



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
OF WAKEFIELD  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
*An Open and Affirming Church*

Open and Affirming (ONA)



United Church of Christ

*The Rev. Mary A. James, Pastor*  
The Reverend George Harvey, Pastor Emeritus



**ANNUAL REPORTS**

ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 23, 2013

11:30 AM

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## Minister

It continues to be a joy and a privilege to serve as Pastor to our loving, generous, and caring congregation. Thank you for the opportunity to serve over these past six and a half years! As we work together at “hearing God’s call and growing in love and care,” there is much to celebrate as part of the Body of Christ in Wakefield.

The year has been notable in the life of our church for a number of reasons. We have continued to “deepen and widen” our connections both within the church body and out into the world as we work to further live into the promise of our new organizational structure. This has been a strong area of focus for the pastor along with our Calling and Discernment Team, and the fruits of our efforts are more and more apparent over time. Of particular note is the commitment demonstrated by many of our church leaders to a more deeply interdisciplinary approach to our work together. We have made good strides in our journey with church structure; it continues to be a work in progress—as any strong and appropriately flexible structure should be!

Another point of note has been the creation of a substantial resource for capital expenditures and for expansion/ augmentation of our mission work through the capital campaign. It is meaningful that we accomplished this at the same time we have managed our budget situation very well; involvement in conversation and shaping of our financial life has truly expanded and deepened. We continue to strive to express our mission and vision as fully as possible in all areas of church life, including that of managing our financial resources in service to God and neighbor. Our new structure has been a boon in creating more of a sense of involvement, ownership, and knowledge in our congregation about budgetary matters.

Working on creating and facilitating worship is a profound joy, and walking with our dedicated Deacons in doing so, along with others who participate in a variety of ways in the worship endeavor, has been a primary area of focus. Pastoral care—listening, offering spiritual support and insight, and praying during times of sorrow and joy—is also always a primary focus. We continue to nurture our Visitation Team along, and their participation in visitation is hugely appreciated by those with whom they visit, and by the pastor who is grateful for their assistance.

The Caring Team has quietly been very active over this past year, responding with resource and referral information and interpersonal, prayerful support for folks in our congregation who find themselves in a challenging period. This model of assistance has arisen very organically in our midst, and those of us on the team work very well together. We are currently taking a little break as we reconsider the amount and nature of the involvement that is most appropriate; a brief retreat time is anticipated before we gear up again.

It was a joy last autumn to have a second semester with our seminary intern, Maureen Steer. Perhaps we will be fortunate enough to host another seminary intern at some point. In other educational endeavors, I have greatly enjoyed riding sidecar with George Blomster in the lead at Tuesday noon Bible Study, with that wonderful group of folks who have studied together for so long. This past year, I offered a set of workshops on the public reading of scripture, as well as a book study on Brene Brown’s book *The Gifts of Imperfection*.

I have been very active in our wider church this past year in a variety of ways: participating in a monthly Pastoral Consultation Group, leading/ attending clergy Bible study from time to time, attending Conference Annual Meeting as well as some Association gatherings, presenting at Prepared to Serve with folks from our church and with my husband and two other clergy couples, wrapping up serving as advisor to former seminary student Emily Goodnow, and participating in the installation of the new pastor at the Rochester UCC Church. After many years of serving on the Clergy Convocation Planning Committee, I decided to step down for a change of pace, in light of some of the health challenges with which I was faced. I am delighted to say that I am generally feeling much better now!

In the local community, I have continued to convene and facilitate the conversation of the Ready to Learn group, a group of representatives from various human service agencies, community organizations, as well as a number of community helpers, clergy, and school personnel related to Wakefield. We discuss and seek solutions to challenges for Wakefield families and children who are experiencing social and economic challenges. I have also continued helping to organize the ecumenical clergy luncheons and other shared endeavors; it was a great step that this past program year we offered both an ecumenical Thanksgiving Sunday afternoon service, and an ecumenical Good Friday service. I am pleased also to continue to be an *ex officio* member of the Food Pantry Board.

The Diaconate and I are deep in the throes of sabbatical planning and we anticipate a fruitful and galvanizing experience for our congregation, our sabbatical minister, and this pastor, who is profoundly grateful for the wonderful privilege of a sabbatical. I thank you from the bottom of my heart, and look forward to continuing our journey together as we seek to “hear God’s call and grow in love and care” in everything we do as Christ’s church.

In Christ’s love,  
Mary

## Moderator

Once again we have come to the conclusion of another year of service. The good Lord has been willing to look over us and support our collective good work. We have been strong in our outreach at both the local and global levels.

At the global level, we have reached out in support to our brothers and sister from Zimbabwe. We have contributed to the efforts to be good stewards of our Earth through many efforts, but in particular the Mission 4/1 Earth.

The leadership council has continued to support the efforts of developing a better system in which we function. They have adopted a new reporting system and identified what positions will hold seats at the leadership council, with vote. They have worked through half of the by-laws and have plans to finish that necessary work.

A great deal of effort has been spent developing a budget that meets our income. During these work sessions it became apparent that clarification about the wording and intent of the language used around the proceeds from the sale of the Parsonage needs to occur. The Capital Campaign began and the initial phase was met with great success. The final phase of the campaign is currently being planned for and a group needs to form to hash out a recommendation for a process that we should use to access these funds. The process needs to describe the how and when to spend, save, invest and who would assume the responsibility of oversight.

I would like to give a special thank you to all those who have given so much time and effort in their ministry roles this year. I would also like to thank those who have trusted us to make the right decisions and keep things running smoothly. I would finally like to thank God for all of you, and all that we can be so very thankful for.

Blessing to all,  
George E. Ackerman, Jr.

## Report of the Church Clerk

Total Active Members June 23, 2013	171
Deaths of Members	5
Death of Inactive Member	1
Transfer of Membership	0
Baptisms	2
Marriage of Members	1

### **DEATHS**

Richard Cornell	July 17, 2012
Maxine Chadbourne	September 26, 2012
C. Helen Robertson Remick	October 2, 2012
Jane A. Richardson	November 28, 2012
Vivian Mae Chick	March 10, 2013
Constance Buckland	April 10, 2013

### **BAPTISM**

Holden Edmund Mangano	April 21, 2013
Nyah Elizabeth Bailey	May 12, 2013

### **MARRIAGE**

Christine Feddern	
Kevin Connell	March 15, 2013

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD**  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
***AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CHURCH***  
***ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES***  
***SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 2012***

The Annual Meeting of The First Congregational church of Wakefield was held on Sunday June 10, 2012 a in the Fellowship Hall following worship service and a brunch.

Moderator George Ackerman opened the meeting at 11:50.am.

Reverend Mary James led us in an opening prayer.

We had a Moment of Remembrance for those members of our church family that have passed away this year: *Arlene Berg and H. William Maleham.*

The minutes of the 2011 Annual Meeting were reviewed. **A correction to state that Connie Littlefield NOT Janice Brejwo presented the 2011/2012 financial report and budget.** Minutes were approved as corrected.

***SPECIAL GUEST PRESENTATION: TIM SCOTT.***

Tim Scott of **COUNTRY COUNSELLING GROUP**( corrected to state Country Consulting group) conducted a Capital Campaign Feasibility Study for our church. Mr. Scott presented the feasibility study and a summary for the congregational meeting. The reports are included with these minutes.

There were various comments from members:

*We/You are the church-there is no they.*

*What needs to be done? Present the list and costs.*

*What are the mechanics of the Capital Campaign?*

*Care of the church is a ministry.*

*You have to do more than pray.*

*Consider having a mission committee to ask for money once a year, not every Sunday.*

*We would like to bring more families in the church.*

*You can do this, if you come to believe you can!*

George Ackerman resumed the moderator role and suggested a meeting date to discuss the Capital Campaign. July 15, 2012 is the suggested date. Z-Team will be gone but proxy votes will be taken. The agenda of the meeting will be to decide if the congregation should move forward with the Capital Campaign.

**RECEIVING OF THE REPORTS**

Jan Fairchild explained the Personnel Ministry Performance Appraisal of the Pastor. This year **will (remove)** we will do a performance appraisal of ourselves as a congregation. The report is part of the Annual Report of 2012.

Janice Brejwo reported that the Treasurers Annual report will be available after June 30, 2012. Janice thanked the congregation for all they do with volunteer work and the monetary gifts.

All reports from ministries were received.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**BUDGET 2012-2013**

The budget was presented by Janice Brejwo and Harriet Wilson, members of the Budget Ministry.

**LINE 5**-Janice explained that LINE 5 is based on 95% of the Intentional Giving. Circumstances change during the year which prevents people from fulfilling their pledge. It could be due to moving from the community, death or a change of financial circumstances.

**LINE 7** -The additional \$2000.00 pledge from the Parish Helpers has not been approved by the full membership of the Parish Helpers.

**LINE 9**- Fundraising is based on a projected amount of money from yard sales; the Christmas Fair; dinners; a new approach using Craig's List to sell items; Soles for Shoes; a craft fair Sept. 29, 2012.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT THE BUDGET AS PRESENTED WAS MADE BY TITIA BOZUWA. 2<sup>ND</sup> BY BILL GOODWIN.**

**MOTION PASSED.**

Recognition was given by Rev. Mary to the congregation for their Spiritual Gifts. Thank you to those who claimed a ministry this year. Thank you for those who claimed the same ministry for the coming year.

George Ackerman reminded us to Thank God for our gifts and to let them shine.

Rev. Mary led us in a Benediction with a circle of prayer which included all present at the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Golden

Clerk

## Treasurer

This completes my third year as church treasurer. I am honored that you allow me the opportunity to serve our church in this position. Happily, I am able to report that as of May 31, 2013 income received surpassed expenditures in the general operating budget. I anticipate we will once again end the year with a positive cash flow. The Treasurer's annual report covering the fiscal year July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 will be issued at the end of July. The report will be distributed by email and will also be available at the church.

The annual report as well as all those monthly reports I distribute are full of income and expense numbers. Some of these numbers represent the congregation's generosity in the form of pledges, Parish Helpers contributions, Sunday morning collections, and fund raising. But, there is generosity you cannot see in the numbers. Many unreported donations throughout the year are expenses the church does not have to pay. These are not recorded against our budget and, therefore, are not reflected in my treasurer reports. These donations are gifts from Circle 227 donors and others who pay church related out-of-pocket expenses without seeking reimbursement.

Volunteers exude generosity in fulfilling the church's mission by providing valuable services as well as being careful stewards of our resources. Without our volunteers we could not balance a budget and there would be no unexpended funds at the end of the year. Of course, I am writing about our faithful cleaners, church school teachers, ministry coordinators, cookie bakers, worker bees at Harvest Fair, the Annual Yard Sale, Pride Day, church dinners.... The list goes on.

Generosity abounds in our church in more ways than just supporting our operating budget. Mission work as part of who we are is ongoing throughout the year. Besides the \$7000 in our operating budget to support the UCC's Our Church's Wider Mission, this year the church family also contributed nearly \$3000 in support of One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors in Need, the Christmas Fund, Heifer, Blankets Plus and the Wakefield Food Pantry. In addition, the Feddern Diaconate Discretionary Fund provided substantial monetary assistance to many needy local families and individuals. Finally, the Church school children and others filled Liberty's jar with coins providing him with an education and hope. This was, of course, only a small part of the church continued support to the Z Team.

As you can see, being your treasurer is not just about dollars and cents; it is being part of the church's vision of care and love. Thank you everyone for your support and your generous giving nature.

Respectively submitted,  
Janice Brejwo

**See Budget Attachments**



## **Buildings & Grounds**

The base plate in the bottom of the elevator shaft has been scraped ( rust )and painted with a protective paint (por 15). We still have a water issue under the elevator ,this will be checked into during the summer and have a cement water sealer applied .

Work has been done on the outside of the church , painting and repairing rotted boards. More needs to be done. I will need to get estimates for future work.

We now have a clear schedule written up for all of the maintenance that is done during the year. Elevator - Sprinkler system/fire protection – Alarm system – boiler ,state inspection etc.

Mold remediation done last year.

Waiting for approval for the septic system and easement on the property owned by Nancy Spencer-Smith. The design for the system is complete and has been given to her to review. Once that is done, I will send it to the state for approval and to contractors for bids on the cost of installing. Will put it out to local contractors.

The boiler room, electric panel room, elevator panel room have all been cleared out. These cannot be used for storage.

Inspectors need clear access to all these areas.

One item that still needs to be looked at is the dishwasher. Due to lack of use some of the rubber gaskets have dried out.

There is always an on going concern about keeping the building clean, we do have mice & ants so it's important to keep all areas clear of spilled foods and liquids ( juice etc)

Respectfully submitted

Ann Bilodeau

Building & grounds coordinator

## **Calling & Discernment**

Calling & Discernment organized and facilitated the second annual Ministry Fair during the worship service on July 22, 2012. Attendees were invited to write down the Ministries, which they felt called to serve for the coming year. Results were compiled and distributed to the officers and ministry coordinators.

Throughout the year we monitored concerns and questions about the process of calling out people to share their spiritual gifts. Information about the new organizational structure was provided in a number of formats via church bulletins and website, Steeple View articles, meetings and conversations.

On February 23, 2013, we participated in a presentation "Progress Report: Second Year of Unleashing Spiritual Gifts with New Structure" at Prepared to Serve, New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ. The presentation by Margie Galabrun, Mary James and Jan Fairchild was well received and several people requested additional materials. Others requested that we return next year for another update.

On April 13, 2013, Donna & George Ackerman hosted a potluck lunch at their home. In addition to fine food and fellowship, Calling & Discernment led a discussion of the status of our ministry organization. We shared our progress and challenges in sharing our spiritual gifts to fulfill our Mission and Vision statements.

We conducted two email surveys during the year to gather information from the officers and coordinators. As a result of this feedback we continue to strive for improved communication and education about our process. We continue to improve our mutual calling out the gifts of others as we share our own gifts. Officers and Coordinators continue to grow in their empowerment to coordinate those who indicate interest and gifts for specific ministries. There continues to be a need for improved communication and knowledge about "who does what."

In May potential new church members received spiritual gift surveys and encouragement to complete them and share their results with Calling & Discernment.

On May 21, Calling & Discernment introduced to Leadership Council motions to change voting representation at Leadership Council; reporting and minutes guidelines; and changes in Ministry organization from three teams to one Team Synergy.

More details will be forthcoming in Council minutes and new by-laws and policies & procedures.

Plans for the third annual Ministry Fair are underway. The Ministry Fair will be during worship on Sunday, June 23. The Officers and Coordinators will present their ministry descriptions and seek people's commitment to serve specific area(s) for the coming year. Calling & Discernment will assist with the details of the event and collate and communicate results.

We sincerely appreciate all who share their spiritual gifts with such faithful generosity and creativity both within & beyond our church community.

Calling & Discernment Members: Mary James, George Ackerman, Donna Ackerman, and Jan Fairchild

Respectfully submitted

Jan Fairchild

## Christian Education

This has been a busy and full year filled with wonderful opportunities for Christian Education. Thanks to the efforts of very dedicated group of people, we've been able to offer a full array of offerings to all age groups in our church.

Vacation Bible School was directed by Penny Ellis and Ginny Schweitzer.

Church School was headed by a team of three folk: Jan Fairchild, Raenya Morann and Ginny Schweitzer.

A rejuvenated youth group was headed Donna and George Ackerman.

Adult education opportunities were offered by George Blomster, Rev. Mary and Margie Galabrun

### Year at a Glance

July	Vacation Bible School: An ecumenical community offering.
Sept. – June	Children's Church School, Tuesday Adult Bible Study, and periodic youth events.
October	The Line: Viewing and discussion of Sojourners' documentary film calling attention to the "line of poverty" and taking an in depth look at why people fall beneath it. DVD of this film is available in the Mary Cox Memorial Library.
February	Prepared to Serve: An educational event sponsored by the New Hampshire Conference designed to affirm and prepare laity to serve the church in a variety of capacities. Our church was very well represented at this event.
March	A Lenten book study led by Rev. Mary, <i>The Gifts of Imperfection</i> by Brene Brown. The theme was to let go of who you think you're supposed to be and embrace who you are. Copies are available in the Mary Cox Memorial Library.
April	Awakening the Dreamer, an interactive symposium designed to look at our emphasis on short term economic growth and its impact on our environment and ultimately our planet. Note: several people have expressed an interest in "what's next" following the symposium. This will extend into the next church year.

Reports for Vacation Bible School, Church School, Youth Group and Tuesday Bible Study follow.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as Coordinator to the Ministry of Christian Education.

Respectfully submitted

Margie Galabrun

## Adult Bible Study

Jesus said in John 6:63:

"The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life."

Our weekly Bible Study had to do with the lectionary for the coming Sunday, as well as other discussions such as, Bible History of the Mideast and Women in the Bible. We started with Eve and we finished last week with Sarah and Hagar. In other discussions we spoke about religion and science working together, touching on archaeology, evolutionary theory and others.

We were pleased to have Maureen Steer during this period. We wish her well in her coming graduation.

I would like to thank Pastor Mary for the privilege of being part of the church's Adult Bible Study program.

I would also like to thank all who participated in our weekly gathering.

Penny sure has been a help also.

Respectfully submitted

George Blomster

## Church School

This was a difficult and complicated year for the Church School.

Josie Perkins, Church School Director, working with Pastor Mary James, Margie Galabrun, Christian Education Coordinator, and a group of teachers and parents initiated a plan for the 2012-2013 church school year. A major change was moving Sunday School to one hour before the worship service, 9:00 am. The curriculum was Whole People of God.

Josie resigned from the Church School Director position on August 28, 2012. The formerly paid position was replaced by volunteers. Jan Fairchild, Ginny Schweitzer and Raenya Morann agreed to act as the Collaborative Church School Team to organize, schedule and assure the existence of Sunday School classes.

Sunday School Kickoff Sunday was held on September 9 and four children attended with their parents. The early schedule of Sunday School (9-9:45 am) was followed during the month of September. A parent teacher meeting on

September 23 produced good feedback and the strong recommendation that the Sunday School hour be changed back to during the worship hour (following the Children's Message).

Our church community has a small population of children ranging in age from 2-14 years. Although early planning allowed for three classes for different age levels, this was modified to one class for all ages. The class was taught by one teacher who prepared the lesson and one assistant who provided support. Fulfilling Safe School standards, scheduling assured the presence of two adults with the children throughout all of the classes. Attendance was generally sporadic, ranging from 0-5 or 6 of "regulars". There were occasional baptism Sundays when the attendance jumped to 8-11 with guests attending church one time. Overall Sunday School attendance averaged 4 students per Sunday. (4 students is a mean, disproportionately inflated by those occasional special Sundays, i.e., baptisms). The volunteer church school staff included 8 teachers and 7 assistants. We appreciated the faithful participation and teaching of all the volunteers throughout the year.

Our experience with the curriculum was positive and it has been purchased for the coming year. We have scheduled a meeting for planning next year's Sunday School program which will involve the Christian Education Coordinator, the Pastor and the Collaborative Church School Team. There will also be an end of the year Parent meeting to obtain their evaluation and recommendations for the Church School Program.

Respectfully submitted  
Jan Fairchild

### **Youth Group**

The Youth Group conducted a couple of fun activities this year. It was a new program and had its successes and failures. We had a game night in the Fellowship Hall, went on a night corn maze, and served as elves for the Polar Express. By the new calendar year we lost interest from the youth due to school events and students' work schedules. Hoping to review this program and try a different approach in my efforts at reeling in the youth of Wakefield.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna V Ackerman

### **VBS**

What a great time we have this year at Vacation Bible School. We saw about 35 children and enjoyed following Jesus through Sonrise National Parks. We enjoyed working with the other churches in the community to create a wonderful experience for the children in our town. Lots of crafts, great snacks and wonderful friendship were formed.

Respectfully submitted  
Penny Grover Ellis

### **Christian Outreach**

I think this year went well for Christian Outreach. We covered all of the 5 for 5 ministries set by the UCC; One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Our Church's Wider Mission, Neighbors in Need and the Christmas Fund. We threw in a couple extras like Blanket's Plus, Heifer and Mission 4 / 1 Earth. I hope to be able to arrange the Crop Walk in the late summer or early fall of this year, it has not been done for the past 2 years.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna V Ackerman

### **Communication**

**Steeple Views:** For five years now, we have been emailing the Steeple Views to our members and friends. Currently we email about 160 newsletters each month. This has resulted in a sizeable saving of paper, postage, and time! Some print copies are available in the sanctuary at the beginning of each month. Since we can email without any cost to the church, it is available to a wider audience. Steeple Views is also available on the church website which makes our news available to anyone/anywhere where there is internet access.

Thank you to all who provide material for the newsletter each month for keeping the Steeple Views informative and current. Thanks to our Administrative Assistant for the copying and coordinating the collation and mailing every month and to our faithful collating team!

If you have internet access and are not yet receiving the Steeple Views by email, please email me at [steepleviews@gmail.com](mailto:steepleviews@gmail.com) and you will be added to the email distribution list. If you have a change of email or snail mail address, please let me know. You can contact the church office or email me at so we can keep our lists up-to-date

**E-mail updates:** Once a week or so, an email update of church activities is sent as an all-church email. Thanks to Penny Ellis for keeping our members and friends, even if absent, current with “FCCW Happenings”.

**Steeple News:** Mary Beth Cook produces an abbreviated version of the Steeple Views for distribution around town during the “high season”. She has taken this project and run with it! What a great idea to let people in the community know what’s going on in our church! Thanks, Mary Beth.

**Website:** We are keeping our website up and running and with regular updates. One can access recent copies of the Steeple Views on it as well as check on upcoming events, etc. With assistance of Frank Frazier, we are striving to improve the website and hope to make some changes in the near future. It is our hope that it will be a valuable resource for both church members as well as the general public who may be checking us out.

**Facebook:** Our Facebook page is a great vehicle for sharing photos and keeping up with church happenings. We have 164 likes! We also use the group feature to help us share information and ideas regarding our ministries.

**Communications Workshop:** On July 21, we will hold a Communications Workshop for all Ministry Coordinators and anyone else who would like to attend. Our goal is to further the effectiveness of our many means of communication within the church.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Jeffery  
Communications Ministry Coordinator

### **Decorative & Visual Arts**

The year started with a life-size cornucopia and flowers to decorate the alter for Thanksgiving and the ecumenical Thanksgiving service in November 2012.

We purchased a new and larger cornucopia that we will be able to continue to use for future decorating. Titia Bozuwa donated the use of her harvest basket to compliment the display.

There were many willing hands for the ‘hanging of the greens’ at Advent in preparation for Christmas. Thankfully Rob Nelson was willing to climb the ladder to hang the banner. We’ll have to get creative for this coming year’s decorating to avoid some of the difficulties experienced last season. Titia secured beautiful poinsettias (purchased by the congregation) that were probably larger than originally purchased due to an error on the grower’s part. The flowers certainly provided the decorative touch for all of our holiday worship.

Reverend Mary led a small, but willing group of women in our Ash Wednesday service that included ‘decorating’ our sanctuary for the Lenten season. The materials and ultimate display were inspired by Rev. Mary’s vision, her donations, the use of beautiful purple cloth from Margie Galabrun and other items purchased specifically for this time. Many of the materials will be able to be used for decorating in other years. I am in the process of exploring the possibility of making/acquiring some appropriate wreaths to hang on the front doors during Lent.

Palm Sunday found us with Palms and reeds for distributing to the congregation. I will be exploring local alternatives for next year’s decorations. Members of the congregation purchased tulips, hyacinths, daffodils and a few lilies for our beautiful Easter display that made the celebration of our Lord most pleasing for those attending. Due to their overwhelming perfume, it was decided to place the hyacinths outside on the porch to greet the congregation on Easter morning. Rachel White hung the lovely forsythia wreaths she made to decorate our church doors.

Most recently, we celebrated Pentecost Sunday with beautiful red geraniums. Margie, Jan Brejwo and Rev. Mary had suggested this idea and again, the congregation responded most generously. We also attempted to sell geraniums at Wakefield Pride Day, but with only minimal success. We were able to use the geraniums to help decorate for Memorial Day. Thankfully my flower garden provided some added color to the decorations.

This has been a rewarding and learning year for this coordinator. I look forward to continuing to work with those also called to this ministry. After our Ministry Fair, I anticipate coordinating ideas and suggestions to review what we have been doing and prepare for future decorating. Lastly, allow me to thank the many people who did contribute to this year’s ministry and special thanks to Penny Ellis for assisting in so many ways.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Smiley

### **Diaconate**

This report actually covers two years, July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, and July 1, 2012 through May 31, 2013, as the Diaconate did not submit an annual report last year. (Oops!)

Diaconate members in 2011 – 2012: Jo Szirbik, Titia Bozuwa, Gail Feddern, Deb Fogg, Ed Morrison, Chris Gatchell (now Feddern), Cathy Koukal, Dick Nelson (partial year), and Harriet Wilson (partial year).

Diaconate members in 2012 – 2013: Jo Szirbik, Titia Bozuwa, Gail Feddern, Deb Fogg, Ed Morrison, Harriet Wilson, Chris Gatchell (now Feddern, partial year), Cathy Koukal (partial year), Janice Stanley (partial year), and Donna Ackerman (partial year).

Our great thanks for their service to Dick Nelson, Cathy Koukal, and Chris Feddern who left the Diaconate over this two year period. We miss you!

The Diaconate continues to meet monthly, usually with Pastor Mary, to discuss regular Sunday worship and special services, review concerns of our members, friends, and community, and provide assistance as we are able. We participate in new member meetings. We have assisted at funerals and weddings and assist Rev Mary with visitations – many of us are members of the visitation team. We have arranged pulpit supply in Mary's absence; our thanks to Rev Janice Fairchild, Maureen Steer, Titia Bozuwa, and Donna Akerman who have filled in. In February 2012, we celebrated 5 years under Rev Mary's spiritual leadership with a special service of thanksgiving. We also coordinated a send-off service for members of our Z-Team on July 1, 2012.

We were thrilled to have Maureen Steer, student intern, working with Pastor Mary for two terms as part of her training at Bangor Theological Seminary. Maureen led and participated in worship services, visited parishioners, and led study groups as part of her internship. She came as a student and left as our dear friend. We are confident of her success as a minister and pastor when her seminary time is complete.

The Diaconate administers the Feddern Diaconate Discretionary Fund with Pastor Mary; the current balance in that fund is \$437.52. We were able to provide \$1835.59 in assistance during 2011-2012, and \$2831.93 through April 30 of 2013. These payments covered such things as rent, fuel oil & electricity, medical needs, & gas cards. We consider requests for assistance from Wakefield and Brookfield, and from our parishioners in other communities. Thanks to all those who continue to contribute to the fund and make this help possible.

One of our major efforts over the past 12 to 18 months has been in securing pastoral coverage during Pastor Mary's well deserved and earned sabbatical from August 1 through October 31, 2013. We are very excited to have Rev Albert Mhururu coming from the UCC in Zimbabwe to serve as our sabbatical minister. Our Z-Team has met him several times and feels he will be a good fit for our congregation; Connie Littlefield has been instrumental in making the travel arrangements. Thank you, Connie! Rev Mhururu will lead us in worship, administer the sacraments, make pastoral visits, and be available for other pastoral needs. We are grateful to Chris and Titia Bozuwa, George and Donna Ackerman, and Rob Nelson, who will provide housing for Rev Mhururu during his stay. Please feel free to invite Rev Mhururu to your homes or to any outings you may have planned while he is here. He will be learning about us, our way of life, and our church ministries, just as we will be learning about his. This will be wonderful adventure! Please see Steeple Views for other information about Rev Mhururu, and check out the Power-Point presentation on the church website.

At the suggestion of Elizabeth Fogg, the Diaconate is now providing visitor bags to first time visitors to our worship services. The bags contain an overview of church activities, a pew brochure, a prayer square, a spiritual gift bookmark, and information on community & county services. Bags for children include a prayer square, stickers, and a Bible bookmark. Our great thanks to Rev Jan Fairchild who keeps up our supply!

This year, at the suggestion of Carol Lundgren, we instituted friendship pads in each of the pews. The pads provide a space for each of us to put our name, our relationship to the church, and our e-mail address. There is also a place to note if you would like a call from the pastor. The idea is to pass this pad along the pew for everyone to sign, and then pass it back again. In this way, we come to know each other better, and extend the hand of friendship to visitors. Rev Mary has found these pads to be very helpful in identifying visitors. So yes, even if you're a member and you're here almost every week, please keep that friendship pad moving on Sunday mornings!

It has been our practice for many years to set aside a time in each worship service for prayer concerns and celebrations raised by the congregation. We are happy to share in these joys and concerns, and many of us make them part of our individual prayer time during the week. It would be most helpful if those who wish to raise a concern or a celebration could write it down and give it to one of the deacons on duty prior to the service; we will make sure the information gets to Rev Mary to be included in the prayer time. Paper is provided at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you!

Our great appreciation to Rev Mary for her continued spiritual guidance to all our members and friends through worship, prayer, and growth. Blessings to this congregation!

Respectfully Submitted

Harriet Wilson, Diaconate Secretary

Titia Bozuwa and Jo Szirbik, co-coordinators

## Events

### Wakefield Pride Day Event 2013

Once again, our church was well represented at Wakefield Pride Day this past May. We rented four booths; the Parish Helpers rented one to raffle a beautiful hand-made quilt, and our church filled the remaining three. We welcomed the community with both hot and iced Fair Trade coffee and tea. We invited people to on-going discussion regarding climate change and our environment, a follow-up to our recent Awakening the Dreamer event. We sold cookies at our famous *cookie walk*, as well as geraniums and shoes with bling. The Z-Team sold beautiful hand-made items. Our up-coming Ecumenical Vacation Bible School was advertised. We laid out information about our church and warmly welcomed the community to know more about who we are as a congregation.



### Historian & Archivist

The work of our Ministry is behind the scenes and not visible to most church members, unless you look into the back classroom. The church records and papers have been collected and sorted and placed into boxes by category. The next step will be to sort the material again and discard duplicates and non-essential material.

We have created a data base documenting the items in our collection.

We have created a data base of specific site locations of on-site materials.

We are working on a database of locations in New Hampshire that have records pertaining to our church.

The next goal will be to order metal, fireproof storage units. This is an expensive item. But it is also, a one time purchase. I strongly urge the congregation to support this important addition to our church building. We currently have decades of records missing because of a fire at the home of Captain Yeaton. The records were from the years 1800 to 1820. As Stewards of the Church for future generations it is imperative that we preserve our paper records, photos, videos and any other historical item.

A consultant reviewed our archives and the space available within the church to advise us where to place the storage units and how much storage we need based on the linear foot of the current material. The mold issue and humidity within the building is a concern, so is the sprinkler system. We are hoping for this next step to begin this summer.

### *Historian*

Carol Lundgren and I interviewed Ann Hatch. The main topic of questions was related to her experience and memories within our church. Carol videotaped the interview. This was the second video recorded by Carol with Ann Hatch. These interviews will be part of the Archives.

Ann shared a packet of children's programs from 1941 to 1953. There are plays for the children to perform on Christmas and Children's Sunday in June. I wonder if our present Church School students would like to 'recycle' this material and present it to the congregation.

We are happy to take any past material and photos pertaining to the life of our church. Think of this Ministry when you are making room for new items in your home. We will gladly review, copy and return, or store the materials.

Thank you for your support and help as we attempt to preserve the history of our cherished church.

Respectfully submitted

Patricia Golden, Coordinator Historian and Archival Ministry

Linda Petkunas

**Investment & Financial**  
**Finance, Investments and Memorial Gifts**  
**Report Current as of May 31, 2013**

5-23-12		5-31-13
\$ 8,407.84	Capital Campaign Fund	\$ 54,423.19
15,056.81	Virginia C. Wentworth Fund	15,092.17
36,704.78	Paul Fund B	41,746.90
1,841.50	Paul Fund C	683.64
195,471.41	Parsonage Fund	196,565.58
<u>15,040.66</u>	Alden Young Grant	<u>15,150.91</u>
272,523.00		323,662.39

Notes

The \$54,423.19 Capital Campaign Fund reflects all cash received as of 5-31-13 (not counting in-kind donations of \$4360.00) less the \$20,160.81 that has already been spent on capital needs. The total amount that has been pledged to the Campaign so far is \$159,350.

Because the Capital Campaign Fund includes money that will be used for current needs, the 5-23-12 and 5-31-13 amounts should not be considered as investments. Subtracting them from the year-end totals results in \$264,115.16 for 2012 and \$269,239.20 for 2013, a year-to-year increase of \$5124.04, or 1.94% in the value of the church's investments. This is a modest increase, but it must be understood in light of the fact that dividends from Paul Fund B and the Parsonage Fund are not reinvested, but rather go to support Innovative Programs and the Senior Pastor's housing respectively.

The Virginia C. Wentworth Fund was moved to the United Church Fund's fixed income investment on 1-1-13, when the Certificate of Deposit in which it had been held matured. This change was made when it was determined that the stained glass windows---for which the Wentworth bequest had been made---would not need repair for the foreseeable future. With dividends from the fixed income fund re-invested, the Leadership Council deemed it likely that this fund would grow more rapidly than if the money continued to be deposited in CD's.

The \$5042.12 increase in Paul Fund B amount reflects the repayment of the \$5000 taken out for the Capital Campaign consultant's retainer, plus a modest gain in the value of the underlying fixed income fund investment. The repayment came from cash received by the Capital Campaign.

The \$1157.86 decrease in Paul Fund C reflects money deducted to support Innovative Programs during the course of the year. Fund C is replenished by the quarterly dividends paid by Fund B.

The Parsonage Fund increased by \$1094.17 due to the modest gain of the underlying fixed income investment. All dividends from this fund are paid out to the church in support of the Senior Pastor's housing.

The \$110.25 increase in the Alden Young Grant reflects the accrued interest from the 1 year Ally Bank CD in which the grant funds were placed on 11-13-12. These funds are earmarked for upgrading the church's septic system, and can be withdrawn for that purpose at any time without penalty.

The balance in the Memorial Gifts account (not shown above) is \$8560.27, including interest.

Respectively submitted,  
 Bill Goodwin  
 Coordinator Finance, Investments and Memorial Gifts

**Forward in Faith**  
**Renewing a Spirit of Purpose and Place**  
**Capital Campaign – Phase I**

This Capital Campaign grew out of critical issues (well beyond the reach of our modest annual budget) and a deep desire to be good stewards of the church and renew a spirit of purpose and place. We set a goal of raising \$300,000.

There are three focal points of this campaign, as approved by a vote of the congregation on July 22, 2012:

- Inreach – providing for the immediate care of our beautiful church and its grounds.
- Outreach – expressing God's love in the community and the world through current missions.
- Endowment and Legacy – establishing a maintenance reserve for future building repairs, and an endowment that will augment and expand mission.

Our beloved church has some aging "issues". A list has been made for some big ticket repairs. Some are already completed and some are planned. Items such as: driveway drainage (done), Fellowship Hall mold remediation (done), painting and scraping church exterior (mostly done), septic system (coming soon), energy conservation (being evaluated), and more.

Then, there is our “spirit of purpose” – as a community church, we are actively engaged, bringing positive programs to the forefront of discussions with other pastoral leaders, local educators and interested citizens – regardless of church affiliation. We demonstrate spirit of purpose in programs like “Awakening the Dreamer” (thank you Margie), conversations around “Ready to Learn” (thank you Rev. Mary), supporting the Wakefield Food Pantry (many of our church members are active in the WFP) and the Good Shepard transportation program (thank you Rachel and Margie and wonderful volunteers). Our annual hosting of Vacation Bible School brings many children and families here for a week of innovative play, learning to love one another better through Christ’s message (thank you Miss Penny, Miss Jan, Miss Ginny).

The third point of focus is providing financial stewardship for the future. We know that there will be additional expenses going forward, some of which we can anticipate and some which are unforeseen. It is, therefore, prudent to put money away for the future, just as it is for any household. In addition, creating an endowment that generates income will allow us to further grow our missions.

Phase I of the Capital Campaign is completed and we are blessed to have pledges totaling \$159,350, of which \$20,160.81 has been spent on immediate needs and \$54,423.19 is in our bank account.

Phase II is next. In the coming months, a small group of intrepid folks will be asking local community members, philanthropic foundations, and out-of-town former FCCW members to be a part of this historic effort. We anticipate wrapping up Phase II early this Fall.

It has taken us longer than originally anticipated to complete the campaign, and we are pleased about the outcomes so far. We will continue to inform the congregation about our progress. We certainly can use assistance bringing the campaign to its conclusion. Let us know if you would like to help with the final phase.

Meanwhile, the Leadership Council has selected and charged a group of members with the responsibility to shape the way in which the Capital Campaign funds will be designated for use.

We look forward to keeping you updated.

The Capital Campaign Team

Titia Bozuwa, Carol Lundgren, Bill and Susie Goodwin, and Ed and Florence Morrison

## Library

We would like to thank the Parish Helpers and other donors for their continued support of our church library. It is with your help that we can continue to provide books for our congregation/community that support their: spiritual guidance, education, Leadership support, relationship/self-growth and of course the occasional fictional books with Christian theme.

A big THANK YOU to Linda Petkunas who stepped up at the last ministry fair and has been implementing an easy to follow organizational system for our church library. It’s a big job she has graciously undertaken and we hope to see other’s volunteer to help this time round. It is simpler than the Dewey system, so therefor should be easy for future library volunteers to follow. No prior knowledge needed. With this system we will have books by category and should be easy to find just what you’re looking for.

We have purchased a few new titles this year to add to our growing library. We base our book purchases on a few factors. Does it receive good ratings? , is it a topic that is either enjoyable or useful to our congregation? , budget, and of course we try to get books for different demographics

Some of new titles this year include: Grace by Max Lucado, No Man Left Behind by P. Morley, What Happens When I Talk to God by. S. Omartian, Aunt Lucy has Cancer by C.Owens and few other children titles. We have also received some great books through donation.

We occasionally will send out over due book reminders but as with any library, it doesn’t always result with a successful return. We also have books missing from our shelves that were not checked out. We encourage everyone to return in a timely manner for others to enjoy and please check your shelves and your children’s book shelves for any titles that may be stamped with FCCW.

The Library Ministry, via the Steepleviews, informs the congregation of new titles, and encourages all to stop in to browse our shelves, and submit short reviews to share.

Let us not forget all the work that went into the mold remediation in the fellowship hall and beyond. We cleaned, boxed and moved all the books in fellowship hall upstairs & returned when mold remediation was completed. Job well done to everyone involved.

Please stop by the Library Ministry table at the ministry fair and see if there are any volunteer opportunities that fit your gift. There are many “small jobs” that are a tremendous help to the coordinator(s).

Respectfully submitted

Mary Beth Cook & Nancy Dee



## Parish Helpers

The Purpose of Parish Helpers is to offer local area women the opportunity to cultivate the endeavors beginning with our own homes, our communities and wider world missions. We were created over 100 years ago and are proud of what we continue to accomplish in Christ's name from our home at the First Congregational Church of Wakefield.

We meet the second Thursday of the month to share in fellowship and enrichment of our minds and souls. We have amazing guest speakers, fun field trips, game days as well as service projects.

Don't forget to support our Treasure Shop this summer. We're open Wednesday & Saturday from 9 -12. We welcome donations- as well as volunteers.

### 2013-2014 Officers

President- Ginny Schweitzer  
Vice President- Carol Jeffery  
2nd Vice President - Donna Vanderhoof  
Secretary- Linda Petkunas  
Treasurer- Rachel White  
Assistant Treasurer- Priscilla Frothingham  
Auditor- Janice Brejwo  
Directors- Elizabeth Fogg, Elizabeth Heinlein, Pam Frazier

This is an amazing group of dedicated women who love to serve God thorough many acts of love & kindness. Come join the fun.

Respectfully submitted  
Ginny Schweitzer  
President

## Pastoral Relations

Members of the Pastoral Relations Committee include Bill Goodwin, George Ackerman, and Connie Littlefield.

The PRC has met a few times in the past year yet more frequently via email to share hopes, concerns, ideas and prayerful support. Sensitive, resilient, strong, reflective, creative, prayerful, supportive, generous, and diplomatic, we find Mary effectively encouraging leadership and engaging our congregation's gifts for ministry.

Mary has remained focused with vision and purpose through the Capital Campaign, our budget ups and downs, the progression of the evolving church structure, and much, much more. She reminds us of why we are *The Church*, and of our call to care, to love and to grow -- personally, within the local community, and globally.

A dedicated and tireless professional, Mary has made strides toward balancing her family life with the demands of ministerial life. Significantly, she and Bob have shared their personal experiences through workshops for other clergy families.

The input from the many Capital Campaign interviews confirmed how loved and valued Mary is within our church. The PRC members are deeply appreciative of her gifts for ministry and of her sabbatical opportunity for spiritual rest, reflection and growth.

Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Littlefield

## Personnel

Personnel participated in duties as described by the Personnel Policy Manual.

During July & August, 2012, Personnel representatives worked with Josie Perkins, Church School Director. Josie resigned her position effective August 30, 2012. Personnel worked with Christian Education ministry to develop plans for the organization and staffing of the Church School.

A number of options were explored, including hiring child care providers. It was decided to use a voluntary Collaborative Church School Team. (Refer to Church School Annual Report for additional details.)

Jan Fairchild continued to be the contact person who monitored work flow and management issues related to the Administrative Assistant position. Given this relationship she was also asked to sign payment vouchers related to a variety of church expenses. Susie Goodwin continued to be the liaison with the Music Director/Organist and Dave Schweitzer continued to be the contact person with the Pastor and Deacons .

Staff budget expenses for the new fiscal year for the Administrative Assistant were proposed to the Budget Team in January, 2013. Jan justified the recommendations for an increase in work hours:

20 hours per week, July – December, 2012; 15 hours per week, January-June, 2013. The justification was based, in part, on the increased duties that the Administrative Assistant will assume during Pastor Mary's Sabbatical.

Personnel participated in some discussions regarding the expectations and responsibilities of the Sabbatical replacement Pastor. The Deacons are assuming the primary responsibility for the Sabbatical planning. Personnel will anticipate communication from the Deacons regarding any necessary (temporary) change in Personnel responsibilities.

The annual Performance Appraisal for the Administrative Assistant will be completed in June.

It is anticipated that Personnel will have critical input to the proposals of new By-laws and Policies for the church in the coming year.

Personnel Ministry Members: Dave Schweitzer, George Ackerman, Susie Goodwin, Mary James, and Jan Fairchild.

Respectfully submitted  
Jan Fairchild, Coordinator

## Stewardship

### Part I

#### *Six Biblical Financial Principals*

*Earn Ethically*

*Resist Greed*

*Spend Modestly*

*Avoid Debt*

*Save Diligently*

*Give Generously*

*"Here I am Lord! Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go Lord, if You lead me. I will hold your people in my heart."*

Dear Reader of this Report – you may ask what these “Six Biblical Financial Principals” and the quote from a favorite hymn mean to YOU. It's a right question. Every person is a Steward of God's gifts – in one's personal life and in the life of First Congregational Church of Wakefield. Gifts of time, talent and treasure enrich our congregation in its work within and beyond Wakefield Village and likewise, our personal lives.

The centerpiece of Stewardship is the Whole Hearted Giving 2013-14 pledge campaign. Pledges from members and friends are the **foundation** upon which the Church is able to plan (or revise plans) for the year ahead. Like the homeowner's budget, there are a considerable number of FIXED expenses (fuel, electricity, maintenance, insurance to name a few). We have a generous congregation – that's a blessing! Each year, though, when we ponder the potential income from folks who pledge, we see some of our members have moved, passed away, lost income/jobs or face other financial stressors. We also see that some of our members increase their pledge by 5% or 10% and that has helped so much to approach a balanced budget to present to the Congregation on June 23rd.

The Budget Ministry team, allied with Stewardship, projects expenses and income. They work hand in hand, bringing details to Leadership Council. Generosity is alive and well here and a blessing! In addition to financial support, church members faithfully support the church in so many ways that translate to savings. One example: the amazing “Clean Team Ministry” folks who keep the sanctuary ready for worship, kitchens, Parish Helpers Room, three bathrooms, Fellowship Hall and hallways neat, tidy and ready for service. This one ministry greatly reduces expenses, leaving more money available for our core Ministries.

**In addition**, the frugalness of the ministries last year, the careful stewardship of lights and heat, the continued cleaning of the church done by members and other economies has led to an unspent balance in the checkbook of our beloved church. Leadership Council, in its wisdom and vision, recommends a portion of this money be applied to the budget shortfall. This is the budget that is being presented to you, voting members, at Annual Meeting for final approval.

Thanks be to God for leading us to the ability to present a balanced budget for 2013-14.

Carol Lundgren, Stewardship Ministry Coordinator

### Part II

Quite separate from the annual “pledge drive” Stewardship also looks after and helps to coordinate certain fundraising events. At a meeting of interested members in March several new ideas were put forward along with some tried and true ideas from the past. One wonderful opportunity continues to be “Circle 227” – see poster boards in Fellowship Hall. It is amazing how individual purchases and donations of the common things like paper towels, soap, Kleenex, TP, office supplies and the like help the bottom line. Thank you to all who participate in Circle 227 (227 is the number of years FCCW has been a settled congregation and was started for our 225<sup>th</sup> year celebration.

These fundraising efforts serve a purpose of supporting the church, but also – and perhaps even more important, special events open to the public introduce folks in the community to First Congregational Church of Wakefield. To know us ... is to love us! When you are called to help an event run smoothly, please look at it as an opportunity to show God's love and light. Looking forward to growing in faith together in 2013-14.

Respectfully submitted  
Carol Lundgren, Stewardship Ministry Coordinator

### **Theatrical & Musical Arts**

It has been our privilege to provide music and drama to enhance our worship services. Our team includes Susie Goodwin and Janice Stanley (also our Bell Choir Director) as co-leaders as well as our organists, Cindy Eggleston (also our Voice Choir Director) and Barry Lockard.

During the summer of 2012 we were fortunate to have a number of guests musicians offer their musical gifts during summer services. Both choirs traditionally take the summer months off from their weekly rehearsals. Our thanks go to Carol Riley, Andrea Szirbik, Pat Vittum and the 3 Mezzos, Rob Nelson, Susie Goodwin and Rev. Mary. Both the Memorial Bell Choir and the vocal choir participated in the Christmas season services. Jo Szirbik and children presented a lovely interpretive dance routine into worship. The Sunday School children participated in our annual Pageant. Jan Stanley represented the Music and Theatrical Ministry Team at the Prepared to Serve conference. Some great ideas were shared and incorporated during the Easter season. We included dramatic presentations on Palm Sunday and Easter morning using actors from our congregation. Feedback from participants and congregation was positive. It helped us understand how common people felt as they witnessed the last days of Christ's time on earth. We hope to present more dramatic moments into future services.

Budgetary limitations were a challenge for music directors as we tried to build upon and update our current music libraries and supplies. We are extremely grateful to the Parish Helpers for their generous donations. This gift was used to purchase music. Also we are thankful to Susie Goodwin for her gift to both choirs allowing purchase of music in memory of her father. **Severall** choir members sang at Maxine Chadbourne's memorial service last fall; donation in her memory helped to fund vocal choir music. Both music directors purchased music for their respective choirs from their personal funds. Bell ringers purchased their own replacement gloves. Replacement bell parts were purchased by the director. The Team strongly felt we need to bring our Voice Choir Director/Organist's salary up to current standards. We proposed a \$1000 increase again this year. This increase still does not bring us up to the average salary for a church organist. Cindy spends many hours each week preparing for rehearsals and recording accompaniments as well as time spent in church.

We are into the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the Bell Choir and the first song we played in church 25 years ago was included in a recent service. We are hoping to celebrate our anniversary with a summer or fall concert. We deeply appreciate the dedication, loyalty and hard work of the individuals who sing in the choir and those who ring bells. Rehearsal time is a huge commitment. These folks give a number of hours each week to ensure a high quality of music during our worship services. They are all a part of our music mission – helping to bring the love of God to our church.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Stanley & Susie Goodwin

### **Wider Church**

Members of the First Congregational Church of Wakefield have represented the FCCW at an array of events this year including:

- Fall and Spring Carroll Strafford Association Meetings
- NH Conference Annual Meeting
- Global Ministries Zimbabwe presentations with Mary Jane and Don Westra and with Rev. Edward Matuvhunye held at First Congregational Church of Rochester
- Installation of Eliza Buchakjan Tweedy of the First Congregational Church of Rochester.
- Installation of Rev. Michael Bennett, pastor of First Parish Church in Dover
- Ecclesiastical Council for Emily Goodnow, First Parish Church of Dover
- Participation in Prepared to Serve, a day of workshops covering all aspects of church ministry and spiritual growth.

Of special note are:

- Rev. Mary's regular participation with Jan Fairchild in monthly meetings with ecumenical partners and in Ready to Learn, another ecumenical initiative to better understand and respond to the needs of Wakefield families.
- Recognition of the upcoming UCC General Synod 28 to be held in Long Beach, California June 28 – July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

I would love to hear from people who desire to learn more about the NH Conference or who are interested in being a delegate on behalf of our church.

Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Littlefield

### **Z-Team**

It seems hard to believe that we have been partnered with Rufumiso, our sister church in Zimbabwe, for a little more than 16 years!

This past year has been a busy one, with the mission trip in July 2012 as a highlight. Ann Bilodeau, Maggie Mason, a senior at Spaulding High School, and I shared a three week adventure as we participated in three work camps involving painting classrooms at Dzika and Goko Primary School, making a cement floor for South Down Church, and renovating a teacher's house at Goko. We spent wonderful time meeting new friends at Chikanga Church in Mutare, led workshop at Waterfalls UCCZ, and met our FOOT family in the communities of Harare, Chipinge, Chikore, and Dzika. We visited Mt. Selinda High School, Chinaa Primary and Chinaa High School, Chikore High School, Rimbi High School, Big Tree Primary School and of course, the schools at Dzika and at Goko. (Goko is one of nine schools in the Rufumiso community.) We celebrated the opening of the Peg Harvey block of classrooms, got involved in the exciting and joyful completion of fundraising celebrations to bring electricity to Dzika, and were swept away by special presentations from our goat beneficiaries. Our goat project began a few years ago with 25 beneficiaries. The number of recipients had grown to 85 in their style of paying it forward to another person in need. We took part in a fabulous ordination ceremony for Rev. Grotor Fakarai, a first for the UCCZ to have partner church delegates participating. We visited Chikore Mission Clinic, Daisy Dube Orphanage, Tamandi clinic, Ratelshoek Clinic and Muskewa Clinic, leaving donated medical supplies along the way. We lived with Zimbabwean families; they took us into their hearts as we took them into ours. Dear friends Joseph Sibiya and Rev. Mutsumbei escorted us and we spent valuable time with their families, with our FOOT children, and with our dearly loved friends at Rufumiso.

Additionally,

- Ann and I have made presentations at the NH Conference Ukama Fair, and at Union, Deering and Dover churches, in addition to a slide show and Zim meal at FCCW.
- We are currently sponsoring 26 children, down from last year's number of 31. We were delighted to receive letters from most of them and plans are in the works to have them send video greetings that can be shared at church.
- Fundraising activities have included three pancake breakfasts (Oct, Feb and June) and assisting chef extraordinaire Barry Lockard in a delicious Italian Dinner in January. A "decathlon" was held at Spaulding High School, facilitated by the Z Team and Spaulding's Interact Club, yielding \$2100 toward the continued rebuilding of Dzika Primary.
- We are busy sorting items for our 7<sup>th</sup> shipping container which will be loaded in Rochester on Saturday, Sept 14, 2013. Last year we had more than 25 church groups joining our project which enabled us to make sure every church within the UCCZ received clothing, school or medical supplies, or other humanitarian assistance. Your wonderful donations, along with the physical help on packing day, make this all possible!
- We have provided a lot of support in the form of clothing, school supplies, dorm items, hot meals and more for Rev. Mutsumbei who has been studying at Andover Newton Theological School. More importantly, so many people have extended the hand of friendship while he is separated from his family and a familiar way of life. He has greatly appreciated the warmth, hospitality, and generosity of the Wakefield Church members. He has enjoyed meeting with our youth and all of the warm greetings during Sunday worship.
- I have worked with Diaconate to facilitate Rev. Mhururu's visa application and travel to the US. We look forward to a time of new learning and growth as he covers Mary's sabbatical.
- The Z Team continues to coordinate the annual Yard Sale to benefit the Wakefield Church as a way of giving back for all of the funds that are raised that go overseas.

Thank you and bless you for your continued love and support that makes all of this outreach possible. You are the foundation in making extraordinary things happen for children in Zimbabwe!

Rudo and rugare! Mwari vakukomborei. (*Love and peace! God bless you.*)

Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Littlefield

On behalf of Z Team members Donna Ackerman, Ann Bilodeau, Chris Feddern, Debbie Fogg, Cathy Koukal, Jan Stanley and Jo Szirbik