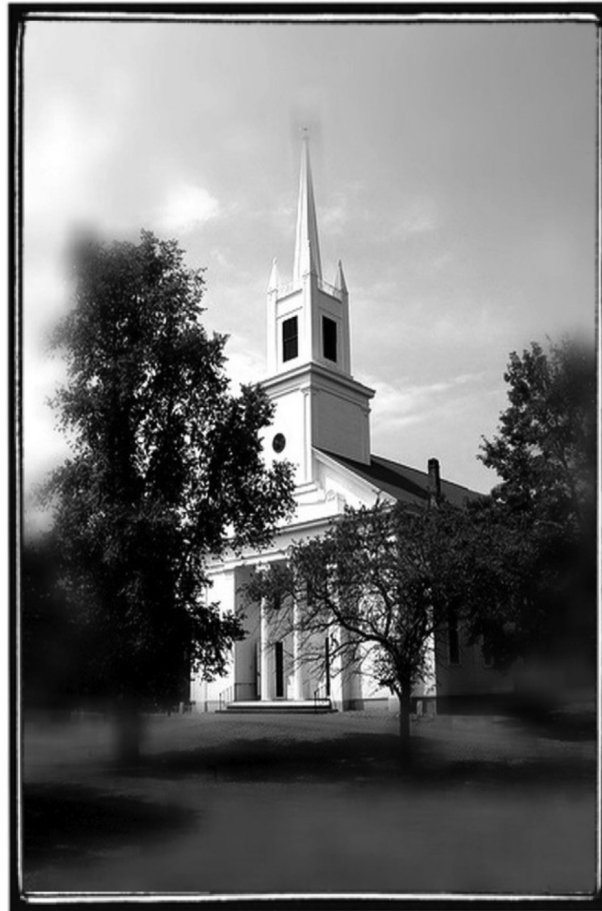


The Congregational Church *of* Topsfield

*An Open and Affirming Congregation of
the United Church of Christ*



Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 26th, 2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Warrant.....	3
Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting.....	4
Membership Activity.....	8
Moderator.....	9
Sr. Minister.....	11
Associate Minister for Children and Youth Ministry.....	13
Music Director.....	15
Children and Youth Ministry Assistant/Board of Children and Youth.....	17
Board of Deacons.....	19
Parish Care Team	
Board of Community and Communications.....	21
Board of Trustees.....	22
Fair Booth...	
Memorial Garden	
Board of Mission and Outreach.....	24
Nominating Committee.....	27

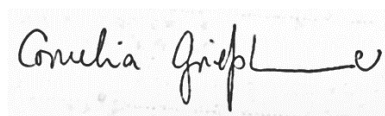
**WARRANT FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF TOPSFIELD**

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF TOPSFIELD, MA:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED AND WARNED THAT A BUSINESS MEETING OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF TOPSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS WILL BE HELD IN THE MEETINGHOUSE ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2020 IMMEDIATELY AFTER WORSHIP AT APPROXIMATELY 10:30 AM TO ACT ON THE FOLLOWING:

- Article I.** To hear all reports that may legally come before the meeting and to act thereon.
- Article II.** To see if the Church will vote to authorize Council, Trustees, and their designees to proceed with completion of the Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD) process to define the Emerson Fields wetlands, and to see if the Church will vote to raise, appropriate, and transfer a sum of money from the Watson Income Fund not to exceed \$40,000 for the purpose of paying for the professional work associated with this effort.
- Article III.** To see if the Church will vote to transfer the sum of \$30,000 from the Watson Income Fund to the Building Maintenance Fund.
- Article IV.** To see if the Church will vote to raise, appropriate and transfer the sum of money needed to fund the general church operating expenses for the fiscal year 2020, beginning January 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2020, such sum being \$528,147, as presented by the Board of Trustees.
- Article V.** To see if the Church shall elect Officers, Board and Committee members, who will serve until the next annual meeting in January 2021 or until the expiration of their term as provided in the By-Laws.
- Article VI.** To act upon any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Given under my hand this 16th day of January 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Cornelia Griesshammer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Cornelia Griesshammer, Clerk

MINUTES OF THE 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF TOPSFIELD Annual Meeting Minutes January 27, 2019

With a quorum present (approximately 100 attendees), Kristin Palace, Moderator opened with remarks about our membership covenants then called the Annual Meeting to order at 10:30am.

Article I. To hear all reports that may legally come before the meeting and to act thereon.

There were none.

Article II. To see if the Church will vote to authorize Council, Trustees, and their designees to proceed with negotiations to sell the Emerson field for the development of an assisted living facility and to engage legal counsel to help with this process, and to see if the Church will vote to raise, appropriate, or transfer a sum of money from the Watson Income Fund not to exceed \$12,500 for the purpose of paying legal fees associated with this effort.

David Read, as Chair of the Emerson Field Committee presented an overview. He acknowledged the committee and explained that their goal was to understand ways we could monetize our asset of the Emerson Fields. They looked at many options, including farmland, affordable housing, solar arrays, retail, and residential. The assisted living facility option appears to be optimal.

Guido Voss presented a stewardship overview, sharing that our net change over last year is \$25,312, totaling \$350,999 from 114 pledge units. He is very encouraged by the 11 new pledge units and the 55 pledge units who increased their pledges this year. There will be a celebration in the next four weeks.

Bruce Jones presented a financial case for why we need to look for other sources of income. Despite spending less than we budgeted in 2018 and having income greater than budgeted, we are still drawing more from the Alan T. Watson Income Fund than is sustainable. And while our stewardship campaign was very successful this year, Bruce noted that most of our pledge units (80%) are > 55 years old, and we experience a notable decline in average pledges after people retire. So despite our growth in new members, their pledges do not offset the loss of pledge income from long-term members who retire, move, and/or pass away. Bruce also noted that while we have ~\$1 million in assets that are invested, we draw down \$40K per year, so the assets need to grow to maintain, and preferably increase their value. Finally, he noted that we need about \$200K for capital expenditures to maintain our buildings.

Jon Kinhan moved the article, Joe Gibbons seconded. Then Kristin opened the floor for questions: Claudia Worth asked how our \$1M in assets are invested currently and how the proceeds from a sale would be invested. Bruce Spaulding, member of the Finance Committee explained that these assets are invested professionally by Essex Financial Advisors, with about 60% in stocks and 40% in fixed income. The assets are valued at \$959K currently vs. \$929K five years ago, and we have withdrawn \$128K over that time. The average return has been 3.2%. The proceeds from a sale would also be managed professionally, and we would only have access to the income from that investment. David R. said that in November of 2017, Benchmark offered ~\$3M for the fields, and our appraisal came in at \$3.1M.

MINUTES OF THE 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

- Conny Griesshammer asked how much income would we get from the invested funds. Bruce S. noted that is impossible to answer but we would hope to realize similar returns (~3%) as over past 5 years of our investments and the Watson Fund.
- Tom Warren asked what the next most attractive option is after the assisted living facility. David R. noted that it was probably 40B affordable housing, but the appraisal for that purpose was only \$2.4M.
- Steve Whelan pointed out that the warrant article is only to approve hiring legal counsel to help us get more information and negotiate further. Kristin clarified that we would require a congregational vote prior to any sale and that there will be public forums to understand neighbors' and residents' concerns, as well as lots of communication within the church.
- Boyd Jackson has heard talk of a sale of the Emerson Center and acknowledged that the sale of the EC or the fields could be difficult in town. He asked if the committee considered the sale of the EC. David R. said their committee was focused on the fields.
- Dick Denton asked if the \$12,500 was to draw up a P&S agreement, and if so, doesn't that presume that we would sign it if we're negotiating in good conscience. Kristin said that legal counsel will help us determine what makes sense, including the possibility of drafting a P&S. But she also assured everyone that Benchmark (or any other potential buyer) is/will be fully aware of our congregational process and that there will be no sale without a vote of the congregation.
- Kindra Clineff asked if there is a minimum amount that we're willing to sell the fields for and expressed her concerns about the impact on the community, the elevation of the property, and the lack of knowledge about Benchmark. David R. said that an offer amount will depend on many factors, and we will have to address our interest when we have more information.
- Kim Philpot thanked the committee for their work and also asked about Benchmark. David R. said they are a big, for-profit company, so we need legal counsel and expertise to help us in any negotiations. Martha Morrison described Benchmark as having a great reputation as a company that operates 55 facilities in MA, NY, and PA. She also described their partnership with WellTower, a REIT with \$4B in revenue that finances the facilities. Jackie Cassidy shared her experience of an aunt who received great care in a Benchmark facility. She was very impressed.
- Paul DiTucci asked what is the expected outcome of this next phase and if we have a bottom line/ low watermark that we're willing to accept. David R. acknowledged that we don't really know other than to start conversations and see where they lead, but he assured everyone that information will be shared along the way. In terms of a minimum amount we'd be willing to accept, Kristin said we don't know that yet, but even if we did, we would not publicize that and jeopardize our negotiating leverage.
- Tom Warren asked what kinds of approvals we would need from the town. Martha Morrison stated that we would need waivers and variances and a special permit from the Zoning Board. If it gets to that point, Martha will have to recuse herself from the fields committee due to her involvement in town government. Kristin reminded everyone that we are only voting to start the discussions.
- Mary Jelinek expressed her concern about the impact the construction and location will have on Joyful Noises, and expressed her concern about jeopardizing that important relationship.

Kristin called the vote. The article passed by a vote of 72 yes to 25 no.

MINUTES OF THE 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

Article III. To see if the Church will vote to transfer the sum of \$20,000 from the Alan T. Watson Income Fund to the Building Maintenance Fund.

Mark Panella explained that we need money to maintain the buildings, and there is no room in the budget for that. Steve Whelan asked how much is currently in the fund. Mark responded nearly \$70K. He also noted that the steeple is a big priority. Liz Mulholland noted that it needs painting and has some rot, and because it is 120' high, we will need special equipment to paint it.

Martha Morrison made the motion. Conny Griesshammer seconded. Kristin opened floor for questions:

- John Szymanski asked if this \$20K is in addition to the amount needed from the Watson Income Fund to balance the budget. Bruce Jones said yes.
- Dwayne Melling asked if this is an estimate for specific work that needs to be done now. Mark P. said it is not earmarked for anything specific.

The article passed unanimously.

Article IV. To see if the Church will vote to raise, appropriate and transfer the sum of money needed to fund the general church operating expenses for the fiscal period 2019, beginning January 1, 2019 and ending December 31, 2019, such sum being ~~\$520,171~~ \$521,671 (as amended), as presented by the Board of Trustees.

John S. made the motion, Martha M. seconded.

Bruce Jones summarized the budget to explain the article. Sue Wilkinson noted that we had not adequately budgeted for social security for the Associate Minister, so she made a motion to increase the budget by \$1500 to \$521,671. This was moved by Joe Gibbons and seconded by Conny G. This amended was supported unanimously.

A motion was made for the amended article by Conny G and seconded by John S. The article, as amended, passed unanimously.

Article V. To see if the Church shall elect Officers, Board and Committee members, who will serve until the next annual meeting in January 2020 or until the expiration of their term as provided in the By-Laws.

Steve W. made the motion. Jon K. seconded. Kristin thanked the Nominating Committee. There were no questions. The article passed by majority vote.

MINUTES OF THE 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

Article VI. To act upon any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Steve Whelan made the following motion:

To see if the Church will vote to transfer the sum of \$2,000 from the Alan T. Watson Income Fund to the Speakers Fund.

This was seconded by John S. Mike Ierardi mentioned that we were going to transfer the unused budget line item from 2018 to the fund. Liz M. shared that we had agreed last year not to transfer funds from the budget to the balance sheet. Since this transfer never happened, it was a moot point. This article was passed unanimously.

Dan Philpot asked for an update on rentals of the Fellowship Hall, especially after passing the alcohol policy. Mark P. noted that we have an agreement with the Commons where they are marketing our space on their website and can rent it for events. To date, there have been no requests. Mark also noted that there have been conversations with other potential renters of our kitchen.

John Szymanski noted that our Missions budget is decreasing in 2019, so he encouraged everyone to “give freely” when there are special offerings.

Given no other business, Kristin asked for a motion to adjourn. John S. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jon K. seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:16pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Panella, Clerk

MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY REPORT

Membership Figures

January 1– December 31, 2019

MEMBERSHIP, 1 JANUARY 2019

TOTAL: 295 (254 regular Members plus 41 Associate Members)

MEMBERS RECEIVED

RE-AFFIRMATION: 7

CONFIRMATION:

AFFIRMATION: 0

TOTAL: 7

MEMBERS REMOVED

WITHDRAWN/INACTIVE: 6

TRANSFER:

DECEASED: 5

TOTAL: 11

MEMBERSHIP, 1 JANUARY 2020

TOTAL 291 (238 regular Members plus 53 Associate Members)

Sanctuary Activity

BAPTISMS: 2

WEDDINGS: 3

FUNERALS: 8

Membership Details

NEW MEMBERS: 7

Lorraine Edwards

Stephen Edwards

James Love

Kim Love

Melissa Ogden

David Symmes

Jen Symmes

DEATHS: 5

Jill Parker

Jean Johnston

Katherine MacGregor

Russell Blauser

Kenneth Moser

CONFIRMATION: 0

WITHDRAWN: 6

Paul DiTucci

Sue DiTucci

Lori Fritz

Steve Robblee

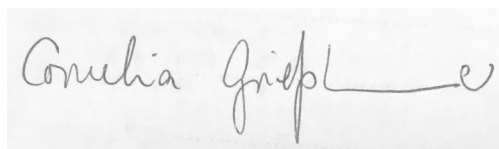
Josh Rownd

Louise Rownd

TOTAL NEW MEMBERS: 7

TOTAL REMOVED: 11

Respectfully submitted,



Conny Griesshammer, Clerk

Our church in 2019 was full of wonderful activity. New events surfaced and others continued apace as we focused on being a welcoming community and embodying God's love, grace, and justice through service to our neighbors, our country, and our world. As I look back over this year's events, I am struck – as I always am – by the wonderful variety of our work and the incredible commitment on the part of so many people that makes it all possible.

Your leadership team has continued to focus on determining organizational priorities and creating an atmosphere where members can accomplish the work they are called to do. This effort has included a continued focus on achieving financial stability and planning for a sustainable future. We do this not to simply preserve our existence but rather so we can continue to do God's work. We cannot accomplish what we are meant to do without funds.

Many of you answered the call from our stewardship committee this year. Pledging remains our primary and most important source of income. The Board of Trustees has had some success in renting our facilities, and I expect that all our members and friends will soon have the opportunity to participate in planned giving to our church. At the church's last annual meeting (January 2019), the membership overwhelmingly endorsed a proposal to pursue selling the Emerson Field. The Emerson Field Committee that was subsequently formed has worked hard over the past year to advance this objective. As it recently reported, the Committee has navigated difficult waters seeking various Town approvals to ready the property for sale. The committee members believe, as does your church leadership, that it remains possible and in the church's best interest to convert this underused resource into an asset that will help sustain the church into the future. As we have focused on growing our income, we have also focused on efficiency and controlling our expenses. Our Boards and staff have been very cost-conscious and have found ways to stretch the budget. Managing our antique physical facilities continues to be challenging, but our Buildings and Grounds Committee and Board of Trustees have worked hard to prioritize projects and prevent unforeseen expenses. The Fair Booth Committee continues to amaze in its innovative ways to decrease costs while maintaining the quality of our famous turkey dinners.

Despite the financial challenges that face us, we have continued to look outward and engage in the difficult issues facing our world. I am so very proud of the way that our congregation has organized and participated in activities that promote a vision of a just and loving world and the sustenance of the beloved community. Food for the Soul Dinner and Family Worship, Community Pot-Lucks, Dinner Circles, theater trips, reading circles, bible studies, and various fun social events provided us with opportunities to build community, support one another, and grow our faith. Service opportunities such as our annual Gifts of Love, assembling supplies for children bound for summer camp, collecting hundreds of bottles of toiletries, tending the church's garden (which produced so much produce for local food pantries), and the Build-a-Bed event -- to name but a few -- abounded and were met with enthusiasm by all of you. The church hosted community forums providing education on mental health challenges and promoting conversation on ending gun violence through the Conversation Café. We additionally provided financial support to a large number of local, national, and international charities.

No annual report would be complete without recognizing the dedicated professionals who do so much for all of us: our amazing ministers Martin Riekert and Amy Bruch, and our incredible staff Wendy Colby, Kim Karchenes, Rasheed Townes, and John Arathuzik. They are the glue that holds us together and the oil that makes the machine run. I am also always so grateful to all of you: to those who serve on boards and committees, hold positions of responsibility, sing in the choir, play hand-bells, visit members who are sick or shut-in, participate in worship services, work at the fair, teach Sunday school, support our youth, volunteer time to support local ministries, organize events, participate in study activities or group discussions, make coffee, and contribute financially. To all of you who make this church part of the fabric of your lives, thank you.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the members who represented our church publicly this year at numerous Town meetings and at meetings with neighborhood groups in our efforts to sell the Emerson Field. Many of these people were repeatedly exposed to challenging behavior at the hands of their fellow townspeople and yet continued to engage in an attempt to have constructive dialogue. A special thank you for your efforts on behalf of our church.

In these difficult times, may we continue our work to follow Jesus's compassionate way and to make God's love and justice present in this world.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Palace

From a longer-term historical perspective I am convinced that the past year will be acknowledged as a very consequential year for our church. It was the year that saw the culmination of efforts to respond in a responsible and hopeful manner to clear long-term trends that have developed over decades. The church's endowment in relation to demographic realities and the expensive historic facilities that have to be maintained is not sufficient.

The church's leadership asked the congregation to approve the result of the very thorough process of trying to fulfill our responsibility to ensure long-term financial viability for our church with the project around the Emerson fields. I am proud of our leadership team who persevered and managed the process to allow the democratic process to unfold. By nature such a process is always fraught with difficulty and our project had all the potential for intense and highly emotional disagreement. Even though our buyer fell silent, we did most of the difficult and messy work around this project over the past two years. We confronted the reality of being church in this era and place, we looked towards the future with commitment and hope, and we engaged the constituencies in our town some of whom were sometimes, with varying degrees, antagonistic.

Allow me to dwell on this for a while, because I think this is of huge significance and will impact the life of the church in many ways for years to come. I am so proud of our leadership team and our membership. We allowed opportunity for in depth conversation, respected difference of opinion, conducted civil conversations, and emerged with vitality and committed to be true to our calling in this place.

I walked with you, sometimes with concern, but eventually with gratitude as we went through the learning curve and grew into a new awareness of the importance of being gathered in the covenant of God's love. We embraced an emerging identity and we are walking into the future with a renewed sense of purpose about our mission in this town and in the world. As our new covenant affirms in the introductory sentences, being church is a spiritual process and we want to invite those who have not had the opportunity yet to embrace this new phase in our history, to covenant with us.

There is much to celebrate and many things to be grateful for when we look back at the past year. I can only lift up a few of these within the constraints of this report. We are leading the way with new initiatives: our mental health ministry as part of our social justice commitment was born and we are the driving force and hosts of the Northshore Conversation Café. We are leading our area in counter cultural action, being a safe place for differences of opinion where meaningful conversations can be conducted in a spirit of civility, where common ground is sought and often found. Our leadership role in these ministries is not something resulting only from good citizenship; it is an expression of our understanding of the Way of Jesus. We are called to reconcile.

With a growing number of our surrounding community involved, we enjoyed (yes, enjoyed!) another successful fair booth with wonderful community building among all those serving there. Thank you to everyone, especially our team leading that ministry.

SENIOR MINISTER'S REPORT

It was also a watershed year for us in the revitalization of our music program under the energetic, capable and loving leadership of Kim Karchenes. Kim and everyone working with her made such a difference to the worship experience. I want to thank all of our musicians and choirs for their contribution. Something Christa and I will carry in our hearts for as long as we shall live, is the Afrikaans Christmas hymn that the chancel choir sang during Advent.

We are very fortunate to have such a committed group of members serving in the different capacities and roles that form the fabric and facilitate the life of CCoT. It is not the norm in church communities in this era to enjoy a wealth of willing souls filling positions so readily. Thank you to all of you: those that are stepping down after a term or multiple terms, those stepping up for their first term and those who continue to serve as you have done before. Thank you to those who contributed time, talent, and treasure in other ways. Our Church Council deserves a special thank you. You lead with huge commitment and collective wisdom through a challenging year. I want to thank Kristin Palace, our moderator, for excellent leadership over yet another term.

I am grateful towards our very dedicated and competent staff members. It was clear that each of you was not just doing a job - your love for this community was consistently visible. Our staff members provided a very welcome combination of stability and flexibility that enabled our leadership and membership to find the best and new ways to embody God's love in the world.

Without the unconditional love, resilience and strength of Christa, I would not have been able to serve and provide some leadership to the church through this past year. Baie dankie my Lief.

I was privileged to share some of the most beautiful but also traumatic moments in many lives. Thank you for that grace.

As we journey into the future, molding and creating a new identity, responding to the mysteries of God's being in our complex socio-economic and political landscape, let us continue to do so with anticipation, with hope and with joy. As community we have learnt much in a process that was not always easy, but that has equipped us to walk together with more wisdom and a growing ability to be comfortable with not having all the answers.

I want to conclude this brief sampling of perspectives on the past year with the words of Rev. John Robinson on the Mayflower: "...for I am verily persuaded the Lord hath more truth yet to break forth out of His Holy Word." Let us continue to seek that truth, let us walk in that truth and let us be that truth in the years to come.

Submitted with gratitude and with humility

Martin.

ASSOCIATE MINISTER FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT

The feeling of community, the celebration of our stories and how they fit into the larger story of the church, the ways we each choose to be followers of Jesus, new folks in leadership roles and how we gather to be the church together, are all powerful ways I have felt our church growing since I began serving this community over five years ago. I continue to enjoy the creativity we are experiencing in the church, particularly in worship liturgy and in programs for families with children and youth. My helpful and supportive assistant, Rasheed Townes, and I work hard to thoughtfully and carefully plan a large number of gatherings and events. We have welcomed 9 more families with children into our church in the last two years. Attendance looks different for some families these days, with regular participation on Sundays often meaning 1-2 times per month, but this does not mean people aren't active and committed to our church community. The growth we have been experiencing will attract more growth, especially if we continue to invite our neighbors and friends to visit with us so they can see what we are about and how we choose to act in terms of spreading God's message of love in the world. It takes the boldness and care of all of us who understand the benefits, the challenges, and the joys of a church community, in order to grow it. There are many folks in our community who have no experience of what church is or they may have had a negative experience of church as a child, so meeting people wherever they are is important. There are many who would welcome your invitations to join us!

Our *Food for the Soul Dinner Worship* gatherings continue to thrive. Three months running in the fall, we welcomed visitors from other area churches who wanted to see what we do and have been inspired to carry our format for this ministry back to their own church communities and try it out. We are now in our fourth year of this ministry, focusing each gathering on the story of a Biblical character, including Mary and Martha, Moses, Mother Mary, Paul and more. We begin our time together with a ritual candle-lighting during which each child/adult holds a thin taper and passes the light around our dinner table saying "the love of God inside us is like a light. It grows and spreads to others. This light shines the way down God's path of peace." We read books, share stories, draw pictures, laugh, sing songs, eat good food, celebrate communion, clean up together and close with the ritual of anointing to mark that we have been touched by our togetherness and by God's blessing. Giving our children the opportunity to expect and practice these three rituals together helps them understand and know what it means to be a person of faith. Learning the stories of people who are not so different from all of us, helps them embrace that being a follower of Jesus means including everyone in our circle of understanding, no matter where they are on life's journey.

The gift of the *Sabbath Boxes* in the fall was designed to support families with young children as they explore their faith at home, by offering them specific stories, materials, and elements for rituals, and to engage with those resources in the ways we do when we're together at Food for the Soul. I have heard that families are very much enjoying the practice of using the *Sabbath Boxes* at home, following along with the detailed guide created for that purpose. Every family will be receiving an additional element for the *Boxes* this month, another gift from the church to be used to explore the stories of our faith as well as our own stories.

ASSOCIATE MINISTER FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT

Our children are growing up as part of a church that always welcomes friends to youth group, explores how the “highs and lows” of the previous week affect us and strives to forgive each other if we have hurt one another. We take the Behavioral Covenant of our church very seriously in all activities offered to children, youth and families. In Youth Group, children are encouraged to express their gratitude as we work together to make meaning and share purpose in all that we do. When we build new beds, cook meals, sort clothes, organize items at the food pantry or cleanup a community garden, we are making a statement about the priorities of our life, namely that God’s vision is our vision for a just and peaceful world.

Last June, our Faithworks students travelled to Washington D.C. with four adult mentors (thank you... Christie and Brian McGinley and David Barnard!) to serve with Youth Service Opportunities Project, working in a variety of service agencies all over the city. We stayed at First Trinity Lutheran Church during our week there. It was a great opportunity for them to explore another big city, especially our nation’s capital, which is struggling just as any other city to care for increasingly larger numbers of folks who have nowhere else to turn. These social and cultural centers throughout the country call us to minister in simple ways with both humility and compassion. There is no place for judgment or fear, only an urgent call to care for those who need it, to make room for everyone and inspire the kind of love that makes all things possible.

Beginning in the fall, we doubled the number of monthly gatherings for both the Middle School and Upper Elementary School youth groups, in order to include regular opportunities for service in addition to other gatherings for conversation, learning and fun. While scheduling for busy young families is often challenging, there has been great support for this effort and regular participation from all the active families in those age groups. The steady growth in the number of children in our church and the repetition of regular programming has had a positive effect on family participation. In other words, children and families know what they can expect and this creates stability and comfort, especially for the younger kids, which then increases their desire to join us even more frequently.

I continue to feel great love and care from this community of faith as I listen, talk, visit, plan, pray, dream and offer our thanks to God with all of you. I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve this community of faith and look forward to my continued work and ministry among you. I am particularly grateful for excellent and supportive colleagues like Martin, Wendy, Kim and Rasheed. I await whatever the new year holds.

Love,
Amy

MUSIC DIRECTOR REPORT

This is a summary of the music program from January 15, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

I am enjoying my time here in Topsfield very much and I find the work gratifying and spiritually fulfilling. The support of the choir members, bell ringers, and the whole congregation have made my start here very easy. Working with Rev. Martin, Pastor Amy and Wendy has been wonderful. The following is a factual description of the choirs and status of the instruments.

Chancel Choir The choir consists of 14 to 20 members (Christmas season enjoys a boost of singers!) and they sang every Sunday from September to June as well as on Maundy Thursday and on Christmas Eve. The choir is fun, willing to sing a variety of music from classical, to modern as well as being flexible in singing with the organ or piano each week. They rehearse every Thursday evening and are a fun and welcoming group.

Bell Ringers The Handbell Choir is made up of about 12 to 13 ringers and they rang in church about every six weeks or so. When ringing for service they ring the prelude and the anthem. They are fun to work with and rehearse for about 50 minutes every Thursday. We have really been working on new techniques and the group is really improving and they are willing and able to play more challenging music.

Children's Choir The children meet in the Chapel after service each Sunday and rehearse for about 20 minutes. This choir is open to all children and we are really flexible during rehearsal. They have sung about five times this year as well as singing two pieces for the Christmas Pageant. I feel this has been a successful formula and hope to continue my work with them in the coming year.

Christmas Concert We held a Christmas concert this December. The Chancel and Bell Choir performed along with many soloists from our church family. Larry Atkins generously sponsored the brass quartet Quintessential Brass which definitely enhanced the evening. The church was full of many community members enjoying the hour of music and \$897 dollars was raised for Top Cupboard, and Larry Atkins again generously contributed so we could donate \$1000.00. I believe the concert was successful and so much fun. I do hope we can make this a yearly tradition to share with our community here in Topsfield.

Soloists Many members of our church offered solos during the church year and summer. The CCoT Band played for our outside service - Blessing of the Animals. They are a fun group and we will have them play for us again. We are blessed with an abundance of musical gifts from our congregation and a variety of soloists and instrumentalists.

Instruments

The organ has been tuned twice, which is the norm for this instrument. One of the chime pipes wasn't working correctly and we are currently trying to fix this. Tunings happen just before Easter and Christmas and everything is working correctly at this time.

The Wurlitzer was sent out for a re-build of the action this past winter and was returned just in time for Easter Services. It sounds and plays beautifully. Music at Eden's Edge have typically tuned this instrument and since this group is now retiring the tuning will become our responsibility. Tunings will happen in early fall and springtime (around Easter) and will be a new expense that will have to be budgeted for.

The instruments are being well maintained and it is mostly due to the help of Joe Gibbons. He is very instrumental (no pun intended) in coordinating the tunings of both the organ and the piano. He sets the appointment, opens the church, turns on the heat, and meets with the tuners. He is always available to help me and show me how to fix something that isn't working correctly. I mention a squeaky pedal and within days he is on it, or I call because a flue pipe is stuck on the organ and he pops right over to the church and shows me how to fix it. He has been quite invaluable, and I look to him for help quite often. We are very blessed that he is so willing and extremely knowledgeable regarding our instruments.

I am very grateful for the professional development money granted to me this year. I was able to finish my third year of study at Virginia Wesleyan College of sacred music and have received a Certificate in Church Music and Conducting. This certificate has given me better insight into the playing and singing of hymns in church services as well as allowing me further study in conducting both choirs and bells. Thank you for helping me achieve this certificate.

Thank you to Rev. Martin, Pastor Amy, Wendy, and everyone in the congregation and choirs for helping me during my first year here. The year has been fun and rewarding and I hope to continue in this same manner for many years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberley Karchenes

BOARD OF CHILDREN & YOUTH/CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY ASSISTANT

We had a fruitful and exciting year at The Congregational Church of Topsfield. A new generation of young families is establishing themselves in our congregation, showing strong attendance at our Food For The Soul Family Dinner Worship gatherings led by Amy and these parents are also taking on leadership positions in the church. We have had four families join the church this year: the Ogdens, the Loves, the Symmes and the Loyer/Lindholms. All of those families have been participating regularly in the life of our church. Melissa Mitchell, Melissa Ogden and Jen Symmes plan to join the Board, along with Janet Ierardi, beginning in February 2020. We are grateful to have a very strong Board moving forward into the New Year!

Food For the Soul Family Dinner Worship Services attendance has been outstanding and continues to grow. We often need to hold it in Fellowship Hall instead of in Emerson Chapel as there are now too many people to fit in the smaller space! Families are enjoying taking a “deep dive” into the stories of various people throughout the Bible and really getting to experience life from different points of view. A recent memorable and poignant story was Amy’s reading of Mary’s experience as Jesus’ mother throughout his life, from the miraculous birth, to his death and subsequent reappearance. It really hit home for the kids to identify with Mary’s emotions - joy, fear, sadness, hope, and they shared their own stories at the end. Amy really makes the Bible figures come alive for the kids (and adults) in new ways that spark curiosity and a deeper connection to the ancient stories while sharing a meal and building community.

Throughout the year, children participated in the life of the church through inclusive events like the Blessing of the Animals, the Christmas Pageant, youth group community service at Lifebridge, Community Giving Tree and other local charities. This year, many children volunteered to work alongside their families at the Fairbooth, making it truly an intergenerational community-building event.

Sunday School and Youth Groups

We continued to use Brethren Press’s “Shine!” curriculum in all our Sunday School levels. We do this because it is an all-inclusive curriculum that includes guides for the teachers, music CDs, as well as take-home leaflets for each student in Pre-K through grade 3. Children in grades 4 through 6 use the Glow booklet and grades 7&8 the L.E.D. booklet for lesson supportive activities during class; kids may take those home after each term (Fall, Winter, Spring). The leaflets and booklets are designed to connect Sunday School and home and to help families grow together, while sharing the lessons of Sunday School. Every Sunday (except for the Easter service and the Christmas pageant) our Nursery was covered by a rotating roster of three babysitters from among the local high school students. They are augmented by several adult volunteers in the Nursery whenever necessary. The Nursery has two children that regularly use our services. We have about fifteen families that regularly participate in Sunday School per month.

September 8 was Homecoming Sunday and the first regular Sunday School class of the new program year. This year, to accommodate the busy schedules of the Middle School children, those students were invited to volunteer to help with the younger children anytime they could attend. A few children have taken this up and we might have a few budding Sunday School teachers in our future. Overall, we enjoyed the help and service of many regular Sunday School volunteers who taught a lesson or two, or who were the Sunday school helper. Thank you to everyone who served our church in this way!

BOARD OF CHILDREN & YOUTH/CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY ASSISTANT

On select weekends, we organized the Sunday School into One-Room-Schoolhouse sessions, typically taught by a member of the Children and Youth Board. For the past few years, we decided to offer One-Room Schoolhouse lessons on Sundays following the Food for the Soul Family Dinner Worship services, since attendance on those Sundays appeared to drop slightly. Other One-Room-Schoolhouse sessions were organized around holidays and other typically lightly attended Sundays. This practice will continue for 2020.

Our various youth group programs included Upper Elementary Youth Group (for children in grades 3 through 5), Middle School Youth Group (for youth in grades 6 through 8), Faithworks, Mission Trip (for High School students) and many special, family-oriented events. Aside from Food for the Soul, we endeavored to schedule a monthly gathering or service opportunity for each youth group. All local children and their friends are welcome at our youth group events. It was easy to observe how these events allowed the students and families to get to know one another and grow in faith.

Summer Story and Snack

In the summer, we continued to offer “Story and Snack,” which was held on Sundays during school summer vacation when four or more children were present in worship. Teachers and kids gathered in the shade under a beautiful Sycamore tree outside the Meetinghouse, where we spread-out rainbow-colored sheets to sit on. While listening to a faith-story, kids enjoyed a snack and often made some sort of craft, played games or visited the Emerson Garden to water the plants or pick ripe vegetables. This alternative Summer Sunday School program was well attended by an average of 4-5 children on most Sundays over the summer. While some families are away frequently in the summer, we feel this ministry is an important one, so that children experience and understand that they are always welcome in worship and that the church always gathers no matter the season. We will continue to offer this ministry in the summer of 2020.

Final Words

The ministry to families with children and youth is an important one, but it is not without its challenges. Thus, we should give a special mention to our dedicated volunteers who served as Sunday School Helpers and Teachers. These volunteers add tremendous value to the experience of our children in our church. In particular I want to highlight the helper position, because it is often overlooked as a volunteer opportunity, but it is perfect for those who feel compelled to help, but would rather not directly teach the children. Thank you very much to all who volunteer their time in the service of this ministry.

Personnel Changes

Amanda Rogers has served for four years on BCY with the current one as Chair and will be rolling off for 2020 with Sigita Hartung stepping up to the position of Chair. This will be Sigita’s second year on the board and she’s brought her experience as a substitute teacher as well as her passion and skill for organizing events to the Board. Her can-do attitude and joy in working with children will serve the board well in her new leadership role.

Respectfully submitted by

The Board of Children and Youth Chair, Amanda Rogers and
The Children and Youth Ministry Assistant, Rasheed Townes

BOARD OF DEACONS REPORT

The Board of Deacons had a productive and active 2019 working with the congregation and wider community. As we look back at the year we can review our progress through the 3 areas that the Deacons are responsible for as outline in the current by-laws.

Worship:

During the year we were able to help enhance the area of worship with a new and talented organist and music director, Kim Karchenes who has brought new life and energy to our choir. She has been offering new music and expanding our musical knowledge of new music during worship. At Christmas she brought a wonderful Christmas concert with an outside professional group of brass players to help to enhance the beauty of the Holy Season. It was well accepted by the congregation and many from the wider community. We had a free will offering for the local food pantry which resulted in \$1000 for the local non-profit organization.

A group of deacons and church member spent the late fall redecorating and painting the Narthex for the upcoming Advent and Christmas season as we welcome current members and new visitors to our weekly services.

The organ and pianos were tuned as well as rebuilding the keyboard of the piano used in our weekly services. Our “Food for the Soul” Saturday evening worship service led by Associate Minister for Children & Youth Ministry, Amy Bruch has continued to grow as more families find this service meet their worship needs.

Parish Care:

This group of deacons and church members continue with caring of our members who need support and cannot support our programs and attend worship services. This group also conduct a monthly worship at Masconomet Healthcare facility in Topsfield. This group is also available to support folks who are familiar to the team and not necessarily a member of our congregation. They also distribute the flowers from Sunday worship to members and friends that need support and love.

Spiritual Growth:

This past year we continued to support a book group who read books on spiritual growth and understanding of who we are as individuals and pondering questions and comments on timely topics that affect our daily lives. During 2019 we had several Adult Education programs that allowed members and folks from the wider community to attend and offer thoughts on the current topic under discussion. For example, we had Judge Broderick from New Hampshire to present information on current mental health issues and offered suggestions to questions raised by the audience. This event was well attended by members and concerned citizens from the tri-town. Conversation Café, a new program offered by the church to a conversation focused on a topic in a non-threatening environment. The first program on gun safety attracted over 50 people. Further meetings are planned for 2020.

BOARD OF DEACONS REPORT

This month we said goodbye to Linda Bissell, Jackie Cassiday, and Mike Ierardi who have served six years on the board. They have worked and supported the Deacons during these years very faithfully. Thanks so much for sharing your talents and time to the Deacons and our work with the spiritual life of our church family.

Larry Atkins, Chair
on behalf of the Board of Deacons

Parish Care Team

In 2019, our team continued to offer our Church family, friends and past members, care by way of Sunday flowers, cards, prayer shawls, visits, communion, meals and prayers.

Jerry Seaman met almost monthly with his ROMEO group (Retired Old Men Eating Out). A great way to engage the men who are not quite shut-ins but who otherwise don't get out much.

Sunday flower deliverers; Jackie Cassiday, Mary Lynn Lovejoy, Charlotte Melling, Christy Redding, Mary Alice Spain and Sandy Whelan present our Sunday service flowers to members at home to let them know we're thinking of them. This team also delivers lilies at Easter and poinsettias at Christmas to shut-ins and past members still living close by.

Deb Baker continues to serve communion to those who would like it at home.

Diana Titus continues to send cards.

Cathy Szymanski and Sallie Bowling continue to provide a hot meal when needed.

Bruce Hudson and his loyal group, Trish Hudson, Mary Alice Spain, Steve and Sandy Whelan, Mary Lynn Lovejoy, Deb Baker and Joe Gibbons continue to offer a monthly service at Masconomet Nursing Home.

Knitters are knitting shawls, in groups or at home, for when someone needs to be wrapped in love. They also knit baptism shawls to have on hand when we welcome a new infant into our church.

We look forward to continuing to care for our church family and friends in 2020.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Parish Care Team,
Kimberley Itz, Chair

BOARD OF COMMUNITY & COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

One mission of the Board of Community and Communications is to promote our church's activities, not only to church members but also to the wider community. In 2019, we expanded our use of social media. We created short, fun videos and shared them on Facebook: videos for Lent, for Easter, for Christmas – and even a video for the Blessing of the Animals. The feedback was very positive, and it was much more cost-effective than postage for mailings.

The board created beautiful posters for Ash Wednesday, Homecoming, and the Christmas Concert. We are fortunate to have the photographic and design talents of Kindra Clineff!

Another mission of our Board is to create and support opportunities to “get connected” with each other – to help build a community rooted in love. We launched “Dinner Circles,” which gave church members a fun way to occupy the winter months and get to know others better. Groups of 4-8 people were encouraged to dine together a few times between January and April – and some groups just kept meeting throughout the year! The Dinner Circles were a hit, and we're doing them again in 2020.

Our annual Homecoming picnic in early September was well-received, and we brought lawn games that many children enjoyed. We contributed to other fun activities, including stuffing eggs for the Easter egg hunt, and helping with the Cinco de Mayo celebration. And we always enjoy our part in welcoming new church members to our community.

The tireless Linda Bissell has overseen Coffee Fellowship for as long as any of us can remember. Our Board is grateful that so many people have stepped up to volunteer and help with Coffee Fellowship during Linda's absence.

The Board is thinking about environmental responsibility. We encourage use of our “china” rather than single-use paper or Styrofoam cups and plates. We printed out simple instructions (one page – with pictures!) explaining how to use the commercial-grade dishwashing machine in the Fellowship Hall's kitchen. And at Homecoming, we did more home-made food and less store-bought food. Less waste, lower costs, and better food! (Thanks especially to Rob Hardy and Werner Griesshammer for the pulled pork!)

The Board of Community and Communications has great members who work independently and collaboratively to get the job done and keep the burden light. Thank you Kindra Clineff, Steve Hall, Ed Jelinek, John Kinhan, Mary Lynn Lovejoy, Charlotte Melling, and Nancy Nelson!

The Board also appreciates the fantastic work done by Wendy Colby, the church's Communications and Office Manager. Wendy does a great job keeping the Home Page of the web site up-to-date with announcements of upcoming events.

We look forward to continuing our traditions, exploring new ideas to build our church community, and promoting the life of our remarkable church.

Respectfully,

Alison Hardy and Jon Palace, Co-Chairs

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

The mandate of the Trustees is to manage and safeguard the daily, weekly and monthly financial activities and records of the church. These responsibilities include, but are not limited to Stewardship, oversight of building and grounds and liaison with Joyful Noises Preschool.

After a successful Stewardship campaign for the fiscal year 2019 and a tightening of many board budgets, we were able to balance the budget with an anticipated withdrawal of \$ 48,000 from the Watson Income fund. This amount is lower than in the previous year, but still exceeds the interest that we earn from the Watson Fund. The long term challenge continues for the church to identify and pursue additional income streams besides the Watson Fund.

One such tool is establishing an Endowment Fund. The BOT has worked this year to create an endowment policy as the legal document to guide the promotion, management and oversight of this newly created Endowment Fund. Except where authorized otherwise in the terms of the gift, all principal amounts will be retained, and only income or a portion of it, will be expended.

The BOT worked with the Board of Joyful Noises to prepare the grounds behind the Emerson Center to install a fence around an expanded nature play area. This involved cutting trees, removing brush and planting some new trees in an area that was designated by the Conservation Commission as a wetland buffer zone.

The BOT and Joyful Noises Preschool negotiated a new lease and both parties signed it in October 2019.

The BOT supported the work of the Emerson Field Committee by voting to spend funds from the Building and Grounds fund to pay for land and wetland surveys. This work was necessary to determine to exact outline of the buildable land within the Emerson Field.

I am thankful for the commitment, expertise and knowledge that the members of the Board of Trustees brought to each of our meetings and the work that was done this year: Bruce Jones (Treasurer), David Barnard, Eric Renda, Rob Hardy (Buildings and Grounds), Bruce Daniels (Secretary), Bruce Spaulding, Ryan Kane (Finance Committee), Katie Townes (Insurance), Ruth Bortzfield, Jim Bunker and Paul DiTucci.

Respectfully submitted,

Guido Voss
President of Trustees

Fairbooth (see separate report)

Memorial Garden (see separate report)

Board of Trustees Report continued pg. 23

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

Fair Booth 2019

Thanks go out to everyone who participated in the Fair Booth of 2019. We were able to fill all critical shifts. It was especially exciting to see families with young children working some shifts. We had about 150 individuals filling the slots also with some help from the wider community.

The rain as well as the EEE threat put a damper on the whole Fair and it was not as busy as in other years. We noticed that of course in our revenue and income. Our revenue was \$54,487.09 including a donation of \$1,000 from a friend of the Fair Booth. After expenses we were left with \$24,866.29 to go toward our budget. We were successful in getting some food donations like cranberry sauce and milk products and we will pursue other products for the next fair. Also, two charities benefitted from our fundraiser already: We brought 30 pounds of turkey meat to Lifebridge in Salem, and most of the leftovers went to Open Door in Gloucester (worth about \$300).

Special thanks go to the members of the committee: Joe Gibbons, Rob Hardy, Charlie Itz, Mark Panella, and Bruce Spaulding. Our pastors Martin Riekert and Amy Bruch were working many hours and I want to thank them again that they are so committed to the success of our booth. I will step down as chair of the committee and Rob Hardy will take the lead. Don't worry - I will stay on the committee and you will probably see me in the Fall with my sign-up boards!

With gratitude,

Conny Griesshammer

Memorial Garden

Conny Griesshammer and I continue to maintain the Memorial Garden with professional help from McLaughlin Bros. Landscaping and much appreciated volunteer help from church members and Boy Scout Troop 81. The scouts did an excellent job cleaning-up the grounds and garden beds at the Emerson Center on April 20th. At the end of May McLaughlin Bros. replaced stressed azaleas with 1 andromeda and 4 Cunningham white rhododendrons and also planted 3 potentilla and ornamental grasses on the slope behind the junipers. Payment for plant material came from the Memorial Garden Fund. Before the Strawberry Festival, McLaughlin Bros. edged and cleaned: the sugar maple bed, shrub border, and Kousa dogwood beds. All shrubs were "bar fed" fertilizer.

Lori Fritz and Conny helped me with weeding and deadheading in preparation for Homecoming Sunday on the South Lawn. On Nov. 23rd Eric Renda and the Trustees organized a group of 12 adults and 1 six year old for Fall Clean-up. A great turnout, and much was accomplished in 2 hours!

In 2020 we'll want to mulch and edge the beds, prune where needed, and determine if shrubs and perennials should be replaced or added after the winter months.

Many thanks to all who have contributed time to "garden maintenance" and/or have given donations to the Memorial Garden Fund!

Respectfully submitted,

Edie Ventimiglia

BOARD OF MISSION & OUTREACH REPORT

"And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." - 2 Corinthians 9:8.

The Board of Mission and Outreach has continued to provide mission outreach to our designated mission partners and coordinate benevolent projects to agencies in the community. We have promoted and/or organized hands-on, intergenerational activities to educate the congregation of existing needs. We include local, national and global agencies within our mission scope. We have discerned, to the best of our ability that the organizations we support demonstrate the values our faith community seeks to uphold.

Missions Supported: financial and/or hands on involvement

A Bed for Every Child (*bed building, mattress and bedding for children*)

Beverly Bootstraps (*thrift shop and food pantry*)

Christian Appalachian (*combating poverty in Appalachia*)

CCOT Annual Youth Mission Trip (*senior high mission trip*)

Dept. of Children & Families/Haverhill office (*Gifts of Love-Christmas gift collection*)

Emmaus House (*homeless programs in Merrimack Valley*)

Habitat for Humanity Northshore (*affordable housing*)

Citizens Inn, Haven from Hunger (*food bank and homeless services, Peabody*)

LaKota Sioux Pine Ridge Reservation (*outreach services and volunteer education*)

Lazarus House (*shelter and homeless support, Lawrence*)

Learn to Cope (*support and education for families afflicted with substance use*)

Lifebridge (*homeless programs in Salem, MA*)

OCWM (*Our Church's Wider Mission-UCC program resources & tools*)

One Great Hour of Sharing (*Multidenominational Christian UCC mission/outreach*)

Nu-Day Syria (*Syrian Refugee Camps in safe zones*)

Refugee Immigration Ministries (*refugee family support*)

Straight Ahead Ministries (*youth re-entry program in Lynn*)

Top Cupboard (*local food pantry*)

Tri-Town Council (*local youth programs*)

US Foundation for Children of Haiti (*health services and education to children in Haiti*)

YMCA Merrimack Valley (*camp kits for recipients of scholarships for summer camp*)

Board of Mission & Outreach Report continued pg. 25

BOARD OF MISSION & OUTREACH REPORT

Volunteer Opportunities

Monthly meal prep and serving meals at Lifebridge shelter

Service Sundays-quarterly event following Sunday service

Top Cupboard -distribution of food at local pantry

Cycle for Shelter-provide a rest stop for Emmaus house bike ride

Nu-Day Syria-plush animal collection and drop off

A Bed for Every Child-promoted program coordinated by BC&Y

Thanksgiving food collection

Gifts of Love-Christmas toy collection for DCF

Service Sundays

The Board of Mission & Outreach coordinated quarterly “Service Sunday” projects this year. Our goal was to provide intergenerational, participatory activities that would bring our congregation together as we learned about the needs of our neighbors and endeavored to meet some of those needs. Youth involvement was encouraged by providing a coloring station where children could draw pictures to include with the donations. We selected projects that were recommended by church and board members. Service Sundays are held during Fellowship to facilitate service opportunities to all.

Our Service Sunday events promoted on the local Residents of Topsfield page invite participation and provide education to the wider community. Donations were made from the community to our toiletries collection. We had CCOT stickers produced to affix to our donations to increase our visibility in the community. We were pleased to have obtained some business donations to support our Service Sunday projects and reduce the cost to the church.

1. March: Young Parent Support Program-Mother’s Bundles >20 bundles prepared. Assembled gift bags for the young birth mothers in this program. The aim of this project was to recognize these young women to increase their self-worth. We provided helpful new mother items along with fun pampering gifts. Journals were included with encouraging sentiments individually written by those participating in the event.
2. May: Camp Kit Assembly on Celebration Sunday, for 1st time overnight campers receiving a scholarship from the YMCA >50 camper kits. The packing list is extensive for campers and is an additional financial burden for families. This support reduced the expense for the parents of the campers and provided the children with necessary camp supplies. Note cards with advice and wishes for happy camping written by those participating were included in the sacks filled with the supplies.

BOARD OF MISSION & OUTREACH REPORT

3. August-September: Back to School Supplies-Lazarus House school supply collection provided “back to school” supplies including costly scientific calculators for high school students. Donations were sufficient to provide a stock of items that could be utilized throughout the year by this shelter which supports transient school aged students throughout the year.
4. October: Travel-sized Toiletries Collection: >24 large bins filled with basic toiletries were distributed to Lifebridge and Lazarus House shelters. The goal was to provide toiletries for transient visitors to the shelters enabling donors to declutter their cabinets, reduce and have items utilized.

Disaster Relief

Board of Mission & Outreach sponsored the special collections for Disaster Relief as well and allocating board contingency funds to assist in these relief efforts.

March-Cyclone Idai – Madagascar, Malawi, Zimbabwe-Doctors Without Borders-\$575 collected.

September-Hurricane Dorian- Bahamas, UCC Relief efforts-\$500 from budget.

Special Collections

Easter Offering: One Great Hour of Sharing-collected \$864 Learn to Cope-collected \$959

Thanksgiving Offering: Citizens Inn/Haven from Hunger-collected \$930

Christmas Offering: collected \$1,399 for RIM- (Refugee Immigration Ministry).
collected \$1,124 for Lazarus House.

Social Justice

A Mental Health support initiative was approved to be included under Board of Mission and Outreach. Jackie Cassiday will be joining the board and coordinating these efforts. The first program will be presented by the National Coalition of Mental Illness (NAMI) on January 25th. We are eager to offer this valuable program to our church and wider community.

We would like to extend our appreciation to the congregation for supporting the mission projects this year. Your generosity and commitment to seeking justice for those in need demonstrates an integral component of our Christian community.

A sincere thank you to the Board of Mission and Outreach members who have completed their term. We are grateful for their time, ideas and overall contributions: Mike Miller, MaryLou Ruckstuhl and Sue Blanchard, our secretary extraordinaire, providing us with detailed and eloquent minutes for the past few years.

Additional thanks to Wendy Colby for graciously sharing the office space with our collections of school supplies, flashlights, canned goods, toys, etc. and for kindly accepting those last-minute announcements for the In-spire.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela A. Warren, Chair Board of Mission and Outreach

Board Members: James Barnes, Sue Blanchard, John Burgess, Kathy Hartmann, Charise Nulsen,
Mary Lou Ruckstuhl

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

--

Sheryl Knutsen, Chair;

Gerald Seaman,
Barbara Barnes

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE SUBMITS THE FOLLOWING LIST OF

CHURCH OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2020:

An "*" beside the term indicates
nomination for election for 2020

OFFICERS (MEMBERS OF CHURCH COUNCIL)

TITLE	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE/E-Mail	TERM	YEARS REMAINING
MODERATOR	Kristin Palace	21 Winsor Lane Topsfield	978-887-7456 kmpalace@gmail.com	2020	1*
VICE-MODERATOR	Tony Rogers	34 Ipswich Road Topsfield	617-892-2388 gringolet@hotmail.com	2020	1*
CLERK	Cornelia Gries- shammer	78 Washington St. Topsfield	978-887-7493 conny@griesshammer.org	2020	1*
TREASURER	Bruce Jones	10 Caldwell Farm Rd Byfield 01922	978-500-4356 bruce.jones45@verizon.net	2020	1*

BOARD CHAIRS:					
TRUSTEES	Guido Voss	74 Washington Street Topsfield	978-887-3997 gvoss@itgboston.com	2019	1*
DEACONS	Larry Atkins	15 Haverhill Road Topsfield	978-887-2518 atkinslarry73@gmail.com	2019	1*
COMMUNITY AND COMMUNICATIONS	Alison Hardy	9 River Road Topsfield	978-561-3719 ahardy9@gmail.com	2019	1*
CHILDREN AND YOUTH	Sigita Hartung	5 Parsonage Lane Topsfield	540-602-8958 sigita_hartung@yahoo.com	2019	1*
MISSION AND OUTREACH	Kathy Hartman & Pam Warren	34 Kinsman Lane Topsfield	978-887-6822 kjsharmann@comcast.com	2019	1*
		92 Hill Street Topsfield	978-979-0366 pwarren110@gmail.com	2019	1*

FINANCIAL POSITIONS:					
TITLE	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE/EMAIL	TERM	YEARS REMAINING
ASSISTANT TREASURER	Bob Knutsen	18 Brookside Road Topsfield	978-887-6593 robert.knutsen@comcast.net	2020	1*
RECORDING SEC- RETARY	Richard Hopkins	29 North Street Topsfield	978-887-8921 crhopkins2@verizon.net	2020	1*
FINANCIAL SECRE- TARIES	David Larson	109 North Street Topsfield	978-887-2627 c.david.larson@gmail.com	2019- 2020	1
	Cheryl Hopkins	29 North Street Topsfield	978-887-8921 crhopkins2@verizon.net	2019- 2021	2
	Gary Gosbee	One Nichols Way #2113 Groveland	978-239-7528 garygosbee@msn.com	2020- 2022	3*

TITLE	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE/E-Mail	TERM	YEARS REMAINING
	Ryan Kane	26 Barehill Road Topsfield	978-887-0498 kanere@gmail.com	2018-2020	1
	Guido Voss	74 Washington Street Topsfield	978-887-3997 gvoss@comcast.net	2018-2020	1
	Kathleen Townes	28 Towne Lane Topsfield	978-561-3050 Kathleen.townes@gmail.com	2018-2020	1
	Ruth Bortzfeld	22 Great Hill Drive Topsfield	978-887-2756 ruthbortzfeld@gmail.com	2019-2021	2
	Eric Renda	18 Timber Lane Topsfield	978-887-3520 msp4096@yahoo.com	2019-2021	2
	Rob Hardy	9 River Road Topsfield	978-561-3719 rhardy@Bellwetherfoodgroup.com	2019-2021	2
	Michael Miller	152 Fenno Drive Rowley	617-645-1496 mmiller@coverys.com	2020-2022	3*
	Mark Warner	141 Perkins Row Topsfield	978-887-2019 mcwarner19@gmail.com	2020-2022	3*
	Claudia Worth	2 Whittier Terrace Boxford	978-769-5103 claudia.worth@verizon.net	2020-2022	3*
	Mike Hartmann	34 Kinsman Lane Topsfield	978-887-6822 mghartmann@comcast.net	2020-2022	3*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TITLE	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE/E-Mail	TERM	YEARS REMAINING
BOARD OF DEACONS	Larry Atkins	15 Haverhill Road Topsfield	978-887-2518 atkinslarry73@gmail.com	2019-2021	2
	Mike Ierardi	133 Ipswich Road Topsfield	978-887-8813 mderardi@comcast.net	2019-2021	2
	Duane Melling	38 River Point Drive Ipswich	208-262-1373 duanem1@frontier.com	2020-2022 2nd term	3*
	Gerrie Bunker	42 Country Club Way Ips- wich	978-356-1414 gjbunker@comcast.net	2018-2020	1
	Debbie Baker	20 Buttonwood Lane Ipswich	978-312-6125 debbaker22@hotmail.com	2019-2021	2
	Mary Alice Spain	173 Rowley Bridge Road Topsfield	978-887-5235 maspn173@verizon.net	2019-2021	2
	Ellie Losee	4 Birch Lane Topsfield	978-887-8089 ellie.losee@gmail.com	2019-2021	2
	John Szymanski	40 Garden Street Topsfield	978-887-9244 jszymanski8@gmail.com	2019-2021	2
	Steve Bunker	10 Juniper Lane Topsfield	508-641-0572 sjbunker@comcast.net	2020-2022	3*

TITLE	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE/E-Mail	TERM	YEARS REMAINING
	Ed Jelinek	220 Perkins Row Topsfield	978-887-7366 ed.jelinek@verizon.net	2019-2021 2nd Term	2
	Steve Hall	86 Salem Road Topsfield	978-887-0345 steven.hall@regiscollege.edu	2020-2022 2nd term	3*
	Charlotte Melling	38 River Point Drive Ipswich	208-262-6977 neno.melling.1942@gmail.com	2020-2022 2nd term	3*
	Mary Lynn Lovejoy	12 Gunnison Road Boxford	954-294-3570 mlovejoy@bellsouth.net	2018-2020	1
	Alison Hardy	9 River Road Topsfield	508-932-9320 ahardy9@gmail.com	2018-2020	1
	John Kinhan	55 Colrain Road Topsfield	978-887-2185 jkinhan@gmail.com	2019-2021	2
	Kindra Clineff	95 River Road PO Box 436 Topsfield	978-887-2272 kindra@kindraclineff.com	2019-2021	2
	Nancy Nelson	21 Normandy Row Topsfield	978-887-6201 nbnelson21@gmail.com	2019-2021	2
	Peter Lindholm	20 Topsfield Road Boxford	617-821-5379 peter.d.lindholm@gmail.com	2020-2022	3*
BOARD OF COMMUNITY AND COMMUNICATIONS					

TITLE	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE/E-Mail	TERM	YEARS REMAINING
BOARD OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH	Tom Trevenen	1 Bussing Way Georgetown	978-815-5613 mrtrevenen@hotmail.com	2018-2020	1
	Jane Jones	10 Caldwell Farms Rd Byfield	978-255-4644 janecrane1@verizon.net	2019-2021	2
	Cathy Imboden	54 Kinsman Circle Topsfield	978-887-3613 cbimboden@comcast.net	2019-2021	2
	Sigita Hartung	5 Parsonage Lane Topsfield	540-602-8958 sigita_hartung@yahoo.com	2020-2020	1*
	Janet lerardi	133 Ipswich Road Topsfield	978-887-8813 JAlerardi@comcast.net	2020-2022	3*
	Melissa Ogden	9 Birch Lane Topsfield	978-887-2719 MelissaAOgden@gmail.com	2020-2022	3*
	Christy Redding	407 Boston Street Topsfield	781-827-9527 christyredding76@gmail.com	2020-2022	3*
	Jen Symmes	14 Brookside Road Topsfield	978-609-8713 jensymmes@gmail.com	2020-2022	3*
	Melissa Mitchell	25 Colrain Road Topsfield	603-930-4361 melisrodier@hotmail.com	2020-2022	3*
	Rev. Amy Bruch	3 Howlett Street Topsfield	339-368-0818 amy@topsfildchurch.org	Ex Officio	
	Rasheed Townes	28 Towne Lane Topsfield	978-561-3050 rtownes@gmail.com	Ex Officio	

TITLE	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE/E-Mail	TERM	YEARS REMAINING
BOARD OF MISSION AND OUTREACH	Jim Barnes	239 Ipswich Road Boxford	978-764-1583 jhbarnes1@mac.com	2019-2021 2nd Term	2
	Pam Warren	92 Hill Street Topsfield	978-979-0366 pwarren110@gmail.com	2019-2021 2nd term	2
	Charise Nulsen	3 Beech Place Topsfield	617-441-2829 charisenulsen@gmail.com	2018-2020	1
	John Burgess	70 Parsonage Lane Topsfield	978-273-5993 john.burgess@us.pwc.com	2020-2022 2nd term	3*
	Kathy Hartmann	34 Kinsman Lane Topsfield	978-887-6822 kjsharmann@comcast.com	2020-2022 2nd term	3*
	Jackie Cassiday	167 Haverhill Road Topsfield	978-852-4567 jacassiday@comcast.net	2020-2022	3*
	Joe Gibbons	9 Perkins Circle Topsfield	978-887-3478 joe.gibbons@verizon.net	2020-2022	3*

