

**TEWKSBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
TEWKSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS 01876**



To the Members and Friends of the Tewksbury Congregational Church, greetings:

Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 3 and Article XI, Section 4e of the church bylaws, I have prepared this document as the official report of the Church for fiscal year 2006. Contained herein are the reports of the officers, standing and special committees, and other organizations taking the name and working under the auspices of the Church. This report is presented for your review and will be adopted as the official report of the Church pursuant to the second article of the warrant for the Semi-Annual Meeting to be held on May 20, 2007. Additional reports may be added by motions to amend at said meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher Jenkins, Clerk

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

There have been many interesting things going on in our denomination this year. At the Massachusetts Conference Annual Meeting in June, Rev. Dr. Jim Antal was unanimously elected Minister and President of the Conference. The Conference has been discerning how to restructure itself in order to maximize the use of its resources. Conference staff has engaged in a “Listening Process” around the state to determine the needs of its diverse congregations. Here at TCC, we have addressed the question of how to approach and respond to the UCC’s stated preference to allow for marriage equality, which has been a difficult conversation at times. We also met with Rev. Paul Nickerson from Conference staff to help us put our human resources to the best use. In 2007 we will continue to explore our relationship with the UCC. The UCC will be celebrating its 50th year with a Synod in Hartford and all are encouraged to attend.

Christopher Jenkins
 Association and Conference Delegate
 Andover Association Scribe

Pastor's report , 2006

This has been a year of some big conversations and the challenge of sorting out who we are and what God has called us to be.

We had the stimulation and challenge of working on the same gender marriage question throughout the year. This had been preceded by a year of study in the board of deacons. We then presented the work of the board at a meeting in the fall of 2005 and held a church wide presentation in March of opposing views on the topic. We followed this up with a questionnaire to the congregation on their views and held an open conversation among any who wanted to come out to hear the results of that survey and express their own views. At times this process felt pressured by the airing of many opposing views, yet in that room (as at the semi annual meeting in May) we sensed the warmth of open conversation on a very important topic. The result of the survey and forums was to hold a vote that affirmed inclusion of all people in our church and a vote that clarified that the church will not hold same gender weddings at the present time.

Because of the challenge of the spring, a number of leaders in the church felt that we needed to reach out to members, affirming our core values and looking at our future. We held three meetings in the home of Noel and Jean Metcalf...and the list of our values was published for the all church meetings that were held in June. We held three in June and a fourth in August. These varied in attendance, going as high as 35 in June and 22 at the August meeting. These meetings were warm in tone and wide ranging. For the last meeting (at which Rev. Paul Nickerson from the Mass. Conference of the United Church of Christ presented a vision of growth) we had gathered a team of five members who gave him a framework to work in. At the end of the meeting we adopted three goals: a 'knowledge fair' around the work of the church; a team to develop new social events for newcomers and old timers both, and an 'outcomes team' to continue to address a list of outcomes that had grown in the summer's work.

Follow up from these goals:

Jean Metcalf spear headed this and did a beautiful job coordinating a wonderful effort from every board and committee and officer in the church to present the work of the church.

Bruce and Sue Panilaitis began a set of events for adults in the church or for families and their children. They held a bowling party in November, a skating outing in January and a very well attended dinner and theater experience in April.

The outcomes team consisted of Council and deacon members and several members at large. It held twelve meetings from late October to March, focusing on leadership vision and support for leaders. It gave leadership to a Council retreat in November, a training retreat for leaders in February, led by Rev. Ellie Richardson, and an all church 'Walking in the Way' gathering in May (2007).

I also have kept my eye on two goals for my work... growth in my teaching role, even as I preach; and a focus on timely, complete communication through our Faith Notes weekly publication. In 2007 we have increased this effort and replaced the monthly newsletter with this weekly publication and emailed to our members ahead of Sunday's service.

Several other initiatives have been important to our year. We have fully embraced a safe church policy with the nomination of a safe church office, Steve Trudeau. Steve has put in much effort in educating different groups and staff about their responsibilities. Thank you Steve!

A team of mentors from the confirmation program did an overhaul of our mentor-based confirmation program. We have augmented it in three ways... moved to a UCC curriculum called Affirming Faith that is more focused on the beliefs of the faith... split the curriculum between a winter class co-taught by the pastor and a lay leader and a spring/fall curriculum with mentors... and moved the time of confirmation from ninth grade year to January of ninth grade to November of tenth grade. We felt that the inclusion of the summer gave us the chance to see further growth in relationships with mentors and that the fall places students in a more confident position as they bring their gifts forward in a final service of preaching and worship leadership.

Contemporary worship. The innovations of the fall of 2005 (to have a service for youth during the adult worship service) led to changes in location for that service and a focus on the experience as a class with music and refreshments added. The youth band continued to play there. In the course of the fall a team led by Bob Mulvey began to plan an outreach worship service. Bob and I, along with Sue Trudeau and JoJo Scharmer, dubbed the service "New Steps" (inspired by the new construction at the front of the church) and have held evening worship services 2nd and 4th Sundays in 2007.

In 2006 we enjoyed the second half of a year's ministry with a seminary intern, Cindy Antonuk. Cindy came to us through the Andover Newton Theological School field ed program. She brought a variety of gifts to us, energy and spirit. Her presence was a great joy and her work was overseen by me and by a 'teaching parish' committee from our church.

God supplies... giving energy, resources and vision when we most need it!!

Pastor Jonathan

Registrar's 2006 Annual Report

The records of the Registrar reflect the following for the calendar year January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006:

1. **Weddings:** Three weddings were conducted at TCC, of which 2 were conducted by Rev. Jonathan Goodell and one was conducted by TCC Seminary Student Intern (Cindy Antonuk).

Christopher Van Duynes and Christine O'Brien on 04/29/06 at TCC

Joshua Kane and Gillian Mueller on 10/07/06 at TCC

Mathew Tucker and Heidi Dorazio on 11/11/06 at TCC

2. **Funerals:** Overall there are 10 funeral services to mention. Three funerals were conducted at this church, one at the Tewksbury Funeral Home, four at Farmer & Dee Funeral Home, one at Chelmsford Congregational Church and one graveside service.

Eight of these services were conducted by the Rev. Jonathan Goodell, one by the Rev. Sylvia Robinson and one by Chaplain Mark Hall. Of these, two were active members of this church and are since designated with underlines.

<u>Name of Deceased</u>	<u>Date of Funeral</u>
James Wilson	02/08/06
Nora Lee Burke	04/12/06
<u>Herbert Hertel, Jr</u>	06/25/06
Edith Richard	06/22/06
William Holmes	06/24/06
Joan Donovan	06/29/06
Warren Andrews	09/23/06
<u>Ernestine Mugford</u>	09/27/06
John Lu	10/20/06
<u>Esther French</u>	12/19/06

3. **Baptisms:** Eleven baptisms were celebrated. All were conducted by Rev. Jonathan Goodell.

Quintin Dennis Kelley son of James and Jennifer Kelley	08/06/06
Kalyn Khachadourian , daughter of Scott & Kelley Khachadourian	08/20/06
Rachel E. Henson, daughter of Chris & Jeanne Henson	09/24/06
Luke J. Henson, same as above	09/24/06
Chloe C. Burns, daughter of James and Heather Burns	10/15/06
Alyssa R. Adams, daughter of Robert and Deborah Adams	10/22/06
Tyler Ray Barnes, son of Michael and Cheryl Barnes	10/22/06
Nicholas M. Ingersoll, son of Mark and Tracy Ingersoll	10/22/06
Hannah E. SanClemente, daughter of Paul and Sarah SanClemente	11/12/06
Adam G. SanClemente, same as above	11/12/06
Aaron R. Clark, son of Ron and Danielle Clark	12/24/06

4. **New Members:** Nineteen new members were received during 2006.

By Confirmation

Michael William Allen	04/30/06
Peter Thomas Bowley	04/30/06
Kayla Marie Field	04/30/06
Brian Barrows Goodell	04/30/06
Ashley Paige Marotte	04/30/06
Michael John Mendiotta	04/30/06
John Paul SanClemente	04/30/06
Michael James Stewart	04/30/06

Profession of Faith

Nancy Daniels	03/16/06
Celia Couture	11/19/06
Gerard Couture	11/19/06
Paul SanClemente	11/19/06
Sarah SanClemente	11/19/06

Confession of Faith

Louise Gearty	1/29/06
Roberta Kane	1/29/06
Judith Yarbrough	1/29/06
Joan Harper Meadows	1/29/06

From Letter of Transfer

Warren Daniels	03/16/06
Lisa Parker-Sclafani	11/19/06

5. **Removed from Active membership:** Eleven members were removed from the active status via;

Funerals: (3)

Herbert Hertel, Jr	06/25/06
Ernestine Mugford	09/27/06
Esther French	12/19/06

Transfer to another church: (2)

Warren Bennett – Southpointe Baptist – Leesburg, FLA (2/15/06)
Marlen Mapes – Seaside United Methodist – Sunset Beach, NC (6/23/06)

Transfer to inactive list: (0)

Other: (6)

John & Bette Ober – resigned via letter on 2/6/06

Gerald, Karen, Tracy & Michelle Powers – Resigned through Financial Secretary on 11/12/06

Membership: As of 31 December 2006, there are 313 active members of this church

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen A. Trudeau
 Registrar

Safe Church 2006 Annual Report

Being the 1st year of existence for the Safe Church policy, there have been many items to deal with over the past year. There were 2 immediate goals that we needed to accomplish this year. One was to establish proper documentation and forms to coincide with the Safe Church Policy. The second goal was to train all of the respective committees and groups that this policy would affect.

Likewise, we also submitted all of the required Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) forms to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for all the applicable volunteers and staff working with our children.

This work will continue in 2007 as we all, as a church, adhere to our Safe Church policy and how it affects the way we do business and activities within TCC.

Stephen Trudeau

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Council has been continuing to develop from being simply a communications clearinghouse to fulfilling its bylaw mandate of being an executive and visionary board for the Church. We have been involved with and blessed the process whereby Church members met over the summer to set goals for the Church. This effort was initiated by Noel and Jean Metcalf and has evolved into an Outcomes Team. We were assisted in this effort by a visit from Rev. Paul Nickerson of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ. This group monitors the progress of developing and following up with our all-church goals. Jean Metcalf organized a "Knowledge Fair" in the Fall in which Council, officers, delegates, committees, and other groups all participated. The purpose of this event was to let people know about all the great things going on in our church and it was very well received.

There are two significant policies which Council promulgated in 2006. One was the Safe Church Policy, drafted largely by RE with input from Trustees. Council reviewed the policy and appointed Steve Trudeau to be Safe Church Advocate. We then proposed a bylaw amendment making the SCA an elected officer of the Church and this amendment passed. We also passed a nominations policy proposed by Christopher Jenkins, which had been drafted originally in 2003 by him, Steve Trudeau, Doris Worthington, and Pat Baldwin, but not ratified at the time.

When a closet was cleared out to make room for CORI files as required by the Safe Church Policy and state law, several old photographs of the church were discovered. JoJo Scharmer and Yvonne Hall worked to preserve and label these and many are now on display, mostly in the hallway below the Ivory Tower.

Respectfully Submitted,
Valerie MacKenzie, Chair

Deacon's 2006-2007 Annual Report

Worship continues to be our main focus which has proved challenging with shortage of Deacons, Head Ushers, and additional resources to support Safe Church Policy. Worship Planning continues on a quarterly basis for the upcoming cycle in the Christian calendar. Pulpit swaps will continue at particular times of the year to worship in community with local churches as well as UCC affiliation. Implemented integrated times for prayer (silent and aloud) during worship each week and monthly publication of prayer page on 1st Sunday of the month. New Love envelopes remain in the pews each week to encourage 'giving' all year long to build the Deacon's Charitable Fund which has fallen short at times through-out this past year. Lay leadership facilitated four (4) Worship Services while Pastor Jonathan was away this past summer continuing education and vacation. The Youth Contemporary Services were moved into Fellowship Hall for the comfort of members worshipping in the Sanctuary. Contemporary Worship has been revived with a different name of New Steps. New Steps is an effort to reach out to the unchurched in our community by providing a non-traditional style of worship including praise music, personal testaments, and prayer.

Growing in Faith together builds stronger relationships. Co-sponsoring events and working together with other boards and committees is proving very favorable. Jointly held Boundaries Bible Study with RE was effective although member attendance was lower than anticipated. BOD participated in the Knowledge Fair held in November. Many practiced filling communion cups with colored water discovering the secret previously known only to Deacons. BOD continues to collaborate with the Personnel Committee to complete Head Usher job description, Pastor employment contract, replacing The Call, and Pastor's annual review and goal setting for next year.

Maintaining a connection with our shut-ins and members by sharing their joys and concerns continues to be a priority through our prayers; visitations, as reviewed by the Visitation Committee; Communion, and correspondence.

Attrition of several long time members prompted BOD to engage the assistance of PPRC in a concerted effort to address concerns directed toward Pastor Jonathan. Individual and some household interviews were held in homes or at the church to gather, synthesize, and determine areas for improvement where requested. Member feedback and actions were discussed with the Pastor post interviews with PPRC and during annual review and goal setting session with BOD.

The Board of Deacons engaged the Congregation in information sessions, some with invited guests, to share discoveries and to better understand the UCC position on what it means to be an Open and Affirming Church. The result was two-fold, with an amendment to a Bi-Law and implementation of a new ONA policy as both approved by the members.

We gained inner perspective as a first time teaching parish hosting our intern Cindy Antonuk from Andover Newton Theological School. Cindy participated in many aspects of our church including worship, staff meetings, some board and committee meetings, individual counseling, and performing a wedding. We wish her well on her journey to becoming an Ordained Minister.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Marotte, Chair Board of Deacons

Trustees 2006 Annual Report

This past year was a busy and challenging year for the Board of Trustees. In February, we closed the deal for the T-Mobile cell tower lease after several months of negotiations. Construction took place during the summer. The location of the cell tower equipment required the relocation of all of the Boy Scouts' equipment. A new shed was purchased for that purpose, half of which was paid for by the church, and the other half paid by the scouts. Another benefit we were able to realize was that the T-Mobile contractor repaired our parking lot pot holes, thanks to Jim Worthington's wheeling and dealing.

In the spring, Tewksbury and the surrounding area was rained upon in a way that hasn't happened in 80 years. The result was local flooding. The parsonage was particularly impacted due to the grading of the land surrounding it. Water was pouring in from all sides causing up to two feet of water to run into the basement. When the water finally receded, the back yard of the parsonage was re-graded and re-seeded and all the sheetrock removed from the bottom two feet of the basement walls. Of course, we also organized the annual spring clean-up day. Thankfully, it was well attended by several members of our congregation, which allowed for a productive day and good fellowship.

The summer was a busy time for the Trustees, too. The office carpet was replaced. Thanks go out to the Men's Group who helped move all the furniture. Also, the Green Meadows lease was renegotiated and the parsonage lease was renewed. These are both one year deals, so those activities will have to be undertaken again in '07. We were also fortunate enough to land another recurring, long term renter – Weight Watchers meets every Wednesday afternoon.

In the fall, we again organized an outdoor cleanup day, raking the leaves and pruning some trees. In addition to a handful of our loyal members' assistance, we were helped by a few local girl scouts. We also went in a new direction with regard to the cleaning of our building. Due to several factors, we dismissed our sexton and hired a cleaning company, Coverall Cleaning Concepts. The anticipated result is that we should have a cleaner building while keeping our costs the same. The day-to-day cleaning is handled by Alice and her helper, while a team of four or five comes in once a week for a more thorough cleaning. If you're in the building at night and you see Alice or her helper, please give them a friendly 'hello'. A couple of purchases the Trustees made were to try to address church security/efficiency and to organize the church. For the first issue, we bought and installed a small camera that is pointing at the side entry door. The monitor is in the church office and this helps Sue see who is ringing our doorbell during the day when she must personally let them in. The second issue was addressed with the purchase of a couple of chair racks that will hopefully make setting up and taking down chairs much more convenient.

This year seemed to be the year where refrigerators decided to break down. The parsonage fridge died and was replaced. The kitchen "Bev-Air" needed repair as the compressor quit. The church furnace also needed some fixing on a couple of occasions. Early in the year, one of the circulator pumps seized up, and more recently a valve became blocked and failed. (The latter problem actually just occurred in January).

As you can see, the Trustees worked hard and accomplished a lot last year. We did have some help, though. Pastor Jonathan, Sue Howard, and many of the church members were critical in getting our work done. For fear of leaving someone off the list, we won't individually thank anyone else here. But for those of you who rolled up your sleeves and pitched in, please know that the Board of Trustees recognizes and truly appreciates everything you do. Thank you!

Board of Trustees,
Jim Carr, Jim Keddie, Stephen Raso, and Ken Mouser

Board of Religious Education

The Christian Education program continues to grow stronger each consecutive year. We have had quite a few new families and student registrations. We are enjoying creative and traditional program offerings such as a new worship program for our Junior and Senior High students. We continue to support the efforts of Rita Masters and her hard work as Director of Religious Education and continue to explore and plan for Adult Education.

Rita continues to serve as DRE and organizes the weekly Sunday School classes, which this year started with an exciting Rally Day. Throughout the year, the Church School supported many programs in cooperation with Pastor Jonathan, Council, and the Missions Committee. The Thanksgiving Food Drive, White Gift program at Christmas, and Heifer Project are some examples of these programs.

Youth Ministry continues to be a success. We have strong Senior High Youth Fellowship with Paul Manning and Tina Ramsdell as leaders. They continue to plan and enjoy the ministry of our youth. The Junior High Fellowship is now led by a great team consisting of JoJo Scharmer, Cricket Foss, and Stephen Trudeau. They have submitted their own report of their activities for the year. We have met with Senior and Junior Youth leaders alternately at our monthly board meetings.

In June Children's Day was held in the church with a hot dog picnic following. We appreciate all the hard work and dedication of the teachers, youth aides, substitute teachers, and nursery volunteers.

During the summer months there was a Mini Church School held for the children. This is staffed by volunteers and youth each Sunday.

As a Board, we continue to work on a Safe Church Policy. Steve Trudeau has been helpful and we are forming a policy and working on the finer points of how to put the policy in place. CORI forms and letters will be sent and Steve Trudeau is our Safe Church Advocate. He has reported his activities separately as an officer of the Church. We continue to explore this in order to prevent any issues that may arise in the future.

Future direction of the board includes policy and procedure development, refinement of job descriptions, continuing adult education, and support of our youth programs.

The Board wishes to thank the Congregation for their enduring support of RE programs and recognize our youth for their ability to extend themselves to do God's work and reach outwards into our neighboring communities.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christopher Jenkins, Chair

DRE Annual Report 2006

The enrollment has continued increase during 2006. Ten new families enrolled their children, total of 14, for Sunday school. The teaching staff has more than 30 dedicated teachers and teacher assistants. Each week they provide a nurturing environment for TCC youth. The *Growing in Faith* curriculum continues to be a superb guide for Sunday school weekly lesson. It offers a large variety of activities, crafts and resources to the teaching staff. Sue Hansford continues to oversee the nursery along with a large group of volunteers. The Junior/Senior classes meet together for a contemporary youth worship followed by the themed lesson. The theme for the fall and winter was "Fruits of the Spirit". This special Sunday morning programming is under the leadership of Betsy Goodell, Jay McFadyen, Serena Santoro and Bob Mulvey. Along with this leadership team there has been a guest adult each week who shares their thoughts about their faith journey with the youth. Thank you to each of you for your willingness to give of your time.

During the summer there were thirteen Sundays where mini-Sunday school was provided for children from 3 years olds through Grade 3. There were separate classes for the pre-school and early elementary children. Again another thank you to the entire volunteer summer teaching staff that allows this summer program to happen each Sunday.

The students participated in several mission projects. 24 CWS school kit bags were filled for use by Church World Service. Over four boxes of "White Gifts" were delivered with Christmas gifts for the Boston City Mission Society for their Christmas shops. The annual collection for Heifer Project was a great success. With donations sent to HPI projects in the Gull Coast hurricane relief program.

Special programming included the Lenten workshop with over 50 participants, Youth/Children's Day and a Christmas pageant, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, lead by the Junior//Senior high class. During the year students receive a birthday card signed by their teachers and Pastor Jonathan. This birthday card program is made possible by the efforts of Pat Stoddard who addresses, stamps and sorts the monthly cards for the teachers. This program has been well received.

The Sunday school continues to be a strong, growing Christian education program spreading the message of God's love for each of us, both young and old. This year has been a very rewarding year for me personally as Director of Religious Education. This report would not be complete without a special thank you to the teaching staff, Pastor Jonathan Goodell, the Board of Religious Education, the music program leaders and Sue Howard for all their help and support to the weekly Sunday School program here at TCC.

Respectfully submitted,
Rita Masters, DRE

Membership & Enlistment

Membership and Enlistment Committee has assumed the responsibility of scheduling greeters for worship services. We have been providing greeters at the church front entrance and at the church school entrance much of the time. Name tags are available at both places the third Sunday of each month. Name Tag Sunday has been received very well by the Congregation. This is an opportunity for us to get to know each other.

We have had two potluck suppers this year. These include games, fun, and conversation and is another opportunity to get to know each other better.

Friendship Pads are maintained, and we use this information to find those who are not attending regularly - intending to encourage them in worship participation. Persons who are new receive an introductory/welcome letter from Pastor Jonathan. We are working on a better follow-up system for these new attendees and also for those who have not attended for some time.

The committee gave a welcome reception in December and will be honoring long-time members in the Spring. We have taken on the responsibility to keep the narthex looking more welcoming with a change of season arrangements. Our goal for 2007 is to create a Welcome Package for visitors to our church.

One of our goals this coming year is to find ways to encourage the congregation to take a more active part in greeting others as part of their ministry, to make our church a more welcoming community.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Metcalf, Chairs; Suzanne Spezzano, Secretary, Heather Leary

(Clerk's note: Original submission included names of new members and those no longer active. This information can be found in the Registrar's report. – CJ)

Music Committee 2006 Annual Report

The music program at Tewksbury Congregational Church has experienced a successful, but somewhat challenging year. The Music Committee would like to thank all of the paid and volunteer staff members of the TCC music program. Serena Santoro performed marvelously as the Music Director, as has Craig Seaman as our Organist and Choirmaster. David Fulton led the Carillon ringers and Jennifer Brazeau stepped in to lead the Jubellation ringers beginning with our fall season. Bruce Panilaitis continued leading the Junior Choir and Cathy Seaman did the same for the Cherub Choir.

In January of 2006 both the Jubellation Ringers and the Carillon Ringers participated in a very successful fundraiser to raise money for the Handbell Program at TCC. The original intention of the fundraiser was to raise funds in order to purchase a set of chimes for the Handbell Choirs. However at the conclusion of the event a three octave set was very generously donated by Sue and Ed Henderson. Upon learning of the donation the choirs voted to spend the funds raised on an additional octave of chimes and to have the bells sent out for long overdue maintenance at the Schulmerich factory in Pennsylvania. Many thanks to David Fulton without whom the fundraiser would not have been a success. Dave also drove the bells in his own vehicle to Pennsylvania and save significant shipping costs.

In March of 2006 both bell choirs participated in the annual Merrimack Valley English Handbell Festival at Tewksbury High School. Both handbell choirs participated under the direction of David Fulton.

In September of 2006, the Music Committee received a letter of resignation from Handbell Choir director David Fulton. David agreed to continue directing the Carillon ringers thru the Christmas season. Jennifer Brazeau agreed to become interim director for the Jubellation ringers on a season by season basis. Unfortunately the Music Committee was not able to find a director to take over the program on a permanent basis. Also, in January 2007 half of the funding for the paid Bell Choir Director was lost.

Over the course of the entire year the congregation enjoyed wonderful music from all of the very talented musicians of all the choirs and musicians invited for special performances. Most notable were the harpist and the flautist hired for the Christmas Vesper service. My apologies to all the other talented musicians we heard from throughout the year.

The committee was rather small. We started out with three members and then we had two members, as Jennifer Brazeau was forced to resign upon accepting the paid position of the youth bell choir director.

As we look to 2007 we hope to find a permanent Bell Choir Director for both bell choirs, but have found optimism a bit illusive due limited responses and lack of sufficient funding. We have however seen many new faces in the Senior Choir, which has been quite encouraging. Many thanks to the musicians and directors without whom we would not have such a successful music program.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Muse and Gail Pendergast

Missions Committee Annual Report 2006

What a busy and fulfilling year for the Missions Committee. We were able to help support many organizations in so many creative ways. During 2006, the Missions Committee has offered support in the form of financial contributions, in-kind donations, and promotion.

Our financial contributions came from our budgeted funds, coffee money, and special offerings. The budgeted funds were thoughtfully given to each organization, some as a one-time donation, and others as monthly or quarterly support. We also used the funds for a sponsorship to Maria Anazlone, a nurse serving God by spreading His word and educating others in a remote area. Budgeted funds were given to organizations local, national and global. You will find a list of these organizations and the amounts given at the end of this report.

Each Sunday, an offering basket is present on the table during coffee hour. We are thankful to those who donate items to the coffee hour so we are able to use the money collected for the purchase of supplies and to sponsor a child from Haiti so he may attend school.

Throughout the year, Missions is also responsible for several special offerings. These offerings are presented so that the congregation has an opportunity to contribute to organizations in need if they feel the calling to do so. During 2006, the special offerings included: Church World Service for tools and blankets and gifts of the heart (school bags), the Tewksbury Food Pantry, United Church of Christ for Veterans of the Cross and Heifer International. The Lenten service also provided funds to missions, and those funds were given to SHIFT, an organization in Lowell working to prevent homelessness.

In-kind donations were goods and services that were generously given. When a need was identified, the call went out and was prayerfully answered! We had wonderful hand-made blankets added to baby kits laden with supplies for new moms. These kits were put together by Bev Kling and Cathie Seaman. A collection of school supplies, stuffed animals and many miscellaneous items were collected for the children of Mexico. The supplies were delivered to the children by a Mission Team from our own church! Again, we had school supplies donated, enough to fill school bags for Church World Service; the bags were lovingly made by Jean Metcalf. We collected candy and toiletries throughout the year, then bagged them into smaller bags for distribution at the Lowell Transitional Living Center. Ingredients for cookies were collected, and then the cookies were baked and packaged by skillful workers. These cookies were delivered to the Meals on Wheels program in Tewksbury and to church members. We held our annual Thanksgiving food drive for the Tewksbury Food Pantry and an outer clothing drive for the Lowell Wish Project. In the spirit of the Christmas season, we had successful drives for sponsoring a family for the Lowell Wish Project and sponsoring a TCC senior and White gifts for City Missions Society.

Missions has been very excited about the work we have done in 2006. We hope to continue to become a more visible committee and welcome your comments or suggestions. If you have any questions about our report or ideas of work we can do, please feel free to speak to one of the committee members.

Respectfully submitted:
Jean Carr

Mission Committee:

Jean Carr – Chair, Beth McFadyen – Secretary, Leanne Keddie, Emir Galevi and Jo Jo Scharmer

**Memorial Gifts Committee
Report of Gifts for 2006**

The Memorial and Gifts Committee received and accepted gifts given by families and friends for the following:

- \$50 for Heifer donated in memory of Herb Hertel by his daughter Leslie Jacobs.
- The Goody Family a gift of \$75 to Heifer in memory of Herb Hertel.
- The Myers Family a gift of \$500 to Heifer in memory of Herb Hertel.
- Bonnie Gallagher & Family \$25 to Building Fund in memory of Bill Holmes.
- Mulvey Family (*Once Upon a Prayer*) \$400 supplies to Sunday School Program.
- Edward Kennedy a gift of \$500 to 2006 Mexico Mission trip (Bob Masters).
- Dave and Sue Bradley a donation of \$56 for a box of U-lamps (building fund).
- Derek and Mille Headstrom Moats a gift of \$6 to the Sunday School.
- Bob and Rita Masters a gift of \$213 to the Friendship Garden in memory of Kathryn Kramer.
- An unrestricted gift of \$100 to TCC to honor Natalie Thistle from her daughter Janet Fox.
- An unrestricted gift of \$92 from Barbara Cook.
- A gift of \$30 of a white communion tablecloth from Donna Haines.
- A gift of two wicker baskets (\$80) for Food Pantry donations from the Powers family.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Fialkowski
Ann Marie Baldwin

Personnel Committee 2006 Annual Report

The Personnel Committee has been very busy this year as we've been working with various committees and staff to ensure all the applicable human resources related documentation has been established and in place for each staff member of TCC. Besides the employee agreements and position descriptions that have been developed, we also have been working with the Board of Deacons to assist developing a new Covenant for the Pastor.

This work is never ending and will continue to grow as it is our goal to have proper documentation in place for each of our volunteer positions, but for now we're trying to work with each committee in finishing these goals with the paid staff.

Stephen Trudeau and Beth McFadyen

Building Committee Annual Report for 2006

As 2005 ended with the Committee being unable to mobilize on capital projects before the change of season, the Building Committee was determined to aggressively attack the problems at hand in 2006. Our overall goals were to begin the complete weather-sealing of the exterior of the building, as well as addressing safety concerns such as the deteriorating front steps and rear fire escape.

Weather-sealing of the building was determined to be a necessary prerequisite to any interior renovations, and the Committee started at the top. Reliable Roofing of North Reading was contracted to work on the roof over the sanctuary. The old slate shingles, an ongoing concern, were removed and replaced with 50 year architectural shingles, complete with new copper valleys and flashing. Fifty feet of rotted roof planking was replaced in the process. New shingles were also installed over the side entry and at the front of the building so that all shingles match and will be in the same condition going into the future. Total cost for the roofing work was \$37,800.

The front of the church building underwent major change over the summer and into the fall, as the front steps, sidewalk, and columns were completely removed and replaced. The concrete work was performed by Sheehan Boys Construction of Tewksbury. The old porch was excavated and new steps were poured from high-strength concrete. Originally, the layout of the steps was to be the same as the originals, but the Committee ended up adding a step at the threshold, level with the interior floor, to satisfy the State Building Code. Since the sidewalk had been damaged by heavy equipment over the spring and summer, the Committee decided to also replace the sidewalk running across the front of the building. The new sidewalk includes steps to reduce the slope in the walk that was a safety hazard when icy. Four new rails were installed on the front steps when the concrete work was complete. Total cost for the new concrete work and rails was \$34,500.

Coordinated with the concrete work was the removal and replacement of the old wood columns. New columns were purchased from Pacific Columns, Inc. and shipped from Utah. The square faux columns at the front corners of the building were also completely replaced. The new columns, round and square, are composed of synthetic, low-maintenance materials that should be around for a long time. Column removal and installation was performed by Lake Exteriors and by Diggins & Rose Rigging. Total cost for materials and labor was \$23,760.

Gullage Painting was hired to do exterior paint work, including painting of all wood surfaces on the front of the building, front doors included, the new columns (the faux square columns were actually installed too late in the season to be painted, but the work has been paid for), the light poles in the front yard, and the fire escape, along with the ladder to the roof and both rear doors. Cost for painting was \$6,700.

Prior to painting the rear fire escape, Bill Kling re-welded all of the steps, thus addressing a major safety issue. One of the steps had fallen out over the summer before the repair work took place. Lastly, the holes in the steeple tower louvers left by the removal of the carillon speakers were repaired, principally by Jack Hall. John San Clemente assisted with painting of the repair pieces as part of his confirmation service project.

The Committee feels it made substantial progress over the course of the year, addressing safety concerns at the front and rear entrances, renovating the front of the building, but there is still considerable work to be done. We appreciate the ongoing support of the Congregation.

Respectfully submitted, Ed Henderson, Chair
Russ Adams

Lynnette Allen
Russ Baldwin
Jack Hall
Bob Jenkins
Jim Keddie
Steve Richtsmeier

Friendship Circle 06-07

Friendship Circle is a church oriented group of women that meet the second Thursday (September-June) 9-11:30 AM. Each meeting has a devotional time to develop a better understanding of God and a sense of self growth within our selves.

September meeting was a planning meeting for the coming year.

In October we went to Lowell for Project Wish sponsored by JoJo. It was a rewarding experience to help sort articles for the needy.

November is always devoted to the fair, we continued to make beautiful creations.

December was very special this year as we went to a home in Billerica to see player pianos, there were four pianos and two organs. The lady gave the history of players and played a duet with a player piano.

January meeting will be in the church.

February will be a brunch.

March will be our famous progressive supper.

April we will be baking cookies for the shut-ins.

May-project

In June we will celebrate the coming of another year.

I would like to thank you all for the support throughout the year. Friendship Circle is open to all and we welcome you to join with us at anytime.

Yvonne Hall

LADIES AID

Members of the Ladies Aid meet monthly throughout the year except for the summer months during July and August. We begin our meetings the second Wednesday of the month starting in September. We always enjoy lunch followed by a short business meeting and program. In February members of Ladies Aid were guests of Friendship Circle. The women packaged homemade cookies that were delivered to our homebound members and nursing home residents. Marilyn SanClemente helped us design Valentines to go along with our cookies.

Guests in March were Louise Gearty and Roberta Kane who discussed their exciting adventures in the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia. Bunky Holden spoke to us about "*Growing Up in the Center of Town*" at our May meeting. We held two auctions—both a food and social auction-- and we enjoyed a Christmas party and *Yankee Swap* in December at a local Tewksbury restaurant.

A donation of \$300 was given to the Building Committee to assist in the repair of the light over the entrance to the church or to assist in purchasing a new light.

We did extremely well at this year's fair earning \$1,333.25 from baked goods and \$426.15 from handmade and other merchandise. Our total was \$1,759.40 and for this, I am grateful to the many members of the Ladies Aid who worked tirelessly in making our tables a success.

Some of our members joined the afternoon Bible Study with Pastor Jonathan that meets the week following our Ladies Aid meeting on the third Wednesday of the month. We completed a study on the *Fruits of the Sprit* and continue our study with another Biblical topic, "*Praying the Psalms*".

We were saddened by the loss of two of our members—Ernestine Mugford and Esther French. For many years, these women were actively involved in our group, but ill health kept them away from our meetings this past year.

Ladies Aid has always been open to any woman in the church. We welcome visitors to our meetings and offer a delicious lunch should you want to join us!

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Corey, President

TCC Junior Youth Fellowship Group Report for 2006/2007

Respectfully Submitted by JOJO Scharmer

We have eight (8) registered seventh and eighth grade students (this year they are all girls).

We have met almost every Sunday from 6:30 to 8:00 pm

Our **theme** this year is “Building a Christian Community”.

Activities are centered on Faith, Service, Fun and Community.

Faith:

- We end in prayer every meeting
- The youth created a worship center
- We created a HUGE banner depicting Bible verse Tim 4:12
- The youth have an opportunity to fill out a prayer request card
- The youth planned and implemented a complete worship service
- We center many activities on Scripture
- The youth participated in a Lenten Scavenger hunt

Service:

- The youth assisted at the Chicken Pie Supper
- The youth helped with the Fall clean-up
- We collected hair brushes for and delivered them to House of Hope (a family shelter in Lowell)
- We participated in the Church Information Fair
- We sponsored a family in need at Christmas time
- We are initiating a towel collection for Lowell Transitional Living Center (LTLC).
- The youth made Valentine cards for TCC Seniors

Fun:

- We went apple picking and returned to the church to bake apple crisp
- We went to a Spook House
- The youth assembled beaded wooden crosses
- The youth attended a movie
- We had a “For all of us” birthday party
- We held an accessory swap
- We had a Christmas gathering

Community:

- The youth worked on a Covenant, and learned of Bible covenants
- Elected officers
- The youth participate in games, utilizing teamwork
- We had a meeting centered on Self-esteem
- We will be attending a retreat in May at Craigville (5 youth have signed up)
- Our final meeting will include incoming sixth grade youth