

A REPORT TO THE **CONGREGATION**
on the work of
The Church of Christ at Dartmouth College
United Church of Christ



July, 2013 – June, 2014

Presented to the Congregation for its Annual Meeting
June 22, 2014

Report of the Board of Elders

It's been a very busy year for the CCDC Board of Elders. As you know, the Elders are comprised of representatives from our Boards of Deacons, along with "at large" members representing the wider congregation. We meet monthly to hear reports from the Boards of Deacons and from our several committees, to discuss and pass on important matters before the church, as governed by our bylaws, to provide critical support and guidance to our church staff as needed, and of course to set the direction and priorities for the church as guided by the congregation.

You might remember that in the previous church year, the Elders identified and introduced three proposed longer-range (3-year) focus areas for the church: 1) a strengthened faith formation practice; 2) a more intentional, purpose-driven justice ministry; and 3) a more resilient and sustainable financial model for our church. Much of the attention of the Elders in that year was diverted to financial matters with the emergence of an operating deficit, but in this church year, we shared a conviction to move to concrete action on the financial sustainability initiative and to an active congregational discernment on the two ministry-related focus areas.

We feel that we have made meaningful progress on all of those fronts, as summarized in two separate reports included in this package of materials for the June 22 Congregational Meeting:

- *Report of the Financial Sustainability Working Team to the CCDC Congregation*
- *Report of the Board of Elders on the Spring Congregational Discernment Meetings*

Substantial preliminary work of the Financial Sustainability Working Team (FSWT) was presented at the February congregational meeting. Since that time, as summarized in the report, the FSWT has worked with Elders to take tangible steps towards promoting stability and sustainability in the church's financial model. Among others, these include a renovation project underway to optimize church space utilization and lease potential, the formation of a Planned Giving Committee, the re-constitution and focusing of a Financial Advisory

Committee, and the enhancement of financial reports and communications. We offer a special thank you for the outstanding work of the volunteer members of this working team, who are listed in the report and who have agreed to convert their volunteer commitment into formal terms on the re-constituted Financial Advisory Committee.

We are also pleased that efforts to re-capture the 2013 operating deficit of approximately \$20,000 and to restore our daily operating fund balances are very near to successful completion, with a currently projected \$17,400 in added income identified for 2014 through special gifts, increased pledges, an unplanned lease renewal, and better-than-projected fulfillment of past-due 2013 pledges. We're most thankful for those gifts to the church. We're almost 90% of the way there; let this serve as an invitation to members to help put us over the top.

Finally, and most importantly, we were able to complete a rich dialogue with some seventy members of the church on the future direction and priorities of our CCDC ministries. Key themes from these conversations are captured in the Spring Congregational Discernment Meetings report, along with our initiative recommendations to the incoming Board of Elders for evaluation, prioritization and action in the coming year. We feel that these include initiatives that could meaningfully advance the ministries of the church in ways strongly aligned with our mission, our faith, our covenant, and the priorities of our membership. One that we will point out here is the potential membership of CCDC in the United Valley Interfaith Project (UVIP), which we recommend for small-group evaluation and congregational education prior to a suggested church vote, if a membership recommendation is forthcoming, at the next congregational meeting in February.

Of course, so much more work than I can possibly credit here has been completed by members of our Boards of Deacons, volunteers and our talented, committed staff. We thank you all for making CCDC an active, engaged, dynamic church. We especially recognize our Senior Pastor, Carla Bailey, and her team for their inspiring leadership and tireless work in all the spiritual, pastoral, programmatic and administrative missions and functions of the church. They are such a strong,

complementary team looking out for our growth and care as Christians; we are truly blessed.

I also offer my personal thanks to our Elders, listed below, for their dedicated service and friendship. I hope you will too. Together, we welcome the incoming Board of Elders and new President, Steve Bensen, offering them our continuing service and support in the work ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Evan Smith, President of the Board of Elders

Libby Barry	John Heaney
Steve Bensen	Susan Kessler
Dianne Campbell	Barbara McBride
Megan Culp	John McBride
Emily Dentzer	Chris Nice
Brian Edwards	Amy Smith
Sylvia Field, Clerk	

Board of Deacons for Congregational Life

This board is charged with the spiritual health and well-being of the membership of the congregation, to include encouraging new membership, fellowship, and nurturing community.

Activities this year included working on the annual fall picnic, new members breakfast, *tenebrae* service supper, Easter breakfast, and the CCDC appreciation waffle breakfast organized by Terry Martin. Responsibilities also included arranging for volunteers as coffee hour hosts, and flower delivery recipients identified by Ann Bradley and Carla Bailey.

Three of the members of the board were unable to complete the year. Four of the members were also in the choir(s). This impacted on staffing and compromised some of the functions of the board, which meant more responsibility on Carla .

Reports on activities of CCDC Cares, the Widows Group and Soup program will be reported by Ann Bradley.

We are thankful for continuing support and leadership from Ann and Carla

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Rawnsley, Carol Zalinger, co-chairs

Libby Barry, Charlie Buell, Terry Martin, Christina Robison, Diana Ulm, Susan Weeks, Karen Williamson

Board of Deacons for Outreach

The Board of Outreach worked together on many familiar projects and a few new ones over the past year. A recap of these endeavors follows:

The Crop Walk this year was spearheaded by Rob Grabill and brought in \$2,570 to help support hunger relief efforts both locally and through Church World Service. We thank those who participated in this, especially the young people of our church who do so much for this cause. Kathy Martin also provided more education and information this year from Bread for the World, an organization we hope to partner more with in the future. We look forward to doing this in the fall.

Neighbors in Need: This is a UCC denominational offering, which originally started to answer Native American needs in support of projects like scholarships, congregational support, etc. Through the generosity of the congregation we were able to contribute \$2,325 to this offering.

The Giving Tree: This year, we had 120+ requests for items to give to families recommended to us by the LISTEN center. All of the requests were met by members of our generous congregation. Many thanks to Kay Torrey who helped coordinate this project, and to the congregation for helping the families in need.

Holiday Cards for Troops: Many thanks to the many members of our congregation who participated in this worthwhile project to bring Holiday cheer to the troops.

Christmas Eve Offering designation: The general consensus from the board this year was to keep the offering recipients local and to give to an organization that would be continuing support for victims of Tropical Storm Sandy. The Board of Elders enthusiastically accepted our recommendations for the Christmas Eve offering to target areas of need in our local community. We received \$5,720 for the Christmas Eve offering this year and split it equally between our recipients:

1. Grafton County Senior Citizens Council
2. Halls of Hope: Mental Health Court Services
3. UNICEF for schools and children

Bicentennial Fund: Contingent on approval at the spring congregational meeting, this year's recipients recommended by the Board of Outreach will each receive \$400. They are:

1. *Romano Circle After School Program*
2. *Rwanda Women's Sewing Co-op*,
for the purchase of sewing machines

One Great Hour of Sharing, the refugee, relief and development offering of a number of denominations, including the United Church of Christ, transforms lives through health, education, agricultural and emergency relief initiatives in 138 countries. This year the congregation generously contributed \$2,689 towards this fund. Special thanks to all of the friends and members of our church who contributed this year.

Many thanks to the members of the congregation who have supported Good Neighbor Clinic dinners for volunteer physicians and nurses on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Many thanks also for the Community Dinner meals (4th Wednesday of the month) at the United Methodist Church in WRJ, and to the congregation members who have answered the call to help with this as well – most especially Ted Frazer who prepares the meals every month.

Thank you to the congregation members who have helped with the coordinated bag lunch preparation and delivery for the summer program at Northwoods in White River Junction for many years. We will again be making meals to help with this program in June and we welcome members of the congregation who would like to participate.

The congregation was very supportive in raising money, providing supplies, and sewing bags for the Church World Service Hygiene and School Kit project this year. Over 30 Hygiene Kits were made and sent, and are now being used in places like Syrian refugee camps. Church World Service has a continued need for these, and for school kits, and Carla will be continuing these efforts in putting together kits. If you are interested in participating further, please be in touch.

The Outreach board also sent \$1000 from our discretionary budget to Church World Service to help with relief efforts after the Typhoon in Haiyan in the Philippines. Thank you to our generous congregation for supporting this important cause through the outreach funds.

The Outreach board would like to offer special thanks to Jean and Bob Keene and Susan Weeks for reinvigorating the Zimbabwe church partnership this year. We look forward to the opportunities for congregational engagement that will come out of this partnership, and we thank them for their interest and commitment to this project.

My heartfelt thanks to all the members of the Board who have been supportive and engaged in the mission of the Board of Outreach this year.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Chesnut, Chair
Katie Aman, Cinny Bensen, Kathy Martin, Barbara McBride, Jackie Paulsen, Molly Scheu, and Kay Torrey

Board of Deacons for Religious Education

Your Religious Education Deacons have been busy this year fulfilling ongoing commitments and connecting with the goals established by our Elders. We were led by a conviction that what we do at our church should have relevance to each of us in terms of faith formation, justice issues, and compassion. Forging connections between people, faith traditions, and religion and science provided us with direction this year.

Realizing that we “need each other,” we took some time to introduce ourselves, answering the question, “What is important for us to know about you at this point in time?” Stories were shared from as far away as Minnesota and Kenya. New jobs and family happenings were held up for us to honor, and important questions were raised such as, “What is the face of Christianity in our world today?”

We read articles to help us move towards an understanding of what progressive faith and progressive churches look like. We began our planning by considering the importance of communication about faith formation among

members of this faith community. We all agreed that promoting meaningful communication and dialogue is at the heart of any healthy contemporary religious institution's mission.

We were fortunate to have Leah Torrey, the Lead Organizer and Staff Director of the United Valley Interfaith Project, and Rod Wendt, the President of UVIP, come to talk with us about the work of UVIP. Leah and Rod described the UVIP activities that followed Tropical Storm Irene relief and the work on behalf of people left unemployed. They gave background about UVIP's ongoing projects: Ending Usury in NH and the Aging with Dignity Campaign. The RE Board is eager for us to become a part of a wider United Valley faith community. We look forward to learning more next year about the work of UVIP.

Later initiatives in our interfaith development resulted in a Second Hour presentation and conversation with Nancy Vogeles, the Interfaith Chaplain at Dartmouth. Nancy said that frequently "faith comes alive at the overlapping points." Nancy brought with her Sharif A. Rosen, who is currently the Muslim and Multi-Faith Advisor at Dartmouth. When asked about building "intrafaith, interfaith, and multifaith" understanding in today's world, Nancy urged us to "listen to each other's faith stories, listen for what people love about their faith, enjoy the radiant particularities of other's faith experiences, build relationships, and go out of our way to serve one another."

During Rob's work as a student at Bangor Theological Seminary, he came to know Sheikh Reza Jalali, the Muslim advisor at Bates College. Reza came to participate in our Sunday worship in January, and give an afternoon lecture entitled, "The Other Children of Abraham: Muslims in America." Reza's gentle compassion and good humor helped create a significant bonding experience for those who attended his Sunday afternoon lecture. Rabbi Boraz was invited to preach and participate in one of our worship services in January. We were pleased with the attendance and the warmth of the interactions with both of these interfaith services and the interfaith programs.

The RE Board took seriously the Elders' Goal for promoting "progressive faith formation for adults."

We wanted to be part of starting conversations among us. As a result of our understanding of the importance of sharing and communication in our faith formation process, the RE Board planned three Roundtables, designed to give us the opportunity to learn from each other and share our experiences, our inspiration, and the learning resources we have found meaningful.

Two Reading Roundtables were held for Second Hour opportunities for members of our congregation to share readings that have informed their faith formation at some point in their faith journeys. About 40 people participated in these two Reading Roundtables. What was even more important than the book titles was what was shared about faith journeys past and present, as we discussed books that have made an impact on us. What a remarkable and blessed diversity of experiences are represented among us. Questions about why we read and what we read at different times in our lives were raised. The themes of liberation and centering were repeated at both discussions. The list of books shared at these initial roundtables will be published for people who are interested.

Our third Second Hour Roundtable was entitled, Viewing Websites For Faith Formation. We realized that being "progressive" in today's world meant we had to think about technology and its role in our lives and our ongoing faith formation. We shared bookmarked sites that we read regularly for information or inspiration. A list of these sites will be on our church website, with links to help you access them easily.

We had our last Second Hour program for this church year with Jean Keene. Notes on Jean's wonderful presentation will be in a News and Views article. We are so fortunate to have the opportunity to learn about literature for people of all ages from Jean.

One of the high points of this year was the Lenten Series that was planned by the RE Board with full support from Rob, Carla, and Ann. Chris Jernstedt led us in this year's Lenten Series. Chris has been active in the Church of Christ at Dartmouth for more than 40 years, and he was in the Psychological and Brain Sciences Department at Dartmouth.

Our goal was to build our capacity to understand ourselves and our place in our universe. We hoped to grow in our relationship with and our understanding of God, the “ground of our being” and the loving heart of our universe. Bringing our religious understanding of ourselves together with the scientific knowledge that has emerged over the centuries and in neuroscience in recent decades helped us to realize how important science is in enabling us to develop our capacities as human beings.

Those who participated in the ten-hour series were gratified by the quality of the sessions, the inclusive and hospitable environment, and the enthusiastic participation of those present with the material and with each other. Over 45 people were in attendance at the last Sunday of the series, and we hope that all went away with a greater awareness of the bridges to be built between theology and science. We all benefited from this opportunity to extend the borders of our faith and our understanding of the great opportunities and miracles we have before us each day.

As these activities for adults have unfolded, Rob has continued to organize and lead a comprehensive set of learning experiences for the eight participants in this year’s Confirmation Program. Look for a full description of that program in Rob’s Annual Report.

Since I will be out of town on June 22, for the Annual Meeting Gail McPeek will present the nominations for the Linda White Cavanaugh Award and the new Ripley Award.

The church school programs have proceeded so well this year. We all appreciate the wonderful children’s moments that are a part of our Sunday worship. We have great appreciation for the thought from Gail McPeek that goes into overseeing our church school program in collaboration with Rob. Church school teaching is proceeding well with the new model that involves high school young people working with the children as they are supervised and instructed by Rob and Gail. Rob will report on the great variety of activities that he has coordinated this year involving young people and families.

An important part of our year on the RE Board involved our study of materials from the UCC

relating to Faith Formation for Whole Congregations. Technological changes, familial changes, generational changes, public discourse changes, and economic and financial changes are examples of the issues they see impacting churches. The dialogues with Marcus Borg, Doug Pagitt, and Geoffrey Black were positively challenging. We look forward to participating in the ongoing conversations about Faith Formation at CCDC.

We wish to thank our families, our children, our young people, our college students, our leaders, and our participating members for all that you bring to our church community. We conclude our year, as we concluded most of our meetings, with prayers of gratitude.

Respectively submitted,

Margaret Jernstedt, Chair

Drew Coombs, Megan Culp, Chris Hall, Sarah McBride, Bruce Riddle, and Ray Sears

Board of Deacons for Stewardship

One of the joys of serving on Stewardship is that we have such a strong custodian in Ken Gagnon. Ken’s knowledge and care of the church, its facility and its systems allows Stewardship to focus on the larger projects. He knows the building, its systems, and tenants inside out.

The board has spent its time on many projects over the year.

- Throughout the year, Stewardship has worked closely with the financial working team formed by the Elders. We have provided input and reviewed the recommendations of this group.
- Improvements were made at the front of the church to improve accessibility. The old cracked threshold was removed and replaced by new bluestone, creating a smooth, unencumbered entrance to the church.
- After years of high water bills, damp basement walls and poor heat in the Chase Foyer entrance, Ken discovered that we were losing water due to a leaky heating pipe under the slab of the church. We have since replaced the old heating loop, with

new heat in both the entrance area and the men's bathroom. This repair should improve the heat, save water and save fuel moving forward.

- Rental income continues to be strong. All leases from 2013 carried forward into 2014 at slightly higher rates. Additionally, the Verizon cell tower lease was modified to include the reimbursement of property taxes. Now all cell tower leases cover their tax burden.
- Lastly, work has been initiated to convert half of the old Creche space into a usable classroom. This project will enable all church school classrooms to be on the same floor and creates another more usable space for our programs. Additionally, this renovation will free up space on the 4th floor for other uses including potential rental.

Lastly I would like to thank our board for their hard work, patience in scheduling, and willingness to count offerings. It is much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Benson, Chair

Dick Blodgett, Clifton Farrell, Fiona Heaney, Keith Paulsen, Sae-Im Smith, Gautier Wallaert, and Joan Wilson.

Report of the Pastor

So, you know the proverb “Don’t push the river – it flows by itself”? I’m trying to live according to its wisdom these days, a commitment that isn’t as easy as it should be. I think the Church is changing, both CCDC and the Church Universal. I’d like to push that change along to see where we all end up – only, “it flows by itself”. And there’s the whole discernment process through which the Elders have led us this past year. You’ll see some final reports with recommendations along with this annual report. I’d like to push along with some of the hopes participants expressed – only, that river flows by itself. Then there’s my own ministry call and direction and the commitments to which I give my loyalty, and wondering how best to spend the last decade of my ministry but believe me, that river

really flows by itself and resists any of my pushing efforts with a strong counter-current! It all puts me in mind of a great old gospel song: *You've been running for a very long time. Don't give up now - Keep Jesus on your mind. I believe I'll run on - I believe I'll run on - and just see what the end's goin' to be.*

This report is full of the events that made up a year in our program life together. For me, the highlights of the year are not reflected in these reports so much as they were in quiet moments when I felt as if we were doing the right thing – when a particularly funny conversation at a staff meeting lightened the load for all of us, when a tired elementary school teacher in Clarksdale, MS turned her classroom over to a group of teens from CCDC who all sat at small chairs or on the floor to read books to first-graders, whenever I received one of Evan’s insightful and generous emails that buoyed my spirits and reminded me that the work of our church is a shared responsibility, when the financial sustainability working group confirmed with numbers and charts what I’ve believed all along – that we are holding our own financially, even through turbulent economic times. All these lovely and loving moments offset the hard times and I am so grateful for them and for those who provided them. I am, above all, grateful that Evan Smith has been our president. He has maintained a faultless balance between listening and nudging, guiding and pushing and waiting. We are, in every way, a better church for his leadership. Fortunately, he’ll stand close by in the shadows, supporting our incoming president Steve Bensen as we move into the future.

I believe you are well served by a truly generous, talented, and dedicated staff and I thank them for their work, their humor, and their loyalty. Of course I wish Ann Bradley would never retire, but she will make the transition to a new Parish Nurse seamless, I know, and she will remain in our congregation, watching over us all. We are working slowly but steadily on that search process. This next year we will explore the contours of Rob Grabill’s call to ordained ministry as he completes his seminary education. That will be an important process for both Rob and CCDC, and as Rob observes in his annual report, it is best to focus on the process and conversation along the way than to push the river to an outcome. Ernie Drown and Ken

Gagnon and my beloved Warren Turner all vie for the most curmudgeonly of the curmudgeons at our staff meetings – all of them have huge hearts beneath those crusty exteriors – lucky, lucky us. Kendra and Doug keep the administrative side of the church running along well. In ways you will probably never fully realize, we are one of the most fortunate churches I have ever known in terms of our working staff team – and I am certainly the most fortunate of pastors to lead them.

There will be some changes this next year – both as we reimagine the work of our church deacons – shifting from the tasks of being a deacon to the role of being a deacon, and as we institute some of the goals that emerged from the Elders-led discernment conversations. But there will also be the familiar day-to-day life of the Church, with its few moments of profound significance and its many abundantly average days. We will mourn the deaths of old and dear members, welcome wiggly children, grow annoyed at slights and irritated over unimportant things. We will be glad to see familiar faces and relieved that we continue to attract visitors. We will sing together, study together, and pray for one another. In other words, the river of life will just flow along, without our pushing it. And actually, that’s probably a very good thing. After all, from the prophet Ezekiel to the book of Revelation, we are told that the river of God waters the trees that nourish the children of God, and the leaves of those same trees are for the healing of the nations - not a bad reason to be a good, strong river.

Carla Bailey
Pastor

Report of the Director of Religious Education

As I reviewed the 2013-2014 program year at CCDC to prepare for this report, a clear theme presented itself: lay leadership. The success of the many activities undertaken under the umbrella of the RE Board would not have been possible without the active participation and leadership of dozens of individuals who have clearly personified our Covenant’s call for giving “freely and without reserve to the ministry of this church”.

Margaret Jernstedt did so superbly as the Chair of the RE Board. Her energy and organization were moving forces for a number of programs, which she so excellently summarized in her Board report. She also did a superb job in preparing for and running our monthly meetings, which regularly featured thoughtful discussion of the bigger issues which we all need to address as individuals and as Deacons. We took care of the mundane details, to be sure, but we did so in a context of our understanding of our covenant and our theology.

Gail McPeck continued her superlative work as Superintendent of our lively and growing church school program. In addition to teaching every week, Gail worked tirelessly to organize and support the other teachers. We altered our model this year to call upon the talents of the high school and college students in our midst, and the success we enjoy was in no small part due to Gail’s oversight. She was instrumental in organizing the family-oriented activities, including the Fall Potluck, the Hanging of the Greens, the Christmas Pageant, Salamander Crossing, and the March Madness Talent Show.

Lay participation was at an all-time high from our high school and college students, and we are grateful to the following: Olivia Bauer (Dartmouth ’17), Marina Barry, Tristan Smith, Peter Bensen, Katie Aman, Sarah McPeck, Kelsey Smith, Kay Torrey, Spencer Bernard, Jake McCoy, Eric McCoy, Caroline Rodi, Avery Smith and Hayden Smith. Collectively, they taught church school, helped with childcare, worked on the CROP Walk, traveled to Mississippi for Habitat, ushered, and volunteered for the Christmas Market and the Easter Breakfast. They are superb role models.

As many of you witnessed, we completed a successful Confirmation program, which culminated with the decision by all eight students to join the CCDC congregation as covenant members. In addition to biweekly class meetings and joint dinners with the Mentors, the group participated last fall in the NH Conference’s first annual Confirmation Retreat, and the weekend-long trip to Heifer International’s Overlook Farm in Massachusetts. We’re grateful to chaperones Elizabeth Greene and Clifton Farrell for their invaluable support. We were lucky to have both

Carla Bailey and Ernie Drown offer their services as mentors, and (surprise! more lay leadership) benefited from the mentoring skills of Roger Arend, Trish Jackson, Bob Keene, Jean Keene, Ray Sears, Karen Williamson and Tom Wilson.

This was a good year for CCDC's commitment to campus ministry. Carla and I regularly attended the monthly meetings of the Tucker Foundation's United Campus Ministers, and Carla in particular made significant contributions to the group's governance in her committee work. UCM is an amazing model of ecumenism in action, and wrestles with some of Dartmouth's most important campus-wide issues. In the meantime, CCDC continues to attract both undergraduate and graduate students, who are made to feel most welcome. We were joined by more than 45 Dartmouth students on Easter Sunday! A number of students are regulars, and some of these have become involved in CCDC activities. We are thrilled that the winner of this year's Linda White Cavanaugh Award is a member of the Class of '17 who has committed to joining us as a covenant member.

This past year I participated in the Andover-Newton Theological School's field education program. It was a wonderful opportunity for me to carefully and intentionally explore my vocational goals and my commitment to parish ministry. It also provided me with a chance to work on expanding my ministerial skills. Carla Bailey provided skillful guidance for me as my Site Supervisor, and I was blessed to be advised by a dedicated advisory group, consisting of Megan Culp, Gail McPeck, Steve Shadford and Karen Williamson. We met monthly to systematically examine my Learning Goals, and their caring, constructive criticism allowed this to be a significant growth opportunity.

Next fall I will begin my sixth and final year of graduate study. I have five classes remaining, including a challenging "Border Crossing" trip to Appalachia next January. While I am preparing to receive my Master of Divinity degree next May, I will also be working with the Grafton-Orange Association of the United Church of Christ to prepare for the possibility of Ordination. I need to compose a detailed ordination paper, and defend this in front of an Ecclesiastical Council of ministers and NH Conference officials. There are a

number of tasks for me to accomplish, and that will help me keep my focus on the process, and not worry about the potential outcomes of this process.

My graduate school experience has helped my ministry in a number of ways, and the support and encouragement I have received from so many of you has helped me be a better student. I am excited for the year ahead for many reasons, particularly for the opportunities we have to continue our work together, walking in God's ways.

Rob Grabill
Director of Religious Education.

Report of the Director of Music

This was another good year for music at CCDC. In August, I will have completed my 15th year as the Director of Music here. The "new" organ will be 10 next spring. How time flies!

We've scheduled a 10-year maintenance and cleaning of the organ this summer, and our set of handbells is scheduled for a first-ever refurbishment, so we'll come into the new program year all renewed and refreshed.

The Ives organ series is a popular Upper Valley event. It is a delight for music-lovers, but it is also wonderful PR for who we are and what we do.

The choirs continue strong. But. We need to recruit another substitute bell-ringer, and we also need some new singers--especially women--in the Chancel Choir, if we're going to continue to provide the musical quality the congregation expects, and that we've come to be known for.

I always like to hear about your particular favorite hymns and music at the coffee hour. The more I know about who you are and what you like, the better I can do my job!

Ernie Drown
Director of Music

Report of the Parish Nurse

The role of Parish Nurse involves being a “translator” between faith and healthcare communities, being a health educator, a health counselor, a referral agent, the developer of support groups and a volunteer coordinator. I think that pretty much sums up all of my activities for the year.

It has been an exciting and unique opportunity and a privilege for me to be able to work in the development of a Health Ministry and to work with fellow parishioners in concert with physicians, care coordinators and other service providers in the community. As the visibility of parish nurses has become greater in our area, both coordination of care and access to services has become easier through this advocacy role. I have enjoyed visiting with people, getting to know them better, helping different people navigate the health care system and the myriad details, as well as helping to set up various appointments. Often, I have accompanied people to these appointments as a second set of eyes and ears to be sure they understand the information and next steps. I have helped to find and access other resources in the community that contribute to a person’s quality of life.

The monthly News and Views has provided me with the opportunity to talk about various issues of health and spirituality and to make the connection between body, mind and spirit, all necessary for the health of the whole person. I hope you have benefited from these musings. I certainly have.

One ministry for which I have provided coordination is CCDC Cares, a group of 17 parishioners who have committed to providing short-term help as needed to fellow parishioners. This program operates year round. In addition to the ongoing activities of volunteers, there were two designated chore days, one in fall and one in the spring where volunteers, including teens, were ready to be put to work. This year, volunteers answered calls to provide rides, help with yard and garden work, furniture moving and several other needed tasks. We have also provided help to Outreach House, an assisted living facility in Hanover, which has long ties to this church. Outreach House can always use a helping hand with

either outdoor chores or providing entertainment or interaction for residents. Do give them a call if you are looking for some occasional rewarding volunteer work. The CCDC Cares group has been meeting bi-monthly in Sanborn Room with a “bring your own sandwich, dessert and beverage provided” lunch. Interesting speakers have provided good information to those in attendance. For example, we learned about the “Upper Valley Start the Conversation” project where speakers are provided to groups to talk about the importance of Advance Directives. We also met the new director of VNA/Hospice of NH/VT. and had an update on services they provide. And finally, we learned about efforts of the New Hampshire Injury Prevention task force in the area of fall prevention. We received useful materials from the speakers, which were placed on the credenza outside the church office. This past May we held a breakfast to celebrate the fifth anniversary of CCDC Cares and to thank everyone who have been part of this program.

A new ministry began this winter called *Souper Cares*. Parishioners provide soup that is kept in our freezer. Anyone may take a container if they need it for themselves or for a friend who may be ill, or as a gift as they visit fellow parishioners or others. We will gear up this project once again in the fall.

Another ministry with which I have been working is the Widows Group, which meets quarterly with well-attended and interesting meetings. These meetings provide not only interesting topics but also, a good chance for camaraderie and friendship. Meetings have included a trip to the Montshire Museum for the Magic Carpet luncheon, a holiday lunch and Yankee Swap at the church, a session on memoir writing with popular Ilead teacher, Joe Medlicott and a summer luncheon soon to be hosted by Jean Sibley at her home.

This year, I facilitated meetings between several of our parishioners and first year medical students through a program at the Geisel School of Medicine. This program is designed to help medical students feel comfortable in conversation with elders about their life experiences and health care experiences and observations, as they have aged.

In addition to these activities, I continue to meet monthly here in our Hamilton Library with the Upper Valley Community Nurse project which works to help communities think about the value of a parish or community nurse in this complex time of increasing numbers of frail elderly and a health care system that can seem overwhelming. This is also an excellent way to learn from others in the health care community. And finally, I attend meetings of the Eldercare Forum, which meets monthly at Alice Peck Day. This is a group of health care providers from both hospitals as well as many of the agencies in this area which provide services to the elderly. It has been a wonderful way to learn and to connect and find opportunities for coordination of services and care.

As always, all of us on the staff are very interested and open to your thoughts and ideas for programs and in how we relate to one another, so don't hesitate to be in touch.

Ann Bradley
Parish Nurse and Pastoral Care Coordinator

soon. Please give any suggestions for "additions or corrections". Your help will be appreciated.

Warren Turner
Senior Advocate

Report of the Senior Advocate

For the 2013-14 church year, as Senior Advocate, I have continued to work with members of our congregation who have minor technical issues with their various electronic devices. These opportunities have allowed me to visit and to share with our pastoral care team of Ann Bradley, Parish Nurse and Carla Bailey, Senior Pastor any specific ongoing concerns. Some of the things I have helped with include wireless access, email difficulties, Skype setup and use, cell phone issues, and automobile computer dashboards. This kind of work brings me into the CCDC homes and I am very pleased to help and to be present for any pastoral care concerns as well. Please remember that I am available at any time for a personal visit.

Another important activity in which I been involved is the rebuilding of our congregation's web site, www.ccdccucc.org. In consultation with the staff and some of our helpful members, I have set up new pages and now continue to update on an almost daily basis. You are encouraged to visit our pages