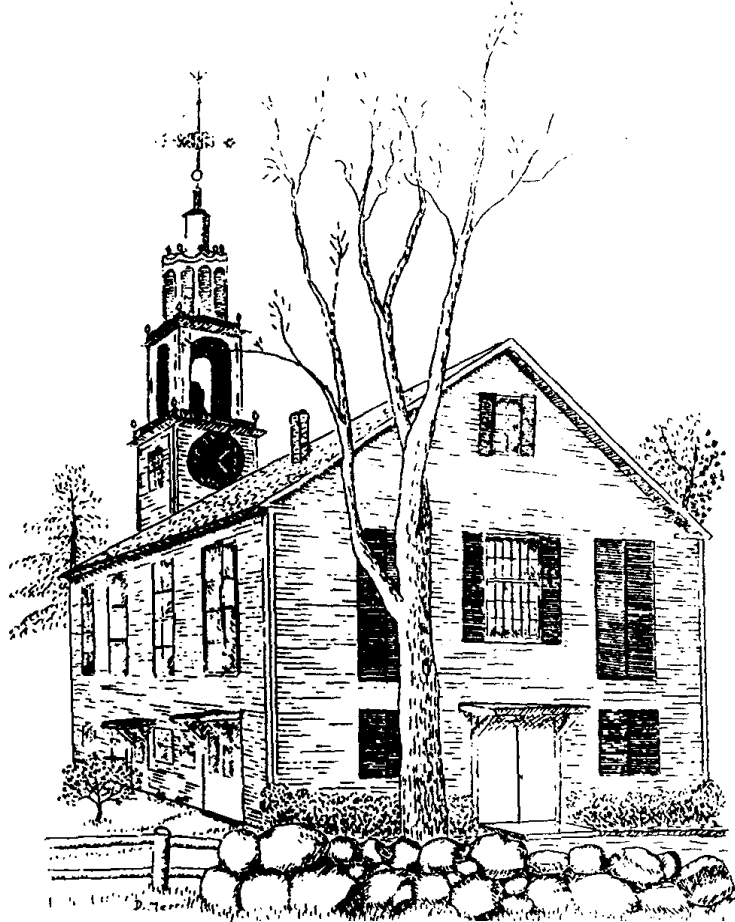


*First Parish
Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ
East Derry, New Hampshire*



Doris Merrill

*Annual Report
2019*

First Parish Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ,
is a community of faith
built upon a firm foundation of worship,
prayer and education.

In affirming diversity,
we are dedicated to welcoming all people who
seek the Word of God, Christian fellowship and
service to others.

In partnership with Christ and
led by the Holy Spirit,
we reach out to the
ever-widening community
through active and loving ministry.

“We affirm Christ’s call to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves. We therefore pledge ourselves to be open to and affirming of all people of every age, race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, socioeconomic status, family configuration, or cultural background. All who affirm the love of Christ in their lives are welcome into this community and to share fully in its life and ministry. We rejoice in the worth, gifts, and dignity of every person as a child of God.”

Table of Contents

Annual Meeting Call	4
First Parish Church Annual Meeting January 26, 2019 Minutes	5
Senior Pastor and Teacher	8
Music Director	10
Records Clerk.....	11
Church Council	12
Christian Education Director	13
Board of Christian Education	14
Board of Deacons	18
Board of Christian Outreach and Missions	19
Board of Facilities	20
Board of Personnel	21
Board of Stewardship	22
Building Advisory Committee	23
Historical Preservation Committee	25
Fundraising Committee	26
Memorial Welcoming Garden	27
Outdoor Ministry	27
Spaghetti Supper.....	28
75th Sugar Plum Fair	29
Nominating Committee	30
Financial: End of Year 2019 Statement of Income and Expense & 2020 Draft Budget.....	31
Financial: Our Investments at United Church Funds	35
Financial: Balance Sheet	37
Financial: Building Rehab Income and Expense Summary	38

ANNUAL MEETING CALL

TO THE MEMBERS OF FIRST PARISH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC:

**YOU ARE HEREBY CALLED TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CHURCH ON SUNDAY,
JANUARY 26, 2020 AT 11:30 AM FOR THE PURPOSE OF:**

1. Receiving the reports of Officers, Boards and Committees of First Parish Church as printed in the 2019 Annual Report.
2. Adopting a budget for the 2020 Fiscal year as proposed by the Church Council.
3. Electing persons to serve as members of Council, Boards and Committees as well as Officers of the Church.
4. Accepting the By-Law changes as proposed by Church Council.
5. Transacting any other business that may come before congregation.

Cynthia Gray
Clerk

First Parish Congregational Church, UCC
Annual Meeting 2019
January 27, 2019

The meeting began at 11:55 with 70 members present representing a quorum.

- I. **Call:** Linda Webber
- II. **Open:** Pastor Deborah Roof
- III. **Rules of Order:** Fred Merrill read rules of order
- IV. **Annual Report:** Motion Made by Sue Lindemann to accept annual report; second Jeff Slowick. Wendy Staggs inquired about financial reports. Becky provided her with the amended documents. Motion passes unanimously.
- V. **Beth Hunter:** Ministry of care consisting of eight members. Trying to revise and simplify requests for care. Forms available in the office to complete if you can sign up for a function – (i.e. cards, phone calls, home visits, etc.)
- VI. **Budget:** Motion to adopt the budget for the 2019 Fiscal year as proposed by the Church Council by Becky & second by Margie. Becky provided an overview of the current status of the budget. Had 3 meetings prior to annual meeting that were intended as informational. There is a surplus of > \$10,000 from 2018 and gets rolled into the 2019 budget.

Pledging of additional \$1,240 received. The new pledge amount is \$204,833. Represents a deficit. The number of pledges is down, but the average is up – around \$2,500.00 – significant increase. Fundraising group formed and presented estimated amount to come in. Council chose to low estimate. Expense side shows increase in 3% for staff and an added 5 hours for the administrative assistant. Medical & Dental insurance has increased. Request for sabbatical pulled for this year. Loan will convert to a mortgage for 20 years of principle and interest payment.

Mike Rounds: inquired about the \$10,000.00 - it should not be a separate line item.

If we pass a deficit budget, we do it in knowing we all have work to do with fundraising.

Kris Barker: supply preaching inquiry – Becky explained it is for substitute preaching.

Marge Palmer: Inquired about line-by-line overview. Becky indicates if you have questions please ask. Marge asked if all staff getting a raise. Becky states only the Pastor, Admin Support Person & CE Director, uncertain about organist.

Ann Engelhardt: makes a motion to remove raises, second by Cindy Pingree. Becky reviewed incremental raises 1% equates to \$1,500.

Mike Rounds: most important thing to do is to look at the balance sheet. He states there is nothing to increase revenue. Becky states we did increase the line item for fundraising by \$8,000.00.

Rachel Cobban: says it is hard not to get a raise. Feels we should think hard about cutting raises. Karen Wilson states we have pressure for money. She raised more than \$1,700 for 1 breakfast. We need to do something for those who work here. Cathy Zylinski states cost of living is 2.7%. Paula Robinson as a worker never gets a raise any more. Some can't financially give more.

Sharon Getz: states she is on a set income. We passed a deficit budget last year. We need to rely on God. Cost of living is going up. According to UCC salary should be at a certain level depending on size of Church.

Sue Lindemann: Sue points out a typo - increases show level funded – Becky to correct.

John Bartel: We increased the heating budget and feels we should keep the raises in.

Holly Gorgol: Worked for years at schools and never got a raise.

Kris Barker: Concurs with Holly; no raise in 2 years. She is now a furloughed worker. Feels we should eliminate the raises.

Diane Breeden: Works part-time and treated well. Should not be balancing the budget at the expense of our employees who work hard.

Margie Ives: In favor of the raise, going to be quite a year at FPC – staff will be working very hard with the 300th.

Mike Rounds : 3% is a cost of living adjustment not a raise.

Liz Greenberg: Requests we call a vote. The majority do not want to remove increases.

Budget as stands, majority approve and passes the budget with a deficit.

Nominating Committee: Karen Wilson welcomes all who volunteered. Still vacancies. Thank you to all who have stepped down. Karen makes a motion to accept the nominating report. Second by Ryan Lehoullier and all in favor.

New Business:

Marge Palmer:

Resolved: that this body acknowledge the service of those members who have served Christ and this church for not only this past tumultuous year but for many preceding years and that as we move forward we do not repeat the mistakes and hurts of the past.

Further: that the clerk or some other person designated by Council notify in writing on behalf of this membership those officers and members of boards and committees of this past year who are no longer performing those duties that we acknowledge by vote today their efforts, work, and service and pray that they will soon heal by either returning or identifying with another church.

Mr. Moderator, I move that the action described be performed within the next 30 days.

Second by Marilyn Ham and all in favor.

Closing: Pastor Deborah

Adjourned: 12:45

Senior Pastor and Teacher

We arrived at the 300th year of continuous service to God and to God's children and we made it an excellent anniversary year! God continues to be faithful to us at First Parish Congregational Church, UCC. There's a Christmas song "Mary, did you know?" that asks Mary if she had any idea who Jesus would become. We could write a similar rendition: "Rev. McGregor, did you know?" It might go something like this: did you know that your group of 16 families would dig down deep enough roots to last three centuries? Did you know that your unwavering vision of God's constant presence would still be an anchor for this church 300 years later? Did you know that the tenacity and courage of the people in your five tall ships would help this congregation to meet the overwhelming call to reach out near and far in mission and outreach – feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, helping the homeless – all the while teaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ and living into His vision of light and love in our modern world?

Rev. McGregor, you faced disease, you faced unfriendly neighbors and you faced the hardships of settling this rocky land. For three centuries, this church has faced down the demons of worldly greed and cultural pride while upholding Christian values and working toward a tangible peace that only Christ can give. In 2019 we suffered the loss of many friends. There are those who went home to God and there are those who have found God's presence in other churches. We have also gained new friends and families with young children who want to raise their children knowing the uncompromising love of God through a Savior that does not withhold love and acceptance from any of God's children.

In 2019, our 300th year, we lived into the words of Jesus Christ speaking of the little children, saying 'bring them unto me', as we instituted our playground during worship. Our children are invited to come right down front to an area that is set up just for them – where they can quietly be busy during the beginning of our worship service. This is a prime example of ONA – creating a welcoming space for God's little ones.

During the regular morning worship on Founder's Day Sunday we were so very thrilled to receive back to our church five former pastors, who co-celebrated communion with me. Each one shared a thought and a blessing with us. It was so sacred. In the afternoon, we hosted an ecumenical service where 19 neighboring religious leaders participated. Such a joyous celebration! And in October we received 9 guests from the Aghadowey Rural Kinship! What a joy to meet our Irish cousins! It took 300 years but we made connections and it won't be too long before we form relationships built upon our shared history.

The labyrinth has been very meaningful this year. This circuitous path is such a metaphor for life and for church. We come and go; we participate and grow; we get turned around and go back in the same direction we walked before. And through it all, we do it with God before and God behind us; with the Spirit of love on our right and on our left; with the Light of Christ above us and below us. Thanks be to God for 300 years!

I'd like to share with you some of the highlights of 2019 for me, in addition to the work that I do to prepare for a meaningful worship service every week. We gathered for "Wonder Wednesday" many months. It is a celebratory time of sharing and praying once a month on Wednesday evening. We **wonder** together about God's presence in sacred scripture, in music and in our lives. My wife, Liz and I attended the Labor Day UCC weekend on Star Island. I presided at the Sunday morning worship service. More and more folks from First Parish attend this sacred event. Liz and I were co-presenters for the NH Conference Women's Annual Retreat at Camp Sentinel. More than a dozen women from First Parish attended. It was a divine weekend. Tuesday evening adult Faith Formation has been a joy – as always! We made it a true "Bible Study" by reading the book of Acts, as well as several of Paul's epistles. I continue to be a presence in the greater community on behalf of First Parish, by participating in ecumenical worship services at other churches (Hampstead's annual service for the victims of addiction and Londonderry Presbyterian's 300th celebration), as well as working with the staff at Parkland Hospital as they seek ways to implement a Spiritual Care component to their healing process. I have

attended several meetings of the newly formed group of not-for-profits, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. I continue to attend meetings of the church whenever possible and heartily pray for everyone who donates their time in service to First Parish. I have increased my efforts to meet with people one on one. Instead of waiting to be invited, I am inviting people to meet with me. Building relationship is so crucial to our Christian Faith formation.

Of course, a big decision for me this year was to delay my Sabbatical one more time. My Call Agreement states that I was eligible for a three-month Sabbatical in 2019. We decided to postpone. Then I wrote a Lilly grant which is a sizable amount of money (up to \$50,000 total) for 2020. I did not receive it but when I received feedback, I learned why I hadn't and I learned that many people try again. After a great deal of prayer and discernment, I decided to try again – delaying one more year. This time, I started early (December) talking to the congregation about articulating a dream for this 2021 Sabbatical. The wonderful thing about writing a grant is that the process of articulating a dream gives focus and meaning – regardless of whether you receive it or not!

God declares in Jeremiah 29:11: “For surely I know the plans I have for you, ... , plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” In 2020, let us be guided by faith steeped in hope and good will for all God's creation, trusting the God has plans for us.

In the name of the One who calls us, forgives us and loves us always,
Pastor Deborah

Music Director

I am honored to be serving as First Parish's Music Director and Organist. My goal as Music Director is to continue to grow the choir in numbers as well as vocal technique and repertoire. I thank Debbie Gline Allen for her work during her interim year as she led the congregation in song and increased the musical styles introduced during her time as interim Music Director.

The Choir continues to welcome new members (from high school age on up) who love singing and can "carry a tune". The anthems we are singing are in four part harmony and the choir is getting stronger in their ability to learn these pieces. We have added singing an offertory hymn as well as prayer responses. Our Choir numbers have continued to grow during the past few months which helps to strengthen our sound during our special music anthems. They continue to lead the congregation in hymn singing and have added a few new pieces to our Sunday services.

The Choir continues to uphold and represent their mission statement created last year. That singing is an expression of the love of God and that singing is "praying twice" as well as many other statements. We are continuing the practice that Debbie Allen introduced during her tenure. We are teaching songs to the children for a short period of time each week during Sunday School. They sang their debut piece, "One Little Star" at the Christmas Eve service as well as our first Sunday back in the new year. The children love to sing as a large group, I believe the "fear of singing in front of people" dissolves with the strength in numbers.

I am very thankful for all the musicians that have helped over the summer months as well as during the holiday season: Benjamin Allen, Dani Allen, Debbie Gline Allen, Shellie Asseltine, Katie Herron, Peter Diodati, Grace Hurni, Fay Chary and Jim Stewart. I am grateful for the Choir who lovingly sing most every week as well as during the Christmas season: Chris Cox, Eileen Cox, Katie Cobban, Bill Armstrong, Jim Stewart, Fay Chary, Kathy Davis, Beth Hunter, Deanna Butler, Liz Greenberg and our newest member, Melanie Pawl. With the resignation of Ken Williams, I thank Chris Cox for stepping in as interim Hand Chimes Director. She did a wonderful job directing the "Carol of the Bells" as well as accompanying the Choir with "O Holy Night" during the Christmas Eve service.

The Music Committee has yet to convene but we will meet soon in 2020. I would love to grow a working group of people that would assist me, the Deacons and Pastor Deborah in supporting and maintaining the music ministry of this church.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan L. Virga

Records Clerk

Statistics as of Annual Meeting January 27, 2019:

Membership numbers:

Active Members: 283
Assoc. Members: 9
Total Members: 292

2019 Additions: 6

11/10 Affirmation of baptism: Jack Martin, Lori Davis;

Transfer by letter:

Marty and Kathy Davis, from Dorranceton United Methodist Church (Kingston, PA)
Stephanie and Jonathan Berg, from The Community Church (Pepperell, MA)

2019 Losses:

Loss by death: 2

Alice Coller (10/8/19) Service scheduled for July 18, 2020

Kenneth Gould (11/23/19) Service scheduled for March 7, 2020 at Pilgrim UCC, Brentwood/Kingston

Losses: 10 (Transfer or by Request or unknown address):

Mike Dubisz – by request (2/19)

Fred and Carol Bates - by request (2/14/19)

Marie Greene - transfer to First Congregational Nashua (3/27/19)

Kathryn Bell - transfer to First Congregational Nashua (3/27/19)

Kathy Waller - transfer to Hampstead Congregational Church UCC (7/11/19)

Gloria Bingel - transfer to Longmeadow Congregational Church UCC, Auburn (12/6)

Joan Crimlisk - transfer to Atkinson Congregational Church UCC (12/18)

Harry and Sue Handy - transfer to Longmeadow Congregational Church UCC, Auburn (12/18)

Statistics as of Annual Meeting January, 2020:

Membership numbers:

Active Members: 278
Assoc. Members: 8
Total Members: 286

Other:

Baptisms:

6/16 Sabastian Liam Dion, son of Stacy Sullivan Dion

8/4 Ariana Marie Thiel and Everleigh Grace Thiel; children of Leanna and Joshua Everleigh

9/15 Gavin Christopher McDonald: son of Holly and Jordan McDonald

11/10 Rosalie Grace David, daughter of Greg and Jamie David; and Jack Martin

Wedding:

August 10 in western NYS: Kate Frenz and Corey Pickens

Funerals of non-members, officiated by Pastor Deborah:

Elaine Barker 8/21 in Greenland, NH (died 8/14/19)

Shirley Danson Memorial 11/9 (died 10/30/19)

Mary Giroux Service of Remembrance Oct 19 (died 6/28/19)

Vellma Ann Allen Service 12/7 (died 11/6/19)

Submitted by Barbara William

Church Council

The Church Council had an eventful year celebrating the 300th Anniversary of our founding and the ensuing events that went with it. We saw a return of some of our former pastors, visitors from Ireland, dinners, speeches and the tireless work of the Friends of the Meetinghouse. We wish to thank all of you who contributed in some way. Seeing the steeple return, bright and shining with its new gold plate which can be seen for miles and miles reminds us the place we remain in the greater Nutfield community.

In the spring we convened the Task Force and eventually passed a new covenant to help unite and reunite our church family. During this time the Bylaws committee began their work which can be arduous and contemplative to produce a document that really speaks to our church and its workings. This rendition is ready to be unveiled in the New Year.

Personnel rewrote much of the employee handbook and worked on job descriptions. At this same time they evaluated the Music Director position and were fortunate to find someone who felt she could be both choir director and organist.

Founders Weekend, held April 13th, was a great success. Friends of the Meetinghouse continue to work to get us back into our beloved sanctuary and the Fundraising committee has steadily contributed to this cause.

In September we worked on concerns surrounding Safe Church including shooter contingency plans. It has been identified as a certain need which needs addressing in the very near future. Early fall also had Council saying good bye to our faithful servant, John Bartel, as he moved to sunny Florida.

We have supported three Members in Discernment during this year and will continue to work in concert with them to achieve their goals. Prayground was introduced to us in the fall and has proven to be quite successful getting young families visiting our church services.

The Fundraising Committee organized events across the spectrum-Dining for Dollars, Brick Sales, Sugarplum Fairs, Mothers Day breakfast, Vendor Bingo and Santa Breakfast to name a few.

November brought the sad news of the passing of our long time member, Ken Gould. His death touched the hearts of our entire congregation.

Lastly, but not least, is the pressing oversight of our budget with its many concerns. As we look to 2020 we will continue to seek solutions for our financial problems and hope to find a path to our sanctuary.

We thank everyone for their support this last year and pray for a prosperous and healthy 2020.

Submitted by Cyndi Gray

Christian Education Director

Dear First Parish Church Family,

2019 has certainly brought a whirlwind of excitement and flurry of activity! As a person of faith, I often remind myself that the good Lord does not give us more than we can handle. Then there are golden moments when I get to teach, few and far between, and I get wonderful questions from the kids such as, “Is God a man or a woman?” And another student rebuts, “I think God is everywhere, in everything.” Wow! I guess our team is even more amazing than I give them credit for. I think this first grader might just be a preacher one day! So, even on those days when you see me running around like the energizer bunny, I’d do it all again and again and again until my batteries run out. The students, of all ages mind you, at First Parish Congregational Church are worth a herd of energizer bunnies! This is truly a labor of love, one that called to me as a whisper and now is teaching me some of life’s most valuable lessons (like slow down!).

I have finalized all of my requirements for my Christian Education Certificate, although do still plan on taking continuing education courses, and plan to receive my certificate in a few months. I am a new member of the Association of United Church Educators and it is my goal to start the first Community of Practice group for Church Educators in our area of Southern New Hampshire. As of recently, the only group that I’ve been able to attend has been 40 minutes away in Massachusetts. I continue to serve as Nutfield Cooperative School’s FPC liaison and The Kindness Rocks Project Kindness Ambassador.

I thank Pastor Deborah for her support and Debbie Allen for her instrumental guidance in aiding in the presentation of the Prayground idea to the leaders of the First Parish Church Congregation. The Christian Education Board was also incredibly supportive and key to the structure, function and operation discussions surrounding the Prayground. It remains quite a favorable area for families to gather during worship and has brought many benefits to the families, children and hopefully most all members. We will continue to strive toward a smoother and more organized set-up and break-down and I will always remain open to the sensitivities of others. Teamwork makes the dream work.

I feel a new sense of growth and purpose this year having 3 years from which I have had the opportunity to learn and grow from so many valuable experiences and so many different persons, including the children. Kids really do say the darndest things! I feel humbled and so very loved. God’s presence is all around us if only we choose to see. I am a work in progress and only pray that God will let his love shine through the work that I do, even on those not so fantastic days.

Christine Lehoullier
Christian Education Director

Christian Education Board

Our Christian Education Ministry continues to be an integral part of First Parish Congregational Church, especially through its programs that teach and enrich our children. It is because of the support and guidance of the Board of Christian Education, the Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof, and the active participation of our youth and their families, that our ministry is strong and engaging.

In 2019, the Board was led by Anne Marie Merrill in partnership with Christian Education Director, Christine Lehoullier, and members, Chris Cox, Holly Gorgol, Paula Robinson, Youth Representative, Jaime Robinson, Laura Sullivan, and Edward Sullivan. We meet every month with the occasional emergent exception and hold an off-site meeting once a year to build fellowship and discuss long range planning within the Christian Education ministry.

Our volunteer teachers and helpers are at the heart of our school. Our delightful teachers and helper elves for the year of 2019 include Kathryn Cobban (Elementary & One Room School House as necessary) , Chris Cox (High School & Middle School/Older Elementary School, Superintendent Substitute), Paula Robinson (Nursery), Beth Nelson (Nursery), Anne Marie Merrill & Holly Gorgol (High School as needed starting September 2019, Superintendent substitutes, All classroom substitutes) Jaime Robinson, Jennifer Robinson, Steven Cox, Heather Richardson, Heather Paradzick, Ethan Forbush, Nina Paradzick, Natalie Paradzick and Courtney DesRoches.

R.E.A.C.H.

We had a very busy year in 2019 with lots of various changes. In January, in lieu of our annual City Reach trip, it was brought to the board and voted to support sponsoring Jaime with her Girl Scout Gold Award Project that would serve the community. The R.E.A.C.H. (Respect, Encourage, Assist, Care, Hope) project took off as way to serve Derry's local housing insecure and really anyone in need in our community. Once the decision was made to emulate the Boston City Reach drive, Jaime began to reach out to people for donations, including the generous help and donations from the Missions Board. A wonderful Talent Show was arranged to raise funds for the event as well. Next, a location was secured for the donations to be made available for those in need, and to advertise the date items would be available for people to "shop" for what they need. On the Saturday of Labor Day weekend, everything was arranged at the Marion Gerrish Community Center in Derry. The R.E.A.C.H. Team not only gave out clothing, school supplies, and other goods, they also provided bag lunches to those who came. While there may not have been lines wrapped around the building, many were helped that day and tears of gratitude were shed. We all look forward to continuing this project annually in the future and as they say about Gold Award Girl Scouts: "We don't just change the world for the better, we change it for good."

Youth Group

The Tri-Church youth group meetings starting January 6th and rotating from church to church, Atkinson, Hampstead and Derry, were quite successful and the kids really took ownership of this and enjoyed many various activities together from January-May including a trip to the Etz Hayim Synagogue for a model interfaith Seder and creating cheerful creations for Meals on Wheels. Unfortunately, after summer break, The Atkinson Church no longer had a Christian Education Director and consequently no youth program director to help coordinate events. In addition, numbers began to dwindle amongst these age ranges in both First Parish and Hampstead's churches. The sunny side was that we had a growing older elementary/middle school population that could really use their own Sunday School class and possible Youth Group of their very own! And so, beginning in October was the start of our new younger Youth Group!

Educational Programs

From January to June the elementary – older elementary students', averaging 12 students, curriculum was 'The Whole People of God' Online which is a simple, easy-to-use, online Lectionary-based Sunday school

curriculum. It includes weekly age-level lessons as well as worship resources for leaders. WPOG is priced especially for small churches - one license grants your church access to ALL of the age-level and worship materials. The high school class, averaging at 5 students per week, continued to utilize a revised common lectionary approach along with Anne Robertson's "What is the Bible" series. Nursery students averaged 3 per week.

Students journeyed through Lent by helping to add pieces to our Lenten banner each week as a reminder that every day we are learning and growing in God. Each week a piece was added to "grow" a Lenten grape vine. It helped us ask the important question, "Are we growing in the way God wants us to grow?" The grape grower prepares the soil and makes a trellis. The vines are "trained" to grow along the trellis, making the plant healthy and strong. On the trellis the leaves will get lots of sunlight and there will be room for the fruit. We pray and bless the students that come into our classrooms every week that we teach them well to bear the fruits of the spirit!

As summer approached, the entire congregation, including the Sunday School students and teachers, held a sensory appropriate fire drill. Everyone followed instructions wonderfully, were safely lined up and out of the building in record time. The summer One Room School, starting in June, averaged 10 students. The students enjoyed tending to the Church garden for the second year. This year we planted butternut squash to be served at the annual Harvest Supper and mixed greens that would be harvested regularly throughout the summer to be used for Spaghetti Suppers, donated to Sonshine Soup Kitchen and also had the opportunity to donate to other local food pantries due to the abundance! Children learned more hands on lessons, we got crafty with nature making rubbings and were grateful to simply enjoy God's outdoor splendor!

In September the entire congregation began our adventure into the Narrative Lectionary and the younger students starting using Bloom in Faith.com as their curriculum, an easily adaptable resource for congregations following the Narrative Lectionary that focuses on helping students connect with God and each other. In fact, on the very first official day of our Sunday School year, in honor of the lesson of Creation, we had the children brainstorm after the lesson how they would like to "create" a new look for their learning space downstairs and we did our best to accommodate those requests which seemed to be a big hit. We even had a student inspire and create the bulletin board outside of the classroom as well! Blessing of the backpacks and teachers bags were also done this month with all students and teachers receiving a blessed tag to place on their bag. We rarely had a high school class, but when we did, it averaged 5 students. Students in the elementary class averaged 16 and students in the new older elementary/middle school class averaged 6. Nursery students average 1 per week. The newly welcomed Prayground found in the front of the Church during service has been well received by many and has brought many children and families consistently together. We love how it allows the children to experience church in such a welcoming and eye-opening new way. So many of them are noticing and asking many more questions about the service traditions themselves and what the meanings are behind them! Why do we light those candles? Why does everyone have a snack sometimes during church (communion)? We all get to share in these discussions together as a group and with their parents. Many children have gotten to get to know each other better this way as well and have opened up more in Sunday School. These friendships have been a beautiful thing to see blossom amongst the children.

Due to high volume of new students and outgoing students, parents were polled to see which students needed a bible. Bible presentations were conducted at the beginning of the school year with 2 year old and younger receiving the Toddler Bible, Pre-Schoolers – Kindergarteners receiving the Early Readers Bible, 1st Graders – 3rd Graders receiving the Spark Bibles and 4th grade and up receiving the Middle school Bibles (with a few receiving both the Spark Bible and Middle school Bible who didn't already have them). Pastor Deborah personally signs each and every bible which was very special for the students.

Vacation Church Camp

Vacation Church Camp, formally known as Vacation Church School, has been renamed because in the summer, school is out of session! Vacation Church Camp is the Church transformed into a magical new place where kids get to experience bible stories, God, and their friend Jesus in new adventurous ways they never have before surrounded by friends, sometimes new and sometimes familiar, in a safe loving environment. This year's

theme was ‘To Mars and Beyond,’ and boy did we have a blast providing the kids with an out-of-this-world experience! This was our first year providing a puppet theater story time and it was a big hit! With these stories, we all learned how heroes of the bible go beyond with faith, boldness, kindness, thankfulness and hope. We also had an amazing amount of science, technology, engineering, recreation and art activities that the kids truly enjoyed including making rockets, robots, salt art, and an outer space obstacle course. All of our activities related to the power launcher theme of the day and directly related to the vector verse all the kids memorized during the week: ”Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us! – Ephesians 3:20”

It truly takes a great big-hearted, hard-working, fun-loving and patient team to give the kids the experience of a lifetime year after year and we had a blast doing it! Our group of students has grown bigger over the past three years with this year’s group reaching a total of 18 kids! Traditionally, campers were invited were invited to donate school supplies for schools in need as well as any items for the REACH project. Children made special ‘blessing bags’ to be distributed to those in need during the R.E.A.C.H. event as well. A great big thanks to all our volunteers who help set up and clean up the décor as well as the counselors: Anne Marie Merrill, Connie Cox, Chris Cox, Anne Engelhardt, Rachel Cobban, Jaime Robinson, Jennifer Robinson, Steven Cox, Ryan Lehoullier, Eileen Cox, Paula Robinson, Mikayla Henrick & Friend.

Adult Faith Formation

The Christian Education Board is proud to support the Education of all ages of its students. We’ve supported many educational opportunities this year including attendance of adult students and Christian Education Board members to the NHCUCC Prepared to Serve Conference that offers many varied workshops. The CE Board has supported a member fly to Atlanta with two other members to attend an Come and See, Atlanta, Georgia, Ecclesia Ministries Mission, Church of the Common Ground which proved to be an inspiring trip for all who attended! Thank you to Ecclesia Ministries Missions for sponsoring the majority of the trip and for CE/Missions in help with the remainder!

Adult Faith Formation classes, averaging 10 students per class, led by the Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof with substitutions made by Diana Sweeney, Beth Hunter and Christine Lehoullier, included the Book of Acts in the winter season, Letters of Paul in the spring, Holy Envy by Barbara Brown Taylor in the early summer and Romans starting in September. The goal of adult faith formation classes is to provide safe opportunities for continued formation to occur. Whatever stage in life you are in we want to support you as you grow in knowledge and love of God and his family.

Founder’s Weekend, Derryfest, Downtown Derry Trick or Treat

The Board of Christian Education was proud to help out First Parish Congregation at other various events throughout the year as well including the Founder’s Weekend in April, Derryfest in September and Derry’s Downtown Trick or Treat in October.

During Founder’s Weekend, the CE Board had the pleasure of providing fun crafts and activities for kids with true Scots-Irish heritage in mind. The kids had their choice of making their very own bagpipes out of party blowers and zip lock bags, Scots-Irish Tartan craft, practice their looming skills on a giant loom or learn some interesting and fun Scots-Irish facts. Derryfest proved a very potato-tastic endeavor! In honoring the 300th anniversary of Nutfield, Christian Education set up a craft station at the First Parish Congregational Church Information Booth. Children and families were invited to join us in creating their very own potato pet or person while parents and family perused our resources! Derry’s Downtown Trick or Treat was a fantastic way to get to know many families that live in and around Derry. We were able to get the word out to, quite literally, hundreds of people about upcoming events at the Church all while dressed in costume and handing out candy donated by so many of our kind members!

Advent Workshop and Christmas Pageant

The Advent Workshop was a delight this year with a new star of the show stealing the spotlight, the Christmas swag! The Merrill’s (and helpers) truly showed us how to create some fantastic holiday masterpieces

and we thank them and everyone who donated greens from their gardens this year to make them so full of color! From our wonderful traditional German paper stars and modern advent wreaths to chocolate dipped pretzels and 5-minute fleece hats, there really was an activity for everyone. It was a festive day for all and a day that could not have happened with the help of the entire village! Thank you all!

During the Advent Season, we will often bring the classrooms together to enjoy time together, not only to practice for the pageant and singing carols together, but to enjoy fun crafts and games together. Miss Katie made it a very special Christmas story-telling season. We thank God for Miss Katie and all of our special helpers that made the season jolly and the pageant especially joyous, angelic and bright this season! A special shout out to Joan Virga our Choir Director for the Musical inspiration and hard work and to Chris Cox, Holly Gorgol, Jaime Robinson, Jennifer Robinson, Paula Robinson, and all our other little helpers (you know who you are) without whom this wouldn't have been possible!

Board of Christian Education Goals for 2020

- Continue implementation of R.E.A.C.H. program in conjunction with Missions Board
- Create more opportunities for families to get to know each other
- Restructure Christian Education supplies & John Conference room
- Build fellowship among ourselves and other boards
- Increase Vacation Church School registration by 10%
- Have a primary and alternate volunteer for classrooms
- Continue to reach out to increase our FPC connection with the Greater Derry Community, local churches and beyond.

Sincerely,
Christian Education Board.

Board of Deacons

The Diaconate Board is charged with the spiritual life of the church in cooperation with the minister. Responsibilities include preparing the sanctuary for worship, decorating seasonally, coordinating ushers, greeters and acolytes, lay reading, communion preparation, serving communion and clean-up. Assisting at weddings, funerals, baptisms, and welcoming visitors are other responsibilities. Deacons keep in touch with members through the caregiver program. Deacons are also liaisons to other church committees.

We thank Diane Dunn, Ryan Lehoullier, and Joanne Worthen as they will be stepping down now that their terms are finished. The Board is grateful to Rachel Cobban and Brian Williams for joining us this past year. The Board is also grateful to Carol Bates and Cindy Pingree for their contributions earlier in the past year.

In 2019 our place of worship has been in Currier Hall while the old “meeting house” is being rehabilitated. We are thankful for Diane Breeden for all of her work and creativity decorating our sanctuary. The Diaconate has successfully created a meaningful worship space out of a general meeting hall. We are thankful for all of the people who have helped make our worship special this year. We are thankful to all of our greeters, ushers and acolytes.

The Deacons are appreciative of our Pastor and Teacher, the Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof. She has continued to teach us and guide us in our faith. She has challenged us to be welcoming and open to new possibilities. The Wonder Wednesday services have been gratefully appreciated.

The Deacons appreciate all the work put in to make memorable the Lenten, Easter, Advent, and 7:00 pm Christmas Services this year. We appreciate the wonderful job that Christine Lehoullier and the CE board did at the 4:00 pm Christmas pageant.

We offer regular and gluten free communion and continue to have the children participate with their families. We now serve communion to the congregation in their seats.

This year we explored new creative worship methods on Fabulous Fifth Sundays. Any month that has a fifth Sunday, the Diaconate and Pastor Deborah have tried something new - like facing a different direction (March), Prayground trial (June), and “Throwback” to the service format of the past (September). The Diaconate formalized the “Ministry of Care” team that helps us maintain contact with all members and help provide other Christian outreach. This fall the Prayground initiated as part of our weekly service.

As always please talk to anyone on the Board of Deacons to let us know what you like about the worship service, what you might like to see added, and any issues you have. We truly would appreciate your input.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Breeden, Rachel Cobban, Diane Dunn, Ryan Lehoullier, Sue Lindemann, Brian Williams, and Joanne Worthen

Board of Christian Outreach and Missions

We are a blessed community and we have been able to bless many people locally, nationally and internationally. The Mission Board would not have been able to do all we have done without your gifts. **WE WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT THIS YEAR.**

As a board our job is to manage the funds designated for mission and to keep the congregation informed about how the funds are used. We have a monthly Mission Moment during worship and put articles in FPC monthly newsletter.

We meet the 3rd Monday night at 6:00. We encourage you to attend our meetings if you have questions or know of an organization or special situation that could use help.

Monthly we give \$100 to the following local non-profits:

- Family Promise of Nashua
- Pinkerton Homeless
- Sonshine Soup Kitchen
- The Derry Friendship Center
- First Baptist Food Pantry
- The Upper Room
- Community Caregivers
- Pastoral Counseling

We also give **\$200 per month to the Pastors Discretionary Fund** that allows Pastor Deborah to help members of our church who may need financial help or someone who may stop by looking for help. She has gas cards and grocery cards and can help with heat etc. if they have a bill that needs to be paid. She does not just give cash.

Monthly we give **\$350 to the New Hampshire UCC**. These funds help support our state organization and local churches in need. It also supports Our Churches Wider Missions around the world.

During the year we have helped with onetime gifts:

- **Scholarships** for members of our congregation who would like to attend UCC events, but cannot afford the cost
- We gave \$500 to **Health Access Sumbabwe**, a mission that is working to improve the lives of the people on a small island in Eastern Indonesia thru eliminating malaria, teaching them health practices and showing them how to garden.
- We gave \$250 to **Isaiah 58** a program that helps the homeless find housing.
- With a gift of \$1200 we helped the University Library in our sister community in Zimbabwe install solar panels.
- A local organization called **Click Cancer** received a gift of \$250. They help local families that have financial challenges due to a family member with cancer.
- Jaime Robinson, a member of FPC, started a program called **REACH** that helps the homeless with clothing and health supplies. We gave her \$300.
- We collect food and clothing items for **Liberty House** in Manchester. An organization the helps our Veterans. We also collect food items for the **Upper Room food pantry and the First Baptist food pantry**

The National UCC has 4 special offerings that we give to. These are collected at different times during the year: **One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors in Need, Strengthen the Church and the Christmas Offering. At Thanksgiving we gave food baskets to 20 families. For Christmas we gave about 120 gifts to 24 local families.**

Your Mission Board- Beth Hunter, Melanie Pawl, Bart Wetherbee, Karen Wilson, Kathy Holland, Sue Brown

Board of Facilities

Another busy year for your First Parish Facilities Board! Below is a list of projects completed in 2019.

- Carrier
 - Replaced Nutfield Sidewalk
 - Lower Level Emergency Lights – battery replaced
 - Replaced heat / AC registers – Carrier Hall
 - Added Heat Shield under Kitchen Stove
 - New Water Cooler installed

- Meetinghouse / MacGregor
 - Weatherproofed abandoned fire door
 - Sign lights & Timer replaced – Larry K.
 - Rewired & Installed Tower Lighting – Larry K.
 - Provided stepladder for tower electric work

- Miscellaneous
 - Many light fixtures upgraded w/ LEDs
 - New Lawn Mowing contractor selected – Trophy Lawns
 - New Cleaning Contractor selected - Servpro
 - Clean Noyes / Carrier gutters
 - Add handicap parking spaces w/ regulation signs / markings
 - Major Shed cleaning
 - Cleared underbrush around playground
 - 2019 Flood damage claim negotiated & closed

With the help of occasional volunteers, we were able to accomplish these tasks, large and small, and others too numerous to list. We are always grateful for the volunteers who give up their “free” time to work on Facility projects.

Special thanks to FPC Facilities Maintenance: Dave Breeden, and Special Projects: Larry Krantz, Bill Mann, Paul Lindeman, and Jack Martin

Extra Special thanks goes out to Michelle Guerin, who is always willing and able to help coordinate and be the “eyes and ears” of the Facilities Board.

As always, if you see anything that needs attention around the Facility please contact one of our members for the Boards’ consideration and action.

Respectfully submitted,

Your Facilities Board: Bill Armstrong, Pat Cefaly, Dee Deranian, Alan Pawl and Bob Wilson

Board of Personnel -Annual Report 2019

The Personnel Board started this year updating job descriptions and hiring a new Choir Director/Organist. We welcomed Randy Brown as a new member of the Personnel Board.

Accomplishments:

- Updated Personnel By-Laws
- Recommendations given to the budget committee for salary and compensation packages.
- Job Descriptions reviewed and updated.
- Reviewed safety/technology needs for the office.

New Hire - We are blessed to have Joan Virga join our staff this year as the new Choir Director/Organist. She has been a wonderful addition to a very highly functioning team! We give thanks for our interim Choir Director, Debbie Gline Allen and the numerous musicians who supported the church during this transition.

We are thankful for Michelle Guerrin, our administrative assistant for her continued work with Liz Greenberg supporting our many fund-raising events. We also appreciate the time she spent researching copier machines for us. She was able to find a new copier that not only met our needs but also resulted in significant savings.

Goals for 2020:

- Complete the Employee Handbook
- Continue reviewing Safety and technology needs for the office/staff.
- Review the Data System -REALM to determine how the system is working for the church.

We thank our staff for their dedication and support.

Respectfully submitted by,
Cathy Zylinski, Carol Guerrin, Randy Brown

Board of Stewardship – Annual Report 2019

We thank every person who gave their time, talent and treasure to the ministry of First Parish Church. We honor our worship services, music and Christian Education Ministry.

There were wonderful programs to celebrate our 300 years with guests from Northern Ireland. Mission reached out to community service agencies; including the Sunshine Soup Kitchen. There were monthly spaghetti dinners and fellowship over coffee after the Church Service.

The pledge drive was done with an open invitation during church, followed up with mailings and some phone calls.

As of Sunday, January 5, 2020 we have the following:

67 pledging units

General Fund = \$197,913

Mission = \$11,448

Historical Preservation = \$860

Rehabilitation = \$4,824

Elevator = \$3,300

Thank you to Eileen Cox for writing your gracious handwritten ‘Thank You’ notes.

Thank you to all the members and friends of the congregation for showing the abundance God gifts to us!

We are happy to have participated in this process for many years.

Margie Ives, Joyce Pope

Building Advisory Committee (BAC) – Annual Report 2019

The Building Advisory Committee is an ad hoc committee formed by Council in 2011, with the responsibility of planning and managing the historic preservation efforts on the 1769 Meetinghouse at First Parish. This includes the rehabilitation of the Meetinghouse following preservation best practices and guidelines, and the development of the Accessibility Connector to make the Meetinghouse—and the whole church facility—fully available to the entire community.

2019 saw the completion of a major milestone in the multi-year effort, finishing the rehabilitation and restoration of the Tower and Steeple.

The Steeple had been in horrible condition and 95% of it ended up being rebuilt, a long process. Primary contractor Arron Sturgis and his Preservation Timber Framing (PTF) crew performed the following activities:

- lowered the deteriorated steeple in September of 2015;
- dismantled, inventoried, and transported the parts to Nottingham, NH for storage in January 2016;
- reassessed the necessary work and cost in May of 2017;
- began recreating the structure and trim in August 2018;
- returned the rebuilt components to East Derry in November 2018;
- largely completed the Steeple in time for its unveiling at the Nutfield 300th Founders Weekend in April 2019; and
- successfully lifted the reconstructed steeple back onto the Tower in June 2019.
- September of 2015 — lowered the deteriorated steeple;
- January 2016 — dismantled, inventoried, and transported the parts to Nottingham, NH for storage;
- May 2017 — reassessed the necessary work and cost;
- August 2018 — began recreating the structure and trim in Nottingham;
- November 2018 — returned the rebuilt components and set up a shop in East Derry;
- April 2019 — largely completed the Steeple in time for its unveiling at the Nutfield 300th Founders Weekend; and
- June 2019 — successfully lifted the reconstructed steeple back onto the Tower

The circa-1880 Weathervane was also refinished and beautifully recovered with new gold leaf by The Chester Gilder, Alexandra Hadik.

For the Tower, its structural work was largely completed in 2018, including the dramatic insertion of two of its 14” x 14” X 60’ tall corner posts. Finishing work proceeded in 2019 after the replacement of the Steeple, including completion of trim and other details, extensive repair and reflashing of the Clock Faces, and lead paint remediation and repainting.

PTF wrapped up this work and moved out of the Meetinghouse in September 2019. Volunteer Larry Krantz then did electrical wiring and lighting work, including the beautiful illumination of the Belfry enjoyed by all passersby. In November 2019, local experts Pesaturo Painting & Renovations cleaned and painted the Meetinghouse’s lower clapboards and water table trim, which had been installed and primed in 2016. Also in November, we developed plans for restoring the time keeping and hourly bell ringing functions of Tower Clock with craftsman Phil D’Avanza; we expect to do this work in 2020.

In addition to finishing the Tower and Steeple in 2019, in 2016 we had completed the new Meetinghouse foundation, repaired the sill beams and lower timber frame throughout, and constructed the elevator shaft and building shell for the Accessibility Connector.

This leaves rehabilitation of all of the Meetinghouse Interiors and Roof, and completion of the Accessibility Connector.

For 2020, the BAC is focused on the rehab of the Sanctuary (second floor of the Meetinghouse) and Narthex (entrance and stairways), and completion of the Accessibility Connector. Work on the latter resumed in September 2019, with a productive planning meeting with provider Stanley Elevator. Planning work on the

Sanctuary ramped up as the year ended, guided by a July 2018 analysis by historic interiors experts Sutherland Conservation and Consulting.

The historic preservation work so far has cost about \$1.6M. The remaining work is expected to cost roughly another \$1M. The BAC continues to work with the NH LCHIP organization and other grant providers, and actively supports the fundraising efforts of the Friends of the Meetinghouse and the FPC congregation.

The BAC's work is challenging but extremely gratifying—with results that will last for another century—and additional BAC members are always welcome.

Respectfully submitted by the BAC: Larry Krantz, Paul Lindemann, Bill Mann, Nancy Murdock and Bob Wilson

Historical Preservation Committee – Annual Report 2019

Historical Preservation Committee 2019 report:

- Appointed committee members: Nancy Heywood, Paul Lindemann, Janet Wetherbee.
- Committee volunteers: Ginny True.
- Archives project volunteers: Marilyn Ham, Barbara Heywood, Sue Lindemann, Laura Newell, Ginny True, Sue Weaver, Wendy Williams
- Founders Weekend volunteers: Brian Williams, Sue Lindemann, Ufuk Cav, Laura Newell, Connie Cox, Alan Cox, Ken Williams, Alan Pawl, Melanie Pawl, Wendy Williams, Mike Rounds, Larry Krantz, Diane Dunn, Pat Cefaly, Pat Plouff, Kris Soltis, Linda Webber, Janet Wetherbee, Bart Wetherbee, Julie Turner, Bill Mann, Kevin Gordon, Kristin Lindemann, Chris Alexandre, Lisa Hall, Dee Deranian, Lianne Deranian, Debbie Gline Allen, Karen Blandford-Anderson, Beth Nelson, Beth Hunter, Anne Engelhardt, Kathy Gallagher, Christine Lehoullier, Joanne Morganti, Louise Gagnon, Mike G., Bud Smith, Dottie Puleo Patrick, Dusty Patrick, Bob Wilson, Karen Wilson, Cathy L. Pottle, Shanna Pottle, Chris Cox, Paula Robinson, Eileen Cox, Jaime Robinson, Jennifer Robinson, Cathy Zylinski, Carol Guerrin, Liz Greenberg, Margie Ives, Harriet Gottlieb, Barb Heywood, Suzanne MacGibbon, Laura Newell, Jo Worthen, (The HPC Committee—Nancy Heywood, Paul Lindemann, and Janet Wetherbee-- sincerely appreciated the help of all who volunteered and we are very sorry if some names were left off the list. We also appreciated the work that Michelle Guerrin and Pastor Deborah Roof did to contribute to the success of Founders Weekend.)

Purpose: The Historical Preservation Committee is responsible for the identification, restoration and preservation of the history of FPC.

Activities and Accomplishments

The HPC focused on church and community historical support and further organizing and documenting the church's archival collections. Our many specific efforts included the following.

- Continued to organize, arrange, inventory artifacts, photographs, and records relating to First Parish and its community. Continued to use Omeka system (online tool to manage digital images of collections and information). Continued to evaluate ways to make it convenient for people to learn about First Parish history, see: <http://fpchistory.org/>
- Created features for the FPC newsletter about historical issues relating to our church and its history.
- Hosted a History Party at the beginning of the year to help share basic information about the founding and growth of Nutfield, NH, and to help church community prepare for events in honor of Nutfield's 300th celebrations (during 2019)
- Supported church and community activities relating to the history of Nutfield and the meetinghouse during the year. In particular HPC and many helpful volunteers contributed to Founders Weekend (April 12-14, 2019, a Civil War Encampment, June 15, 2019, and Tours Day, November, 2, 2019).
- Developed 18 graphics panels and a script and trained volunteers to enable guided tours for the Meetinghouse
- Hosted 6 work parties during the year to make preparations for Founders Weekend and events focusing on First Parish history, and also make progress on organizing, inventorying, and documenting the collections of historical value. (Work parties were held on February 9, March 2, March 16, May 11, June 8, and October 26.)
- Supported tours, sales tables (at various events) and fundraising and sales tables for Friends of the Meetinghouse (non-profit organization that helps raise money for the restoration of the meetinghouse).

Thank you to all who have supported and participated in activities that celebrate the rich history of First Parish, the Meetinghouse, and Nutfield.

Fundraising Committee – Annual Report 2019

Here's the financial breakdown on how each fundraising event for the past year contributed to the church budget.

Spring Vendor Bingo - \$1598.89
Founders Day Luncheon - \$398.06
Savers Clothing Drive - \$370.00
Applebee's Dining For Dollars - \$ 210.60
Mothers/Fathers Day Breakfast & Raffle - \$ 988.50
Panera Bread Dining for Dollars - \$73.87
Texas Roadhouse Dining for Dollars - \$90.00
Fall Vendor Bingo - \$1961.84
East Derry Tavern Dining for Dollars - \$228.00
Santa Breakfast & Raffle - \$1209.00
St Pauly Clothing Shed donations - \$12.80

Subtotal Fundraising Events - \$7132.65
Hannaford Gift Card Program - \$2153.25

Total: \$9285.90

Although the Dining for Dollars events individually don't bring in much money for us, they provide great fellowship for our members and do generate over \$600 combined together.

Vendor Bingo, combined with food service and a basket raffle, proved so lucrative that we added a second event in the fall. It should also be noted that the income for the Spring Vendor Bingo was actually \$300 higher; \$200 was donated to the building restoration project and \$100 was donated to the REACH homeless project. Once we work out some permit glitches with the NH gaming commission, we hope to offer several more of these fun events in 2020.

Several breakfast/basket raffle combination events were also quite successful. We are hoping to begin offering Church Suppers in the upcoming year, such as the classic New England Ham and Bean suppers. We'll be looking for more members of the congregation to help out with these.

New fundraising ideas are always welcome, as are willing hands to help build fellowship and fun while also helping the church budget!

(Submitted by Liz Greenberg with gratitude to everyone who contributed their time, talent and treasure to making these events successful!)

Memorial Welcoming Garden Annual Report 2019

This year we got to see the vision take place of a welcoming – serenity inducing memory garden around the flagpole in our courtyard. If you have not taken a look – please do so.

2019 also involved some ‘behind the scenes’ changes in that – this on-going project has been taken on as a responsibility of First Parish Church. Thank you to all that have stepped up to help make this a successful 1st step in the vision of a beautiful garden that was originally discussed in 2017.

It has been a pleasure to work with our contact at “Bricks R Us” in Florida – Kim is always willing and able to answer any and all questions. To the William Smallwood company for their beautiful design of the beginnings of this garden. To Pastor Deborah, Nancy Murdock, Beth Hunter, the BAC, Paul Lindemann, Fred Merrill, Michelle Guerrin and the Cobban clan – thank you again and again.

To date – since the conception of this vision – we have received donations for 80 - 4” x 8” bricks and 22 – 8” x 8” bricks. The 4 Memorial Benches have also been installed around the perimeter of the garden. After the expenses of the blank bricks and the installation of the pavers – to date – the project has resulted in proceeds of \$11,417.70 which is to be used for our restoration project on the Meetinghouse.

Next phase – we will continue to expand the footprint with additional memorial bricks as they are ordered. We are still discussing planting – the thoughts are evolving as we need to be aware of additional construction needs for the Meetinghouse – i.e. the roof – that could affect any gardens in the courtyard.

Please reach out to any one of us – if you want to join us in memorializing a loved one – or to document an event in your life – we will be continuing to take orders to continue to grow this vision.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Pottle

Outdoor Ministry – Annual Report 2019

The Outdoor Ministry was founded as a way for members and friends of First Parish Church to make connections with each other while enjoying the great outdoors. We have been primarily hiking the local town forests and conservation areas, although we have gone on bike rides, walked the rail trails, kayaked and snowshoed. We continue to look for new activities and invite your ideas and participation.

Submitted by Brian Williams

Spaghetti Supper – Annual Report 2019

Another year of *Thanks* for the generous support of our “Spaghetti Angels”. Our Spaghetti Supper Team continues to feed a large group of regulars and visitors with its offering of a full hot meal including spaghetti, meatballs, garlic bread and green beans and those delectable desserts from Hannaford in Derry. In the summer months, we add salad to the menu and in the winter months we offer coffee and tea as well as punch and water.

This was our eleventh year of offering our spaghetti supper and we continue to hear stories of those in need and how much this meal means to them. For some it is about the fellowship, gathering together with old friends and making new ones. For others it is about the need to feed themselves and their families when times are tough. Not only are folks coming to eat, but more and more each month are taking home another meal for later. The following table shows the number of meals we prepared each month, for a total of **1,190** folks served **1,539** meals during the year.

Month	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Dine-In	74	84	94	87	95		102	-		97	59	71	
To Go	32	40	40	34	0		37	-		28	23	25	
Staff	9	5	7	5	10		0	-		5	7	9	
Total	115	129	141	126	105		139	-		130	89	105	

Our partnership with the Community Meals Network continued in 2019. This network of organizations in our community provides free meals in addition to the Sunshine Soup Kitchen. They include Etz Hayim Synagogue, the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration, the Seventh Day Adventist Church, St. Luke’s Methodist, St. Jude Parish and the Salvation Army. Representatives of these organizations meet periodically to discuss the needs of the community, share ideas and to work together to coordinate our meals. Please be sure to visit the FPC website for more information on the Community Meals Network.

Whatever the need that draws our community in for a free meal, it is surely met with hospitality and respect on the last Friday of the month as we minister with food and fellowship. Hannaford Supermarket in Derry continues each week to generously donate 2 to 3 shopping carts of breads, rolls, cookies, cakes, pies, and more to the Community Meals Network. We take turns each week to pick-up the food and distribute during our community meals. We offer the desserts during our meal and place the breads, rolls and other goods out for folks to take home.

We’re excited to have some new folks join our regular volunteers, but we can always use additional help. So, please join us each month or whenever you can. We appreciate everyone’s support in making this mission happen every month. It is a pleasure serving with you all!

Financially we are self-sustaining and welcome any cash donations to purchase supplies. A check may be sent to FPC and marked with “Spaghetti Supper” on the memo line. Contact Bill or Kevin if you’d like to volunteer.

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in” Matthew 25: 35

Respectfully Submitted: Kevin Gordon and Bill Mann

75th Sugar Plum Fair – Annual Report 2019

Can you actually believe that this event has been occurring here at First Parish Church for the past 75 years??!! Again the people who are here every year to do whatever needs to be done – for as long as it needs to be done are beyond amazing. Again we all need to send a major thank you to our friend Liza Duffy – for her loan again of her commercial mixer for the mixing of the dough and for her donations of her phenomenal artisan breads to our FPC table– and to Becky Fleury, Reni Harnden and Liz Greenberg for the baking maniacs that they are – and the others they recruit into the ‘fold’. The Mann’s - and crew for again hosting our luncheon in the what used to be the Nursery. To all that baked, organized and sold cookies at the Cookie Walk again and again. And a special thank you to Michelle Guerrin – for all your amazing marketing skills -you did so much that we were booked full with amazing crafters by early September– THANK YOU!

The Sugar Plum Fair is made-up of sooo many people that chip in with whatever is needed. Donating still good stuff, getting up before the sun to make pecan rolls, sweet rolls, designer breads. We had pans and boxes of cookies donated for the cookie walk – homemade soups and luncheon salads made for our hungry visitors – and so much more.

Thanks to Larry Krantz and the BAC and Facilities for cleaning, setting up – getting ready for our visitors to the White Elephant spaces in MacGregor Hall – and Margie Ives and the crew of the White Elephant tables – for all the work that you all do – without question (well some).

Every year you all amaze me with your giving and generosity – this year was no exception

Fair Day 2019	
FPC Crafts & Bake	\$ 262.00
Cookie Walk	\$ 1,258.00
Pecan Rolls	\$ 1,622.50
Lunchroom	\$ 450.50
Crafters	\$ 1,100.00
Raffles	\$ 794.00
White Elephant	\$ 659.25
Miscellaneous	\$ 274.01
Donation - Ruthlee Root	\$ 20.00
Donation - Van Grevenhof's	\$ 5.00
Donation - Barbara Williams	\$ 120.00
Donation- Margie Ives	\$ 31.83
	\$ 6,597.09

As we celebrated the 300th anniversary of First Parish Church –and had so many amazing people come and spend time with us – thanks again – let’s plan for 2020!!

Thanks for all you do and for being WHO you are.

Thank you all,
Cathy Lee Pottle

Nominating Committee Report CY 2020 – UPDATED 12/19/2019

OFFICERS

Council Meeting 3rd Wed. @7:00PM

Moderator: Fred Merrill T2Y1
@Treasurer: Rebecca Fleury
@Asst. Financial Secretary: Harry Carter
Records Clerk: Barbara Williams T1 Y2

Asst. Moderator: Anne Engelhardt T1Y3
@Financial Secretary: Pat Crowell
Clerk: Cyndi Gray T1Y2
@ = no term limits

Church Council Members at Large (4)

Anne Marie Merrill T1 Y1
Reni Harnden T2 Y2
Cathy Pottle T2 Y3

Board of Christian Outreach and Mission (7)

Meeting 3rd Mon. @ 6:30PM

Vacant T1 Y1
Melanie Pawl T1 Y2
Vacant T1 Y3
Vacant T2 Y1
Bart Wetherbee T2 Y2
Beth Hunter T2 Y3
Karen Wilson T2 Y3

Board of Christian Education (7)

Meeting 2nd Sun. @11:30AM

Vacant T1 Y1
Vacant T1 Y1
Paula Robinson T1 Y2
Holly Gorgol T2 Y1
Ed Sullivan T2 Y2
Laura Sullivan T2 Y3
Jaime Robinson T2 Y3

Music Committee (3)

Shellie Aseltine T1 Y1
Vacant T1 Y2
Vacant T1 Y2

Finance Committee At Large (3)

Meeting 2nd Monday @7:00PM

Vacant T1 Y1
Bill Armstrong T2 Y2
Ross Webber T2 Y3

Nominating Committee (5)

Vacant T1 Y1
Vacant T1 Y2
Beth Hunter T2 Y2
Karen Wilson T2 Y2
Vacant T2 Y2

Board of Facilities (5)

Meeting 4th Tues. @7:00PM

Vacant T1 Y1
Vacant T1 Y2
Alan Pawl T1 Y2
Vacant T2 Y1
Pat Cefaly T2 Y1

Board of Deacons (8)

Meeting - Last Wed. @6:30PM

Jack Martin T1 Y1
Brian Williams T1 Y2
Rachel Cobban T1 Y2
Vacant T1 Y2
Vacant T1 Y3
Vacant T1 Y3
Sue Lindemann T1 Y4
Diane Breeden T1 Y4

Board of Personnel (3)

Randy Brown T1 Y2
Cathy Zylinski© T2 Y3
Carol Guerrin T2 Y3

Safe Church Committee (2) At-Large Members

Vacant T1 Y1
Vacant T1 Y1

Historical Preservation Committee (3)

Meeting 3rd Sun. @8:00AM

Janet Wetherbee
Paul Lindemann
Nancy Heywood

Pastor Parish Relations Committee (4)

One 5-yr term

Linda Webber T1 Y1
Cyndi Gray T1 Y3
Vacant T1 Y3
Rachel Cobban T1 Y4