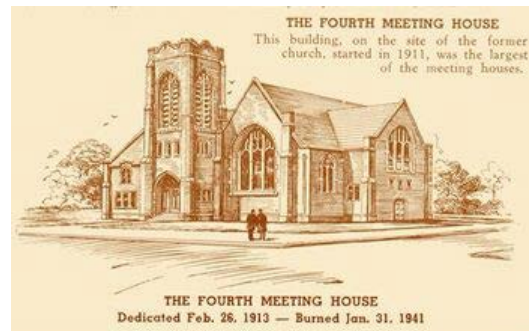
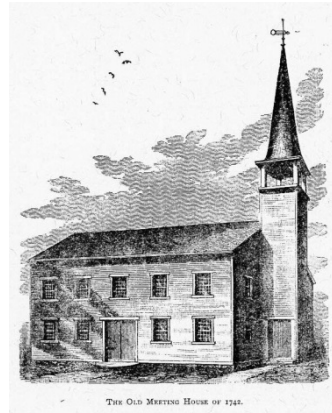


**THE NORTH HAVEN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2016**



Presented At The Annual Meeting
January 22, 2017

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NORTH HAVEN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

28 Church Street • North Haven, Connecticut 06473 • (203) 239-5691 • Fax 234-1751

An Open & Affirming Congregation

Call To Annual Meeting

January 22, 2017

10:30 a.m.

AGENDA

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Moderator's Convening Statement

Approval of Minutes of the January 31, 2016 Annual Meeting

Approval of Non-Financial Reports

Report of the New Haven East Consociation Church & Ministry Committee

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Approval of Financial Reports

Approval of Budget for 2017

Election of Officers

Election of Ministry Leadership Board Members

Introduction of Draft Ministry and Mission Plan

Any Other Business That May Come Before This Meeting

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Compton, Church Clerk

In case of postponement for any reason, the meeting will be held on January 29, 2017

The Moderator's Report

The year 2016 was the year of our 300th Anniversary!! It has been a year of major accomplishments, celebrations, and continued transition into The Ministry Leadership Board format, where nimble member self-directed Mission Teams replace the former clunky committee structure.

Early in the year we began reviewing our Mission-Vision and Values at the beginning of each monthly MLB meeting in an effort to ground us and keep us focused on our priorities.

MISSION

Our church's mission is to bind ourselves with Jesus Christ in:

- Worship together;
- Nurture of Christian discipleship; and
- Compassionate service to our community and beyond.

VISION

We are a hub for the larger community as a church of action:

- Conducting regular, robust worship in a responsible and relevant way in an ever changing and challenging world;
- Welcoming all people from different and diverse backgrounds to become a community of disciples together; and
- Involved in purposeful action and activities through the structure of self-directed Mission Teams.

VALUES

We:

- Pray together, encourage each other, and trust one another;
- Take personal responsibility for fellowship and our community; and celebrate with honored traditions.

Maintaining an attitude of gratitude has been a lifelong goal for me and the NHCC provides me with multiple reasons for being grateful. It has been a privilege to observe closely the work being

done by staff and self-directed mission teams during this the 300th year of our congregation.

- **Volunteers:** Without the positive energy and extraordinary commitment of its members, this church does not exist as we know it today. Last year I said, "There are easily ten examples of Christian kindness and love that go "unrecognized" but not unnoticed for every single act that is acknowledged." This is even truer today.
- **Staff:** Rev. Scott Morrow, Jeff Hutchins, Julie Schweickert, Gary Snowbeck, Debi Mastroni-Kenyon and Kirk Johnson. Each contributed to our church at the highest levels of their professions. We are indeed blessed. Debbie left in June of this year and Kerry Stewart ably assumed responsibility for running the Sunday school program in September. Kerry will continue this role until she is replaced; we hope sometime in the winter.
- **Ministry Leadership Board:** Rev. Scott Morrow-Pastor, John Tibor-Treasurer, Sue Compton-Clerk, Bryant Munson-Financial Agent, Stephen Simonson-Moderator, At Large Members: Priscilla Bradford, Adam Schweickert, Jim Bennett, Barbara Massey, and Patience Benassi.
- **Current Mission teams:** Worship, Faith Formation, Music, Building and Grounds, Generosity and Stewardship, Springbox, Ushers and Greeters, Men's Fellowship, Women's Fellowship, DESK, Memorial Gifts, Collection and Counting, Library, Food Closet, Abraham's Tent, Website, Coffee hour, 300th Anniversary, Arts, and Technology.

Specific accomplishments:

- We can observe countless examples of creativity in worship, music, Faith Formation, Building and Grounds, Capital Campaign, Member Care Team, Outreach, Abraham's Tent, Library, Women's and Men's Fellowship and all of the other existing and evolving Mission Teams that support the work of the church.

- MLB meetings have a structure and reliable processes to hold ourselves accountable as we make and follow through on tasks and assignments.
- John Tibor continues to fine tune the format of the financial information to make it more easily understood. Bryant Munson has led an inclusive process to monitor and make adjustments to the endowment.
- Julie Schweickert has taken charge of the office functions and continues to make everyone around her more efficient as she expands her role and impact as the Office Manager. Julie almost single handedly brought the decade old project of a church picture directory to completion!
- Dedicated leaders within the church have demonstrated creativity and hard work in generating essential pledge commitments for 2017. The Generosity Team of Mabel Peterson, Beth Anderson, and Joan Bennett were joined by Priscilla Bradford in this important effort.
- There were some fun intergenerational services.
- The confirmation class service on 5/22/16, where eight young adults were confirmed was a particular highlight for many.
- I want to acknowledge the leadership of Chris Corcoran and Sally Pallatto and the entire 300th Anniversary Mission Team's wonderful work in celebrating this the 300th Anniversary year of the NHCC. We want to thank them for so skillfully honoring our past as we plan and work for our future.

To ensure we have a thriving future in 2017 and beyond we need to look at the opportunities available to us now as a congregation.

- Keeping a focus on the continually evolving transition from Boards and Committees to lay led Mission Teams was a primary goal for the 2016 Ministry Leadership Board (MLB). The MLB's intent was to ensure the processes and procedures are efficient and well

understood so the Mission Teams can thrive. While most of the teams have thrived on the strength of some individual's passion and commitment, I regret that we were not as successful as I had hoped regarding the education of the congregation to the current structure. It is our intent to establish a process that provides a month by month yearlong calendar serving as a road map to the multitude of things that need to start and stop on time for things to run smoothly. Changing our system from committees to mission teams did successfully eliminate some bureaucratic red tape; it does however, still need people to actively participate and contribute. **Making those opportunities clear and then celebrating the increased participation and accomplishments is a primary goal going forward.**

- Supporting the Mission Teams that must exist remains a priority. Such teams are sometimes called Mission Critical teams (that is, we won't be the church without these mission teams functioning.) All these teams need active involvement from church members. Even with paid staff, we need enough member participation and support to function well. Imagine a Sunday service without deacons, choir, ushers and greeters. As skilled as Scott, Jeff and Gary are, they need us. Kirk is a dedicated custodian; however, he can't do what our B & G MT accomplishes for us. In my opinion, our five mission critical teams include: Worship, Faith Formation, Music, Building & Grounds, Generosity and Stewardship. Some might feel a particular team has been left off, that could be an educational and valuable discussion.

This is not in stone.

I respect the work done and the commitments made by the members of the MLB, by all of the church leaders, the lay leadership and all of the active members. I look forward to working with and for all of you this coming year, our 301st year!

Moderator: Stephen Simonson

Senior Pastor's Report

This has been a banner year for the North Haven Congregational Church. The celebration of the 300th anniversary of the Church provided opportunities throughout the year to learn about our history and reflect on the roots, and the fruits, of ministry in our community.

The 300th Anniversary Mission Team guided our celebration. The Mission Team leader was Chris Corcoran, who did a tremendous job of encouraging creativity and paying attention to details. Members of the Mission Team included Doris Ferner, Susan Beth Higgins, Bernie Hummel, Barbara Massey Bryant Munson, Sally Pallatto, and Sue Tibor.

Sally Pallatto provided creative energy and technical expertise for Anniversary publicity efforts. Two large banners announcing the anniversary were hung on either side of the front door to the sanctuary. These banners could be moved inside the sanctuary, too. A rainbow 300th banner was hung in the sanctuary as well.

A new Church Photo Directory was produced with special effort to include pictures of homebound and distant members, as well as pictures of events and activities in the life of the church. Office Manager Julie Schweickert coordinated this project with remarkable efficiency and care.

A series of events was planned through the year to highlight and celebrate the Anniversary. The Church had a float in the Memorial Day Parade which featured a scale-model of the Church built by Bernie Hummel. Church members in colonial costume rode with the float or walked alongside.

The traditional celebration of Heritage Sunday in June was expanded. In addition to honoring 50-year members of the Church, we issued an invitation to descendants of founding families to attend. Doris Ferner organized a delicious luncheon which followed the worship service. It was an opportunity to welcome and celebrate long-time members, including some homebound members who received transportation through church volunteers.

The Church sponsored a Tricentennial Fair and Concert on the Town Green in August. This event included tours of the sanctuary and displays of historical documents and photographs, guided by members of the Mission Team, and a concert on the Green featuring our NHCC choir, and worship bands and praise groups from other churches in North Haven. This event, although postponed for a week due to very hot weather, was very received by those in attendance. Jeff Hutchins, our Director of Music, worked with great dedication to coordinate this event, and we received great support and assistance with sound equipment from the North Haven Bible Church.

Three sermons in September and October traced the history of the Church and the Town. The celebration of the Anniversary of the founding of the Church took place on Sunday, November 13. The worship service was filled with gratitude and enthusiasm. The service was followed by a Gala Luncheon. Special guests, including Regional Minister Rev. Mary Nelson, First Selectman Michael Freda, and State Representative David Yaccarino offered their congratulations. The Rev. Richard Diehl, former pastor of the church, offered his congratulations and good wishes. Chris Corcoran produced a video presentation of a photo-montage of the church history and programs which was deeply appreciated.

The final celebration of the 300th Anniversary featured our own Chancel Choir, with support from former Choir Directors. The program was a mix of worship music, both historical and contemporary, and holiday music. Attendance was strong and enthusiastic.

A 300th Anniversary Church Cookbook and commemorative trivets were produced as fundraising items through the auspices of the Women's Fellowship.

One of the lasting benefits of the 300th Anniversary is the review of historical documents and photographs in the archives of the church, as well as in the collection of the Town Historical Society. The process of digital scanning and preservation of these items has begun, and will continue.

Among other events in 2016, the celebration of confirmation for a particularly spirited class of 8 confirmands was one of the brightest. Many of this group continue to assist in the Church School and other programs.

In our new organizational structure, Mission Teams have taken up work in many different areas. One Team reorganized and brightened and enhanced the Church Library. Mission Teams continued longstanding voluntary efforts with the Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen, Abraham's Tent, and Covenant to Care. Other Mission Teams managed various areas of program and church life: Generosity, Music, Faith Formation, Worship, and Building and Grounds.

The Ministry Leadership Board, under the steady leadership of Moderator Stephen Simonson, has been diligent in providing guidance and encouragement to the Mission Teams and the staff. I am very grateful for their dedication and faithfulness, and I commend them.

Our church staff is comprised of individuals with great talent, skill and devotion. Julie Schweickert has brought remarkable efficiency and personal initiative to her work as Office Manager. Kirk Johnson continues to maintain our church building as a clean and inviting location for both congregation and community activities. He does this with cheerfulness and quiet enthusiasm. Gary Snowbeck is a very gifted musician, playing the organ and piano, and bagpipes with inspiring passion. Jeff Hutchins guides the Chancel Choir with wonderful spirit. He is encouraging and gently demanding. Jeff also provides support and coordination to the Children's Choir, with the assistance of September Baraquin.

Debra Mastroni-Kenyon concluded her work as Ministry Coordinator for Children and Youth in June, and led the Youth Mission Trip to the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation in South Dakota in July. Kerry Stewart, church member and member of the Faith Formation Mission Team, has served as the Interim Ministry Coordinator for the current program year. She has worked with great organization and eager enthusiasm to guide and coordinate the Church School program and special events. A search for

a settled Ministry Coordinator is nearing completion. It is a privilege and an inspiration to work among such a talented and committed staff!

The 300th Anniversary celebrations have provided an exciting and joyful backdrop to our church life this year. The impact and influence of the presidential campaign has been otherwise, in my estimation. The campaign was very divisive and derogatory. There seemed to be much more emphasis on accusation and blaming than on vision and empowerment. The election did not heal, or bring to a close, the divisions within our nation, our community, or even our families. There is a distressing atmosphere of discord, anger, uncertainty and fear just under the surface of our everyday routine. Constructive and meaningful dialogue has withered.

It is an auspicious time to serve Jesus Christ as a part of a community of God's children. I believe we will be called to articulate the foundations and principles of our Christian faith with clarity, and to practice them with steady resolution. There is a great ministry of listening, compassion and healing awaiting us. I pray we will be humble, hopeful, and faithful in our response.

This Annual Meeting is the 23rd of my service among you as pastor. I am very grateful for your dedication, your encouragement, and your prayers. I thank you for your kindness and support for Carol, and for Amy and Jesse. I pray that God will continue to bless us, and Jesus will continue to call us and lead us, as we begin the 301st year of ministry through the North Haven Congregational Church.

Shalom,
Scott Morrow



Ministry Coordinator for Children and Youth

There have been two of us who have held this position this year. The first half of the year, Debi Mastroni-Kenyon held the position and continued to engage us all in a journey to become a more Intergenerational body. We all enjoyed and benefited from her experience and perspective and she is definitely missed. Debi also lead a mission trip to the Cheyenne River Reservation in LaPlante, South Dakota to work with Simply Smiles.

After our summer hiatus with the Sunday School, I took over the position on an Interim basis as we began our search for a successor to Debi. It has been a wonderful growth experience for me and I am very much enjoying the work. It is such a departure from my career and I am loving how it exercises a different part of me. Another change with this position is that its scope has been limited to our children. The youth aspect will have support but not leadership from this position.

We made the change this year to move from three classrooms to two. It has been a successful transition and it is wonderful to see some of our teens mentoring our younger children. We have also been able to share in a couple of intergenerational worship services and I hope to see that tradition continue.

I have agreed to stay on in this position until a permanent employee is hired or through this Sunday School year, whichever comes first. I look forward to welcoming the right person into this position and assisting with the transition.

Your faithful servant,
Kerry Stewart
Interim Ministry Coordinator for Children



Report of the Church Clerk

Under the direction of Steve Simonson, the Ministry Leadership Board (MLB) met 11 times in 2016. MLB meetings followed an agenda, and minutes of the previous meeting were e-mailed to MLB members prior to the next meeting. Additional copies of the minutes were available at the meeting and, after the minutes were approved by the MLB, they were available to the church membership on the bulletin board and website.

The last annual meeting of the church was held on January 31, 2016 and the members of the congregation that were present received and accepted the reports for 2015 of the Mission Teams, staff and officers. The 2016 officers and at-large MLB members were elected. The 2016 budget was approved at the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Compton

Church Statistics - 2016

BAPTISMS:

Ryan William Nuzzo, son of Damien and Christine Nuzzo	June 26
Addison Elizabeth Ward daughter of Pete and Alyssa Ward	August 14
Shelby Elizabeth Jasiorkowski	September 18
Maeve Kelly Cabelus daughter of Stephen and Erin Cabelus	September 25
Patricia Adele Jennings daughter of Jeff and Jackie Jennings	October 16

DEATHS

Natalie Porter Smith	January 3
Helga Glynn	January 14
Steven Mallett	February 18
Theodore "Teddy" Schwarz	March 23
Gary Amato	April 26
Larry Pronto	May 23
Thomas Vogt	June 13
Jacqueline Gherlone*	July 13
Shirley Theilgard*	August 14
Warren Harple*	September 7
Joann Villette Stonehart	November 2
Anne Sizer*	November 2
Ilse Boettger*	November 5
Manette Adams	November 17

*members

WEDDINGS

Chelsey Johns & Kyle Jeppesen	May 28
Christine Arrigoni & Chet Blue IV	June 4
Carrie Berlepsch & Ben Norris	June 25
Jessica Dockendorff & Christopher LoDolce	July 16
Nicole Simonson & Gordon Dickler	August 6
Samantha Richetelle & Austin Cook	October 24

NEW MEMBERS

Confession of Faith

Stephen & Erin Cabelus	June 5
Amie Keeler	June 5
Adrienne D'Antonio	June 5
Rich & Sandy Mayhew	June 5
Patrick Alden	September 4
Cheryl Bogert	September 4
Gary Czajkowski	December 4
William & Robin Rose	December 4

Letter and Reaffirmation

Tom Ryan January 9

Confirmation

May 22

Lauren Marie Campos
Lily Mairead Corcoran
Ian Robert Crowther
Joseph Anthony DePrimo
Victoria Faith Hummel
Bradley James Schweickert
Evan John Schweickert
Todd James Shea

Dropped from membership by transfer

None

Dropped from membership by resignation

Brian Compton April 16

Dropped from membership by worship team review

Tom McClure January 27
Mary Sanford April 7

Placed on inactive by worship team review

Chelsea Marks January 27
Robert Mitchell January 28

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS 2016

Active Members, January 1, 2016 362

Removed by Death..... 5
Removed by Letter of Transfer..... 0
Resignation 1
Removed by Worship Team Review .. 2
Moved to Inactive by Worship Team . 2
Sub-total..... 10

Members Received

Letter and Reaffirmation..... 1
Confession of Faith 11
Confirmation 8
Sub-total..... 20

Reconciliation of Membership Records

Removed from Membership 21
Sub-total..... 21

Total membership, December 31, 2016.....351

Inactive Members
Not Included in Membership 28

Church Officers & Ministry Leadership Board

OFFICERS (2016)

Moderator	Stephen Simonson	2016
Clerk	Sue Compton	2016
Treasurer	John Tibor	2016
Assistant Treasurer	Larry Ballantyne	2016
Financial Agent	Bryant Munson	2016

MINISTRY LEADERSHIP BOARD (2016)

Moderator	Stephen Simonson	2016
Clerk	Sue Compton	2016
Treasurer	John Tibor	2016
Financial Agent	Bryant Munson	2016
At-Large	Priscilla Bradford	2017
At-Large	Patience Bennassi	2018
At-Large	Barbara Massey	2016
At-Large	Adam Schweickert	2016
At-Large	Jim Bennett	2017

All officers (Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Financial Agent) are nominated for an additional one year term.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting January 31, 2016

The Annual Meeting of the North Haven Congregational Church was held in the church sanctuary and was called to order at 10:50 AM by Moderator Stephen Simonson. Fifty one voting members were present which constituted a quorum. The call to the meeting was posted as required by the by-laws. The Rev. Scott Morrow led those assembled in prayer.

A motion was made by Betsey Reid and seconded by Tim Peiffer to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2015 Annual Meeting. The motion was passed.

Beth Anderson moved and Larry Ballantyne seconded the motion to accept all non-financial reports. The motion was passed.

Larry Ballantyne replaced Nancie Estep as NHCC's representative to the New Haven East Consociation Church and Ministry Committee.

John Rankin moved and Jim Bennett seconded the motion to accept the Treasurer's report. John Tibor presented a summary of the report. The motion was passed.

Cathy Welch moved and Linda Shannon seconded the motion to accept the financial reports. Bryant Munson presented a summary of the endowment reports. The motion was passed.

Linda Shannon moved and Larry Ballantyne seconded the motion to accept the proposed budget for 2016. John Tibor presented a summary of the budget. Betsey Reid commented that there was no money budgeted specifically for Outreach. The motion was passed.

Beth Anderson made and Rose Monaco seconded a motion to elect the five officers (Steve Simonson - Moderator, Larry Ballantyne – Assistant Treasurer, Sue Compton - Clerk, John Tibor – Treasurer and Bryant Munson - Financial Agent). The motion was passed.

Mabel Peterson made and Cathy Welch seconded a motion to elect Patience Benassi to a three year term on the Ministry Leadership Board and Priscilla Bradford to a two year term on the Ministry Leadership Board. The motion was passed.

Joan Bennett made and Heather Cherry seconded a motion to accept the draft NHCC Ministry and Mission Plan. Adam Schweickert presented the draft of the Mission, Vision, and Values for 2016. Several revisions were suggested and will be considered by the MLB at upcoming meetings. It was acknowledged that the Ministry and Mission Plan is not static and will keep evolving. Chris Corcoran presented information on planned activities for our 300th Anniversary year and solicited volunteers to participate/lead these events.

Beth Anderson thanked all the Ministry Leadership Board members and Scott Morrow for all of their hard work over the last year.

Stephen Simonson distributed a questionnaire to aid in the evaluation of Julie Schweickert as Office Manager.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Compton, Church Clerk

Worship

The Worship Team for 2016, formerly known as the “Board of Deacons,” was comprised of Carol Amico, Larry Ballantyne, Patience Benassi, Jim Bennett, Joan Bennett, Chris Corcoran, Doris Ferner, Nancy Mahoney, Sally Pallatto, Tim Peiffer, Stephanie Perkins, Dot Pierce, Greg Pierce, Adam Schweickert, Kerry Stewart, Heather Tolisano and Rich Ziemba.

We met once a quarter on a Sunday after service and used emails at other times to schedule coverage for Sunday worship, review baptism and wedding requests, and review other procedures, policies, and the status of ongoing projects. One change this year was to pair up two Worship Team members with complementary gifts for each Sunday services whenever possible. Our team members have different gifts, such as: baking bread, leading lay-led services, and ensuring that we have volunteer greeters, scripture readers, and coffee hour hosts each Sunday. While they share all these gifts, some are not comfortable doing public speaking.

Worship Team members are responsible for preparing the sanctuary for worship each Sunday, beginning worship with the opening liturgy, assisting with the offertory, cleaning up the sanctuary after worship, and ensuring that the church building is locked and secure. They assist Rev. Scott with communion (and on occasion co-celebrate communion) and other special services (baptisms, weddings, memorials, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve). They also try to minimize interruptions in the office while Scott is preparing to lead us in worship, audio tape

the service for homebound members, assist with New Member and Confirmand classes, and assist with Pastoral coverage when Scott is away.

Thank you to all Deacons, past and present, who stepped up when help was needed this year. As the saying goes, “once a Deacon, always a Deacon.”

Thank you to our Office Manager, Julie Schweickert, for her assistance and thoughtfulness, and a special thank you goes out to our Pastor, Scott Morrow, for his leadership and dedicated service throughout the year.

Finally, please see a Deacon if you wish to join our Worship Team, wish to volunteer to read scripture during a Sunday morning worship service, would like to host a coffee/fellowship hour, or would be willing to wear a red emergency responder tag on a Sunday morning (instructions are on the back).

Respectfully Submitted,
Joan Bennett and Nancy Mahoney
Worship Mission Team (Co-Chairs)

Faith Formation

All of the former Faith Formation smaller teams have been pulled together into one. Faith Formation includes Sunday School, Adult Education, Mission Trip, Events and Intergenerational Worship.

Our Sunday School was running with three classes in the spring with low attendance in our 6th-8th grade classroom. Many weeks the 3rd- 5th grade classroom combined with our 6th to 8th graders to allow for a few more voices to add to better discussions. We did make the decision to combine those two classes for the current Sunday School year and it has been well received and the class is running well. For teachers we have Lori Murphy, Heather Tolisano, Heather Rowe, Cynthia Campos and Kerry Stewart. Merrilee Gladkosky and Steve Simonson have also been able to come in for some classes as well.

Our continual pied pipers with our Kindergarten - 2nd grade classroom are Priscilla Bradford and Sophie Grant. Their class continues to grow and

we are always impressed with the knowledge they bring to the next classroom as they graduate up.

In total we have approximately 40 children enrolled in the Sunday School. We have also had teaching assistants Brad Schweickert, Evan Schweickert, Lily Corcoran, Lauren Campos and Victoria Hummel.

During the summer, in lieu of vacation bible school or our faith, fellowship and fun nights we chose to do some Summer Sunday School. We had three Sundays, one each in June, July and August where we had all ages Sunday School around the theme of creation. We did some pretty cool chalk art, enjoyed singing and working with clay.

Jennifer Goldfuss continues to be our Nursery Attendant and is our little ones first steps in faith formation.

Last summer from July 16-23, seven individuals travelled to the Cheyenne River Reservation in La Plant, South Dakota to work with Simply Smiles serving the Lakota people.

During this hottest week on record, it was 105° at 9:00 pm, the group worked on the near completion of two homes and ran summer camp for the children. It was so hot that there was two river days at camp, which was much appreciated.

These faithful servants represented NHCC with hard work and dignity and their efforts were much appreciated. Those participants were Kayla Ciccarelli, Kayla DeLuca, Shayna DeLuca, Joey DiPrimo, Jennifer Goldfuss, Sophie Grant, and Debi Mastroni-Kenyon.

Simply Smiles looks forward to a continued relationship with NHCC!

We have had several successful events this year. As always, we ended the Sunday School year with Teacher Appreciation Sunday. Rally day kicked off the year wonderfully with our picnic potluck and it is always a great welcome back. Our retro pageant was once again helmed by John Tibor and Priscilla Bradford and how awesome it was to see such a full altar with participants!

Right now, our Ministry Coordinator is also the Convener for Faith Formation, Kerry Stewart.

Once the Ministry Coordinator position has been filled on a permanent basis, Kerry will continue as the Convener.

Kerry Stewart
Interim Ministry Coordinator for Children and Youth

Pastoral Relations

The committee met 5 times this year. Members of the team include: Patience Benassi, Rich Gallagher, Jim Bennett, Adam Schweickert, Stephen Simonson, and Rev. Scott Morrow.

This committee's responsibility is to support the minister and be a liaison from the congregation to the minister. During the first meeting Scott reviewed professional development goals from the last eight years and brought the following major goal areas to the committee's attention:

- Worship & Preaching - Pastor's Priority 1
- Pastoral Care - Pastor's Priority 2
- Leadership
- Administration
- Program Priorities for 2016
 - 1) Formation and Empowerment of Mission Teams
 - 2) Develop Confirmation Program
 - 3) Empower and Support Capital Campaign
 - 4) 300th Anniversary Planning

This committee had consistently productive sessions where Scott shared his opinions and feelings about how things were going in the church, what his priorities were, and what particular struggles or concerns he might be processing. Members of the team provided him with feedback, validation and support. Some themes included: delegation, empowerment of others, and awareness of the presence of the Holy Spirit. Scott commented that the biggest challenge he faces is setting priorities because there are so many big things happening at the same time in this particular year.

Often a Pastoral Relations committee serves as a mechanism to solve problems between the clergy and the congregation. This year was not one of intervention and correction but rather one of encouragement and support.

Chairperson,
Stephen Simonson, Moderator

Music

There were many beautiful notes hit in 2016. A short list from earlier in the year follows:

- 1) A successful Pierpont Concert Series with a good audience at each.
- 2) A regularly meeting Chancel Choir, hitting 19 in number, producing beautiful and spirited anthems on a weekly basis.
- 3) An improved (and improving) collaboration with the church school for music time on three out of four Sundays (10:40-10:55am). September Baraquin and Jeff Hutchins “tag team” both the practices and the services. There are many musically gifted children in our church.
- 4) On May 1st, the Chancel Choir attended the annual New Haven East Consociation Choir festival, which was held at First Church in Branford (for the first time in festival history). There was great cooperation and leadership among the consociation choirs and music leaders.
- 5) We had a successful collaboration with other North Haven churches for the August 13th 300th anniversary picnic. Our choir and pickup-praise-band sang in beautiful harmony on the green.

In the fall of 2016, we turned our mission to the preparation for a “home-team” Pierpont Concert. The Chancel Choir, along with Gary and Jeff, worked very hard to prepare for this special event. We were able to negotiate a special Thursday rehearsal schedule which included Gary on the Wicks pipe organ to prepare fully for the concert. We undertook some challenging new music, along with a few older choir favorites. We were blessed with special guest musicians who wanted to participate: Deb Mason (Our church’s piano tuner), Brian Jones (Past Music Director), Victoria

Hummel (offered us a beautiful piano solo), and Nicole Brewer (Jeff’s wife). Paula Diehl also joined the soprano section! A splendid time was had by all, and musical progress was made. The concert had approximately 110 in the audience, and earned approx. \$1,100 in ticket revenue. It can currently be seen on NHTV (<https://vimeo.com/195829891>). The church was clearly in support of this event and the choir delivered a wonderful concert for both church and community. It was a celebration of our 300th anniversary and the Christmas season. A festive reception followed in Carroll Hall!

After a little downtime, the chancel choir returned for regular weekly schedule and a beautiful Christmas Eve service.

Members of the Music Ministry Team would like to thank you all for your continued support of music at church and Pierpont concerts.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Music Ministry Team

Capital Campaign Honoring Our Past, Building Our Future

The North Haven Congregational Church began a three-year Capital Campaign in 2013 with the intent of ending in 2016 in coordination with the 300th Anniversary of our Church. The goal was to accomplish a number of necessary projects and provide financial stability as we began our 4th Century. Some projects were funded by campaign funds exclusively, others were augmented by insurance funds, memorial gifts, women’s fellowship funds, etc.

Much has been accomplished in the three years at both the Parsonage and the Church, but more remains to be done. The team has decided to continue into 2017 to oversee the completion of some smaller projects; such as the installation of security cameras and new door bells, various window replacements (some funded from other sources), additional walkway lighting, additional landscaping, the parsonage entry work (if funds allow); and the major kitchen remodel.

During the past year, the sanctuary and upstairs carpeting have been replaced; the nursery flooring has been replaced with tile and the walls repainted; the attic insulation has been installed; the attic windows have been refurbished and the louvers replaced; the steeple lighting has been completed; the re-roofing over the elevator entrance has been completed (with insurance funds); associated drainage and gutter work has been completed; the upstairs bathrooms have been redone (with insurance funds, augmented by campaign funds); the upstairs ceiling and walls have been repaired and repainted; the downstairs handicapped bathroom floor tile has been replaced; the double classroom floor has been carpeted, and the louver doors have been removed. The Capital Campaign group has stayed in close touch with the Board of Buildings & Grounds as these issues have arisen and greatly appreciated their help and guidance.

The fundraising goal was set at \$325,000, a preliminary set of projects and special funds was agreed upon, brochures and graphics were created, and the group began its work. To acknowledge those who have pledged/given funds, a beautiful Tree Sculpture with leaves bearing donors names was commissioned and installed outside the Heath Room on the Church Main Level. New donors will be honored with a leaf as well. We have been discussing beginning a program to honor relatives/friends who have passed away with donations to the Campaign and leaves of a different color mounted on our Tree Sculpture.

Other important aspects of the Capital Campaign include the establishment of a Legacy Society. This would establish a formal Society for those who name the Church in their wills. Our Church has had some very generous gifts in the past that have helped build the endowment. The Capital Campaign group felt that it was very important to have a portion of the Campaign dedicated to enhancement of that endowment to introduce further financial stability for our future. Another goal of the Campaign has been to establish a Mission Fund to be used as the Church sees fit in the future to further the Missions of our Church.

We would like to thank all those who have pledged/contributed to the Capital Campaign so

far and we would like to encourage anyone who has not yet pledged to think about this important contribution. We would like to thank the many people involved with the Capital Campaign group, project work, estimate gathering, etc. Without the hard work and dedication of all these people, we would not have accomplished so much already. Finally, we would like to thank the entire Church body and the MLB for their support, guidance and enthusiasm for these efforts. This truly is a Church-wide effort and the results show!

The Capital Campaign Team

Building & Grounds

The Board of Buildings and Grounds continued to work hard over the past year maintaining both the church and parsonage while managing to stay under the approved yearly budget of \$11,726 by \$933.

Some of the maintenance related activities throughout the year included:

Elevator: The elevator maintenance contract was renewed with ThyssenKrupp for \$1,725.

Landscaping: Leo's Landscaping replaced Pitch Pines Landscaping to take care of mowing the lawn at both the church and parsonage. Invoicing totaled \$2,586 for the year.

Fire Extinguishers: Regular inspection and servicing of all eleven fire extinguishers throughout the building cost a total of \$246, an increase of \$31 from 2015.

Housekeeping + Supplies:

Purchase of cleaning supplies such as paper towels, ice melt, soap, etc., for the year totaled approximately \$1,169.

Maintenance + Repairs:

Some of the miscellaneous items which required attention over the course of the year included emergency plumbing repairs to the restrooms, snow removal, and miscellaneous door hardware for a total of \$4,072.

Alarm System: Alarm One Security Systems had the contract for monitoring the alarm system for

the year totaling \$264, the same amount as for 2015.

In addition to the items noted above, the committee was able to include oversight and work on several capital improvement projects based on the Capital Campaign list.

Landscaping:

Special forged steel railings were custom made by Classic Welding for both rear stairwells as a safety requirement.

Kitchen Renovations:

Betsey Reid and Martin Benassi met with three different local contractors regarding the kitchen renovations. In addition, a mechanical engineer was retained to provide a scope of work for the new exhaust hood. Bids were received and are currently under review by the committee.

Restroom Renovations:

Thanks to the help of Paul Powers and other hard working congregational members the women's and men's upper level restrooms were completely renovated. Most of the work was paid for through an insurance claim.

Roof / Ceiling Repairs:

Due to severe ice damming, the ceiling and walls outside the church office were water damaged. Martin Benassi worked with Kronenberger and Sons to make the necessary repairs to the damaged ceiling and paint the hall.

Additional insulation was blown into the attic of the entire building. As part of this work, a wooded catwalk was installed for future access.

Miscellaneous Projects:

Upcoming projects include security camera installation, parking lot resurfacing/paving, window replacement, and continued renovation work on the parsonage.

We are fortunate to have long-term B&G members who will continue to be on call to support our work and give much valued time and knowledge to plans for this coming year including Bernie Hummel, who constructed the miniature replica of the church for the parade. The committee would like to also thank all those who took time out of their busy schedule to help with

various projects throughout the year, including spring cleanup.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Powers and Kevin Studley co-chairpersons
Fran Dutko, Martin Benassi, Betsey Reid

Generosity

Our Season of Generosity this year focused on Jesus telling his followers to Go and Do the Same. “Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?” Jesus asked. The man replied, “The one who showed him mercy.” Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.” Luke 10:37

During our Season of Generosity, we intentionally celebrate generosity in its many forms. The sharing of time and talents includes participation in many ways—helping enhance worship, helping members, assisting with Church functions, working on fund raisers, and helping with special events. The sharing of treasure is seen in the generous support to our Church by pledging to the annual operating budget, pledging to the Capital Campaign, and paying various Church expenses. This spirit of generosity is greatly appreciated and deserves to be celebrated.

During the Season of Generosity this year, the Generosity Team asked the congregation once again to donate food items to the North Haven Churches Food Pantry housed in our Church. The food pantry shelves needed to be replenished before the major holiday food drives began, so we asked for donations as a tangible way of providing giving to the many people who received food from the Food Pantry. We were once again gratified by the response!! Each week overflowing baskets of food were received and brought to the front of the church along with our offering.

For our Church to function and flourish, we wanted to assure proper funding for the many vital Church activities. This year, we have identified four goals for our yearly stewardship. We were hoping to raise operating funds sufficient to increase the salaries of our staff, especially the Christian Education staff; to cover expected

increases to fixed costs, such as utilities; provide additional funds to our Church Mission Teams; and to create a pool of money set aside for unexpected expenses, such as problems with the office equipment, building issues, etc. To accomplish this, we asked people to increase their pledges, if possible, and pledge if they had not done so in the past.

We thank all those who answered this call and increased their pledges, continued with their existing pledges, or offered new pledges. The response was gratifying and will ensure that we can fund the increases to fixed costs and fund the full Church staff, as well as make progress toward our other goals.

Please accept our heartfelt gratitude for all that you do to share your Time, Talents, and Treasure!

Your Generosity Team –

Beth Anderson, Joan Bennett, and Mabel Peterson

Memorial Gifts

The Memorial Gifts Mission Team has received and documented contributions during 2016. These generous gifts were given in memory of the following members and friends of the North Haven Congregational Church:

Jacqueline Gherlone
Warren Harple
Leora & Merriman Mansfield
Theodore Schwarz
Shirley Theilgard
Jack Viele

Some of these gifts were directed to the Capital Campaign and the Jack Viele Children's Memorial Library Fund.

Gifts were also received in honor of Doris Ferner's Birthday and Christmas. These were designated for the Guertin/Ferner Music Fund. An additional gift was received in honor of Philip James.

The total amount of gifts and interest this year is \$2,645.92.

This year's disbursements supported payment of: \$980.00 for the NHCC lettering outside and above the front doors of the Church

\$700.00 for the carpeting in the double classroom downstairs that needed repair
\$1680.00 in total expenses.

We would like to thank all who have contributed to the Memorial Gifts Fund.

*If you are interested in making a donation in memory of a special person or to honor someone for an occasion, this might be a suggestion you may wish to consider.

Members of the Memorial Gifts Mission Team are Barbara Massey and Cathy Welch.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Massey

300th Anniversary Celebrating the Founding of NHCC

In 2016, the members of the North Haven Congregational Church proudly celebrated the 300th Anniversary of our Church and enthusiastically embraced this milestone year by participating in several events, including:

- Marching in the town's Memorial Day Parade, with a float featuring a Church model, built by Bernie Hummel.
- Heritage Sunday Luncheon honoring long-time Church members
- A Tri-centennial Fair and Concert on the Town Green, with music provided by Church members and music and support from area churches
- A Gala luncheon with Special Guests, where the Church was honored with Proclamations from the town and state.
- A festive Pierpont Concert featuring our own Chancel Choir, with support former Choir Directors

The 300th Anniversary Mission Team was blessed to be part of this once-in-a-lifetime celebration, and we truly appreciate the support of the Church Members and those in the North Haven community who contributed to this wonderful year of celebration.

The 300th Anniversary Mission Team

Christopher Corcoran	Rev. Scott Morrow
Susan Beth Higgins	Barbara Massey
Doris Ferner	Bryant Munson
Bernie Hummel	Sally Pallato
Sue Tibor	

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher Corcoran

Floral

This year, the Floral Mission Team continued with members Helen Nado, Denise Adinolfi, Stephanie Perkins and Susan Tibor. With the support of our congregation, the team was able to coordinate floral arrangements for each Sunday worship service. The team also prepared for the following seasonal arrangements.

PALM SUNDAY

Palm leaves were separated and distributed to the congregation. Palm fans were arranged and placed in front of the communion table and on the sanctuary windowsills.

EASTER SUNDAY

Easter lilies beautified the church, with two plants being placed on each windowsill and a display placed in front of the communion table. The wooden cross was placed on the front lawn and initially decorated with cut flowers provided by the floral team. It was further enhanced with flowers from the congregation.

Lilies were then delivered to homebound and recently bereaved members of the congregation.

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

The Thanksgiving Cornucopia was arranged on the communion table with a wide selection of fresh fruits and vegetables. On Thanksgiving Sunday the congregation brought donations of their own and added them to the table. During the next week the fruits and vegetables were delivered to the Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen by Larry Ballantyne.

CHRISTMAS SEASON

The Christmas season started with the hanging of the Christmas wreaths in the sanctuary and on the front doors. The electric candles with fresh greens

were placed in each window. Poinsettia plants then decorated the church with a display in front of the communion table and two placed in each window.

The Floral Committee acknowledges the many members of the congregation for their continued generosity in purchasing arrangements for each Sunday, as well as the many contributions for the Easter lilies and Poinsettia plants.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Tibor, Helen Nado, Denise Adinolfi,
Stephanie Perkins

Ushers & Greeters

The Greeters welcome people into the church and the Ushers help people find a seat, if necessary. Both Ushers and Greeters pass the offering plates. My sincere thanks to all who were willing to volunteer for these welcoming jobs. I would love to have one or two people working with me in 2017. I am usually at the coffee hour to sign people up. Sometimes it is necessary to make phone calls to ask people to be available for a certain date. Please consider if this might be a way for you to serve the church.

With thanks,
Doris Ferner

Member Care

The Member Care Mission Team was formed in November of 2015 with the purpose of connecting members to care they needed. Members of the teams volunteered to provide rides, meals, visits, phone calls and cards to members of our congregation.

Four teams of five to six members were identified. According to a schedule, each team is assigned a week a month. The team captain receives information from Pastor Scott about the people who have a need for one of the services that week. The team captain coordinates his team members to provide the services and reports back to Pastor Scott what was done and any other needs that are identified.

Members who have received services from the volunteers on the Mission Team have expressed their gratitude. Care Team Members are finding that reaching out to others has enriched their journey of discipleship. More members are welcome to join this mission team.

Priscilla Bradford
Coordinator

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship meets on the first Monday of every month at 6:30 pm, usually in the Koinonia Room but occasionally on a Wednesday evening when additional meetings are necessary to work on crafts or other projects. All women members of the church are considered members of our group and are invited to attend our meetings.

Our Women's Fellowship supports our church, other churches, our community, and each other. Most importantly, we grow both spiritually and with love as a family while doing God's work. We began our important work in February, when we made and delivered Valentine gift bags to our homebound church members.

In May, we again provided assistance to the Men's Fellowship's Annual Phil DiPeri BBQ, and they, in turn, assisted us by cooking at our Annual Tag Sale. Our fundraising efforts started with the Tag Sale, which was held the first Saturday in June. Local vendors were able to rent tables outside to sell their wares, while we held our own sales in Carroll Hall and also offered lunches for purchase. All items not sold were donated to either "Helping Hands" or Goodwill.

Our largest fundraiser was our "Harvest Fair," which was held on the first weekend in November. This year, decisions were made to elevate our unique handmade items and how we market them. It worked! The Fair was a success because of all the hard work and preparations starting months in advance. Plans are to hold a meeting early in 2017 to discuss new ideas and ask for suggestions that will make our Harvest Fair even more inviting and prosperous in 2017.

Last year, NHCC celebrated its 300th Anniversary, and Women's Fellowship developed and published a classic cookbook of old and new member recipes to help fund that celebration. The cookbooks were wonderfully received, and we still have some available for purchase at just \$10.

In October (Breast Cancer Awareness Month), we held a "Pink Sunday," where the entire congregation was asked to wear something pink, and we also sold baked goods and other items after the service, with the proceeds going to "After the Storm," a group which supports those who have or who have survived breast cancer. We then attended After the Storm's the "Art Bra" fashion show, and Merrilee Gladkosky's creation was again an award winner, garnering a \$450 bid.

In December, we assembled items we had purchased and made up and delivered Christmas gift bags for our homebound members. The generosity of purchased items left us with more than we needed, and it was agreed to offer all leftover items to our Abraham's Tent guests when they arrive at our church later this month.

2016's fundraising efforts enabled us to donate the amounts and recipients listed below:

Christian Community Action	\$100.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$300.00
Literacy Vol. of Greater New Haven	\$100.00
Birmingham Health Center for Domestic Violence	\$100.00
Community Partners in Action (Prison Assoc.)	\$100.00
RBC Ministry (devotional booklets)	\$125.00

Additionally, we made \$100 donations in December to each of the following organizations listed below through the Missionary Society of Connecticut:

- New Samaritan House
- Emmaus Home
- Ryder Hospital
- Immanuel Home
- Elon Home
- Uplands Home
- Clarks Hall Youth Services

Back Bay Mission
World Hunger
Heifer Project
Silver Lake

We made other contributions during the year:

Columbus House Welcome Kits	\$400
Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen - Two donations of	\$200
Hope Christian Church's Day of Prayer Breakfast	\$100
After the Storm - Art Bra - \$450 (auction) + \$350 extra from Pink Sunday	\$800
Abraham's Tent	\$100
NHCC	
10% of proceeds from the Tag Sale and Harvest Fair	\$700
New coffee maker	\$110
Three replacement windows in the church office (deposit)	\$1,200
final payment once the work is completed.	

Respectfully Submitted,
Joan Bennett, President

Men's Fellowship

The Men's Fellowship group meets bi-monthly (1st and 3rd Saturdays) throughout the year for a 7:00 am breakfast, except for the months of July and August. Breakfast attendance in 2016 ranged from a low of ten (10) on December 17th, when a snowstorm kept some men home, to a high of eighteen (18) on January 16th.

We held our 3rd Annual Philip DiPeri Barbeque fundraiser on May 14th and netted \$674.98 from it. During the year, Men's Fellowship donated \$250 to the Youth Mission Trip and \$250 to the church's 300th Anniversary celebration, and also contributed a men's gift basket to the church's Harvest Fair held on November 4th-5th.

A number of our members also provided hands-on assistance to various church activities during the year. Bernie Hummel hand-made that wonderful church replica that was part of the town's Memorial Day Parade and adorned our front lawn for much of the fall. Bernie, Jim Bennett, and Rich Mayhew served many meals at the

Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen. Martin Benassi, Fran Dutko, and Paul Powers did a lot of work around the church completing various Capital Campaign projects. Chris Corcoran chaired the church's outstanding 300th Anniversary Committee. Jim B., Bryant Munson, Greg Pierce, and John Tibor served as Member Care Mission Team members. And Jim B., Bryant M., Adam Schweichert, Steve Simonson, and John T. faithfully served on the church's Ministry Leadership Board.

Men's Fellowship intends to continue its supporting and leadership roles in the church in 2017 and invites additional men, church members or not, to join us whenever we gather for breakfast and fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Bennett, Secretary

Website

The new NHCC website was launched in March. Please explore all of the features of the website at www.northhavenucc.org. Check out the Home page for upcoming events and the Church Calendar page for event times and locations. Check out the Our Church page for the Staff Directory, copies of the Window and the Mission, Vision and Values Statement. Information about Worship Services and the Music programs can be found on the Celebrating Our Faith page and information about Sunday School and Nursery programs can be found on the Forming Our Faith page. On the Working Together page, you can see information about the activities of the Men's and Women's Fellowships, Springboox and Pierpont concerts. On the Being Neighbors page, you can see information about our involvement with Abraham's Tent, Covenant to Care, DESK and the Food Pantry. You may request a member login on the Our Church page to access the Member Resources page. On the Member Resources Page, you can access documents, forms, reports and the church directory.

Respectfully submitted
Susan Compton

Technology

North Haven Congregational Church has purchased 2 new computers for the office that will be rolled out in January. Scott will be receiving a new robust laptop computer, his current laptop will be setup for our Ministry Coordinator for Children and Youth. Julie will be receiving a new desktop computer, her current desktop will be setup as the Treasurer's computer. The current Treasurer computer will be moved into the music room. All machines have up-to-date software, all running Windows 7 Pro and Symantec End Point Virus Protection.

Servant Keeper continues to be a valuable tool to capture and utilize information about our members. Member information is secure and only viewed by authorized persons of the church with varying levels of access based upon their need.

All data is securely backed up to password-protected cloud storage.

Security cameras have been purchased as a Capital Campaign project and need to be installed around the church.

Mark Bessette

Abraham's Tent

During the week of February 1st through February 8th, we hosted the guests of Abraham's Tent. There were ten guests. This year we hosted five men and five women. The guests arrived about 6 o'clock each evening and were provided a dinner meal, companionship, TV viewing and a comfortable sleeping environment. A hot breakfast was available in the morning and the guests had an opportunity to prepare their lunch. The final evening of their stay was Super Bowl Sunday and we celebrated with traditional party fixings. Members of our church support the program by staying overnight, providing baked goods and lunch food and helping prepare meals. We appreciate the assistance that we received from our neighbors at St. Barnabas Church, Northford Congregational Church, Orange Congregational Church and our youth who prepared and served dinner. Members of a sorority

from Quinnipiac University provided companionship. Lynne Nielsen coordinated the knitters who gave a warm hat to each of our guests. We look forward again this year to welcoming our guests and are thankful for the support members of the congregation and community provide.

John Tibor and Priscilla Bradford
Abraham's Tent Coordinators

DESK

NHCC has continued again this past year to support this essential mission by bringing 6 to 8 volunteers to DESK each month to serve supper. Many years ago a volunteer used to cook food we provided (John Tibor) and we would take the food to New Haven and serve it, but with changing Health Department rules NHCC now just serves the food and cleans up afterwards. NHCC also makes a major contribution annually to help pay for the food and we take food from the Food Pantry for the lunches that are handed out. From 80 to 200 hungry persons are fed at DESK

I want to thank Jim and Joan Bennett for driving each 2nd Thursday of the month, Elfie and Bernie Hummel and Victoria, Paula Diehl, Priscilla Bradford, Sue Compton and occasional others, both church members and non-members who join us. Once a year the Youth Group volunteers. For those who have not served, we leave the Church parking lot at 5:00 and others go directly from work or home and are usually back by 7. There is a sign up sheet on the office bulletin board so we know how many will be going. Please join us if you are interested.

Betsey Reid

Food Pantry

In summer 2015 the Food Pantry was relocated to its current location across from the double classroom. During this year we comfortably settled into the new space and found it to be a very efficient layout for sorting, storing and selecting items for monthly food boxes. On average we provided non-perishable food for about 40

families per month. The monthly responsibilities were capably met by volunteers Linda Shannon, Tony and Cheryl Solecki, Robbie Juliano and Gail Fulop. Great care has been given to sort and store food by expiration date, eliminating waste.

In September the Food Council met to begin planning for the holiday food drives. The Food Council consists of members from the Churches of North Haven. Assignments were given to various members to begin solicitation of food donations from merchants and businesses throughout the town. For those who participate, collection boxes are delivered and set up to receive food drop offs. This food is collected about once each week and brought to NHCC for sorting. In addition to merchant and business collections, the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and various other civic organizations also collect a substantial amount of food. By early November the double classroom was used for the collection and sorting of food.

Distributions of food were made to more than 80 families for each of the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Each family received a turkey, 2 boxes of non-perishable food, a bag of fresh vegetables and fruit, and a bag of dairy items. Many volunteers from NHCC and other churches of the Food Council participated in the packing and distribution of this food.

Food is donated year round, sorting and packing is done weekly; this is a rewarding effort with the knowledge that people are directly helped by the food that we are able to provide.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Tibor

Covenant to Care

The Covenant to Care for Children Mission Team supported our three usual projects. In addition we answered a special request from our DCF social worker to provide winter coats for four children in a family unable to afford them. Three additional donations were made that were not requested, but useful and appreciated. They are as follows:

Easter Baskets

Age appropriate for specific child.

Bicycles

Two church members spotted these curb side, checked with owner and told they were welcome to them.

Backpacks for Back to School

16 Backpacks fully filled and grade appropriate for children returning to school.

Bed Linens & Bath Towels

A church member who had more than needed after breaking up her parent's home donated these.

Birthday Bags

15 Birthday Bags were assembled by a member of the North Haven Women's Club. Each bag contained pans, cake mix, icing, candles, etc. These were given to clients of the food pantry and greatly enjoyed.

Winter Coats

5 coats were donated to those in need.

Holiday Food Boxes

4 DCF families received Boxes of non-perishable food, fresh fruit and vegetables, Bread, Butter, Milk, Eggs and a Turkey. Boxes were distributed at both Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Angel Tree Project

47 Children received gifts from their wish list. 4 additional bags of new games and toys were donated for children that were not included in our Angel Tree.

While it is very hard to estimate the exact worth of the gifts rendered to this mission it is approximated to be about \$5,325. All of this amount came from individual donations with the exception of \$105 that came from the budget to fill out our backpacks and purchase three coats.

Sue Tibor and Paula Diehl have been joined on this mission team by Gail Fulop, Linda Shannon and Tom Ryan.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Diehl

The Library Mission Team

This team has been at work since June, 2015, completing its primary aim of bringing our Library up to date, separated into twenty-five categories. These are clearly marked and placed in alphabetical order by author with the exception of Biography which is placed by its subject's name in alphabetic order instead. A general list of the categories is located on the side of the bookcase visible from the doorway. There is no index file listing of all the books at this time.

A folder explaining the use of the collection is on the table next to the door along with space for sign-out cards and clearly marked space for return of borrowed material. The suggested time period for reading a book is one month. At the end of that period we may be getting in touch with the borrower by phone or email as a reminder to return the book soon. The ongoing work of the mission team will be to publicize in the WINDOW specific books of interest, reshelve the books on a regular basis, and generally keep the collection orderly so as to make it easy for our congregants, as well as interested visitors, to locate desired material from church history, to fiction, to Bible Study and hosts of other vital material. We also plan to staff the library after church once a month so as to answer questions and generally acquaint members with the use of the facility. New additions of favorite reads are always welcome.

Members who have been active are Lorraine Burdge, Lillian Flodquist, Betsy Gumbart, Betty Martin, Eleanor Norback and Sharman Tait. Several of these women cannot continue on our team so we urge congregants, who might write a book review, shelve books or staff the library after church three or four Sundays a year after church service, to get in touch with the office or Betsy Gumbart to explore being a part of this renewed facility!

Springbox

The annual book sale was held on April 29th and 30th. The proceeds from the sale was \$3440.00 and supported the annual budget through the fund

raising line item. Books are collected, sorted and placed in storage throughout the year. The week of the sale thirty-three (33) volunteers brought the books from storage, sorted them and displayed them to be sold. They also helped to sell the books the days of the sale and remove them from the premises after the sale. Books remaining after the sale were donated to school libraries and New Haven Reads. The rest were picked up by Got Books.

This sale could not happen without the help of the volunteers who offered their time during the week of the sale and throughout the year and those who donate their books.

Betsey Reid, Priscilla Bradford
Coordinators

Members and Staff of NHCC Serving the Wider Church

Priscilla Bradford
Member, Davenport-Dunbar Residence Board,
Hamden

Susan Compton
Secretary, NHOAH - North Haven
Opportunities for Affordable Housing

Larry Ballantyne
Member, Church & Ministry Committee, New
Haven East Consociation

Stephen Simonson
Member, Davenport-Dunbar Residence Board,
Hamden

Melissa DeLuca
Treasurer, New Haven East Consociation.

Rev. Scott Morrow
President, Woods Edge-Oak View Board,
North Haven
Member, Cemetery Commission, Town of
North Haven
Member, Juvenile Review Board, Town of
North Haven
Member, Resolutions Committee, Connecticut
Conference UCC

Mabel Peterson

Member of the Board of Directors of the New Samaritan Corporation North Haven
Davenport Residence, Hamden
Chestnut Hill/Laurel Ridge Housing, Wolcott
New Meadow Elderly Housing, Newington

Betsy Reid

Member, New Samaritan Corporation Board,
North Haven
Member, Woods Edge-Oak View Board,
North Haven

NHOAH North Haven Opportunity for Affordable Housing

NHOAH, has met monthly (presently at our church) since 1993. NHOAH plans to continue as an ecumenical affordable housing non-profit corporation in and for North Haven. This past year, NHOAH continued its involvement in the administration of Summerdale Condominiums on Quinnipiac Ave. The appeal of the North Haven Planning and Zoning Commission's denial of NHOAH's development plans for an 8 unit affordable housing project at 518 Clintonville Road was granted by the court. NHOAH has applied for funds from the State of Connecticut to complete the project.

Respectfully submitted

Susan Compton

NHOAH Member and Secretary



Proposed Budget for 2017

Balance Forward			\$ 6,991.51	
Trustee Transfers			25,142.00	
Total			32,133.51	
Annual Income				
Building Contributions			\$ 9,000.00	
Envelope Income			80.00	
Fund Raisers			6,500.00	
Loose Offerings			2,500.00	
Past Due Pledges			3,500.00	
Pledges			199,049.00	
Gifts, Unrestricted			6,000.00	
Total Annual Income			\$ 226,629.00	
Net Available Funds				
			\$ 258,762.51	
Annual Expense				
				Percent of
Fixed Expenses				Total Expenses
Basic Support			\$ 9,000.00	3.5%
Consociation			575.00	0.2%
Insurance			12,700.00	4.9%
Interest on Loan			0.00	0.0%
Payroll			138,462.62	53.5%
Staff Benefits			53,785.14	20.8%
Sabbatical			2,000.00	0.8%
Utilities			15,000.00	5.8%
Buildings & Grounds			10,726.00	4.1%
Office Expense			8,500.00	3.3%
Total Fixed Expenses			\$ 250,748.76	96.9%
Mission Teams				
Faith Formation			2,050.00	0.8%
Music			1,800.00	0.7%
Worship			1,000.00	0.4%
Outreach			1,200.00	0.5%
Generosity			350.00	0.1%
Abraham's Tent			200.00	0.1%
Covenant to Care			200.00	0.1%
Member Care			75.00	0.0%
Other Mission Teams			1,138.75	0.4%
Total Mission Teams			\$ 8,013.75	3.1%
Total Annual Expense			\$ 258,762.51	100.0%

Report of the Treasurer

Year to Date Budget Report 1/1/2016 through 12/31/2016

	Actual	Annual Budget	Difference
Income			
BALANCE FORWARD	\$ 2,965.95	\$ 2,965.95	\$ -
Building Contribution	9,630.00	9,000.00	630.00
Envelope Income	81.00	80.00	1.00
Fund Raisers	6,923.09	6,500.00	423.09
Loose Offerings	2,503.81	3,000.00	(496.19)
Past Due Pledge	4,659.50	4,558.25	101.25
Pledges & Gifts	203,556.50	202,956.00	600.50
Trustee Transfer	25,065.00	25,065.00	-
Total Income	\$255,384.85	\$ 254,125.20	\$ 1,259.65
Expense			
Basic Support	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ -
Bldg-Grnds	10,793.46	11,726.00	932.54
Christian Ed Ex	1,289.51	2,050.00	760.49
Consociation	543.00	550.00	7.00
Deacons	1,070.03	1,035.00	(35.03)
Insurance	12,349.75	14,000.00	1,650.25
Interest Expense	402.49	550.00	147.51
Music	1,276.71	1,450.00	173.29
Office Expense	9,504.50	10,124.40	619.90
Payroll	126,615.27	132,765.00	6,149.73
Sabbatical	4,000.00	1,000.00	(3,000.00)
Staff Bnfts	50,838.98	51,474.80	635.82
Stewardship	359.33	200.00	(159.33)
Unassigned Mission Teams	528.08	3,200.00	2,671.92
Utilities	14,369.68	16,000.00	1,630.32
Total Expense	\$241,940.79	\$ 254,125.20	\$ 12,184.41
Net Income	\$ 13,444.06	\$ -	\$ 13,444.06

Account Balances	
As of 12/31/2016	
Account	Balance
Assets	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
Church Account	\$ 155,969.34
PEX Account	1,001.03
Prepaid Insurance	11,632.85
Prepaid Other	1,794.50
Total Assets	\$ 170,397.72
Liabilities	
Line of Credit*	-
Total Liabilities	\$ -
Total Net Worth	\$ 170,397.72
Other Accounts	
Memorial Gifts Account	\$ 11,964.45
Food Closet Account	\$ 12,337.36
* The balance of our line of credit with UCC Cornerstone was paid off at December 31st 2016 by utilizing \$6,452.55 of our end of year balance. In addition to making us debt free, it also eliminates interest expense for 2017 and reduces office expense by nearly \$2,000.	

Reconciliation of Church Accounts	
Balance Forward 1/1/2017	
Balance Forward	\$ 6,991.51
2017 Pledges	13,365.07
Line of Credit	-
Baptism Gift	925.00
Buildings & Grounds	137.00
Capital Campaign 2013-2016	133,330.45
Children's Library	845.99
Christian Education	129.00
Christian Ed. Sr. High	339.00
Church Directories	(45.00)
Confirmation Retreat	(76.50)
Flowers	86.00
Men's Fellowship	1,902.27
Misc	8.00
Music	958.09
Organ Fund	1,192.56
Other Income Holding Account	400.00
Abraham's Tent	60.86
Alternative Gifts	50.00
DESK	8.07
Equal Exchange	273.20
Outreach Other (Cell Tower)	46.96
Other	55.34
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	-
Sabbatical	4,000.00
Mission Trip	1,283.91
Music Easter/Christmas	526.33
Poinsettia	1,753.83
Sunday School Collections	214.62
Tricentennial Events	1,056.16
Worship Team	500.00
Women's Fellowship (for CWS)	80.00
Total Church Account	\$ 170,397.72

Memorial Gifts Account	
2016	
Balance Forward, 1/1/2016	\$ 10,998.53
Income	
Gifts	2,635.00
Interest	10.92
Total Income	\$ 2,645.92
Expenses	
Lettering over doors	980.00
Deposit Carpeting in Double Classrooms	700.00
Total Expenses	\$ 1,680.00
Balance, 12/31/2016	\$ 11,964.45

Food Closet Account	
2016	
Balance Forward, 1/1/2016	\$ 15,367.95
Income	
Gifts	\$ 10,773.61
Interest	13.88
Total Income	\$ 10,787.49
Expenses	
No.Haven Congregational Church	\$ 3,500.00
St.John's for Meal Preparations	1,000.00
Columbus House	1,200.00
No. Haven Fuel Bank	1,500.00
Julie Schweickert	300.00
Kirk Johnson	200.00
Contribution to Freezer Purchase	750.00
Additional Food Purchases	473.60
Tastebud's Deli Christmas 2015	500.00
Tastebud's Deli Thanksgiving 2016	709.17
Tastebud's Deli Christmas 2016	780.20
Big Y Produce Thanksgiving	1,593.09
Big Y Produce Christmas	1,312.02
Total Expenses	\$ 13,818.08
Balance, 12/31/2016	\$ 12,337.36

Utilities	
1/1/2016 through 12/31/2016	
Description	Amount
Electric	\$ 6,270.12
Gas	5,013.13
Sewer	265.00
Telephone	2,360.92
Water	460.51
Total Utilities	\$ 14,369.68

Building Contributions	
1/1/2016 through 12/31/2016	
Building Contributions	Amount
AA - Monday/Thursday	1,125.00
Alanon	1,075.00
CT Record Club	300.00
Danish Brotherhood	25.00
Danish Sisterhood	100.00
Garden Club	175.00
GFWC Women's Club	160.00
Masons	400.00
Food Closet	3,500.00
Mothers of Twins	225.00
Retired Federal Employees	310.00
Nutmeg Treasurer Hunters	275.00
Miscellaneous	1,960.00
Total Building Contributions	\$ 9,630.00

Insurance	
1/1/2016 through 12/31/2016	
Liability	\$10,951.00
Workers' Compensation	1,398.75
Total Insurance	\$12,349.75

Special Collections			
2016			
Neighbors-in-Need			\$ 643.00
One Great Hour of Sharing			874.00
Christmas Fund			586.00
Lilies Income			
<i>To One Great Hour of Sharing</i>			537.75
Alternative Gifts to:			
Abraham's Tent			50.00
Habitat for Humanity			50.00
Total Special Collections			<u>\$ 2,740.75</u>

Staff Benefits			
2016			
Car			\$ 2,500.00
Cell Phone			600.00
Dental			1,080.00
Disability			946.79
Group Life			50.05
Medicare - Church			1,103.50
Medical			21,900.00
Parsonage Electric			1,627.78
Parsonage Gas			966.79
Parsonage Sewer			265.00
Parsonage Telephone			456.84
Parsonage Water			690.19
Pension			9,303.56
Professional Expenses			831.54
Social Security - Church			8,516.94
Total Staff Benefits			<u>\$ 50,838.98</u>

NHCC Mission, Vision, & Values Statement

MISSION

Our church's mission is to bind ourselves with Jesus Christ in:

- Worship together;
- Nurture of Christian discipleship; and
- Compassionate service to our community and beyond.

VISION

We are a hub for the larger community as a church of action:

- Conducting regular, robust worship in a responsible and relevant way in an ever changing and challenging world;
- Welcoming people from different and diverse places to be a community of disciples together; and
- Involved in purposeful action and activities through the structure of self-directed Mission Teams.

VALUES

We:

- Pray together, encourage each other, and trust one another;
- Take personal responsibility for fellowship and our community; and
- Celebrate with honored traditions.

NHCC Ministry & Mission Plan 2017 Goals & Objectives

In 2017, we will try to narrow the gap between what we know how to do, and what we actually do, through the use of SMART Goals: **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**ction-oriented, **R**ealistic, **T**ime-sensitive, identifying resources to achieve the goals, and assessing progress toward achievement of those goals.

Strengthen mission-critical Mission Teams

- (A) Worship
- (B) Buildings & Grounds
- (C) Faith Formation
- (D) Music

- Build on the wonderful success of linking fellowship and community through our Member

Care Plan, Food Bank, DESK (Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen), Women's Fellowship, Men's Fellowship

- Faith formation

and other giving and commitments to the community, and value the worth of each member - and each person we contact - in everything we do.

Establish communication and celebration systems

- We are a Christian Church committed to effectively sharing our extraordinary story of the past, present, and future, by person-to-person communication and other tools, such as our newsletter, website, and social media.

Enhance worship

- We celebrate with honored traditions, such as praising God and enjoying life through music of quality and variety, and seek inspiration for -- and experiment with -- different ways to enhance our worship experience together.

- by making a connection with a common faith, interest, experience, and set of goals, and send them out to places to take the needed action and thereby serve our Lord.

Response Team (Safe Church Policy)

The mission of the Safe Church Policy says in part, "... The congregation and ministers of North Haven Congregational Church aspire to be a Christ-centered fellowship where all can seek a close relationship with God. ... Both the Old and New Testaments instruct the faithful to do justice and to care for all persons, including the young....

The purpose of this policy is to protect all members in a safe church community. Out of our commitment to provide an environment as secure as possible, it is the intent of this policy to ensure the best for our children, adolescents, and young adults, as we seek to provide protection for all among us in vulnerable positions.

It is the intention of this congregation to have a clear policy to prevent abuse within our Christian community and to promote an avenue for an appropriate response should allegations of misconduct arise at any time. The goal of this

response will be to establish a process to help both the alleged victims and alleged offenders. Throughout any investigation, God's grace and compassion need to be extended to all parties involved."

The Response Team is made up of three members, representing varied age groups (at least one male and one female) of the congregation. Policy specifies the team is set for indefinite terms. Their primary task is to objectively investigate all allegations of abuse, neglect or harassment. The Response Team is reappointed annually by the Senior Pastor and the Moderator. During 2016 they were Patience Benassi, Doris Ferner, and Stephen Simonson. There were no incidents reported this calendar year.

The Response Team is also charged with monitoring the implementation of the Safe Church Policies in areas of screening, education, training and maintenance of records. The Senior Minister and the individual hired to lead the Christian Education area are responsible for the implementation of procedures designed to educate volunteers, staff and church members regarding this policy. Annual training programs will teach church staff and volunteers how and when to report an allegation of misconduct and how to discuss questionable behavior with either the Senior Minister and/or the Response Team.

In 2016 The Response Team intended to focus on updating the policy as necessary while continuing to support the minister and youth leader's timely implementation of the policies and procedures, developing visual and or written presentations to post around the church to educate members about the policies, and as a team, to rehearse the procedures for responding to allegations. These areas of focus will continue in 2017.

Report by: Doris Ferner, Patience Benassi, and Stephen Simonson

Endowment

The Endowment team's main responsibility is to monitor the Church's Endowment performance. In that light it is a pleasure to report an increase in the Church's Endowment of 6.5% at UBS

Financial Services net of fees but before gifts or distributions. After distributions and gifts received there was a gain of \$17,802 or 2.87% to the entire Endowment.

Most of the increase to the Endowment occurred late in the year. Part was due to favorable market returns. The remainder was from gifts of: \$200 to the Unrestricted Funds, \$25 to the Eleanor Cooper Church Maintenance Fund, and \$460 to the Guertin-Ferner Music Fund. A bequest of \$2500 was received from the estate of Dorothea Kundrath, a longtime member of our Church. This was an exciting gift as we celebrated our Church's 300 year anniversary.

In May there was an after Church Conversation with Attorney Sara Stadler concerning "The Importance of a Will". Attorney Stadler is a friend of Betsey Reid and recently retired. The conversation was open to all members and friends. A question after the Conversation was concerning how to name the Church in your will. A suggested phrase might be "*I leave _____% of my estate to the North Haven Congregational Church.*" It is only a suggestion and you are encouraged to talk with an attorney when amending or writing your Will. Amending a will can be less costly than writing a new will. The important idea is to name the North Haven Congregational Church in your will.

It was decided that for 2017 there will be a transfer of \$25,142 to the Church operating budget. This amount is roughly equal to ten percent of the Church operating budget. All members of the team attended the final meeting of the year with our advisor John Lelas.

Finally, I want to thank members of the team as well as Pastor Scott Morrow for their support and participation.

Team members:

Jim Bennett, Priscilla Bradford, John Tibor, Stephen Peterson, Betsey Reid.

Bryant Munson, Financial Agent

Restricted Funds

Year Ending Dec 31, 2016

Name of Fund	Purpose	1/1/16 Fund Balance	1/1/16 Fund %	Gifts Received	2016 Distributions	12/31/16 Fund Balance	12/31/16 Fund %	2017 Planned Distribution
Brigham	Decorations	\$ 5,484.74	5.82%		\$ 144	\$ 5,640.36	5.791%	170
Carroll/Dudley	Education	3,756.90	3.99%		99	3,866.85	3.970%	116
Cooper	Maintenance	64,412.84	68.38%	\$ 25	1,695	66,294.40	68.065%	1,992
Guertin/Ferner	Music	14,973.64	15.89%	\$ 460	388	15,859.54	16.283%	477
Muirhead	Music/Decorations	5,579.91	5.92%		147	5,737.27	5.891%	172
Totals		\$ 94,208.03			\$ 2,473	\$ 97,398.42	a	\$ 2,927
foot notes								
a	includes \$485 of undeposited funds							

ENDOWMENT REPORT

Year Ending 12/31/2016

FUND	Fund Balance 1/1/2016	Gifts and Bequests	Advisor's Fees	Distributions to Church Budget	Fund Balance 12/31/2016	Dollar Change	% Change	Planned 2017 Distribution
Restricted Funds	\$ 94,208.03	\$ 485	\$ 924.66	\$ 2,473	\$ 97,398.40	\$ 3,190.37	3.39%	\$ 2,927
Unrestricted Funds	514,417.05	2,700	4,476.54	22,592	529,225.47	14,808.42	2.88%	22,215
Cornerstone Fund	10,000.00				10,000.00			
Webster Checking	1,227.29				1,031.42	(195.87)		
TOTALS	\$ 619,852.37	\$ 3,185	\$ 5,401.20	\$ 25,065	\$ 637,655.29	\$ 17,802.92	2.87%	\$ 25,142
Foot Notes								
a	Gifts of: \$460 to Guertin/Ferner Music Fund and \$25 to Cooper Maintenance Fund							
b	Includes a Bequest of \$2500 from Estate of Dorothea Kundrath and 2 other gifts of \$100 each							
c	Includes \$485 undeposited funds							
d	Includes \$200 of undeposited funds							
e	Interest income of: \$126.35 deposited to Webster Checking							
f	\$322.22 was transferred to Unrestricted Funds							