accompanied by Richard Hicks on the piano and Matt Torcellini, percussionist.
- Saturday, June, 15 - A Cemetery Walk, commencing at the Agney Avenue Cemetery, continuing on to the cannon at Baldwin Park placed there in honor of Dorence Atwater, a local hero; then a visit to Hillside Cemetery, final resting place for some of the founding members of TCC; terminating at the historical Water Wheel on Main St. It was an extremely interesting trip led by Matt Malley, president of the Plymouth Historical Society.
- Sunday, June 16 - Wedding, baptism and confirmation pictures were on display in the Social Hall for all to enjoy and attempt to recognize the individuals featured.
- September 22 - TCC members participated in Bristol’s Annual Mum Festival Parade, again proudly carrying our Banner.

Additional events that took place throughout 2013 included the following:

- BINGO games were enjoyed throughout 2013, a monthly fun time spent with family and friends.
- February 3 - Sale of Super Bowl Grinders to enjoy while watching the “BIG” game.
- Sunday, February 10 - Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts were honored during service. Our Annual Chocolate Festival followed worship in the Social Hall.
- Lenten Lunches were hosted again by area churches with attendees donating food items for the benefit of the Food Pantry. Always a popular community event.
- March 2, Chicken BBQ Dinner
- March 6, 7:00 pm - Annual Service of Remembrance
- March 10 - Bowling Outing held at Spare Time in Bristol
- April 27 - Roast Beef Dinner
- May 3 - 5 found many of our members enjoying the annual Spirited Sisters Retreat at Silver Lake.
- May 16, May Social, theme, “Party Time at TCC”. Always another fun evening.
- Saturday, June 8, TCC’s Annual All Church Fair
- August 23-25, TCC Bake Sale at the Terryville Fair
- September 8 - Rally Day Picnic
- September 15 - Reception honoring former Yale intern Daniel Meyer’s Ordination
- Saturday, November 9 - TCC’s Annual Christmas Bazaar.

As you can see, regardless of your age or gender, there was something for everyone to enjoy. Hope you took advantage of some.

You will find below other new/exciting things experienced by some of our members in 2013.

If you turned onto Wheel of Fortune back on January 25, and thought one of the contestants looked familiar, you were right. It was our own Sean Link. Sorry you weren’t the grand prize winner, but what an experience. It took something just to get there. Good for you!!!

Then May 4 - 11 found 5 volunteers from our church, who along with more than 20 others from our Association of Churches, traveling to South Dakota for a Simply Smiles Mission Trip. Our members included Phil Armbruster, Tom and Sue Zalaski, and Ray and Jeannie Zalaski. They interacted basically with the children of the Cheyenne Reservation.

Scholarships were presented to the following graduating seniors on Father’s Day, June 16 - Chelsea Bourdeau, Olivia Cyr, Scott Ericson, Drew Grosof, Kristin Harger, Elizabeth Miskin and Dacey Pratt. Congratulations! Please let us know how you’re doing. We are interested.

June 28 - July 19 found the Field of Flags displayed on our church lawn. What a moving sight knowing each of the approximately 6000 flags represents a military casualty of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. Many thanks to those who volunteered their time to help set up and then take down (this traveling memorial) to be shipped to the next location.

We suffered the loss of two very special members of our church family this past year - Marianne Hogenson on September 22 and William "Bill" B. Faragher on October 6. Marianne was always looking for things to purchase and give to others, often just because the item "looked" like that person, and Bill spent many of his own hours developing computer programs to benefit our church.

Many special projects continue from the creation of Prayer Shawls under the direction of Ellen Anderson; the Crosses by our own Bill Day; the love and support of our Troops; weekly support of the local Food Pantry; Back to School supplies; Operation Christmas Child Boxes; Christmas Wish Tree; Easter Baskets; Community Lunches/Dinners; 30 Hour Famine; presentation of Bibles to Sunday School Students; Bible Study and many other acts of love and kindness mentioned elsewhere in this article.

We are a very busy church, full of much love and spiritual blessings. God Bless You All.

MINUTES OF THE YEAR 2013 ANNUAL MEETING

Terryville Congregational Church

Sunday February 24, 2013

Submitted by Charlotte Crockett, Clerk

The annual meeting of Terryville Congregational Church was called to order at 11:10 A.M., in the sanctuary by Gerald Wunsch, Moderator. Sixty (60) members were present, representing a quorum.

The Reverend Zachary Mabe led the congregation in prayer.

Jerry asked if everyone had received a copy of the report and had a chance to look it over.

Item 1-ANNUAL REPORT

Jerry asked if there were any errors or corrections to the Annual Report Minutes, and the Committee Reports. As there were no comments, or questions, he asked for a motion for the minutes and reports to be accepted. A motion was made by Ray Zalaski to accept the minutes and reports, seconded by Ray Douyard. The minutes and reports were unanimously accepted.

Item 2- BUDGET FOR 2013

Jerry called on Bob Grosf and Alison Reed in behalf of Finance to address the budget for 2013. Bob stated that it was necessary for everyone to watch their budgets, to use up supplies we have before ordering new. One of the main questions is how to acquire more income?

Bob asked if there were any questions. A few questions on line items were discussed.

Herman Armbruster stated that he understood that the Terry Nursery was down in enrollment and if they may have to close. Accommodations have been made to assist them, so that they would not have to close.

Ken Beicke stated that we need collectors to count the money taken in collection on Sunday.

Jean Goodwin thanked Finance for all their hard work.

A motion was made by Curt Wilbanks and seconded by Dickie Zalaski to accept the 2013 budget, it was so voted.

Item-3 ELECTION OF CHURCH OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES

Jerry presented a list of nominations for the elective positions. He went through each position and gave the suggested names and opened the floor to any other nominations.

Two names were presented for the position of Vice Moderator, and a vote was taken by the members.

There is still one position open on the Finance Committee and one on Outreach, if after thinking about it, if anyone is interested they should let Jerry know.

Motions were made for each Committee member and all were accepted.

Item- 4 OTHER PERTINENT BUSINESS

Jerry stated that a gift of \$97,000 was given to us by Wallace Preston, and that we were open to ideas for the money.

Suggestions made were for windows, a new roof for above the Sunday School section, kitchen repairs and CD's.

A motion was made by Ray Douyard for the Finance Committee to get feedback from the members as to what would be the best way to use this gift, and seconded by Curt Wilbanks, and so voted.

Ray Douyard thanked Jerry Wunsch and Jake Armbruster for all their work around the church.

There being no further business or questions a motion was made by Ray Zalaski to adjourn, and seconded by Curt Wilbanks. Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

MINUTES OF SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Terryville Congregational Church

5/19/2013

Submitted by Charlotte Crockett, Clerk

The special meeting of Terryville Congregational Church was opened at 11:20 A.M., in the sanctuary by Raymond Zalaski, Vice Moderator. Fifty-two members were present, representing a quorum.

Call was read by Ray Zalaski.

The meeting was called to discuss the money that was endowed to the church by Wallace Preston Fund.

Alison Reed thanked everyone for their suggestions.

Bob Groszof, Chair of Finance told about the fund and some of the ideas that were given. It was suggested that we get new windows, replace the flooring in the Social Hall, new sound system in the Social Hall and audio piped into the Nursery. Also to install motion detector light switches

with energy efficient lighting throughout the Church and removal of the maple tree on the front lawn. Alison said that there were other suggestions not listed, that could be done without much cost, and it was felt that maybe we would like to use the money toward bigger projects. It was suggested that we may want to put some money into CD's for a short fall in the budget.

Jake Armbruster that they had an arborist ,Chris Lucey look at the maple tree and the Dogwood tree. He felt that we needed to prune the trees and string a cables to give the trees extra support, felt they had a lot of years left. He felt that it would cost \$1,125 for both trees.

Other ideas were suggested, as maybe doing something for the youth like a basketball net, it was felt that this may be a liability. New chairs for the Social Hall, sun panels, money to be invested to help to increase our membership and a labyrinth were all suggested.

Curt Wilbanks asked how much money we had to work with, which is \$97,000. He suggested that maybe we could reach out to the members to donate maybe a matching amount for the window in memory or honor of someone, we could put some type of plaque on or under the window. We need 54 windows that will cost us \$16,900.

A motion was made by Ray Douyard to purchase the windows, Curt Wilbanks asked that the motion be amended that the cost be offset by donations. A vote was taken in favor and so moved.

A motion to purchase the sound system for the Social Hall was made by Karen Reilly. Vote was accepted and so moved.

A motion was made by Sue Piercy to have the Maple Tree and Dogwood tree work done. Vote was accepted and so moved.

A motion was made to put the balance of the money into CD's, by Sue Zalaski. Vote was accepted and so moved.

Other suggestions we will readdress when we get more information on cost.

Motion was made to adjourn by Judy Harris. Meeting was adjourned at 12 noon.

MINUTES OF SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Terryville Congregational Church

September 29, 2013

Submitted by Charlotte Crockett, Clerk

The special meeting of Terryville Congregational Church was opened at 11:12 am, by Gerald Wunsch, Moderator. Sixty-five (65) members were present, representing a quorum.

Alison Reed handed out sheet showing the breakdown of cost of replacement of each window, and a copy of the proposed work to be performed by CL&P.

Jerry asked if there were any questions concerning the cost for the windows.

Since there were no questions Jerry called for a vote. A vote in the affirmative to add the extra money to the cost of the window.

Jerry asked if there were any questions regarding the cost for Small Business Energy Advantage Program.

Dave Nichols asked if they ran into any problems if we would have to have another meeting if there should be extra cost.

Jerry stated that we would have another meeting if there were any problems.

Jean Goodwin asked what was going to be done.

They will be putting in sensors in the different areas where lights could be left on.

Jerry called for a vote. A vote in the affirmative to appropriate the cost for the work suggested.

Meeting closed at 11:20 am.

DIACONATE

Submitted by Cheryl Brazee, Michele Benson, Pam Eggleston

JANUARY

Assisted with serving communion with Rev. Zack, worked closely with him to meet the Spiritual Needs of the church family. Deacon of the month is responsible for the worship service finding four ushers and a lay reader.

FEBRUARY

Service of Remembrance

MARCH

Collected donations for MissionTrip in May. Contacted hardware stores. We are in need of rakes, shovels, hoes, hammers, nails, etc., we are looking to fill the bus.

APRIL

Deacons set up for the roast beef dinner, 4/27/13. On 4/21/13 Deacons were present to assist Rev. Zac in the Tabernacle Service for the New Member Orientation.

MAY

Pam Eggleston found people to run the barbeque booth at the Church Fair in June. Deacons sat under the cross during communion Sundays. Deacons were responsible for the coffee hour for the month of May.

JUNE

Deacons were in charge of the chicken barbeque booth, also helped with the tag sale, set-up and clean-up. In addition, Deacons served as greeters for the Fair.

JULY

Deacons sent out cards to reach out to church members.

AUGUST

Discussed requirements of the Confirmation Class.

Discussed the budget and what to spend money on.

SEPTEMBER

Voted on only using communion cups in April (Easter) and December (Christmas) on Communion Sundays, rest of the year will be done by Intinction.

OCTOBER

Helped to organize items for the Christmas Bazaar.

NOVEMBER

Deacons were used as greeters at the Christmas Bazaar.

Helped to set-up and clean-up before and after the Bazaar.

Ran the Christmas Past Room with Cheryl and Mark Brazee and Michele Benson.

Jeanne & Ray Zalaski were kind enough to save all the items for the Christmas Past Room at their house throughout the year. They helped, along with Louise Sweatt, to deliver all the items to the Church and in setting up the room for pricing, etc. This task was done the whole week prior to the Bazaar. It is recommended that more ministry teams are needed for this huge undertaking.

DECEMBER

Communion Sunday.

Had to locate four ushers for Christmas Eve Service, 5 & 11 pm

Must be sure to use the candles donated by Darlene Wartonick, in memory of her husband Bill, for these services.

SPIRITUAL TASK LEADER

Diane Pratt, Chairperson

There were five meetings held in 2013 with all three committees falling under Spiritual. The committees are Diaconate, Christian Education and Music Committee. At this time I believe quarterly meetings with all three committees would be appropriate and useful for communication between the committees and the spiritual task leader.

The first meeting was held March 14, 2013. An account of the restructure of the church and how it works was given. Also mentioned was the importance of communication between the committees and the task leaders. Also discussed was the importance of communication with any congregation member with any concerns and the person should always be gotten back to. The how to and who of submitting annual reports, budget proposals, employee agreements, and expenditures for each committee was also discussed. We touched on keeping the Sunday services at a reasonable length and one way this could be done was that any staff member announcement should be made by Rev Zack and committee announcements be kept as brief as possible. Concerns about the consistency of children's and bell choir rehearsals and performing was also brought forward. The task leader announced that the next few meetings would be held as a group.

Meeting, April 14, 2013

We discussed Rev Zack's upcoming sabbatical and announced the responsibilities of each committee for upcoming events. Getting ministry teams was stressed.

Diaconate and Rev Zack has put together a schedule of ushers and layreaders for the rest of 2013. Rev Zack announced there was a student intern expressing interest in coming to our church in September 2013 for the school year. Cheryl Brazee announced she had gotten donations for the South Dakota mission trip from several stores in the area. Discussion was held about having a committee representative attend all new member orientations.

Lynda Avery stepped down as Music Committee chair and Sandy Kamens will take over. The music committee discussed getting ministry teams for the June anniversary concert to help with advertising. Trustees decided that piano lessons at the church could be for church members only and this was passed on to music. It was also stated that when substitutes are needed for organist that we look to congregation members first before hiring outside help. We also discussed getting a license for copyright for music.

Committee member terms were brought up and each committee was asked which member was 1, 2 or 3 term member.

Discussion was also held on reaching out to members who had not been in church for a while. It was decided that Deacons would get together with Called to Care team and send out cards to these members. It was also suggested to send cards to families of children who had not been in Sunday school for a while.

Meeting, May 8, 2013

The student intern, Mark Kayama, is coming and will begin in the fall. Our youth group and Immaculate Conception's youth group will be combined and meet with Father Marcin and Rev Zack beginning in September 2013.

Vacation Bible School dates were announced, Called to Care meetings announced, and it was decided who would get people for upcoming events. Music will discuss getting music for the June Fair. They will also get a ministry team for refreshments at the anniversary concert.

Meeting, June 12, 2013

The mission trip to South Dakota will be held again May of 2014. Daniel Meyers will be ordained in August in Oregon.

Confirmation retreat for the upcoming year will be Nov 1st-3rd. Our new intern is starting Sept 8th and will be installed Sept 22nd. A recognition service for 25 and 50year plus members will be Sept 29th.

It was suggested flat TV screens be installed in the sanctuary to be used for presentations for any event. Service for the summer was at 9:30. Communion was done by intinction thru the summer and it was decided that would continue all year except for two Sundays out of the year. It was decided that communion would be held on the first Sunday of the month even on holiday weekends.

Christian held Vacation Bible school July 8th-12th and confirmation began Sept 15th.

The anniversary concert was a success and music is considering doing this every other year.

Meeting, Nov 10th, 2013

Phil Armbruster got the Christmas Tree for the sanctuary. Youth has been meeting the last Sunday of each month and 10-15 kids have been attending. Bryan Nurnberger and Kristen Graves from Simply Smiles lead worship on Nov 3rd.

There are 10 confirmands this year and the retreat has been revised. Students will need to participate in church and activities to qualify. There will be a set amount of hours of service to qualify. 30 hour famine and Vacation Bible School don't qualify toward the scholarship service hours. New curriculum called "Godly Play" has been looked into and done as a trial January thru March. At that time it will be decided if it should be continued.

I would like to thank all our committee members and staff for all their hard work. It has been an honor to serve with these dedicated people and I would also like to thank the congregation for trusting me in this position and allowing me to serve you and our Lord!!

FLORAL SUB-COMMITTEE

Submitted by Susan Kozikowski

The sub-committee consists of Ellen Cifone, Sandra Colasanto and Susan Kozikowski. We place flowers in the Sanctuary each Sunday and have special flowers for all the holidays, such as Easter lilies, Poinsettias ordered by the congregants for Christmas and we also decorate the Harvest table for Thanksgiving; donations are appreciated at any time.

Anyone wishing to honor or memorialize someone with flowers may call the office or fill in the date with information on the calendar in the Narthex and we will get in touch with you to make arrangements.

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Submitted by Sandra Kamens

2013 started off with a few “hiccups” along the way but we persevered. We are proud to say that the choirs have grown in membership and have done a great job throughout the year and we are looking forward to an exciting music filled 2014!

The music committee approved the purchase of a humidifier for the grand piano in the sanctuary which helps prevent damage that can be caused by the temperature changes. We are also pursuing getting a dolly for the piano in the social hall to help prevent frequent tunings.

The music chairperson was happy to substitute for Dan on a few occasions and looks forward to helping out in 2014 when needed.

Also, the Music Committee would like to remind our congregation that we always welcome new members to any of our choirs.

MUSIC REPORT

Submitted By Dan Brownell, Director

In the year 2013, The TCC Music Department grew and prospered. We underwent a restructuring within the Department, including renaming the ensembles and redesigning a recruitment. The Adult Choir was renamed to the Sanctuary Choir and we now have between 9 and 15 active members. We have made our rehearsal schedule flexible to accommodate our members' busy schedules. The Handbell Choir continued to retain its name and we now have 13 members which equates to a full choir. The Children's Cherub Choir was split into two choirs dependent on age: The Youth Choir for older students and the Children's Choir for the younger students. The Youth Choir now has 7 regular members while the Children's Choir has not received enough interest as of yet to become functional, but we expect that that will change soon. All of these figures are as of November 2013.

In 2013, the choirs were an active part of the worship experience, performing at the major holidays like Easter and Christmas, Children's Sunday, and also taking part in special programming specific to the 175th Anniversary celebration of the church, ongoing all year. We

took part in the Anniversary Dedication Service and performed a concert which commemorated the occasion. 4 other area churches and community groups joined us for the occasion.

The Fall began a major recovery for the programs, which led to the figures reflected above. We have big plans for the upcoming Advent/Christmas season and beyond. Here is to a wonderful 2014!

THEATRE AT TCC

Submitted by Jonathan Zalaski

Theatre At TCC originated in September of 2012, with the idea of a town-wide production proposed by Alison Reed. Our hope for bringing a widely known show to the altar at the church came true on September 26th, 27th, and 28th when we raised the curtain on the church's very first musical, *Cinderella's Glass Slipper*. Production began at the end of July with auditions, which evolved into our presentation in September. Over the course of the next two months, over thirty participants assisted both on stage and behind the scenes to bring one of the many widely known stories of shoes to life. All three performances attracted close to two hundred audience members, total. As we venture into the process of our 2014 musical the expectation is raised on our audience size as well as the size of our cast and stage crew as we unveil L. Frank Baum's classic story on stage, *The Wizard of Oz*. With almost twenty individuals that have expressed interest in joining us for this trip down the yellow brick road, *The Wizard of Oz* is planned to be a success that is to be remembered beyond 2014. We hope to see you there!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Submitted by Charlotte Audet, Chairperson

The 2013 Christian Education members are Charlotte Audet, Crista Furtado, and Joanne Keenan. We work directly with our Director of Christian Education, Jennifer Zalaksi.

Quarterly, we reviewed and approved the education calendar along with Jennifer.

We presented scholarships to 6 high school seniors of \$250 each. We discussed and passed a change in how the graduating students are eligible for the \$250 scholarships. In order to qualify the student must participate in at least 5 hours a year of service hours at our church, which we prorated for the upperclassmen. Please see the application for scholarship on the TCC web page for specifics.

We all worked in the hamburger, hot dog booth at the church fair and ran the Santa room at the annual church Bazaar.

Due to the fact that there were only 2 eligible students to participate in Confirmation, Reverend Zach and I decided to postpone Confirmation to 2013-2014. We have a class of 10 presently, five young women and 5 young men.

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Submitted by Jennifer Zalaski

The year 2013 for Christian Education consisted of trying new things. From the beginning to the end we tried out a variety of things that truly didn't disappoint. We formed a Dowel team to perform at the Church's 175th Anniversary service and again on Palm Sunday. A Theater program was born. We marched in the Terryville parade, found a new curriculum, created an evening for girls called Girls Night Out and a night for the parents called Date Night. The committee created new criteria for receiving scholarships and while we did it for Women's Fellowship all of our CE members joined me Dickie Zalaski and Ellen Cifone in creating a Women's Night. Not bad for one year eh? Of all the new things we created the only unsuccessful one was Date Night ... who knew? I thought for sure that would be our most successful but 1 bomb out of 7 successes equals a victory in my book! I'd like to thank the CE committee members - *Charlotte Audet, Crista Furtado, and Joann Keenan* for their trust, willingness, and openness to new endeavors and also for their help outside of the CE arena. Without them Women's Night could not have been the overwhelming success that we experienced. Sunday school would be impossible without the help of our teachers – *Sue Piercy, Courtney Reek, Lisa Reek, Becky Theriault and Jonathan Zalaski*. Below you will find a chronological listing of all that Sunday school enjoyed. I pray that 2014 will be equally successful.

February – our Chocolate Festival was cancelled due to the snow storm

March – 24 Palm Sunday – Children sing during worship service

April – Sunday school dowel team presented “How Great Thou Art” at the 175th Anniversary service
Easter Sunday egg hunt

May – 12 - *If you give a mom a muffin* was handed out to all women on Mother's day,

19 - Sunday School led worship service for Children's Sunday – *What a Wonderful World* was the theme, the dowel team reprised “How Great Thou Art”, then they celebrated in the Activity room with the Penny Carnival and Minute to win it games

27 – Sunday school marched in parade and threw out candy

June – 16 – Father's Day all the men were treated to *If you give a dad a donut*

July – work began on preparing the church for Vacation Bible School

8 thru 12 – Kingdom Rock, *Where kids learn to stand strong for God*

September – 8 – CE hosted Rally day with a picnic on the front lawn

13 – the first Girls Night Out was hosted with a Spa Night theme

October 10 – Girls Night Out – Pizza Party

20 – Bible Presentations

November 14 – Girls Night Out – Craft night

December 22 – Sunday school led the worship service

SUPPORT THE TROOPS

Submitted by Ellen Anderson

Seven packages total were sent to church members and friends serving in the military - Dan Hanscom, Jesse Caron, Amanda Schleich and Michael Anderson. As discussed at a Sunday

Service in June, this collections was also able to give \$300.00 toward the continuing display of the Field of Flags – all with the donations from a generous church family.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
Church Mice and Spirited Sisters
Submitted by Ellen Cifone

Every year the Spirited Sisters have a retreat at Silver Lake. This year was spent getting to know each other and ways to help through love and giving prayer. All year get well wishes, encouragement and some gifts were sent to church family members in need.

The Church Mice make pies for the Chicken Barbecue, Roast Beef Dinner, June Fair, Booth at the Terryville Country Fair and the Christmas Bazaar. The Mice host lunches and several funeral (and memorial services). At Christmas time we clean and decorate the sanctuary. All this work is done with friendship, love and prayer.

PRAYER SHAWL CIRCLE
Submitted by Ellen Anderson

Every request for prayer shawls was answered, thanks to the faithfulness of approximately twelve ladies of the church family. Each shawl has an attached cross and is accompanied by a special card on which is written an apropos Bible verse and a personal message from the giver (Rev. Zack, friend or relative).

FIELD OF FLAGS
Submitted by Ellen Anderson

On June 28, 2013 volunteers from our church and the community placed approximately ,728 American flags on the front lawn of our church; ach flag representing a casualty from the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. The display continued for three weeks complete with name board – a list of casualties by state showing name and rank of each American casualty.

The response was tremendous, coming from the town and beyond – helpers, visitors, passers-by and media-sharing respect, honoring those who have served and are currently serving; sharing our hope for peace.

Worship at Sunday service, June 30, was dedicated to each person represented by one of these flags and followed by an outdoor ceremony with Major Vincent Festa, and the American Legion participating, ending with Taps played by George Kensiski.

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

Submitted by Iris Soto

Outreach Committee 2013 End of the Year Report by Iris Soto

This has been a very busy and productive year for this committee. Thank you for all your help and support throughout the year. Your help is greatly appreciated and is the only way we can reach out to our local community and the world. I want to thank Don and Juney Cushman, Denise O'Donnell and Peggy Witecy for all the work they did to make the Outreach Committee activities a huge success. Jerry Wunsch, thanks for helping every time you were asked. The following is a summation of what the committee accomplished during the year:

Grinders were sold for Super Bowl Sunday on February 3rd.

The months of March, May, July, September and November we provided dinner for Eli Terry residents. Gosinski Park residents enjoyed meals during the months of April, June, August and October. Each meal was catered by local restaurants followed by games of Pokeno and prayer. These meals were provided by a generous grant from Thomaston Savings Bank.

In May, twenty five Easter Baskets were filled by the church members and distributed by Rev. Zack to some of the children of our church.

We shopped for Back to School Supplies at the end of June because Social Services in town needs the supplies early.

Operation Christmas Child project was launched in November with a dedication ceremony on November 24th. 175 boxes were donated. Thank you for showing your Christian love to a needy child!

The committee decorated the church for the Christmas bazaar with many church members helping to make the church look Christmassy for the bazaar. The committee helped with clean-up after the event was over.

The Wishing Tree was put up in the social hall on Dec. 1st with Christmas wishes for the children of our church whose families needed help to make the children's Christmas bright! Wrapped gifts were given to Rev. Zack to distribute before the holiday. Thank you for your help with this project.

Donations were given to the following:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| *Relay for Life | *Special Olympics |
| *After Grad Party for Terryville High Services) | *Small Wonders (Plymouth Social |
| *Plymouth Food Pantry | *Operation Christmas Child |
| *Simply Smiles | |

Thank you again for all your hard work and donations throughout the year. It has been a joy to be part of this committee. May God Bless you in the New Year.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Submitted by Linda Lamy and Iris Soto

A huge thank you to our church family for the generous donation of 175 shoe boxes to Operation Christmas Child. You have touched the lives of many children who need hope and love in their lives. These children have been given the opportunity to receive a gift of their very own at Christmas time and to learn about the love that our Lord and Savior has for all of us.

Please, keep Operation Christmas Child in mind throughout the new year. It is never too early to start collecting items for the shoe boxes. Linda has some storage space in her cellar so she can store items that you find during the year. Let's try to fill 20 boxes in 2014! Remember that each box represents a child who received a gift of Christian love. Imagine your box in a child's hand—how will that box change his or her life? You never know what can happen!

May God Bless you in the New Year and keep you healthy!

THE TRUSTEES

Submitted by Jake Armbruster, Chairman

The members of the Board of Trustees for the year 2013 were Jake Armbruster, Chairman, Dickie Zalaski and John Wallingford. Also attending our monthly meeting was our Business Group Manager, Alison Reed.

We want to thank John Clyma and crew for doing an excellent job of painting our Sanctuary a light yellow, "Man on the Moon" by Benjamin Moore and the ceiling with super white flat and the trim and windows with Impervo White all by Benjamin Moore. John's crew started Monday, January 14, 2013 and finished on January 29, 2013. The ceiling in the Narthex was also painted. On Saturday, March 2, 2013 we held our second annual chicken BBQ dinner to raise money for our front courtyard drainage project. The dinner was another great success in selling all 188 half chickens that we BBQ'd. We made \$1,857.89 after expenses. Thank you to all who made pies, baked them and those people who helped serve and packed dinners to go. Our next BBQ dinner in 2014 is set for Saturday, March 1st. Get your tickets early! Jerry Wunsch and Jake Armbruster continued interior painting throughout the year. We painted the Sunday school hall ceiling, walls and doors. Each door was painted a different color on the outside and the trim and interior of the doors were painted white. Jerry also painted the two doors for the Terry Nursery School, rooms 4 & 5; one in green and the other purple as requested by head teacher, Marie Medura and her staff. In mid-April the stairway from the Narthex to the Social Hall was also repainted. This included the ceiling, walls and trim. In April the west wall of the Social Hall was repainted blue and the three other walls were primed and will be repainted white by the Trustees and volunteers on January 18 and 21st, 2014. Jerry and I primed and painted the new 9-lite double door for the kitchen hall. This door was purchased from Forestville Lumber with a \$3,000.00 grant that the church received from Thomaston Savings Bank. Thank you Rich Sauzedde for helping me install this new door and the new 10-lite window above the door in early November. We would also like to thank Rich for keeping our church lawn well-manicured each week throughout the summer. Also, thanks to Ellen and Roland Anderson for trimming our hedges and bushes. Thanks to Eric Armbruster for trimming our two evergreen trees out front and also helping me, along with Greg Armbruster, spread 5 yards of bark mulch in the flower beds this past spring. Also thanks to Curt Wilbanks for trimming and cleaning up our flower beds throughout the year.

In mid-September we had Laviero Construction install drainage pipe from the seven down spouts in the front courtyard and hooked them into the storm drain located at the NW corner of Terry Nursery. This project cost \$9,326.00.

With the approval of the congregation we had an arborist, Chris Lucy, owner of Better Tree & Shrub, prune and install two cables for support in our large maple tree. Chris also pruned the Euro and American dogwood trees at a total cost of \$1,125.00.

Buzz Electric, Ken Beicke and partner installed a sound system with 12 speakers in our Social Hall for \$2,700.00. This was approved by the congregation at our May meeting. Buzz Electric also installed 8 new wall plugs on the west side of the Social Hall. Also, 4 new plugs were installed on the East wall of the Social Hall, two of which are dedicated for air conditioning. One plug and a new Sieman's electrical panel box, with circuit breakers, was installed in the Social Hall closet all in October. The Trustees purchased two new air conditioning units, 10m and 12m BTU for the Social Hall for Bingo and summer worship when it's too hot upstairs.

The upper wall heater units were taken down from Rm #7 and the lower heat unit was reconnected. One of these heat units was reinstalled in TNS room #5 which had a problem heating up to 70 degrees F with only 3 heaters. A double door cabinet had to be taken down and the wall repainted to install this 4th heater for Rm. #5. The upper wall wiring was still there from the original installation. This was also completed by Buzz Electric and Jake Armbruster.

In October Buzz Electric installed a new light fixture and ballast in our church sign out on the front lawn. The previous ballast was not wired correctly and had shorted out.

We have received another \$3,000 grant from Thomaston Savings Bank on October 8, 2013 for the purpose of installing new exterior doors. A new wood 9 lite double door with panic bar hardware and new closers were placed on order with Forestville Lumber in October. This unit will be installed on the west side of the building for the Terry Nursery School entrance. Forestville Lumber will be delivering the new door by January 10. Jerry & Jake will primer and paint the door in the Activity Room before it's installed.

In May and September we had CL&P do an energy audit for new more energy efficient lights and motion detectors. The cost was approximately \$18,600. CL&P gave us a conservation fund incentive just over \$6,000 and we have financed the \$12,600 balance with CL&P over 48 months interest free. We should see an estimated cost saving of \$2,103 per year. At a special congregation meeting on September 29, 2013 this lighting expense was approved along with spending \$26,500 to replace 65 double hung windows "single pane" with Harvey thermal pane windows and two picture windows. This also included wrapping all 83 outside window trim with aluminum sheet.

Advance Energy Management & a CL&P contractor started installing the new lights on November 27th and completed the lights and motion detectors on December 27, 2013.

Finman Window started installing the new windows December 26 and should be complete by January 10, 2014.

BUSINESS TASK LEADER TRUSTEE/FINANCE/COMMUNICATIONS

Submitted by Alison Reed

Trustees: As we did last year we started out with our annual chicken barbeque as a fundraiser which was very successful and a lot of fun for everyone. This has been a very busy year for the Trustees with many projects being completed. Among those projects are the painting of the sanctuary, replacement windows in the Sunday school area, completion of the drainage work in the courtyard, changing of the electrical switches to sensors and new lighting. For more information please see the Trustees annual report. The Trustees continued to meet on a monthly basis to make sure everything is being accomplished and to deal with any issues that have come up. We continue to support the Terry Nursery School in their endeavors to keep the school open and wish them luck for the coming year. I would like to thank Jake Armbruster and Gerry Wunsch for all the extra work they do around the church. I enjoy working with the Trustees and hope in 2014 we accomplish even more.

Finance: The finance committee has been meeting every month to monitor the budget and investments of the church. They have helped out for various fund raisers such as the bazaar, fair and barbeque. They meet with the Infinex Investment Group to monitor the investments. A five year Church financial plan is the single major goal of this committee over the next fiscal year. They have also been helping with the stewardship campaign. I would like to “Thank” Ken Biecke for all his hard work and dedication as Treasurer. I have enjoyed working with the Finance committee and look forward to a successful 2014.

Communication: The Communications Committee continues to maintain the bulletin board in the social hall which has all sorts of information for upcoming events to sign up sheets for fund raisers. Please keep in mind that if you want to have a fund raising activity to let them know as they will take care of the advertising for the event and it is one less thing you will have to worry about. They have done an excellent job of covering all the events we have had this year. Thank you for all you do...

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Submitted by Robert Grosos, Chairman

The Finance Committee is under the Business Task Group. Alison Reed is the Business Task leader.

Chairman Robert Grosos is joined with board members Wayne Kamens, and Roseann Hannon. Treasurer Ken Beicke and Assistant treasurer Ingrid Nelson Beicke report to the Finance Board.

Investments at the beginning of the year were managed by Harvest Capital LLC (registered broker-dealer) and Harvest Capital Advisors. In late Fall of 2013 Harvest Capital LLC of Southington, CT became the Infinex Financial Group. All Church Investments were transferred without fee from Harvest Capital to the new parent company Infinex Investments of Meriden, CT. The same personnel led by Don Barton and team will be managing our funds.

The annual pledge near year end are as follows :

- 2012 116 pledges totaling \$74,813 (actual)

- 2013 108 pledges totaling \$75,897 (actual)
- 2014 106 pledges totaling \$75,270 (at time of this printing)

Withdrawal from Investments are as follows :

- 2011 \$115,000
- 2012 \$ 86,700
- 2013 \$100,000

The goal of the Investment Committee is to maintain a close relationship with Infinex and to develop a strategy to improve the Church investment returns and monitor those results. A 5 year plan to maintain Church fiscal stability is the major task of the Committee. This is currently being developed and will be the sum total of input from all Church committees. The Finance Committee will then work with Infinex to provide data that will help their group configure an improved investment plan.

Finance members contributed their time to the Church fair, Bazaar, & roast beef dinner as well as chicken barbeque. I would like to thank Ken Beicke for his diligent work as Treasurer and his continued improvement of Church finance data collection in Quickbooks. Ingrid Nelson Beicke must be recognized for her time consuming efforts as collector and assistant Treasurer. Thank you to Alison Reed for providing guidance to me on all aspects of my position.

The Church would be also like to acknowledge the generous gift from the Preston family this year.

A portion of the gift was used to defray the current Church energy project upgrade of lighting and replacement window installation. The guying of the large tree on the north side of the Church along with the pruning of other trees were made possible with this fund, too.

REPORT OF 175TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

*Submitted by Richard Foote, Co Chairman, Raymond Douyard, Co Chairman,
Mary-Alice Wilbanks, Historian*

The year 2013 has been a busy year for the committee. Through the years, since the fire, many individuals have given copies of material in their possession that they thought might be of interest. Many hours has been spent reviewing this material and then cataloging it into an orderly and readable file.

A great deal of information was found with regard to the clergy of the church. This has all been documented and catalogued. The church was contacted some years ago asking if we were interested in the sermons of Rev. E.M. Wright. We now have all of his sermons on file. In February Rev. Zack read a portion of his Lincoln sermon given the Sunday after the President was shot. Rev. Wright served from 1866-1870.

THE MINISTRY OF THE CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE, UCC IN 2013

After three full years of self-study, searching, and discernment, the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ called and installed a new Conference Minister in 2013: the Rev. Kent J. Siladi. The Search Committee announced their selection March, delegates voted to call him in April, he assumed his duties at the end of June, and the Conference celebrated his installation in September. He came to office persuaded that God has work for the Conference to do.



“As I begin my ministry among you I bring a sense of urgency about where we need to go together,” he wrote in June. “What might it look like for the Connecticut Conference to be a bold witness for the Gospel in our time?” he asked in October. And preaching to the Annual Meeting, he declared, “It’s about God writing a new song on our hearts.”

His was not the only voice summoning the Conference to new songs, new ways, and new things to try. Annual Meeting keynoter the Rev. Michael Piazza won both laughter and careful thought when he quoted his church’s pet saying: “If no one will die, give it a try!” At the Authorized Ministers’ Event, the Rev. Quinn Caldwell urged his colleagues to “live as if there was a guy that lived and died and rose again, and that it matters.” General Association presenter the Rev. Dr. Kirk Byron Jones summoned the assembly to embrace stillness, cultivate awareness, and celebrate playfulness.

The Conference sent both a cloud of delegates and important items to be considered by the 29th General Synod at the end of June. In addition to adopting the resolutions proposed by the Conference, which call for protection of equal status of women and for support for outdoor ministries, Synod delegates expressed their concern about the risk to voting rights for American minorities, took the pledge to resist bullying with colorful hand-knitted scarves, and directed the denomination to work toward divestment in fossil fuels. They celebrated marriage equality in California, and launched the new United Church Board, the first chair of which is the Rev. Dr. Bernard Wilson of the Norfield Congregational Church UCC in Weston. The Rev. Dr. Maritza Angulo de Gonzalez, pastor of Manantial de Gracia UCC in New Britain, also serves on the new Board.

In the fall, the UCC offices in Cleveland announced staff cuts intended to bring the national setting budget closer to balance. Although the Connecticut Conference achieved its 2012 Our Church’s Wider Mission Basic Support Goal, it saw an actual decline in giving, one mirrored around the denomination. In 2013, 50% of OCWM Basic Support dollars will go to support national and international work of the UCC.

After several years of harsh weather, 2013 was relatively mild — in Connecticut. Tornadoes struck repeatedly in the American Midwest, leaving the dead, injured, and homeless in their wake. A massive typhoon struck the Philippines. Churches and individuals contributed to these relief efforts, to long-term recovery from previous disasters, and to support the grieving

community of Newtown. Connecticut Conference “Care for Newtown” grants began their work early in the year.

Other disasters struck as well, and so the Conference prayed: Prayed for Boston when bombs killed and maimed just yards from Old South Church UCC along the route of the Boston Marathon; prayed for Washington and Chicago and Hartford and New Haven and Bridgeport when gunfire took lives in these and far too many other places; prayed for Syria and Egypt and Afghanistan and Iraq and far too many other nations marred by war. Church leaders, including Newtown senior pastor the Rev. Matthew Crebbin, urged support for gun safety legislation at the state and national levels. Governor Dannel P. Malloy signed a new act in April, but no law passed the United States Congress.

Silver Lake Conference Center welcomed 991 conferees during summer 2013, including 25 participants in the brand-new Congregation Camp. They sent 15 high school mission participants to Oaxaca, Mexico, in April to work with Simply Smiles. In June, thanks to the *Now, for the Future Campaign*, they proudly dedicated the newly renamed Ingraham Retreat Center, the newly expanded Cedars dining room, and several hand built benches. The new Environmental Justice Center under the direction of Pam Arifian expanded Silver Lake’s sustainability education offerings, including the garden itself, which is now 3200 square feet. About 2500 retreat guests enjoyed Silver Lake hospitality, ranging from school groups to General Association and many more in between.

Churches around the UCC took part in the Mission 4/1 Earth effort, planting trees, writing letters, and raising dollars to resist climate change. The New England conferences will repeat the Mission 4/1 Earth campaign this spring. In April, national and local religious leaders gathered in Boston for a Climate Revival, including UCC General Minister and President the Rev. Geoffrey Black.

Staff transitions began with a fond farewell to Interim Conference Minister the Rev. Charles L. Wildman in May. Policy Advocate Kim Harrison concluded her 26 years of service in June, and Regional Minister the Rev. Dr. Mike Penn-Strah retired in September. The Rev. Gini King has served as “bridge” interim until the Rev. Mary Nelson Abbott begins her duties in February.

The Rev. Dominique Atchison began her work as Coordinator of the Sacred Conversations on Race Ministry in October, providing support for the Conference’s major effort to eradicate racism. The ministry’s leaders, the Rev. Dr. Keith Bolton and the Rev. Deborah Blood, assembled their team over the summer and began funding projects in local churches and around the Conference. Conversation Facilitator training should begin this spring.

A profusion of workshops brought over 160 people to Leadership Matters in South Glastonbury in March. This year’s educational event will be offered in partnership with the Massachusetts Conference UCC; “Super Saturday” will be March 1, 2014, in Ludlow.

The four Regional Ministers — Michael Ciba, Tom Clough, Tamara Moreland, and Mike Penn-Strah (later Gini King) continued their ministry of support, prayer, and presence. In Youth and Young Adult Ministries, the Giv2 youth service program added a new chapter and provided

hundreds of hours of assistance to helping agencies, including a seventy-person-strong day alongside the Annual Meeting. Young people continued to acknowledge that they are “Thinking About Working for God for a Living,” with some speaking at the spring Youth Revival.

The Conference honored Nancy Carrington, President and CEO of the Connecticut Food Bank, with the Living Waters Award at the Annual Meeting in October. Crossroads Grants, made possible by a generous gift from First UCC in Bridgeport, helped small churches consider their future ministries. The Korean Partnership Committee has begun work preparing a sizable delegation to the Kyung-Ki Presbytery to celebrate the ecumenical partnership’s twentieth anniversary.

The Conference completed a full year of the *CTUCC This Month* clipping service and publication. In December, the last print issue of *ConnTact* arrived in mailboxes, to be replaced by a digital edition in the coming months. Each week the *Spirit Calendar* and *CTUCC This Week* came to email boxes, while others listened to *CTUCC ConferenceCast*. The weekly podcast’s 150th episode inspired a “Making Of” video which joined many others on the Conference’s YouTube channel (youtube.com/CTUCC). Conference Minister Kent Siladi plans to offer regular video reflections this year, and began with a Christmas message in mid-December.

As the year closed, Rev. Siladi had held a series of “Conversations with the Conference Minister” and begun a full review of the Conference’s ministries and priorities. Working with the Board of Directors, he hopes to express the Conference’s mission in a focused way by the end of summer. He offered these preliminary thoughts: “Being part of a faith community provides the opportunity to find friendship, encouragement, hope and support in a place where love abounds. The Conference is an extension of your local church ministry, enabling us to reach out in love to each other, and to those in need.”