

Colchester Federated Church

American Baptist and United Church of Christ



60 Main Street, Colchester, CT 06415

Annual Report to the Congregation

May 2009

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Pastor's Annual Report
May 3, 2009 by Rev. Linda U. Barnes

“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God,
who are called according to his purpose”. (Romans 8:28)
*Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home.*

This annual report is filled with examples of our dynamic nurturing of faith and reaching out in service. The dedication that people have shown to our church--through giving of time, talent and treasure even in the midst of these difficult economic times—is truly inspirational. Our ministries, missions, members and staff working together have cultivated the vitality of this community of faith—living out Christ’s light in our time and place—honoring our ties with the church through the ages and our contemporary covenantal connections with the United Church of Christ and the American Baptist Churches. This school year we were also happy to welcome Yale Divinity School student Sara Ofner to serve and learn with us.

In this past year we have shown the ability to listen to one another, to compromise, to exercise patience, and to work for consensus in the important decision of approving a conceptual master plan for our church grounds. We have learned that we can disagree without breaking community. I give thanks for everyone’s work and prayers as we continue to work to provide a welcoming setting for our worship and all aspects of our church life.

Personally I would like to thank you for helping to provide love and care for my mother in the final seven months of her life. The support you gave to her and to me is truly a blessing!

As we move forward together in ministry at the Colchester Federated Church, let us keep practical matters in balance with spiritual priorities. Let us grow in the Spirit, give thanks every day for the blessings God gives us, and be part of God’s creative work as we give in service to others.

Baptisms:

May 11, 2008 Keegan Alderucci
June 8, 2008 Ryleigh May Tripp
June 15, 2008 Benjamin Simonds
October 19, 2008 Liam Goodine
November 16, 2008 Alexander & Phoebe Nantz
November 30, 2008 Timothy Clarke
March 29, 2009 Jacob George Jenkins

Funerals:

May 24, 2008 Ray Monteleone
May 24, 2008 Claire Dinsmore
August 8, 2008 Maureen Brooks
September 8, 2008 Fannie Bray
December 23, 2008 Robert Gagnon
December 26 Lily Dinsmore
January 12, 2009 Elizabeth Lasher
January 16, 2009 Nilda Anderson
February 12, 2009 Viola St. Peter
March 16, 2009 Cletus “Bud” O Neil
March 27, 2009 Herbert Finley Clark

New Members

May 18, 2009 Discipleship Class:

Rosie Bosse, Zachary Bussiere, Patrick Dooley,
Ben Ivers, Jeff Kelly, Peter Malicki, Michelle Neri-
Lorette, John Schomaker

March 22, 2009

Arlene Cocchiarella and Bob Clarke,
Jessica Marie Badrick
Justin Cook [and Alison, already a member]
Wendy Moores
Sheri and Ray Sevigny
Kristen Sullivan
Megan and Brady Stillwell

Weddings

January 26, 2008
Maureen Couchon & Michael Granato
May 17, 2008
Chester Anderson III & Rachel Leigh Vega
May 25, 2008
Nancy Minnich Schurr & Ivan Schurr

Clerk's Report to the 2009 Annual Meeting

The program year of 2008-09 was notable in that four special meetings of the Congregation were held.

The Meeting of September 7, 2008 was called to vote on: whether to remove one of the residential houses owned by the Church as part of our parking lot development plan; and the expenditure of not more than \$18,000 on energy-efficient upgrades to the building.

The Meeting of November 23, 2008 was called to vote on: the recommendations of the Parking Lot Committee regarding design and allocation of funding for construction of a church parking lot; the recommendations of the Ministry of Education for the establishment and funding (in addition to the \$27,000 allocated in a congregational meeting on March 30th, 2008) of a Children and Youth Educational Endowment Fund to help fund the positions of Christian Education Coordinator (CEC), Youth Resource Leader (YRL), and future educational programs and positions for children and youth; and recommendations of the Ministry of Stewardship regarding expenditures for improvements to church properties as previously presented to the Members in forums held by the Ministry.

In an unusual situation, the Annual Financial Meeting on January 25, 2009, was unable to arrive at a budget for the Church, and called a Special Meeting for February 22, 2009 to further discuss and act on matters concerning the 2009 budget.

And on March 22, 2009, as the culmination of many months of hard work of many in this Church, the Congregation met to hear and act upon the recommendations of the Parking Lot Committee regarding design and allocation of funding for construction of a church parking lot.

Minutes of the four Special Meetings follow.

April 18, 2009

Mark E. Bosse, Church Clerk

Minutes of Annual Election Meeting May 4, 2008

The Annual Spring Meeting of the Colchester Federated Church was called to order on May 4, 2008 at 11:40 a.m., with approximately 44 members present. The Rev. Dr. Linda Barnes opened the Meeting with prayer, and then asked for nominations for Moderator. John Hirsch was nominated by Nancy Knapp and seconded by Deb Howard. No other nominations being put forth, John was elected Moderator of the Meeting by consensus.

The Moderator called upon Sue Thomson, as Church Clerk, to read the Warning. Rev. Linda preceded the reading by noting that Sue will not stand for re-election and commending her years of service as Clerk.

The warning having been read, **motion** was made by Mark Bosse to record the warning as read, seconded by Jen Clarke and passed by consensus.

Sue apologized that minutes of last year's meeting were not available.

The Moderator then called on Lorraine Tierney to present the report of the Ministry of Stewardship. In addition to the matters in the written report, she noted that: the receipts and expenditures are currently running in the black; and renegotiating our insurance premiums with the Church Mutual/UCC Insurance Board has resulted in a savings of \$5,000. The major proposal of the report is the increase of hours and duties of the Administrative Assistant, including duties currently performed by the Treasurer; a handout was distributed outlining the current and prospective duties. Lorraine then called on Tom Evans to speak to the handout. Having done so, he received a round of applause for his accomplishments of the past year. Deb Howard, John Dooley, Lorraine and Jim Caronna spoke in favor of the proposals. Upon question by Mark Bosse as to combining the positions of Administrative Assistant and Treasurer, it was clarified that Tom would be elected Treasurer separate from the Adm/Asst position. **Motion** was then made by Ed Hall and seconded by Diane Capasso to implement the proposals. The Moderator noted that the motion was not in accordance with the order of the Agenda; Rev. Linda suggested that the order be suspended, whereupon **motion** was made by Deb Howard and seconded by Mark Bosse to suspend the Order of Business, and passed by consensus. The original motion was then voted on, **passed** unanimously, and followed by a round of applause.

Rev. Linda then suggested the Order be suspended to consider Item #3 of the Agenda, a by-law change that the Mission of Wellness elect a member to server on Diaconate; suspension of the Order was assented to by the Moderator. **Motion** to accept Item #3 was then made by Jen Clarke and seconded by Deb Howard, and Rev. Linda spoke to the Motion. Mark Bosse questioned as to the procedure by which the wording of the by-law changes would be arrived at and noted that, as the members of the Mission are not elected by the congregation, this would result in the first unelected Diaconate position. Diane Capasso suggested that the issue could be addressed by making the Mission of Wellness a ministry. Tracy Gale, Chair of the Ministry of Gifts and Leadership, noted that the Mission members are not proposed by Gifts and Leadership, but rather recruited by the current Mission members, because of the confidentiality requirements imposed on the members of the Mission. Jim Caronna inquired whether, in light that the Mission of Wellness is currently the "acting" Ministry of Home & Family, whether this is a distinction without a difference. Mark Bosse spoke in opposition to "piecemeal" emendations to the by-laws and in favor of a complete overhaul of the by-laws, with the goal of either bringing them in conformity with our current structure or in implementing changes in the structure. Rev. Linda noted that this matter has been discussed, but, as this year we will be putting much energy toward the parking lot question, noted that the question of by-law/structure changes would be better taken up next year. Upon Diane Capasso noting that Donna Hathaway, as chair of the Mission of Wellness, was not present to speak to the motion, it was suggested that the proposal be amended to seat a member of Mission of Wellness on the Diaconate for one year. Mark Bosse noted that this would be a friendly amendment, and Jen and Deb, as the original movant and second, assented to the amendment. The Moderator then called for a vote, whereupon the amended motion was **passed** unanimously.

The Moderator then called for the continuation of the Reports. Mark Tierney pointed out that these are customarily accepted as a package, rather than individually. The Moderator then requested a **motion** that the remaining reports be accepted and such was made by Deb Howard and seconded by Tracy Bausum. The Moderator called for additions, corrections or deletions to any of the reports and, hearing none, put the motion to vote, upon which it **passed** unanimously.

The slate proposed by the Ministry of Gifts and Leadership to fill offices, Ministry and Mission positions, was taken up. **Motion** by Deb Howard to accept the slate as proposed, was seconded by Jen Clarke. Lorraine Tierney questioned the inclusion of Tracy Bausum as Sunday School Superintendent, as she will be leaving that position. The movant and second agreed to strike Tracy Bausum from the list. Maureen Couchon noted that she should be listed as co-chair of the Mission of Personnel. Upon question regarding the unfilled positions, Sue Thomson pointed out that the by-laws give the Ministry of Gifts and Leadership continuing

authority to fill positions. Rev. Linda then rose to thank Diane Capasso and Nancy Knapp for working with Tracy Gale. No further comments being had, the Moderator called for a vote and the slate **passed** unanimously.

The Moderator then called for further business suitable and proper to come before the Meeting, upon which Mark Tierney spoke to the \$25,000 voted last year for improvements to the exterior of the Church building. He noted that putting the windows was not included in the work set out last year, and that the flashing needs to be addressed. Mark Bosse inquired whether any of these matters would exceed \$5,000 in cost (thus necessitating approval by a duly called meeting) and Mark Tierney replied that they would not and could come out of last year's allocation.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Deb. Howard and seconded by Shelley Hirsch for adjournment. Being **passed** unanimously, the Moderator adjourned the Meeting at 12:38 p.m.

Special Congregational Meeting September 7, 2008

This Special Meeting of the Colchester Federated Church was called to order on September 7, 2008 at 11:40 a.m. The Rev. Dr. Linda Barnes opened the Meeting with prayer, and then asked for nominations for Moderator. Tom Culhane was nominated by Mark Tierney and seconded by Deb Howard. No other nominations being had, Tom was elected Moderator of the Meeting by consensus.

The Clerk read the Warning and presented the Minutes of the Spring Annual Meeting. These were accepted upon **motion** by Jim Caronna and seconded by Chuck Maynard.

The Moderator then explained that the main Questions, the removal of one of the houses to facilitate the construction of a parking lot, would be proposed by written ballot (incorporated into these Minutes). The first two questions, on whether to remove a house and which house to be removed, would be binding on the Ministry of Stewardship, while the third question, of building a new multipurpose structure if one of the houses was removed, would be advisory. The Clerk also noted that a number of advance ballots had been received by the Office Administrator. As our by-laws do not provide for the casting of absentee ballots, **motion** was made by Deb Howard and seconded by Ron Hathaway to allow for voting on the main Questions by previously cast ballot, and **passed** by unanimous consent. The Moderator then ruled that ballots would be accepted from those not wishing to remain for the debate. Ballots were then collected, and approximately 38 members remained for the Meeting.

The Moderator then called on Mark Tierney to present the report of the Parking Lot Committee. He expanded on the information presented in the ballot and summarized the several options recommended to us by our design consultant. On question of how the condition of the two houses was determined, Mark replied that \$750.00 had been paid to Fine Points Inspection, LLC and that the report was available for review. Discussion ensued on whether one of the houses could be moved to a different location on the property; this would present problems because of the chimneys and the attached garage, the estimated cost being eighty to eighty-five thousand dollars. Also discussed was the "T-design," by which the parking lot could be constructed on the rear of the house parcels, with access between the two houses; this would result in increased costs for sloping and drainage. It was noted that the Colvest Group, developers who propose to build a bank on the Stebbins property, have been in discussion with the Church on physically closing off the end of the former Stebbins Road, which the Committee views as favorable to our parking lot plans. Much discussion was had on the request of the Historical Society that the buildings be preserved. It was noted that, although the Church

properties are within a historic overlay district, the Historical Commission does not have actual authority over what we do with the property. Further, Deb Howard noted that neither of the houses has been determined to have historic value.

Following a round of applause for the efforts of the Parking Lot Committee, Deb Howard moved to close debate, which was seconded by Carol Plecan and assented to by unanimous consent. The Clerk then gave the instructions for casting the ballots. The ballots were then collected and the Clerk verified the previously cast ballots with the Office Administrator. The Clerk deputized Mark Tierney and Deb Howard to count the ballots, the result being:

On the FIRST QUESTION, as to whether to remove one of the houses on the Church properties to facilitate the construction of a parking lot, forty-four (44) in favor and thirty-three (33) opposed;

On the SECOND QUESTION, as to which of the houses on the Church properties would be removed, fifty (50) in favor of removing the Holmes House and fifteen (15) in favor of removing the Parsonage; and

On the THIRD QUESTION, to advise the Ministry of Stewardship in favor of constructing a new multipurpose building on one of the Church proper ties, forty-four (44) in favor and twenty-four (24) opposed.

The ballots being accepted, Item Two of the Warning, the expenditure of \$18,000 for energy-efficient upgrades as recommended by the Ministry of Stewardship, was taken up. Jim Caronna reported for the Ministry of Stewardship. Seven doors would be replaced; this excludes the office door, which has already been replaced, and the front doors. Chuck Maynard reported that five windows would be replaced, being necessitated in part instructions that the springs on the windows have failed, thus constituting a safety issue. Two options are available: all-aluminum windows, which would be structurally more sound, although less energy efficient; or vinyl windows, which however would not be warranted. The quote for the windows is \$4,500. Deb Howard noted that the recommendations were the result of an energy audit commissioned by the Ministry of Stewardship a few years ago (*Clerk's note - 2006*). A question was directed to Steve Bradstreet, as Chair of the Finance Advisory Mission, as to the amount remaining from the original gift funds, which is \$680,000. **Motion** was made by Lorraine Tierney to move the question as in the Warning and seconded by Jen Clark. There being no further discussion, the Motion was put to a vote and **passed** unanimously.

Under other business suitable and proper to come before the meeting, Carol Plecan noted that discussions are underway to present a proposal to set aside from the gift funding for the position of Christian Educator.

There being no further business, **motion** to adjourn was made by Carol Plecan and seconded by Chuck Maynard. Being **passed** unanimously, the Moderator adjourned the Meeting at 12:58 p.m.

Special Congregational Meeting November 23, 2008

This Special Meeting of the Colchester Federated Church was called to order on November 23, 2008 at 11:19 a.m. The Rev. Dr. Linda Barnes opened the Meeting with prayer, and then asked for nominations for Moderator. John Hathaway was nominated by Mark Tierney and seconded by Deb Howard. No other nominations being had, John was elected Moderator of the Meeting by consensus.

The Clerk read the Warning, followed by introductory remarks by the Moderator, who then ruled that ballots would be accepted from those not wishing to remain for the debate and appointed Jim Caronna to collect the ballots. Approximately seventy members remained in attendance.

John Sawchuk rose as Co-chair of the Diaconate to express thanks to all those who worked and assisted to bring the present parking lot proposal to this Meeting. The Moderator then set forth the Order of the Meeting, stating that as the question of the parking lot design had been thoroughly discussed in previous forums and at the Special Meeting of September 7, 2008, the primary purpose of the Meeting is to bring the parking lot design to a vote, and called for debate to be limited to questions and brief remarks. He then called on Kurt to present the plan.

Kurt presented plans drawn in accordance with the vote of the September 7, 2008 Special Meeting, with parking spaces in the area to be created by the removal of the Holmes House. He stressed that the emphasis of this plan is to have as low an impact as possible on the current state of our properties. Carol Plecan spoke to the relation of the parking lot question to Item Two of the Agenda, the creation of the Christian Education Fund, as to whether enough money would remain from the Gift to meet the requested funding, and noting that cost overruns could be as high as twenty per cent. It was generally agreed, however, that if the Plan did not pass, it would be inappropriate to vote funds today without knowing the future cost of a revised design. Jen Clarke questioned whether improvements which are to be made outside our properties are included in the costs; this being directed to the negotiations with the Colvest Group on the closing off of Stebbins Road. It appears, however, that Colvest is backing off their proposal to assist the Church in this matter. To Jen's question of whether the cost might be impacted by problems in the process of obtaining permits and approvals, John Hirsch replied that such is possible, but that the Parking Lot Committee has consulted with and incorporated feedback from all of the authorities involved.

Donna Wink questioned what the life of the parking lot would be, to which Kurt replied that the lifetime "cycle" is thirty to forty years, but with proper maintenance and repaving every twenty to twenty-five years the parking lot could be maintained indefinitely. Pat Culhane spoke to the landscaping and gardens incorporated in the plan, noting that it could not be the responsibility of one particular group (for example, the Garden Club) to maintain these areas.

Rev. Linda noted that with approval of the plan today it would then need to go through the permit process before construction commences. If it is not passed today, then there is no plan to hold another special meeting before January to consider an alternate design. Kurt stressed that the plan is still "conceptual" and can be revised in any way the Parking Lot Committee requests. Diane Capasso then spoke to the impending use of the Holmes House for refugee resettlement and in favor of the "T-Plan," which would place parking behind the two existing houses with an access between the houses. Melanie Hathaway noted that even if the Holmes House were removed, the Parsonage is available for mission purposes. However, Nancy Dooley emphasized that, contrary to previous reports on the condition of the Holmes House which may have influenced the decision to remove it, the house is now in good repair. Pat Culhane also emphasized that we may have need of a parsonage at some future date. Walter Plecan also noted that the value of the Holmes House is about \$150,000-\$200,000, which would be a loss to the net assets of the Church.

The Moderator then closed the debate and explained the balloting process, noting that if Item One did not pass, that there would be no need to vote on the three separate clauses of Item Two, as it would be inappropriate to allocate funds without knowing the allocation for the parking lot. A **motion** by Deb Howard to vote on Item One by the ballots submitted, and seconded by Donna Hathaway **passed** without dissent and, with strong urging by Mark Tierney that those voting include written comments with their vote, balloting commenced.

On question by Evelyn Plecan as to the Order of the Day, Item Two was taken up while balloting

progressed. Diane Capasso gave the report for the Christian Education Team.

The Clerk then intervened to announce that the balloting on Item One had been completed (the ballots having been verified by the Clerk with Deb Howard and Jim Caronna), that the result was twenty-three (23) votes in favor and fifty-eight (58) opposed, and declared Item One **failed**.

Debate on Item Two having resumed, Mark Tierney spoke to the necessity of making repairs to the properties and of setting aside sufficient funds for this purpose. Diane raised the point of order as to whether this was germane to discussion of Item Two or should be reserved to Item Three. Evelyn noted that as a practical point, with the failure to approve a parking lot plan, no funds should be allocated at this time anyway. Nancy Dooley also noted that many of the repairs needed to the Holmes House were already being undertaken by the forty or so volunteers for the refugee project. Carol Plecan contended, however, that the funds should be allocated before some future date at which we can no longer afford to. John Hirsch spoke to the benefits of having a second minister. Lori Hall noted, however, that although no conditions were put on the Gift, that Lorraine Tierney had urged strongly that the Gift be put to improvements rather than into endowments.

Rev. Linda raised the question of what would be voted on at this time, to which the Clerk replied that only the first proposal of Item Two, to establish a Christian Education Fund, was on the floor, and that the two other proposals, for present and future allocations to the Fund, would not be considered at this time. The Moderator then concluded debate and called for balloting.

The Moderator then took up Item Three, to fund various repairs to the properties, and called for questions. In response to a question by Gayle Furman as to purchasing a dishwasher, Mark Tierney announced that the dishwasher had been repaired at a cost of \$75.00. Joann Riddell, Pat Culhane and Rev. Linda all spoke to various repairs.

The Clerk then intervened to announce that the balloting on Item Two had been completed (the ballots having been verified by the Clerk with Deb Howard and Jim Caronna), that the result was sixty-two (62) votes in favor and fifteen (15) opposed, and declared Item Two **passed**.

Debate then resumed on Item Three, with Carol Plecan putting a point of inquiry as to whether each proposal of Item Three could be voted on separately. John Hirsch then suggested that no formal vote take place at this time, but that the comments on the ballots be adopted as advisory to the Ministry of Stewardship, which was generally acceptable to the Meeting. Jim Caronna noted that the ballots he tallied did contain numerous comments which would be carefully reviewed by the Ministry.

Under other business suitable and proper to come before the meeting, Melanie Hathaway inquired as to the current status of the vote of the Special Meeting of September 7, 2008. Rev. Linda noted that the purpose of that meeting was to instruct the Parking Lot Committee as to how to draw up the master plan that was defeated today. Mark Tierney stated the intent of the Parking Lot Committee to publish the comments included with the ballots.

There being no further business, **motion** to adjourn was made by Deb Howard and seconded by John Hirsch. Rev. Linda suggested prayer prior to adjournment, and, having offered a prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark E. Bosse, Church Clerk

Special Congregational Meeting February 22, 2009

This Special Meeting of the Colchester Federated Church was called to order at 11:32 a.m. with approximately 54 members in attendance. The Rev. Dr. Linda Barnes opened the Meeting with prayer, and then asked for nominations for Moderator. John Hathaway was nominated by Jim Caronna and elected by consensus.

After opening remarks by the Moderator, the Clerk noted that minutes of the annual financial meeting were available for reference.

The Moderator then introduced the power-point presentation showing the changes proposed to the budget since the January 22 meeting. Jim Caronna explained the summary section and noted that the "surplus" shown at the end of last year resulted from the unspent portion of the \$13,000 allocated from the Gift Fund at the September 7, 2008 Special Meeting, and that the actual deficit was \$2,208. The Moderator then spoke to the budgeting process. Mark Tierney then explained the adjustments resulting from rental income from the Holmes House and savings on maintenance and repair costs; he proposed that further repairs be funded from the Gift. Nancy Knapp announced that Women's Fellowship has donated \$2,500 to the operating income and that another gift of \$1,000 has been received. Deb Howard also noted that interest on the "unrestricted funds," monies that have been donated for specific projects and not yet spent, amounting to \$2,471.72 has never been spent.

The Moderator then explained the step graph depicting the pledging; Jim Caronna noted that it is based on pledging only to the operating expenses and does not include mission. Upon question from Lori Hall as to why mission was not included, Jim explained that the expense for mission is equal to the mission pledging and thus does not become part of the operating expense of the Church. Mark Tierney announced that since the January 22 meeting, we have received over \$8,100 in additional pledges. He then explained that the amount of income anticipated from pledging has been adjusted for budgeting purposes to 90%, in that historically we never receive 100% of the amounts pledged in a year. Diane Capasso noted that the number of units pledging is now up from the 76 last year, which she termed as "encouraging." Steve Bradstreet then announced that he had received four pledges that morning, three increases in existing pledges and one new pledge, for a total of \$800. A round of applause was had. In response to a question as to how the average pledge was arrived at, Mark Tierney explained that when the two highest pledges are deducted, the average weekly pledge drops from \$30 to \$22.

We then moved on to cuts to the budget. Walt Plecan raised the issue of eliminating the sexton position. Lori Hall inquired as to the status of renting the Holmes House. Cindy Bourassa noted that our oil contract seems very expensive; Deb Howard pointed out that it covers both the Church and the Holmes House (Bob Williams, at the Parsonage, has opted out of the contract). Cindy also suggested co-operative purchasing of supplies with other churches to save money.

The Moderator spoke to the sexton issue, and that by eliminating the position, the upkeep of the church building will need to be done by the members. Tracy Gale proposed that we keep the position and vote a deficit. Melanie Hathaway inquired as to the sexton's current hours; Jim Caronna explained that Dave's hours are variable, that he averages twelve to fifteen hours a week, but ranges between ten and twenty. Deb Howard noted that Dave was originally hired for ten hours a week. Lorraine spoke to the work involved in covering Dave's duties during his vacation and noted that that was only minimal coverage. Tom St. Louis noted that Dave ensures that the building is locked every night, and without this we may incur losses exceeding Dave's salary. Upon question from Tracy Gale as to whether we have funds elsewhere, Mark Tierney replied that last

year's budget shows a surplus only because of funds that have been committed to projects not paid for yet, and that withdrawal from the Endowments is no longer possible because the value has dropped below the restricted amount. Savings from cost-cutting measures around the building - lowering thermostats, turning off lights, etc. - will, although beneficial, be minimal. Tracy spoke to faith in increases in pledging and fundraising; Diane Capasso noted that they Fundraising Committee desires to improve on the \$5,000 anticipated in the budget. Ted Sanford related that when he was at the East Haddam Church, they went to outside cleaning services to replace the sexton's position and described it as a "nightmare" and spoke against such an option. John Sawchuk inquired that as the anticipated parking lot construction will result in more cleaning whether an allocation can be made from the Gift to cover part of the salary. Lori Hall, speaking for the Mission of Personnel, related the background of the proposal to eliminate the sexton position: to balance the budget, a reduction of 25% to all staff positions would have been necessary, which they considered unreasonable.

Discussion ensued on increasing income. Lorraine Tierney noted that a one per cent increase in pledging would cover the deficit. Patti Mitchell, on the other hand, noted that we have the skills in the church to cover Dave's job, though this is not a desirable option. Deb Howard posited that we each pledge 2% of our tax refunds. Carol Plecan suggested that those who are now contributing to loose offerings contribute that as a pledge.

As to cuts, Jen Clarke noted that we are already making a sacrifice in rolling back the staff raises. Donna Wink inquired whether there was any difference between a "roll back" and a cut in pay; really there is none. Lori Hall noted that the raises were arrived at by Personnel before the economic crash and that the salaries for the first two months of the year had included these raises. Marycia Malloy inquired whether there is room for further cuts. Mark Tierney replied that the only areas to which cuts could still be made is to the Ministries and to office expense. Tom Culhane noted that we do have a "cushion" in that the \$1,000 allocated to snow-plowing has never actually been paid (Rich Baldi donates his services). Chuck Maynard queried as to whether using the 100% pledge number in the budget would challenge the congregation to giving; the Moderator noted that passing any budget is a challenge to the congregation to meet it. Some discussion was had on whether increasing the percentage of the pledge figure in the budget would be of use. As to cuts to Ministries and office expense, we are already contributing to the office in donated supplies; and Tracy Bausum noted that the Ministry of Education has cut to the point of asking co-pays for some of its activities. Moreover, as most Ministries have budgets of only a few hundred dollars, any cuts would have minimal benefit.

The Moderator then ruled to end discussion on cuts and moved to the status of renting the Holmes House. Jim Caronna reported that he had shown the house several times. Possible parking lot construction seems to be a concern with many viewing the property. In response to a question of whether lowering the asking rental price would facilitate renting the property, Jim replied that the Ministry of Stewardship would consider offering a rental decrease during the period of construction.

The discussion returned to opportunities for saving money. In response to a question on the oil contract, Chuck Maynard noted that the contract price is locked in until August, although Tom Evans added that as summer comes in we'll be spending less on oil. He also noted in response to a question by Mark on the lawn mowing contract, that if parking lot construction begins in the summer, we would save on lawn mowing.

The Moderator then directed the Meeting to brainstorming money-saving ideas. Proposed were:

Jen Clark - reduce the size of the bulletin

Lorraine Tierney - disseminate more information by e-mail

Jim Caronna - can reduce from three trash bins to two (a savings of \$500)

Carol Plecan - give up the Senior Choir budget, i.e., no new music this year

John Hathaway - more ministries cuts

Carol Plecan - go to one service year round

Donna Wink - community outreach, with the goal of increasing membership (Melanie Hathaway noted that this is a goal of our fundraising efforts, while Mark Bosse spoke to the revival of the Ministry of Community)

John Hirsch - publicize the aspects of our Church that attract people, i.e. Sunday School, the anticipated increased parking

John Sawchuk - re-establish contact with members no longer attending (he also noted the impact of the controversy last fall over plans for the Holmes House)

Tom Evans - \$800/year is spent on the Crier; get more members on the e-mail list

Dolores Sawchuk - we need to re-install the sign out front, to make outsiders more aware of us

Karen Monteleone - educate the community as to what a Federated Church is;
take a booth at the Tag Sale on the Green

John Hathaway - noted that much of this comes under advertising and marketing

Carol Plecan - the Ministry of Stewardship should publicize those who work around the Church as a thanks to them

At this point Pat Culhane rose to thank Lori Hall and the Mission of Personnel for all of their hard work and difficult decisions. A round of applause followed. The Moderator then asked for a show of hands as to letting Dave Hock go; the Meeting was overwhelmingly opposed to this move. We then assessed the additions and deductions made to the proposed budget during the meeting, added \$11,312 for the remainder of Dave's salary this year, and deducted \$1,000 for the plowing contract and \$350 for reducing to two trash bins for the remainder of the year. Mark Tierney then put a **motion** to pass the budget with a \$2,900 deficit, to be reviewed at the May meeting, and was seconded by John Sawchuk. The Moderator called for a vote and the motion **passed** without dissent. John Hirsch moved that a report on the income and expenses be given each month, in the Crier or the Bulletin. This was taken under advisement. Jim Caronna rose to thank Lori Hall, Mark Tierney and Tom Evans for their presentations today and their work on the budget in general, which received a round of applause.

The Moderator adjourned the Meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark E. Bosse, Church Clerk

*Special Congregational Meeting
March 22, 2009*

This Special Meeting of the Colchester Federated Church was called to order on March 22, 2009 at 11:31 a.m. The Rev. Dr. Linda Barnes opened the Meeting with prayer, and then asked for nominations for Moderator. John Sawchuk was nominated by Mark Tierney and seconded by Karen Hollingsworth. No other nominations being had, John was elected Moderator of the Meeting by consensus.

John opened by introducing Kurt Prochorina, our design consultant, who will be presenting the proposed parking lot plan. The Clerk read the Warning and the Moderator set out the Order of the Meeting and thanked all who worked to bring the parking lot plan to this point.

The Moderator then called on Lorraine Tierney to speak to the background of the \$700,000 Gift and to her intents for its use, her hope being that it would be used for improvements rather than operating expenses or investment. Mark Tierney then moved a vote of commendation and thanks to Lorraine, which was seconded by Karen Hollingsworth and followed by round of applause.

Kurt then presented the plan, which is based on the "T" design - additional parking behind the two houses, with an access way between the houses. Kurt explained in detail the concept of the "loop" roadway at the front of the church building, which will be one-way and accessible only from the southbound side of Main Street. Stebbins Road will be closed off at the west end and the current access way from Linwood Avenue will be relocated to the west to improve sight lines. He noted that the State Department of Transportation is very favorable to these proposals.

The Moderator noted that advance ballots were available, and then called for questions. John Hirsch asked Kurt to point out the details of the driveway along the south side of the building; this will also be one-way from the loop toward the back. Mark Bosse inquired as to remedying the current "drop-off" at the area of the gate; the area will be graded to a 2% slope, requiring fill, which will be obtained partly from cutting back toward the cemetery for the additional parking spaces there. Walt Plecan asked whether the grass area in back, where we currently park, would be paved over; as much of this area is within the Route 16 roadway, and a ten-foot setback from the road line is required by zoning, very little of this area will be disturbed. Carol Plecan inquired whether during the installation of the drainage system the underground oil tanks would be removed. Mark Tierney reported that water had been discovered in the main tank, that the tanks are over fifty years old and that their removal has been part of the plan. As to drainage, curtain drains will be installed. In reply to a question by Jeanie Cullen, the "X's" on the map indicate trees to be removed. Mark Tierney noted that the current plan holds landscaping costs to a minimum, but that the Town may require changes. Jeanie inquired as to whether we would receive any value for the trees removed; the value of the wood will be factored into the price.

Greg Hollingsworth inquired whether there were leaks in the oil tanks servicing the houses, pointing out that, if so, environmental remediation will be required. In essence, we won't know until we dig them up. Dolores Sawchuk'' expressed consideration for impact on Day Hall. Jen Clarke inquired as to the direction of traffic on the loop; this is mandated by the State DOT. Some concern was expressed as to drivers using the loop and driveway as a "shortcut" between Routes 16 and 85. Mark Tierney explained that consideration had been given to installing bollards, i.e., removable posts. John Hirsch also suggested speed bumps, and noted that through traffic should be limited by the closing off of Stebbins Road.

We then moved to the process by which the lot will be constructed. Dolores Sawchuk'' spoke to unionized contractors. Mark Tierney explained that Kurt's firm will be preparing plans in form to submit to the Town and the State; and also the necessary documents to put the project out to bid. The contract will be awarded by vote of the congregation. Carol Plecan inquired as to what work we could do ourselves to save costs; Mark pointed out that this would raise issues with the ultimate contractor's warranty of its work. At this point, some discussion ensued as to fencing off the work on the rear lot to minimize the impact on the renters.

Mark Tierney stated that the Parking Lot Committee will continue to meet over the next two months and that further refinements of the plan will ensue. Dolores spoke to this plan being the end result of a great deal of input and compromise. Diane Capasso suggested consideration of extra lighting, and Jeanie Cullen inquired whether these could be solar. In Kurt's opinion, however, the technology of solar lighting is not yet advanced enough to be practical.

There being no further discussion, the Moderator called for a motion. **Motion** was made by Deb Howard and seconded by Carol Plecan to approve the plan presented by ballot. The Clerk then noted that 19 absentee ballots had been received and, as our by-laws do not provide for the casting of absentee ballots, asked for a motion accepting these ballots. **Motion** was made by Jim Caronna and seconded by Deb Howard to allow for voting on the main Question by previously cast ballot, and **passed** by unanimous consent. The Clerk then deputized Deb Howard and Nancy Bray to distribute and collect the ballots. While the balloting took place, Jim

Caronna announced that the Holmes House had been rented, which was met with a round of applause, and noted that, as the house was not being rented as furnished, all of the furniture and oddments would need to be removed and stored, and asked for volunteers.

The ballots having been collected and verified before the Clerk, the result was announced:

On the QUESTION, as to whether to approve construction of a parking lot, according to the plan presented at this Meeting, forty-eight (48) in favor and four (4) opposed.

Mark Bosse then called for a vote of thanks to the Parking Lot Committee and to Kurt, which was met with a round of applause. There being no further business, the Moderator adjourned the Meeting at 12:25 p.m.

Diaconate Annual Report

We come to this church for many different reasons and we come to this church for the same reasons. We come for fellowship and friendship. We come for education and nourishment. We come for the music and the spirit. We come to Worship.

From Vacation Bible School and the Holly Fair to the Lenten Series and the Easter Fair, we came together for many spirit filled events. From the Cropwalk to the collecting of canned food and cleanup buckets, we have reached out to our community and beyond.

This year, it also seemed we came together a lot for meetings. We faced challenges as a church this past year between the Parking lot and the budget constraints, and that meant meetings. We probably set a church record. However, we were able to work through our differences by utilizing our structure and our covenant and remembering to listen to each other and to compromise. When things seemed at their most difficult point, we took time off to enjoy the advent season. We remembered why we come here. While the work of the parking lot and dealing with the financial realities of this economy are not done, We have once again come together as a congregation to meet our challenges. This is what we do best.

Remember the spirit and the energy that got behind the refugee house . How swift and amazing it was. While we were disappointed that our goal was not met it showed what our spirit can do. It was the same energy that rallied after the budget meetings to come together for the FUNdraiser dinner that showcased so many of our talents. It is this church. It is this church family.

We as a Congregation have invested in the future by holding both Cheryl Anderson and Bea Manning in care and welcoming Yale student pastor Sarah Ofner as they journey toward ministry. Thank you for all that you have done to enhance our worship and letting us share in your growth. We welcomed in some wonderful new members this past year. They are part of the renewing energy that has kept this congregation going for over 300 years.

We were also fortunate to welcome Reverend Linda's mom to our congregation. While her time here was too short, it was good to have been able to share it with our Pastor. We share in her grief and in Music Director Pat Korenkiewicz' mother's passing and with all those who have suffered loss this past year.

Our UCC Conference Minister Davida Crabtree also went through a rough year battling cancer and was brave enough to share it with us. As our former Pastor, she used to close many a sermon with this Psalm. This is the day the lord has made, rejoice and be glad in it. These words echo true here still. So when it seems we've become too busy, let us take a moment to stop and reflect. Let us enjoy each other and the time we have together as a Church Family. Let us be thankful for our wonderful church staff, our choir and music, our hard working finance and parking lot committees and our youth leaders and volunteers.

The deacons have worked hard this year as well. Much came across their plates this year and they handled it well. To all the spouses we apologize for some of the late meetings and thank you for sharing them with us. We worked hard, we thought hard and we laughed hard. We also had a meaningful and spirited retreat at Jeannie Cullen's house. Our ministries were outstanding this past year and please take the time to join one. It is well worth it. Some very dedicated deacons will be stepping down this year and the thought of the void they leave will be staggering. Our heartfelt thanks go out to the years of service of Donna Hathaway, Lorraine Tierney, and Gayle Furman. Especially a big thank you to my fifth grade teacher, Nancy Knapp who taught us all the meaning of dedicated service as Co-Chair. May your time in the rocker be more peaceful now that you needn't be asked so many questions.

Respectfully Submitted by John Sawchuk, Co-Chair

Ministry of Stewardship Annual Report

The dictionary defines stewardship as a person who manages another's properties or financial affairs. Add to this definition the task of discerning how to best manage the properties and finances of a church and you have a working definition of the Ministry of Stewardship. We believe, and hope you'll agree, that we are all Stewards of this church with the Ministry of Stewardship serving to "lead" the congregation in our efforts to watch over the physical properties and the budget. As such, throughout this past year we have focused on both the budget of our church and maintaining the physical properties--our church building and the two rental houses.

Many people helped the current Ministry of Stewardship-Jim Caronna, Tom Culhane, Chuck Maynard, John Hirsch, Mark Bosse -to care for our church. We'd like to thank the following people:

1. Tom Evans for his dedication and work as treasurer of our church along with his job as office manager. Tom is always willing to help to make our church function smoothly and provides invaluable and countless tasks ranging from arrangements for use of church facilities to compiling the Crier and the bulletins used at church services.
2. Deb Howard for stepping in as Interim Treasurer while we looked for an individual to serve in this position. Deb brings a wealth of knowledge to the post.
3. Lori Koziol who lovingly cares for our sanctuary by painting and repainting as needed, cleaning, dusting, etc on most Mondays, each and every week.
4. Dave Hock who performs countless behind the scenes cleaning and set- up tasks each and every day of the week.
5. Dolores Sawchuk, Bette Ryan, Barbara Pennington, Martha Paty, Lillian Brown, Nancy Knapp, Evelyn Barr, and Joann Riddell for counting our money each Sunday following church. They are most often the last members of our congregation to leave the building.
6. Steve Bradstreet who enters the income collected into individual giving records each week, tracks our pledges during the giving campaign, and serves as part of the Finance Advisory Committee.
7. Tim Marvin who works to keep the steeple clock working and "on time."
8. Mike Granato who repaired our dishwasher, saving us considerable expense to replace it.
9. Grace Couture, owner of Jazzercise, for donating door stops and "Church Office" parking signs.
10. All the people who have helped with painting and cleaning. These include, but I'm sure are not limited to the following people: Gordon and Trey Archambault, Frank, Eleanor, Martin, Frank and Theodore Ball, David Kallander, Tommy Finnegan, Frank Prior, Will Freitas, Jen Clarke, the Boy Scouts, and Mark Tierney.
11. The Fundraising Committee for all they have done to raise funds and enhance the fellowship of our church.
12. The Parking Lot Committee comprised of John Hirsch, Jim Caronna, Mark Tierney and Rev. Linda Barnes who are meeting at least twice monthly to make a new parking lot a reality.
13. All members and friends of CFC who give of their financial resources, time, and energy to make this church a wonderful, spiritual home for all who enter!

Our maintenance of our church building included the following list of tasks, either completed by our own church members or with the help of contractors:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Task</u>
Bathrooms	Painted ceiling, walls, woodwork; replaced toilets; emergency venting pipes; overhead lights
Boy Scout room	Installed overhead light
Church office	Repainted pastor's office
Communion room	Replaced outlets, switches, and covers
Crib room	Installed speaker from sanctuary
Double door entry	Replaced water cooler
Electrical	Labeled all outlets and switches, electrical panels
Exterior	Replaced two sill cocks; installed Knox Box, reinstalled various parking signs
Gym	Stripped and rewaxed floors, cleaned ceiling fans
Gym/Stage room	Repainted walls and selected woodwork
Interior	Installed various memoriam signage
Jerusalem room	Replace defective overhead light fixtures; replaced defective outlet
Library	Painted ceiling, walls, woodwork; replaced outlets, switches, and covers
Quilting room	Fixed overhead light
Sanctuary bathroom	Replaced lockset, overhead light, fixed toilet leak
Sexton	Purchased new wet/dry vacuum
Single door entry	Painted ceiling, walls, woodwork; replaced outlets, switches, and covers
63 Linwood	Cleared blocked pipes for bathtub drain
63 Linwood	Replaced and repainted dining room ceiling

A brief summary of our finances as of March 31st is included in this report. *(April's figures were not available at the time of printing this report, but may be available by the meeting date.)*

2009 Total Income	\$65,125.76
2009 Total Expenses	\$65,085.51

At the current time we are still “in the black” but as you can see, the budget is tight. We are on track to the budgeted amount in pledged giving and appreciate everyone’s donations.

2009 Pledged Giving BUDGETED	\$32,507.95
2009 Pledged Giving ACTUAL	\$32,426.01

If our offerings meet our pledged totals, then our budget should continue to be favorable.

Respectfully submitted,

Ministry of Stewardship

Fundraising Annual Report

It was another busy year for Fundraising! We are very grateful to the many individuals and groups who helped to support our projects over the past year, and to all who responded to “The World of the Generous Gets Larger and Larger” Pledge Campaign. We realize that this has been a difficult year financially for many, and we appreciate the extra effort of support especially for our operations budget. Through your generous giving of time, talent and resources, we have been able to keep all of our church staff, maintain our church building, and able to continue to support the many ministries and missions of our church. We sincerely hope you have received many blessings in return. We also hope that the spirit of community and fellowship with each other have been enriched.

Special thanks to **Rev. Linda Barnes** for her support and guidance throughout the year. Many thanks to **Steve Bradstreet, Jen Clarke, Lee Fedus, Melanie Hathaway, Avis Hull, Cheryl Letendre, Carol Plecan, Liza Ringuette and Ted Sanford** for their help and faith testimonies during the Pledge Campaign. Their words of faith were eloquent and inspiring! 84 pledges were received this year for a total of \$133,914. Several “Time and Talent Cards” were also received which will be very helpful to the Ministry of Gifts and Leadership. Special thanks to **Tom Evans** for all his expertise, co-ordination of events though out the year, and the many hours of extra work on our first Budget Narrative last fall.

Thanks again to **Kerry Hathaway and Joann Riddell** who have faithfully collected needed supplies for our Sunday School, the office, kitchen and bathrooms. With your support, much needed funds have been saved.

Our group is particularly grateful to those who recently initiated extra fundraisers to help off-set our budget deficit, and would encourage anyone to help in this way.

Below is a summary of the fundraisers from May, 2008--April 2009, and the amounts raised.

- **“Spring into the Spirit” Talent Show:** \$635.00
- **Summer Tag Sale:** \$1,947.35
- **Sandwich Sale on the Green:** \$231.00
- **Defenders Baseball Game:** \$172.00
- **Silent Auction** (at the Holly Fair): \$1,693.25
- **Valentine Fair:** \$400.25
- **Chili Lunch:** \$312.95
- **Easter Fair:** \$582.00

Total: \$5,973.80

Thank-you all for your continued support!

The Fundraising Committee: Diane Capasso (chair), Jeannette Brennan, Jen Clarke, Kerry Hathaway, Shelly Hirsch, Nancy Knapp, Carol Plecan and Joann Riddell

Ministry of Mission and Witness Annual Report

“She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy”... Proverbs 31:20

The purpose of this ministry is to educate the congregation about the wider mission and ministry of the church, as well as develop awareness of the denominations to which we belong and to encourage giving of your resources and talents to mission.

This year, the congregation was very generous sharing time, talent, money and resources to support a variety of local and global missions. The funds were available through our members' yearly pledges and from their contributions to special offerings.

Mission activities and offerings included:

- ★ Neighbors in Need Offering (UCC and ABC offering)
- ★ One Great Hour of Sharing (UCC and ABC offering)
- ★ CROP Walk (Church World Service)
- ★ “Back-to-School Project” (Colchester Social Services)
- ★ Clean-up Bucket Collection (Church World Service)
- ★ Sock, Hat, and Mitten tree (Local Shelters and Colchester Social Services)
- ★ Advent offering (Retired Ministers UCC and ABC)
- ★ Heifer Project
- ★ Rainbow of Caring (CWS Tools and Blankets Program)
- ★ Food Collection (Colchester Food Bank)
- ★ Alternative Giving Program at Christmas (Smile Train)
- ★ Equal Exchange Coffee
- ★ Support of Church members going to Gulf Coast to help in recovery efforts

The ministry, with your pledges, helped support family programs at Madonna Place, Covenant to Care, Martin House, TVCCA, Thames River Family Program, Bethsaida Community, WAIM, New London Homeless shelter and area soup kitchens. We also made contributions to Glastonbury Pastoral Counseling Center, Middlesex Chaplaincy Appeal, Holy Joe's Café, Adopt a Social Worker, Colchester Fuel Bank and Operation Warm thy Neighbor.

Our ministry is especially blessed to include “Prayer Shawl Ministry,” organized by Joan Frantzen with the help of many to create shawls to comfort those in times of need and “My Brother's Keeper” (the sleeping bag ministry) with several very dedicated women who meet weekly to sew sleeping bags for homeless people around the state.

Thank you for so generously sharing all your blessings.

Marycia Malloy, Pat Culhane, Karen Wheeler, Avis Hull, Pat Moon, Kelly LaCoss, Frank Ball, and Michelle Neri-Lorette

Ministry of Education Annual Report

The Ministry of Education had a very busy and successful year. Tracy Bausum our Sunday School Superintendent became Christian Education Coordinator and Cheryl Anderson took on the role of Youth Resource Leader, both are paid positions. We welcomed two new members to our ministry. They are Liza Ringette and Sue Sanford.

Vacation Bible School was led by Tracy Bausum this year. The title of the program was Cosmic City with many youth and adults blasting off into biblical space. We had many youth volunteers, and continue to hope and desire for more adult volunteers. Next year's program ("Crocodile Dock") has been purchased and application fees will increase for 2009 VBS program, to help cover costs.

Sunday school recruitment for the fall semester was successful with most of the fall teachers staying on for the spring semester. Tracy Bausum purchased the curriculum (Whole People of God) once again for both the fall and spring semesters. The general consensus from the teachers is that it is age appropriate and easy to use. Rally Day, the theme was Prayer Fair. In October bibles were presented to the third grade class. Special (First) Communion took place also for the third grade during Maundy Thursday service. Tracy Bausum worked with the teachers and youth volunteers on the Safe Church Policy. Our Youth Sunday will take place on May 17th. See attached Sunday School Report.

Cheryl Anderson coordinated and led the discipleship class this year. There were four mentors and four male students, who all had a very good year. They enjoyed three retreats. They met every other Sunday at the church. The youth disciples read their papers to the Diaconate in April. On May 23 there will be three river baptisms and Confirmation will be held on May 31st.

Our youth groups went very well this year. Junior High Youth Group (6th-8th grade) was led by Tracy Bausum and Cheryl Anderson. They tried to meet twice a month, alternating a fun activity with a service/mission related activity. Scheduling was a challenge with this age group. The Taco Buffet and Movie Night was well attended. They also spent a day bowling. The year will end with a retreat at Camp Wightman in May. Senior High Youth Group was led by John and Nancy Dooley and Lorraine Tierney. They had many activities. Some examples of these activities were visiting and raising money for a homeless shelter in New London, as well as sleeping outside the Church in an effort to raise money and bring awareness to homelessness. They enjoyed laser tag, ice skating and a movie night. A retreat at Camp Wightman in April was well attended. For students in 3rd through 5th grade Family Fun Nights were planned by Tracy Bausum about once a month. Much work went into the programming with little participation. The ministry is working with the Coordinator to rethink how to do this program for these students next year.

Tracy Bausum continues to post information on the bulletin board at the bottom of the stairs for all parents. She will continue this practice next year and encourage parents to use the information by way of announcements (Sunday Service, Crier, and Bulletin).

Adult Education was led by Lori Hall, our satellite member, and Pastor Barnes. There were two Living the Questions DVD series – Eclipsing Empire, which analyzed Paul's journeys to visit the early churches and Tex Mix, which was a series of thought provoking short stories of earthy mysticism. The group also studied a few of Paul's epistles to follow-up on the Eclipsing Empire Series. The book study which started in April was on the book "The Shack" a story about a man who is living in the time of great sadness, when God sends him a

very special invitation. Monday morning Bible Study, coordinated by Pastor Barnes continues throughout the year, following the Lectionary for the following Sunday. These programs are being well received.

The Christmas Pageant titled “Live from Bethlehem” was coordinated by Jeannie Bussiere and Tracy Bausum. It was held on December 14th in the Sanctuary. The children and parents enjoyed the story acted out to a CD by our youth.

The Lenten series was a success this year. The program was based on Faith and Spirituality. It started with a potluck at 6:30 and the program at 7:00 – two programs were presented on Friday nights, all others were on Wednesday nights. Spirituality in Everyday Life was led by Sara Ofner and Gayle Furman with Gayle Furman coordinating. The second was Healing Prayer, led by Donna Hathaway and Cheryl Letendre, coordinated by Evelyn Plecan. The third was Soul to Sole: Walking the Prayer Labyrinth led and coordinated by Tracy Bausum. The fourth was the Seder Supper, led by Rabbi Alter, Congregation Ahavath Achim, coordinated by Debbie Larew. The final and fifth program was Screening Theology (“Pay It Forward”), led by Bea Manning and Gayle Furman, and coordinated by Gayle Furman. This was the last program and the Ministry of Education provided soup and bread before the program and popcorn during the movie. These programs were attended by approximately eight to fifteen people.

The Aram Damarjian Award selection has been turned over to the Minister and Diaconate starting last year. The Ministry of Education may make recommendations.

In conclusion, we have enjoyed this very busy year. Our current members are Co-chairs Gayle Furman and Evelyn Plecan, Debbie Larew, Siobhan Dooley, Lynn Goodwin, Liza Ringette and Sue Sanford, Christian Education Coordinator Tracy Bausum, Youth Resource Leader Cheryl Anderson and satellite member Lori Hall. We will have three new members in the fall with Gayle Furman, Evelyn Plecan and Siobhan Dooley leaving the ministry.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gayle Furman & Evelyn Plecan

Children & Youth Christian Education Annual Report

But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Luke 18:16)

Our Sunday School year began on Rally Day, September 7, 2008 with a “Prayer Fair.” Children rotated to four different stations and participated in prayer-based activities. This was well-attended and seemed to be enjoyed by all ages. On Sunday, September 14, we hosted a “Teacher Orientation” and breakfast where the curriculum and teaching resources were shared. We used the “Whole People of God” curriculum for the 2nd year. This is a lectionary-based, online resource which we utilized for our classes, as well as for regular worship services, Adult Bible study, and Children’s Story. This curriculum was cost-effective, easy to use, and spiritually meaningful for the youth and families.

Classes were divided as follows: Pre-K and Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd Grades, 3rd Grade, 4th and 5th Grades, 6th Grade, and Breakfast Club (7th and 8th Grades). While we had 106 youth registered, attendance averaged about 76 youth per week in the fall and decreased to an average of 62 during the spring semester. Sunday School offerings averaged \$20.00 a week. Our Christian Education programs could not exist without the many volunteers who offer their time and talent to our children and youth. The teaching team was a very dedicated group of people who shared their gifts and their faith with our children week after week. Recruiting for adult teachers is a year-long, ongoing process.

Nursery care was offered by 3 nurturing and qualified youth each Sunday (other than holidays when we did not provide staff but families could use the space as needed). We are fortunate to have a sound system available that allows people in this room to hear the worship service

In addition to weekly classes, other special Sunday School activities were offered throughout the year:

- ✠ 3rd Grade Bible presentation – October 12, 2008, 15 3rd graders were presented with their own Holy Bibles on behalf of our Congregation.
- ✠ The Christmas Pageant –“Live! From Bethlehem” was held on Sunday, December 14, 2008 during the 10 a.m. worship service. Most of the Sunday School youth participated with speaking parts, or as angels, shepherds or sheep in this celebration of the birth of Jesus.
- ✠ Teacher Appreciation Breakfast – On January 4, 2009 we celebrated our teachers and prepared for the spring semester.
- ✠ 3rd Grade Communion – Classes were held on March 22nd and March 29th, 2009. 11 3rd graders and their families celebrated their “First Communion” on Maundy Thursday, April 9, 2009.
- ✠ Palm Parade – On April 5, 2009, youth of all ages paraded around the sanctuary waving their palm fronds as beautiful music played celebrating the arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem.
- ✠ Heifer Project – During the season of Lent, the youth learned about the mission of Heifer and collected money to donate in special “Ark Banks.” To date 29 banks were returned totaling \$117.38. This money helps Heifer “pass on the gift” of animals to families living in poverty.
- ✠ Youth Sunday - Plans are underway for all of our classes to participate in this “all-youth” service on May 17, 2009. This service will allow children and youth to demonstrate their worship-related grade-goal objectives that they have learned throughout the year.

I had the honor of being the first person to serve in the newly created position of “Christian Education Coordinator.” It was a busy, rewarding and sometimes challenging year. This was a year of trying new things and learning from successes as well as things that didn’t go as planned. I know next year we will all be striving for improved communication and scheduling. Some of the new ideas and programs were:

- ✠ Summer Sunday School coordination – This abbreviated program was open to pre-k through 2nd grade. Curriculum materials and supplies were available each week and ran on a sign-up volunteer basis. We will be trying this again from May 24th – August 31st, 2009 and extending it to 3rd graders.
- ✠ This new position now encompasses the coordination of Vacation Bible School. This year’s theme was “Cosmic City.” We had over 100 children register and 30 some adult and youth volunteers. This continues to be a community event that brings people from several churches together to celebrate and learn more about God.
- ✠ A monthly “Teen Time” for 9th graders and older was held the 1st Sunday of the month and included communion, faith –based activities, and food. The discussions were amazing! I learned so much from listening to the youth who really are the future of our church. A very special thank you to Ted Sanford for sharing his time and gifts with this endeavor. Although these were not well-attended, I believe that it is the beginning of something that is very important and very much needed.

- † Family*Fun*Faith events were scheduled each month, typically the 3rd Friday at 6:30 p.m. These were not well-attended. The idea was supported by verbal feed-back and completed surveys but for different reasons did not work out. We will try other options next year.
- † Monthly Christian Education articles were posted for our Sunday School teachers and a 2nd article for our families. There were very few articles taken each month; however, I believe this is a positive way to communicate and grow in faith together.
- † Along these same goals, our “At Home Leaflets” will now be e-mailed to any interested families (This is a way to be good stewards of our resources).
- † Youth Volunteer Orientations and a Youth covenant were offered to help us all start on the same page. While not well-attended, I believe this is an important and necessary practice to continue.
- † A “Children & Youth Christian Education” brochure was created which details all of our church offerings. The intent is to offer this to new and perspective families and hopefully next year can be utilized more.
- † One of the most important outcomes was our written “Safe Church Policy” and the implementation of this policy. There were 3 orientations offered and brochures created for families. This policy and forms are also available on our church website. The goal is to have all adults and youth volunteers have an initial orientation and then a yearly follow-up. There are also action items for the whole congregation, such as fire drills, that hopefully can be implemented by next year.

I thank the members of Colchester Federated Church for offering me this opportunity. I also continue to thank the families who entrust their children and youth to us as we all continue to learn and grow in faith together.

With you in service to God,

Tracy A. Bausum

Christian Education Coordinator

Youth Resource Leader Annual Report

Senior High Youth Group (met on various Friday nights and Sunday afternoons)

This year the Youth Group was lead by Nancy and John Dooley. Lorraine Tierney served as an assistant to the Youth group for half the year. They lead the students in a variety of activities, fundraisers and mission projects. Their mission work was a call for all of us to take action to help those in need.

- Visit the Homeless shelter in New London
- Sleep outside at the church to raise awareness for the homeless
- Bake sale to raise money for the homeless shelter in New London
- Volunteer at the soup kitchen in New London (twice)
- Apple Crisp fundraiser for the youth expenses for retreat
- New Years Eve sleepover at the church
- Ice skating outing in Norwich
- Military Whist fundraiser for the youth expenses for retreat
- Retreat at Camp Wightman

They plan on finishing their time together this year by joining the Discipleship class in New York for the Nightwatch program at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

Junior High Youth Group (met on most 2nd Sundays)

Youth in grades 6,7 and 8 were lead by Tracy Bausum and Cheryl Anderson. The Youth Group met once a month, with approximately 6-10 participants at each meeting. They began each meeting with a faith based activity before leaving the church for outings of all sorts. Youth outings included laser tag, bowling, yard work, corn maze and more. Many of our youth volunteered their time to events at our church. These events included Easter Fair, Valentine's Fair, Fundraising dinners and Mother Daughter Banquets.

Upcoming events:

Camping – May 1-2nd

End of the year Retreat @ Camp Wightman June 5 & 6th

Journeys of Discipleship (met most 1 & 3 Sundays)

Leader: Cheryl Anderson

Mentors: Ted Sanford, Jim Caronna, Mitch and Lori Koziol

Highlights of our program year...

- Interfaith Service@ Congregation Ahavath Achim (opportunity to worship with others of our community places of worship)
- Gifts Retreat (a sleepover event to explore the gifts each of us possess as a child of God)
- Faith and Sexuality Retreat @ Silver Lake Conference Center (a weekend in fellowship, prayer, and discussion about what our faith beliefs are and our sexuality)

Our time together has brought us new and different ideas, understandings and explanations of our faith. Through learning about the United Church of Christ and the American Baptist Churches we develop an understanding of the denominational choices in the church.

Upcoming Events:

River Baptisms – May 23rd @ 1pm

Confirmation – May 31st @ 9am

We send our thanks to Sara Ofner for her help in leading discussions in our Senior High Youth Group and Discipleship class.

*The Youth Groups would like to thank all the parent volunteers who donated their time to drive, prepare food, camp out and sleep over for events.

Cheryl Anderson

Ministry of Church Life Annual Report

We started our year together as a pretty green team. Jude Bradstreet was our “experienced” member. Unfortunately, Melinda Karchner had to step down at the beginning of the year.

We tried something new this year to gather church members together and to help raise funds for the Holly Fair. We hosted “Project Sunday’s” during the month of October. We were happy to see some returning faces each week and had fun with our projects. We appreciate all of the craft items that were donated and for our special guests, Lorraine Tierney, Shelly Hirsch and Eleanor Ball who each hosted a project week. We made over 100 items to be sold at the Fair.

Before you could blink an eye, it was time to host our annual Hanging of the Greens, then all too soon it was the un-hanging.

We had a great turnout for the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. We sold a record of 7 batches this year! We could not have done so without Deb Howard’s generous donation of time and world famous pancake batter, not to mention the sausages cooked by Sausage King, Jim Caronna. We had a bit of competition this year with Karen Monteleone and Bob Cullen on griddles. They flipped ‘jacks” for two hours straight. Our profit was donated to C.W.S. Clean up Buckets. (a project of Mission and Witness)

Our Ministry has three satellite positions.

Coffee Hour – is hosted by the Clarke family. Many thanks to John, Jen, Julie, Jason and Jared for all of your time and many donations to sponsor this event each week.

Greeters - are solicited by our Deacon Emeritus Dolores Sawchuck. Thank you for your generosity and fellowship gathering information and submitting the “bio” for the bulletin each week.

Ushers- are secured by Jim Caronna for both services each Sunday. Thank you Jim for all your efforts and time and for sending in the spread sheet each month.

We would also like to thank all of you who have donated flowers either for the Sanctuary on a particular Sunday or a holiday plant for someone in need. We have enjoyed our visits with those who received the plants and we know they were greatly appreciated. Also, thank you to the Garden Club for organizing the flowers for May – Nov. 2008.

We welcomed a new member in February, Jennifer Mitchell. We sadly say goodbye to Jude Bradstreet and wish her all the best and thank her for all of her assistance this year.

This seems more like a big Thank you note, but we could not do what we do with out the help of so many in this congregation. THANK YOU !

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanie Cullen – Co Chair
Karen Monteleone - Co Chair

Ministry members Jude Bradstreet, Renee Misbach, Rosemary Bosse, and Jen Mitchell

Mission of Wellness Annual Report

“The Mission of Wellness connects and supports people spiritually, physically, emotionally and intellectually in crisis and/or joyful situations throughout all stages of life. We will visit and support those in need. We will provide fellowship and education that embraces the whole body, mind, and spirit.”

Greetings,

“Comfort, O Comfort my people, says your God” Isaiah 40:1. The Mission of Wellness and your Parish Nurses have been striving to live this passage in the past year with the help of many angels from the congregation.

Throughout the year the mission has, with the help of Pastor Linda and members of our congregation, shared information and resources through monthly Crier and Bulletin articles, provided monthly blood pressure screenings, coordinated meals and rides, sponsored a flu shot clinic, blood drives and Life line; visited with members in nursing homes, hospitals, and those who are home bound. We participated in the Lenten series by presenting a program on Healing Meditation with sound using a Crystal singing bowl.

This year Cheryl Letendre has graciously and thankfully offered Reiki treatments to our congregation and hosted a bi monthly meditation group at her home. The mission also continues to maintain two first aid kits and a supply closet for loaning common medical items. We also have participated in monthly Staff and Diaconate meetings.

A special thanks to Karen Partington for coordinating two very successful blood drives at CFC this past year. She gave of her time and talents coordinating workers for each drive in order to help our community “give the gift of life”.

Many thanks to all who prayed, listened, shared, helped at the Blood drives and flu shot clinic, wrote Crier articles, visited, baked, cooked and delivered meals, delivered flowers, drove, filled out forms, made phone calls, sent emails and cards, and cleaned. You are all greatly appreciated and you are the heart and soul of the Mission of Wellness.

Peace and Health,

Donna M. Hathaway RN, CPN, Cheryl Letendre RN, CPN, Jeannette Brennan, RN
Tina Ashley RN, CPN

Women's Fellowship Annual Report

The Women's Fellowship meets the first Tuesday of the month throughout most of the year. Meetings begin at 7 pm and are open to all the women of the Colchester Federated Church. The meetings vary with speakers, social gatherings, and trips to nearby historical places of interest. Meetings open with a devotional, the program, a brief business meeting then ending with refreshments and socializing. This is a wonderful time for women to gather and enjoy the company of others.

Activities for the year have included:

- Donation to the group going on a mission trip to Mississippi
- Three scholarships were given to youth attending Night Watch
- Donation to the group going to New Orleans
- Hosted the Mother/Daughter Banquet
- Donation to Cheryl Anderson's ministerial education
- Love Bank money will go towards buying office supplies
- Sponsored the Holly Fair
- Hosted the Golden Glow from the Senior Center for a Christmas carol sing
- Planned a Christmas party for the convalescent home, but canceled due to the weather
- Made and delivered fruit baskets for those who needed a pick me up, suffered a loss, etc.
- Hosted funeral receptions
- Paid for the propane gas used in the kitchen
- Sent get well cards
- Money allotted to purchase tables for general use
- Donated money to the general fund for help with the deficit

Respectfully submitted, Kerry M.
Hathaway Secretary

Women's Fellowship Financial Report
2008-2009

Balance Forward
\$3393.58

Income

Holly Fair	\$4356.00	
Interest	4.21	
Love Bank	20.15	
Gifts	360.00	
	\$4740.36	
		\$8133.94

Expenses

Holly Fair	\$382.36	
Mother/Daughter Banquet	574.97	
Amerigas	204.48	
Paper Goods	18.10	
Tables	399.14	
Piano Tuning	97.17	
	\$1676.22	
		\$6457.72

Missions

Fruit Baskets	\$162.53	
Dave Hock	200.00	
Donations	690.00	
Mission Trips	300.00	
CFC (budget)	2500.00	
	\$3852.53	

BALANCE **\$2605.19**

Ministry of Gifts and Leadership Annual Report

The members of the Ministry of Gifts and Leadership all felt very blessed this year in our continuing efforts to support the other CFC ministries and the congregation, both spiritually and through the tasking of resources. We also feel very proud of the great strides our congregation has taken this year in resolving to move forward, especially in the face of very troubled times. As members of Colchester Federated Church, we are so blessed in that, when tough times come to us, we have a solid anchor in our faith community to offer support, love, and care.

We are so proud of the congregation's efforts during our CFC Food Bank Challenge. In response to a great need in our community, the members of our congregation were challenged to donate 1,000 items to the Colchester Food Bank during the months of November and December. We were able to exceed that goal, and over 1,000 more items were in the cupboards of those in need in our community this past Winter, and that is a really big deal! We look forward to repeating the success of the CFC Food Bank Challenge this year.

We are also very happy with the success of the "Welcoming Bread" ministry that we began this year. The idea behind this is to provide a symbolic gift of bread to welcome new individuals or families who may be attending service at our church for the first time, to recognize and thank members of the congregation each week for noteworthy contributions or accomplishments, or to provide a small comfort to those of us who might be suffering. We thank the congregation for their continued support of this idea, and with all their help in baking bread each week. We look forward to continuing this as well during the coming year.

Finally, we are very excited about the slate of participants that have agreed to start or continue serving on CFC Ministries and Missions this year. This year's slate is a wonderful mix of new and experienced members, and we really feel it represents a good cross-section of our congregation. We also offer our deepest thanks to those who have served on ministries in the past who are stepping back. Your gifts of time and talent to our church have been greatly appreciated and we look forward to welcoming you back to ministry service if and when you feel called again. We regret that there are a few spots that we were not able to fill in time for the Annual Meeting. However, we are dedicated to continuing our efforts to fill those remaining slots as soon as possible. We intend to organize a Ministry Open House this year to provide information to the congregation about the work of the ministries and to encourage participation of more church members in CFC Ministries.

As always, we thank you all for your continued prayers for us and all the CFC Ministries as they continue to actively do God's will in our church and outwardly in our community.

Barb Bosse, Tamara Mitton, Dolores Sawchuk, Lorraine Tierney, and Tom St. Louis

Church Clerk	Mark Bosse
Treasurer	Tom Evans
Assistant Treasurer	Steve Bradstreet
Membership Clerk	Tracy Gale
Diaconate	
Chair	John Sawchuk
Vice-chair	Ted Sanford
Emeriti	John Barr
Emeriti	Dolores Sawchuk
At-Large	Mitch Koziol
At-Large	Joann Riddell
At-Large	Cheryl Anderson
At-Large	Deborah Howard
Wellness	Cheryl Letendre
Stewardship	Jim Caronna
Mission & Witness	Marycia Malloy
Education	Tracy Bausum
Church Life	Jeanie Cullen
Gifts & Leadership	Tom St. Louis
Music	(inactive)
Workplace	(inactive)
Community	(inactive)
Home & Family	(inactive)
Ministry of Stewardship	
Co-Chair	Tom Culhane
Co-chair & Diaconate Representative	Jim Caronna
Finance Representative	John Hirsch
Member	Mark Bosse
Member	Martin Ball
Member	Charles Maynard
Member	
Member	John Hirsch
Satellite	Mark Tierney
Mission of Finance Advisory	
Asst. Treasurer, and Chair	Steve Bradstreet
Member	Deborah Howard
Member	John Hathaway
Member	John Hirsch
Congregational Treasurer	John Hirsch
Baptist Treasurer	Steve Bradstreet

Church Treasurer	Tom Evans
Mission of Fundraising	
Chair	Diane Capasso
Member	Jeannette Brennan
Member	Jennifer Clarke
Member	Shelly Hirsch
Member	Kerry Hathaway
Member	Carol Plecan
Member	Joann Riddell
Member	Nancy Knapp
Ministry of Mission & Witness	
Co-Chair and Diaconate Representative	Marycia Malloy
Co-Chair	Pat Culhane
Member	Frank Ball
Member	Avis Hull
Member	Pat Moon
Member	Kelly LaCoss
Member	Karen Wheeler
Member	Michelle Neri Lorette
Member	Kaylin Brennan
Satellite	Donna Hathaway
My Brother's Keeper Satellite	Barbara Penington
Prayer Shawl Satellite	Joan Frantzen
Ministry of Education	
Chair & Diaconate Representative	Tracy Bausum
Member	Liza Ringuette
Member	Sue Sanford
Member	Deb Larew
Member	Megan Stillwell
Member	Cheryl Anderson
Member	Arlene Cocchiarella
Member	Wendy Moores
Adult Ed Satellite	Lori Hall
Ministry of Church Life	
Co-chair & Diaconate Representative	Jeanie Cullen
Co-Chair	Karen Monteleone
Member	Rosie Bosse
Member	Rene Misbach
Member	Jennifer Mitchell

Member	
Member	
Mission of Ushers	Jim Caronna
Mission of Flowers	Garden Club
Mission of Greeters	Dolores Sawchuk
Mission of Wellness	
Parish Nurse	Cheryl Letendre
Parish Nurse	Tina Ashley
Parish Nurse	Donna Hathaway
Parish Veterinarian	Christine St. Louis
Member	Jeannette Brennan
Ministry of Gifts & Leadership	
Chair and Diaconate Representative	Tom St. Louis
Member	Barbara Bosse
Member	Dolores Sawchuk
Member	Tamara Mitton
Member	Lorraine Tierney
Member	
Mission of Personnel	
Co-Chair	Maureen Couchon

Co-Chair	Patty Sebring
At-large	
Stewardship Representative	Tom Culhane
Diaconate Representative	Joann Riddell
Denomination Delegates	
UCC Conference & Assoc.	John Sawchuk
UCC Conference & Assoc.	Marycia Malloy
American Baptist Conference of CT	Diane Capasso
Mission of Pastor Parish	
Member	Jeannette Tomlinson
Member	Cheryl Letendre
Member	Dale Keller
Member	Lori Hall
Member	Ron Hathaway
Director of Music	Patricia Korenkiewicz
<i>Ministry of Music</i>	<i>Inactive</i>
<i>Ministry of the Workplace</i>	<i>Inactive</i>
<i>Ministry of the Community</i>	<i>Inactive</i>
<i>Ministry of Home & Family</i>	<i>Inactive</i>

Mission Of Personnel Annual Report

The bulk of our work this year was the coordination and completion of annual reviews for our four non-stipend employees: Reverend Linda, Pat, Tom and Dave.

The results of the review processes confirmed what we all already knew – we have terrific, hard-working employees! We recommended raises for everyone. Sadly, our financial condition this year did not allow us to fund those raises. Hopefully our financial condition will improve so we'll be able to fund those raises in the near future.

A suggestion was made at the church budget meeting that decisions regarding raises not be made until after the results of the stewardship campaign is known. We converted all employees to calendar year review periods so our budget year matches our review periods.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Hall
Co-Chairperson