

# A REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

on the work of

## **The Church of Christ at Dartmouth College** an Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



**July, 2017 – June, 2018**

Presented to the Congregation for its Annual Meeting  
June 17, 2018



## REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ELDERS

As outgoing President of the Board of Elders, I give thanks from A-to Z for:

All who worship at The Church of Christ at  
Dartmouth College  
Boards of Deacons  
Congregational Life  
Dear friends  
Ernie and his ministry of music  
Fellowship  
God's grace into every human life  
Healthy snacks  
Incoming President, Judy Csatari  
Jesus and his teachings  
Ken and Kendra and all they do to keep our  
Church functioning smoothly  
Lay readers of scripture each week  
Mandy's call, ministry and loving kindness  
Nametags that we wear  
Ordination, calling and installation of Rob as  
our Associate Pastor  
Pastoral Search Committee  
Quality parish nursing and care from Rita  
Revised by-laws  
Stewardship  
Tom Nordberg and his intentional interim  
ministry  
United Valley Interfaith Project  
Volunteers of every ilk  
Wisdom from so many members of our  
Congregation  
Xtra behind the scenes work that quietly gets  
done every day  
Young people that give us hope for the future  
Zany antics of March Madness Talent Show

Respectfully submitted,  
Trish Jackson  
President of the Board of Elders

Lee Arend, Cinny Bensen, Ann Bradley, Jennifer Casey, Judy Csatari, Megan Culp (Cong'l Life), Brian Edwards (Outreach), Dave Harrison (Stewardship), Bob Kessler, Chris Jernstedt, Gail McPeck, Jackie Paulsen (Clerk), Bruce Riddle (Religious Educ.), Scott Rodi, Bruce Smith.

## BOARD OF DEACONS FOR CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

The Congregational Life Board is responsible for nurturing community and care within our congregation. This year we had eight members on the board. Thank you to Jessica Bell, Megan Culp, Carolyn Crocker, Sally Kesseli, Kathy Wilkerson, Lois Frazer and Sam Smith for their tremendous time and work in furthering the community of this church.

This year our board focused on ways that we could help nurture CCCD's welcoming spirit and the small kindnesses we all share with each other. The Congregational Life board continued to provide and support a variety of opportunities, "Within Our Walls", that enhanced our sense of belonging and care for each other.

1. Fall Picnic- The Fall Picnic has been a shared responsibility between Congregational Life and the Religious Education board. Both boards worked together to create a yummy, fun, community-building event. We had a lovely, well-attended picnic at Storrs Pond.

2. All Church Pot Luck- Welcome Pastor Mandy! - Many, many! of us gathered to Welcome Pastor Mandy! We all reveled in the Joy of Celebrating Mandy's arrival as our Senior Pastor. Yea!

4. Coffee Hour and Healthy Snacks- Coffee Hour continues to be one of the weekly programs coordinated by Congregational Life. Members and visitors are continuing to enjoy helping themselves to their preferred amount of coffee or tea. French Roast is a favorite, and the addition of real cream has a big "thumbs up". Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our effort to provide yummy and fresher snacks that don't host a thousand ingredients! A special thank you goes to our coffee hour hosts and to Carolyn Crocker and Jessica Bell for their tireless work as Coffee Hour Coordinators! Please consider supporting our "Twice would be Nice" Campaign by volunteering to host coffee hour twice during the following program year!

5. Sunday Flower Delivery- Each week Congregational Life coordinates volunteers to arrange and deliver a bouquet of flowers from the Sunday chancel flowers. Please feel free to pop into the Big Kitchen during coffee hour on any Sunday if you would like to take some flowers to a member or a friend who could use some good cheer. A big Thank you to all who have volunteered to help deliver flowers! We also want to recognize Barbara Hall for scheduling and ordering the flowers each week.

6. Holiday Flower Organization and Delivery- Many thanks to Sam Smith for developing and initiating a new process to simplify and improve the delivery of Holiday plants to members of our congregation.

7. Kitchen Guru- The Congregational Life Board continues to take responsibility for the oversight of the CCDC kitchens. This includes a thorough cleaning of the kitchen and stocking the kitchen with supplies.

8. Hospitality for New Member Classes- Congregational Life supplied hospitality for the New Member classes offered by Mandy. Both prospective members and current members who wished to learn more about the life of our church, were very happy with the breadth of information they received and the warm welcome.

9. Lenten Dinners- During the season of Lent the board organized soup and bread suppers prior to the Wednesday evening programing, offered by Rob and Mandy. A huge thank you to all board members for organizing this effort, with special thanks to Kathy Wilkerson and Lois Frazer.

10. Easter Breakfast- Once again, Congregational Life hosted the Easter Breakfast on Easter Sunday. We had a full crowd and a wonderful meal in between the 9am and 11am services. Thank you to so many board members and volunteers, who were able to help set up, make coffee, bake, serve and clean up!

11. Sign Up Genius Boot Camp- Sign Up Genius has become the on-line calendar of choice for many of CCDC's volunteer efforts. Thank you to Jessica Bell for her efforts in organizing CCDC's first ever,

Sign Up Genius Boot Camp! Using lap tops and iPads, members were instructed in the "How To" of logging in and signing up for a date of choice to volunteer for many CCDC's programs. Please continue to ask us for help if you are having trouble using this program.

12. Continuing conversations with CCDC Cares Membership- One goal for this program year was to continue to develop communication between our board and members of CCDC Cares. After many conversations, it became clear that we needed to ask ourselves how this volunteer effort could be reinvented to best serve the needs of the congregation, while freeing up some additional time for our Parish Nurse. The desire for quick delivery of communication in several categories of need was established. After continuing discussions with a core group of members we came to the conclusion that the group known as CCDC Cares would retire itself and be reborn into something NEW! Work on a new structure is continuing. Stayed Tuned!

13. 50 Year Member Recognition Sunday- Every other year we recognize and celebrate the many contributions made to the life and spiritual well-being of CCDC by our 50 year plus members! Thank you all for your presence in our lives. We are continually blessed by your leadership, friendship and wisdom. 2018 Fifty Year Members: Margaret and Chris Jernstedt, Ron and Carol Keenhold, Nancy Johnson, Pete and Maureen Hall, Ann and Dave Bradley, Priscilla and Peter Runstadler, Carletta Nevers, Harry and Carolyn Bird, Henry and Barbara Payson, Esther Colby, Lee and Roger Arend, Judith McAllister, Barbara Blough, Rena Smith, Anne Chamberlin, Joan and Frederick Rueckert, Marilyn Crowell, Priscilla Weismann, Eleanor Lackey, Jackie Johnston, Thomas Kurtz, Jean Sibley, Jean and Bob Keene, Jean Broehl, and Elizabeth Walk.

14. I wish to thank Megan Culp for her time and energy representing Congregational Life on the board of Elders and Sally Kesseli for all the work she did recruiting new members for our board. We are always looking for willing volunteers to work with us to strengthen our church community and

care for one another. Please consider helping in any size that fits you!

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Williamson, chairwoman

Jessica Bell, Carolyn Crocker, Megan Culp, Lois Frazer, Sally Kesseli, Sam Smith, Kathy Wilkerson, and Karen Williamson.

## **BOARD OF DEACONS FOR OUTREACH**

The Outreach Board has had another busy and productive year as we worked to engage the CCDC congregation in ministries beyond our walls — locally, nationally, and internationally. The Board continues to try to be intentional about our ministry, through thoughtful consideration of our long-standing activities, and ongoing discussion about new and meaningful ways for our congregation to engage in compassion and justice ministry. We see the role of the Outreach Board not as “doing” the mission work of the church, but as seeking ways to engage and involve the whole congregation in such work. The following is a summary of our work over the past year.

### **Major Initiatives**

**Russell Fund**—The purpose of the June Russell Fund — created through a gift to CCDC from long-time member Robert Russell in honor of his wife June — is to support the mission and ministry of CCDC through mission and outreach projects, educational efforts, financial support of seminary education for students affiliated with CCDC, and support of ongoing education of clergy affiliated with CCDC. The Outreach Board and the Religious Education Board have been charged to develop plans for expending money in the Fund.

After several months of discussion, the Outreach Board has decided to use its share of this year’s Russell Fund money to support the same two projects funded in 2017: (1) the new Opening Doors Project of the Upper Valley Haven, created to help low-income people (identified by various Upper Valley social service providers) to move into safe and stable housing by providing funds to pay the security deposit and first and last month’s rent

often required by landlords; and (2) the legal services program of the Welcoming All Nationalities Network (WANN), which provides advice, support, and legal assistance to vulnerable foreign-born individuals in the Upper Valley and beyond.

**Refugee Support Group**— In response to the global refugee crisis, threats to restrict the number of refugees admitted to the U.S., and reports of discrimination against refugees both at home and abroad, the Outreach Board has created a “Refugee Support Group” to begin to address the needs and concerns of refugees in NH. Spearheaded by CCDC member Nicole Ives and Outreach Board members Gayle Aspinwall and Sarah Nordstrom, the group has been in regular contact with Sister Irene Marie, a Catholic nun serving refugees in the Manchester area, and Amadou Hamady, an ESL Social Worker in Manchester Public Schools. The group has made several trips to Manchester, meeting with refugee families from Democratic Republic of Congo, Bhutan, Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. The group organized CCDC’s “Christmas Gifts” for refugees this past December; hosted a well-attended presentation on Welcoming Refugees in Manchester; raised awareness of Hanover middle schoolers by facilitating an activity with refugee children in Manchester; and is hosting refugee families and children at Storrs Pond for a fun-filled day in Hanover this summer. We are exploring additional direct volunteer opportunities with Social Workers in Manchester. The group is committed to continue supporting refugees in NH and is reaching out to other organizations to learn about their involvement in refugee issues and explore partnering opportunities.

**Advocacy Sunday**— In recognition of the UCC’s long-standing commitment to social justice advocacy and our desire to support the work of UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministry, the Outreach Board has continued CCDC’s Advocacy Sunday tradition with three major topics presented this past year: immigrant and refugee rights, gun control, and hunger. In addition, we have publicized advocacy efforts arising from the UCC Justice and Witness ministry. The Outreach board continues to wrestle with the most effective way to “do

advocacy” that encourages maximum participation by the congregation.

### **Annual Activities and Collections**

**CROP Hunger Walk**— CROP Hunger Walks are annual community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by local congregations, which raise funds to fight hunger at home and abroad. CCDC’s participation in the Lebanon CROP Walk this past fall was once again led by Associate Pastor, Rob Grabill, with assistance provided by CCDC youth. The Lebanon CROP Walk raised more than \$8,000 in 2017.

**Neighbors in Need**— An annual offering of the United Church of Christ, Neighbors in Need supports ministries of compassion and justice throughout the U.S. Two-thirds of funds collected are used by UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a variety of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects, while one-third goes to support efforts to assist our Native American neighbor. CCDC raised \$2,208 for Neighbors in Need this year.

**The Giving Tree**— This past December, CCDC sponsored eleven local families through the LISTEN Community Center’s Holiday Basket Program. We had a wonderful response from the congregation and were able to fulfill over 100 individual gift requests.

**Christmas Eve Offering**— CCDC’s 2017 Christmas Eve Offering collected more than \$12,000, which was divided equally between our two designated recipients— the Red Logan Dental Clinic and the Boyle Community Pediatrics Program at CHaD.

**One Great Hour of Sharing**— This year CCDC collected \$2,508 for One Great Hour of Sharing, an ecumenical relief effort of eight Christian denominations to help those in need throughout the world. Thanks to Roger Arend for his capable leadership of both the OGHS and Neighbors in Need collections this year.

**Summer Lunch Program** – Northwoods/Hollow Drive— We are pleased to join again with other area churches to provide healthy snacks and bag lunches throughout the summer for 30-40 children living in two affordable housing communities in White River Junction. CCDC’s week this year is June 24-30. Many thanks to former Outreach

Board Chair Cinny Bensen for once again coordinating this effort on behalf of the Board.

**Bicentennial Fund Awards**— Through CCDC’s Bicentennial Fund, the Outreach Board is able to award small grants for mission projects identified by members of the CCDC congregation. The Elders have endorsed our recommendation that this year’s \$1000 award be split equally between: Careers CLiC, a program to prepare refugee children for internships and their first jobs; and the Manchester School District Summer Youth Academy for refugee children. The congregation will have the opportunity to vote on the recommendation at the June Congregational meeting.

### **Monthly Activities**

**Dismas House Dinners**— The Outreach Board continues to coordinate the preparation of monthly dinners at Dismas House in Hartford. Dismas House provides post-incarceration housing and support to former prison inmates. They rely on volunteers to cook and serve dinners each night. This is a wonderful opportunity to build community with a group of people who are working hard to rebuild their lives. Several members of our congregation have taken on this volunteer work and have found it to be a time of rich fellowship. Many thanks to Sarah McBride (and family!) for organizing this important mission.

**LISTEN Community Dinners**— Ted Frazier continues to take lead role as chef at the monthly Listen community dinners where 75-100 neighbors are served a warm meal. CCDC takes responsibility for providing a monthly dinner at Listen Community Center on the fourth Wednesday of each month. CCDC volunteers supply salads, desserts and sign up to prepare and serve the meals.

**Good Neighbor Health Clinic and Red Logan Dental Clinic Dinners**— Thanks to Susan Weeks for continuing to oversee the dinner for volunteer physicians and nurses at the Good Neighbor Health Clinic, and for volunteers at the Red Logan Dental Clinic.

**Monthly Food Drives**— Outreach continues to oversee CCDC’s monthly food collections for the food shelves at The Haven and LISTEN (the responsibility this year of Outreach Board member Susan Kessler) trying to ensure that our collections

are tailored to the needs of each organization. To that end, when Outreach learned that The Haven provides bagged snacks for patients in recovery groups at DHMC's Perinatal Addiction Treatment Program, but rarely receives nuts as a donation for trail mix, we decided to make the theme of our June Food Sunday "Let's GO NUTS for The Haven." Both The Haven and LISTEN have expressed their heartfelt thanks for our church's efforts. Outreach wants the congregation to know how meaningful and appreciated its steadfast generosity is to our grateful recipient organizations.

### **Outreach-related Ministries**

**Z-Team**— There has been less activity this past year than those years in which we are shipping things to Zimbabwe under the Ukama Partnership. However, this fall should make up for a mild lull. Helen Jack added greatly to our connectivity with Glenview, our sister church in Harare. She made two trips for her mental health project, teaching and transporting letters to and from our friends there. Helen also presented a short second hour program on her work and the life of Glenview with wonderful photographs. Check out the Z Team Corner in Batchelder Lounge in the future for displays.

This October a delegate from UCCZ will be visiting our church. She is Ms. Tatenda Mudhomo, a 23-year-old lady with an interest in nursing and is currently heavily involved in the Sunday school program there at Glenview. During the two five day segments of the three week visit she will be with our church family staying with the Nordstroms and the Lape-Freebergs. Tatenda will be visiting a non-partnered church, participating in our worship service on October 28th and will be a special guest at a joint potluck-type gathering with the Lyme, Lebanon and Meriden UCC churches. This will be a time of further bonding with our partners in Christ through the Ukama Project.

As always, the Outreach board thanks the members of the Z-team for their wonderful and dedicated service.

**Christmas Market With a Difference**— While the Outreach Board has no direct responsibility for the Christmas Market, we want to express our gratitude to Market Chair Sarah Nordstrom for

once again leading this incredible effort. The 2017 Market raised a remarkable \$81,368, plus an impressive \$1,825 in café sales. The Market proceeds are all returned directly to artisans in the world's poorest regions or to non-profit and charitable organizations making a significant impact in the lives of families in need.

The Outreach Board would like to thank the congregation for its generous support of all our activities and charitable collections this past year. We are blessed to be part of a congregation that responds so generously and enthusiastically to God's call for compassion and justice. Our Board will continue to work to help our congregation fulfill the promises of our church covenant "to become more faithful to the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, to care for all people, reconciling ourselves to them in love, and to take up [God's] mission around the world, striving for justice and peace."

Respectfully submitted,  
Brian Edwards and Joanne Hayes  
Outreach Board Co-chairs

Roger Arend, Gayle Aspinwall, Bill Boyle, Brian Edwards (Co-Chair and Elder), Joanne Hayes (Co-Chair), Kathryn Hourdequin, Susan Kessler, Sarah McBride, and Sarah Nordstrom

### **LEVEL 2 SANCTUARY SUPPORT**

As part of its broader efforts to welcome and support our immigrant neighbors, the Upper Valley Immigration Support Network (UVISN), a program of the United Valley Interfaith Project (UVIP), is urging its member churches— including CCDC— to consider how we might support efforts to provide physical sanctuary in the Upper Valley to immigrants at risk of being detained or deported.

This past fall, Meriden Congregational Church voted to become a "Level 1 Sanctuary" church; that is, the Meriden congregation pledged to make its physical space available as a place of refuge for immigrants facing detention or deportation.

Now, UVISN is seeking to help Meriden Congregational build a network of "Level 2 Support" congregations around it, so that it will be prepared to meet the needs of any immigrants for

which it might provide physical sanctuary. To this end, each UVISN member congregation or faith community has been asked to consider our role in supporting Meriden Congregational, and the type of assistance we are able and willing to provide.

While the kinds of support needed by any particular person or family in sanctuary will vary, in any case there will be a critical need for U.S. citizens who can remain with the party in sanctuary at all times, including overnight, in order to respond in case of a visit from an ICE (Immigrations and Customs Enforcement) agent or another emergency.

Other types of support services “Level 2” congregations might provide include providing food and other basic supplies; help with child care and transportation; and help accessing social services, health care, legal assistance, etc. Since those in sanctuary cannot leave their place of refuge, there may be a need for volunteers to help plan entertainment, such as game nights or movie nights; and given the tremendous strain upon those in sanctuary, there will probably be a great need for emotional support. There may be a need for fundraising to provide financial assistance. And since sanctuary is a public act, Level 2 support could include the creation of a media team to publicize the immigrant’s story, and/or an advocacy team to help pressure ICE to reconsider the person’s case or to act mercifully toward the person in sanctuary.

There is necessarily a large element of uncertainty involved in the effort to become a Level 2 Support congregation. We really don’t know what support services we ultimately will be called upon to provide, or when — or even *if* — our services will be needed. While we will have to wait for many of the details to be filled in later, at this point, we want to build the structure that we will use to provide support services, starting with the creation of various inter-congregational teams (food team, physical presence team, etc.) based on expressed areas of interest.

If you have already filled out a “Sanctuary Volunteer Interest Form” — distributed during Rod Wendt’s second hour presentation on sanctuary at

CCDC on March 25, and available on the credenza in the Batchelder Lounge— we have your information, and you may have already begun to receive communications from UVISN. If you have not filled out the form, but would like to volunteer with the Sanctuary Support effort, please feel free to fill out the online form at the following link:

<https://goo.gl/forms/pdKqLTXCnHZBtlVJ2>

## BOARD OF DEACONS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Board of Deacons for Religious Education oversaw a number of programs for education and faith formation for all ages. The church school program continues to serve children from preschool through grade seven. We continued last year’s new initiative of offering church school for middle school students on Wednesday evening during Lent and through the spring, in conjunction with the Wednesday evening Bible Study for adults. Five eighth grade students joined the Confirmation Class in the fall, and at the conclusion of the class this spring all five made the decision to join the congregation as covenant members. The senior high school youth group met regularly, and continues to grow. The RE Board facilitated a number of Second Hour presentations throughout the year. Special events included the “One Light, Many Candles” concert by Noel and Betty Stookey in October, and the All-Church Retreat in May. Campus Ministry continues to flourish and expand on many levels, facilitated by CCDC’s participation in the Dartmouth Tucker Foundation.

RE Board Chair Jo Ellen Gardner focused in three recent events in her reflection on the past year:

“I will personalize RE by sharing three experiences that I was fortunate to attend as RE chair, parent and friend. The retreat consisted of a weekend of good food, community sharing, spiritual knowledge and growth. Opening night felt like a regular church potluck without any work of doing dishes and cleaning up. We were able to listen to the Rev. Chris Davies and the Rev. Dr. Claire Bamberg present the plan for the weekend, without disruption. The theme of the retreat was looking inward Looking outward. So looking in, we could

look at our health which could include OWLS, our whole lives, which is sexual education with spiritual context for middle school aged children. We also looked at the health of the church with candid thoughts and suggestions presented in a round table discussion. The congregation could attend Outreach lunch where many tables were present to drum up volunteers. During Saturday's dinner Rev. Chris Davies presented the keynote talk about bridging generations and traditions in order to keep the church alive. This was a very dynamic and charismatic journey of words.

My son Jack was confirmed in the church this June, which is an amazing testament to the teachings of Rob Grabill. My son was agnostic and questioned his beliefs very verbally with my husband and me. There was no changing his mind. Not only did they learn about Jesus but they formed a special bond among the 6 of them - I am including Rob in this! These boys will always remember sleeping on the gym floor of St John the Divine in NYC and praying at midnight exhausted but content. All five became members.

When you think of a baptism you think of small babies having water brushed on their heads. This was not what Luke Ives had in mind for his baptism. He wanted full immersion. Many of the confirmands attended Luke's baptism and provided support to this sacrament in Storrs Pond. Luke was able to make his own decision and I loved how Rob and Mandy made this happen for him. What a glorious event to witness in nature and refreshing cold water."

Ann Gallagher, Jo Ellen Gardner (Chair), Deb Kennedy, Bruce Riddle (Elder), and Eliza Rodi.

## **BOARD OF DEACONS FOR STEWARDSHIP**

We have had a very busy year identifying many projects necessary for the maintenance of our beautiful old church building and in addressing some unforeseen major issues. In doing this we utilized the expertise of our many board members.

We began in the Fall with continuing to complete the painting of the Sanctuary by Home Partners as

well as the Sanborn room. Both areas now look beautiful! Steve also looked into LED lighting packages for the church and we now have energy saving LED chandelier lights in the sanctuary. This has brightened up the sanctuary considerably, making it warm and welcoming. More LED lights are being purchased to replace other old florescent lights. Kits from Home Depot are \$65.00 a piece and will do one complete light. They also qualify for energy rebates. The hope is to get these all replaced this year.

Mandy's bookcases have also been painted by Doug Phelps and look lovely.

Kendra's Office equipment and her work station has been updated. Mandy's has also been ergonomically evaluated by Marion Bates (IT person for Crossroads). Marion will be contracted by the church on a monthly basis to assist with computer issues. There has also been a discussion to upgrade the internet and outdated phone system with a package plan. The committee is looking in to this at present.

Plans are in place to replace the Audio system in the church. A sub-committee is currently working on this with Ernie and Peter Wilder (video contractor). Donors have come forward for this system.

In the course of preparing the apartment for rental Steve discovered water leaking into the Creche area and apartment with mold and water infiltration into these areas from multiple sources.

2 projects resulted out of this at the same time:

- 1) Mold abatement project for the church apartment kitchen and asbestos abatement for the floor in the kitchen which was propagated by the steam heating pipe leak in the wall of the kitchen.
- 2) Mold abatement and asbestos abatement for the unused basement classroom under the apartment. (coming from water infiltration from multiple sources). These spaces have been tented and put under a negative pressure for containment. Sen Cam is the abatement contractor. An environmental agency called Clay Point will do the air testing following completion of the work. The asbestos tiles and adhesive will all be removed in

the abatement project along with any asbestos containing pipes. The mold will also be removed.

3) The exterior foundation was opened up and a new foundation drainage system has been installed by L and M construction. May need some more investigation into overall drainage and catch basins near the foundation. Two trees near the church foundation were taken out and the area has been reseeded. The tree roots were interfering with the drainage pipes.

We thank Jay Bensen for his continued effort in managing the leases. He came to our April committee meeting and gave a detailed report of all the lease agreements with the church. Currently our largest contributors are the 4 companies using the steeple for cell phones. Verizon has the largest space. Total for the cell tower space is \$145,000. These leases are renewed every 5 years. Other leases are short-term leases such as TMO, North Country Chordsman, Judy Williams, Dartmouth ombudsman and the apartment (a more complete report of the total amount of all the leases can be found in the budget report). The apartment rental of course is on hold now r/t discussed issues.

Gert Assmus has worked closely with Jill Savage (our new bookkeeper) to keep us informed of our committee finances as well as assisted with technology issues.

Currently we have other projects on hold due to the unexpected above reported expenses. We had hoped to repaint and freshen up the foyer at the college street entrance. We have the beautiful refurbished antique sofa in an area that needs repainting, and new stair carpeting. Cheryl Boghosian and Marion Burchard worked on a plan to redesign and freshen the area to make it warm and welcoming to include new lighting, carpeting, and a window seat. (rough estimate \$5,000).

Estimate to repaint whole area including doors will be about \$10,000. Currently our budget is used up so this project is on hold until other funds are found. We started with a budget of about \$50,000. The abatement project by SenCam of the Kitchen and apartment will cost \$14,925,00. In addition to the above painting needs. The floor tiles outside the library in the corridor need to be replaced. These

may need to be done around the time of the abatement project as they also are asbestos.

We are also fortunate to have Susan Shadford overseeing the maintenance of the church gardens with help from Ginny Bates. This has included the Memorial Garden as well as other property pruning and cleanup. They have done a lovely job and all the gardens look beautiful. A thankyou to the both of you for all your hard work. The planters and gardens have certainly made the church look warm and welcoming from the outside.

We have been extremely busy this year with no end in sight of projects to complete. We feel fortunate to have a great group of people with expertise for handling the many building maintenance projects as well as the more serious unexpected emergencies. Many thanks to Mark McPeek, Cheryl Boghosian, Dave Harrison, Carl Kessel, and Gert Assmus.

Respectfully Submitted

Steve Shadford and Marion Burchard Co- Chairs

Gert Assmus, Cheryl Boghosian, Marion Burchard, Dave Harrison (elder) , Carl Kesseli, Mark McPeek, and Steve Shadford

## **REPORT OF THE SENIOR PASTOR**

In February of 2017 I packed a suitcase full of hope. We were headed to spend the week with our son in Florida. My bag contained bathing suits and sun dresses because I hoped that it would be warm enough to use them. I also packed the profile for the Senior Pastor position at The Church of Christ at Dartmouth College. Although I had attended worship at CCDC twice over the years and had been heartened by your presence at community events, I really didn't know that much about you. I hoped that I'd like what I read. During our week away, I spent each morning in a coffeeshop, reading and writing, each afternoon swimming, and each night wearing sundresses warmed by a soothing breeze. As I carefully read about you, my hopes bloomed. Each page of the church profile intrigued me more. Could you really be as focused upon

outreach as you suggest, and is there truly a hunger to grow spiritually amongst all your ages? Do you actually return all of the profit from the Christmas Market with a Difference to the vendors who you champion? And do you honestly strive to offer worship that encourages growth as well as offering grounding? Each page filled me with hope and longing. I wanted to become a part of this amazing community. Sixteen months later, I can say with assurance that all of my questions have been answered with a resounding, "Yes!" I am honored to have been called as your Senior Pastor. You have been gracious and welcoming, patient during my acclimation, and quick to answer questions and to share yourselves and your insights.

I am very grateful to the search committee members and to their chair, Jay Benson, for all of their patient and through work and for choosing me! To the transition committee who gently assisted my orientation, and to the current Board of Elders and Boards of Deacons who have invited me into their ongoing and dynamic work. I particularly want to thank Trish Jackson, President of CCDC, and Judy Csatari, incoming President, who have been tireless in their willingness to educate me and for their support and encouragement as I've worked to blend the CCDC ethos into my own. I also want to thank all of our staff, Ken Gagnon, Kendra Olson-Dow, Rita Severinghaus, Ernie Drown, and Rob Grabill for their dedication and their kind welcome and support. They are a wonderful and talented group. Also, our contracted helpers, bookkeeper Jill Savage and tech support extraordinaire, Marion Bates.

These past nine months have been some of the most exciting, rewarding, exhilarating, and hopeful of my ministry. I feel privileged to worship and work among such a diverse, gifted, open-minded, and big-hearted group of people. During our time together we've shared an overview of the Reformation, and heard wonderful music from Betty and Noel Paul Stookey, from our choir, and from many guest musicians. We've gathered our pledges and gifts, and supported local agencies with generous financial and volunteer resources. We've remembered those who've gone on before us and memorialized them together, we've shared the words of biblical angelic encouragement, "Do not

be afraid." We've been touched as our children portrayed nativity scenes and we've basked together in candle light as the calendar year drew to a close. We've shared a communal reading of the gospel of Mark during Lent, and we've traveled to Manchester, NH, to work with refugees, and to Mississippi and the Dominican Republic. We've received eight new members and participated in a baptism on Easter. We've gathered as a whole church for a dynamic retreat that we hope will move us forward together. We've held a joyous service of installation and seen five confirmands join the church. All the while the building has been getting fixed up with new paint, new window weathering, new furniture, and the removal of some old, water damaged or unsafe materials. We've strengthened our by-laws and restructured our organization, broadening our Boards of Deacons to meet our new and changing needs. We are truly a blessed and a blessing community.

At a time when the world and our nation are facing so many life-diminishing challenges, we, like Esther from the Hebrew scriptures, must be prepared to make a difference. Esther's cousin Mordecai told her, "Perhaps you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this." May The Church of Christ at Dartmouth College answer the call, as Esther did, a call to honor God, work for justice, to put one's self on the line to ensure full and rich lives for all, a call to grow in the Spirit.

Thank you all for including me in your journey.

Peace in Christ,  
Pastor Mandy

## **REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR**

This has been a busy, wonderful, challenging year. My summer was a full one, with participation in the 31<sup>st</sup> General Synod of the United Church of Christ in Baltimore. This was my second term as a Delegate from the NH Conference, and it was an exciting opportunity to participate in discussions and then vote on a number of significant resolutions. These covered governance of the denomination, as well as articulating stands on a number of significant issues, including racism, gun

control, and climate change. The latter resolution of witness, authored by our good friend the Rev. Jim Antal, inspired me to author a similar resolution for the NH Conference Annual Meeting in October. Happily, the resolution was accepted by the NHCUCC Board, and affirmed by the Annual Meeting. Later in the summer, I spent a week at Horton Center, the wonderful summer camp for all ages operated by the NH Conference. I was the Dean for a week for elementary school-aged campers, including several from CCDC. We also had several CCDC “grads” helping as volunteer counselors. Horton Center is very simply one of the best faith formation ministries we offer at any level in this dynamic denomination. The lessons learned on Pine Mountain stay with campers for the rest of their lives.

In mid-August, I shook hands and said goodbye to the Rev. Tom Nordberg, who guided CCDC through nearly two years of interim ministry, and in many ways set the stage for our highly successful transition. Tom handed me the keys to church and headed West, and I hunkered down as sole Pastor for the next six weeks, as we awaited Mandy Lape-Freeberg. The time passed quickly and uneventfully, and we were grateful for the guest preaching from Richard Crocker and Martin Copenhaver.

In early October, I spent two nights back at Horton Center with the CCDC Confirmation Class as part of the NH Conference Confirmation retreat. This experience allowed our group to bond early in the program year, and also gave us the chance to learn about the wider settings of the United Church of Christ. I served on the original planning and oversight group that created the Retreat six years ago, and marvel at how it has grown, and received national notice for innovative youth ministry.

In February, I returned to Mississippi with a delegation from CCDC to continue our 21-year ministry with Habitat for Humanity in Jonestown. Our group worked efficiently and hard, and accomplished a great deal in a week. There are Habitat opportunities closer to home, to be sure, but there is nothing our church does that is even close in helping us to understand the challenge of dealing with the toxic racial divide in this country.

Confronting our national legacy of racism is a top priority of the UCC, and this service-learning opportunity opens these doors for us.

In early April, with the support of the June Russell Fund, I participated in a national UCC conversation about faith formation in Cleveland, home of the United Church of Christ offices. Great facilitation by the UCC national staff made this intense two-day workshop an opportunity for clergy and Christian educators from across the country to share their thoughts and dreams about how our churches will grow faith across all age groups in the next century. The results of the From The Ground Up conference will be coming out soon, but I left with the understanding that CCDC is doing most things well, a few things superbly, and has room for learning and growth in the area of faith formation.

In April, I spent eight days and nights in the Dominican Republic on the youth mission trip organized by Rita Severinghaus, and jointly sponsored by CCDC and the Norwich Congregational Churches. Eight high school students and ten adults, including six registered nurses, worked to build a playground at a small, rural elementary school and, at the same time running a well-attended four-day health clinic. We distributed vitamins, dental and medical supplies to several area health clinics and schools. In addition to significantly adding to the overall quality of education in this village, the mission trip provided an important learning opportunity for our students. The trip also continued the growth of a wonderful working relationship with the Meriden church in the area of youth ministry, and we look forward to building on this.

In May, I spent a wonderful weekend in New York City with the Confirmation Class. We participated in the Nightwatch program sponsored by the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, an ecumenical learning and worship opportunity. We explored the huge gothic cathedral, the biggest in the U.S., learned about the music and art, and grew together as a group. The next morning, we headed downtown to the East Village and did service work at the Middle Collegiate Church, helping them set up for their street fair. Founded in 1629, Middle

Collegiate is a vibrant, multiracial, multicultural, art-oriented worship community that is thriving under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis. We met Rev. Lewis when she gave the keynote address at the Dartmouth Martin Luther King Celebration. She invited us to keep in touch, and we were happy for the opportunity to start a relationship we hope continues to grow between our faith communities. A month later, all five members of the class were confirmed and became covenant members of CCDC. It was a moving service, and we are eager for these young men to continue their participation in the life of our church.

The support of the June Russell Fund made it possible for us to have our first All-Church Retreat on a weekend in May. Jo Gardner does a good job describing this in her RE Board report. It's pleasing that there are several concrete results which have already emerged from two days of learning, discussing and discerning. As a result of the response to a valuable session on the Our Whole Lives curriculum, Mandy and I, with the help of several dedicated lay members, will be offering this class to our 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> graders over the next program year, starting in September. This requires a weekend of residential training for us in August, and we will be in touch soon with the interested parents of potential class members. Any parent who has learned about what this course offers has been more than enthusiastic. We are pleased to be offering this to our youth.

This has been a particularly good year with respect to Campus Ministry. Mandy and I have taken full advantage of our membership in the Tucker Center's United Campus Ministry, and built excellent relationships with other ministries and Tucker Center staff. We have hosted several student groups, including the Agape Christian Fellowship, and the Cords acappella group, who joined us in worship one Sunday. Our Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for international students were well-subscribed and we had help from a number of the members of the congregation in making these students feel welcome during the long Interim. We initiated a new Ashes to Go program on Ash Wednesday, and offered the imposition of ashes to dozens of

students throughout the day. Great outreach! The number of Dartmouth students in worship is increasing, and several are joining us in the life of the church, including a new member of our Board of Deacons for Membership and Communication.

Finally, it is hard to express how blessed I feel to be able to work with Senior Pastor Mandy Lape-Freeberg. From the very first weeks of her ministry with us, it was clear that the Search Committee chose exactly the right person at exactly the right time for this congregation. Mandy is an extraordinary minister. Her faith, her empathy, her wisdom, her humor and her compassion have found full voice in the midst of the CCDC community, and I feel so fortunate to be working under her leadership and guidance. She's made me a better minister and is making us a better church.

Rob Grabill  
Associate Pastor

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

This will be my 19th report of what's going on with music at CCDC. Another busy year. The Ives Recital Series, now in its 8th year, continues to attract large crowds, giving the Upper Valley the highest quality organ music for free, and enhancing our music ministry. The organ is now 15 years old. My trio, Cameo Baroque, continues my long practice of performing benefit concerts here for local non-profits.

The restoration of the Music Board will be the lifting of a heavy burden, restoring at a stroke the assistance, advice and support that I have been without for some years, as well as reestablishing a connection between the Director of Music and the Board of Elders.

Our fledgling Intergenerational Choir sang one Sunday this spring. I hope that this new group of fresh singers will help take some pressure off the Chancel Choir, whose numbers continue to decline due to age and health. They should be commended for their long and faithful service: Bruce and Amy Smith, Carolyn Crocker, Sylvia Field, Barbara Payson, Nan Green, Roger Arend, Evelyn Adams,

Heywood Alexander, Jean Mallary, Joan Wilson, Kathy Wilkerson, Lee and Janet Hurd, Megan Culp, Ted Matthews and Terry Martin.

The Handbell Choir is strong. They perform roughly once a month in worship. They are: Joan Wilson, Karen Sluzenski, Jo Shute, Rosalie Sainsbury, Susan Kessler, Jan Assmus, Nancy Marion, Lee Arend, Corinne Fortune, Judy Csatari and Karen Williamson. This year, not one rehearsal or performance would have been possible without the help of our able substitutes: Caryn McCoy, Kathy Wilkerson, Klaran Warner, Jennifer Casey, and John and Sarah McBride. We would be lost without them!

Respectfully submitted,  
Ernest Drown, Director of Music

## REPORT OF THE PARISH NURSE

The Parish Nurse role is approaching its 10th year at CCDC. In 2009 the congregation made the decision to create the position and more actively engage a nurse in its health care ministry. The time, effort and dedication of Ann Bradley, your first Parish Nurse, formalized the model of professional health ministry at CCDC. Ann's initial mentoring and the support of the Upper Valley Community Nursing Project have guided me for the past 4 years. Glad to be here!

Here's the professional definition of the Parish Nurse role and what it offers you, our parishioners: The American Nurses Association defines Faith Community Nursing (aka Parish Nursing) as "the specialized practice of professional nursing that focuses on the intentional care of the spirit as part of the process of promoting holistic health and preventing or minimizing illness in a faith community." (Faith Community Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice ANA, 2005, updated 2012). Prior to the ANA announcement of scope and standards of practice, the UCC presented a paper on the role in 1997 at the 21st General Synod Meeting. Excerpts: Why do we do this? "Good health is a part of God's intention for all people, Health involves the whole person: body, mind and spirit. Local congregations are encouraged to commitment to health and wholeness by providing

programming for parishioners and the community around them"

In that spirit, I share a summary of services provided by the Parish Nurse at CCDC-UCC:

- Regular home visits, phone calls, health/medication education. Crisis hospital/Emergency Room visits, and visits to local rehabilitation units.
- Assistance setting up appointments, accompany to appointments. Health advocacy.
- Assistance exploring coverage from private and long-term care insurance.
- Coordination of care and services with local MD offices and staff. Community referral source for managing illness and fostering wellness.
- Resource during health and life's transitions. Promote understanding of relationship between faith and health.
- Assistance with determination of home care needs, meeting those needs, and if permitted communicating with family to assure continuity.
- Coordination of health education programs and oversight of health and church ministry volunteers.
- Pastoral care is developed and provided in collaboration with the Senior and Associate Pastor.

The services of the Parish Nurse are well-utilized at CCDC. A summary record of June 2017 to May 2018 shows the following:

- Home visits - 62
- Phone calls - 209
- PN office visits - 71
- Crisis visits - 2
- DHMC visits - 18

To address pastoral care concerns of our congregation weekly update meetings were held with the Senior and Associate Pastors. Quarterly meetings were held with CCDC's Health Ministry Advisory, a small group of past elders of the church offering valuable mentorship and guidance. During our meetings, we discuss activities, challenges, health and educational needs, and ways to best meet the needs of our congregation. I have also

been privileged to work collaboratively with the Congregational Life Board.

I am generally in the office Monday to Thursday, but a request or need may find me on an urgent home or emergency room visit or on phone calls with parishioners, family members, or medical providers. In addition to the activities mentioned above many of you welcome me for healthy home visits to address questions or concerns.

There are many opportunities to maintain competency in my role, including attendance at meetings and presentations in the Upper Valley: Upper Valley Community Nursing Project, Elder Forum, Aging in Community Programs through the Public Health Council, and annual professional nursing programs.

2017 was a year of transitions for CCDC, we have met this with faith and enthusiasm. In the past year I helped coordinate some Second Hour presentations:

- To Drive or Not to Drive—an informative
- Everyday Fitness-Is It Worth my Time?
- Balance in Aging -- presented by Dawna Pidgeon, PT, Balance Expert DHMC and NH, and Joanne Hayes, FNP, APD.
- Useful Tools for Aging—Ann and I presented this 5-week UVIP program of resources and planning for our later years.

Ongoing smaller offerings have included weekly Meditation & Prayer, and blood pressure checks twice/month.

Throughout the year, the Parish Nurse bulletin board located on the balcony, and the new electronic newsletter are venues used to share pertinent health information topics.

For the past few years I had been overseeing the work of our short-term ministry, CCDC Cares. Together with guidance from Congregational Life we are currently exploring new ways of addressing ongoing needs; new models will present us with new opportunities to minister to each other. Our Widows Group continues hosting speakers and holding well-attended luncheons 4x/year.

I look forward this coming year to once again coordinate CPR/AED re-certification (offered 2 years ago), and to explore new program offerings in health education, nutrition and yoga. Through CPR re-certification we are able to maintain competency in the use of our two AEDs (portable defibrillators).

Finally, for the third year, the Youth Trip to the Dominican Republic brought together representatives from CCDC, NCC, and the Meriden Congregational Church to promote children's education through construction of a basketball court and playground in a village school. Our team of health professionals offered blood pressure/diabetes screenings to adults, while also distributing dental health and multivitamins for families and children in 5 remote communities. Used clothing donated by our members was also distributed. For many years, the Norwich Congregational Church has facilitated the financial basis of support for mission efforts in the Dominican Republic. Through Rob's (Assoc. Pastor) leadership, we have been fortunate to receive funding support for students from the Byrne Foundation and Pembroke Foundation (UCC), as well as your support through the annual indoor yard sale. The mission trips are made especially rewarding through the active participation of our students. Our April visit was filled with hard work and many heartwarming moments!

Please remember that we continue to store a limited number of walkers, commodes, canes and crutches for our members, family and friends. This equipment is available for free should a need come up. Just contact us with your interest.

Thank you for enriching my professional experience as your Parish Nurse. I am rewarded through this ministry by your continued engagement in important health conversations and look forward to our continued work together.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rita Severinghaus, RN, MA  
Parish Nurse