

ANNUAL REPORTS 2009



The Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Middlebury, Vermont

2009 - THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

- Jan 1 Community Lunch program in Fellowship Hall Wednesdays and Thursdays each week
- Jan 2 Community Supper in Fellowship Hall (held weekly)
- Jan 4 Worship service with Communion, Sanctuary (first Sunday of the month), service being taped for showing on Middlebury Community Television. Fellowship Hour in Fellowship Hall after service
- Jan 6 Pastoral Search Committee (meets weekly)
- Jan 8 Bicentennial Committee starts meeting
- Jan 10 Training Session for Emergency Housing volunteers
- Jan 11 Adult Bell Choir rehearsal, Sanctuary
- Jan 12 Board of Mission and Social Concerns, Charter House conference room
ARC, Charter House piano room
- Jan 14 Church Council, Charter House dining room (meets monthly)
- Jan 15 Men's Lunch Group, Rosie's restaurant (meets monthly)
- Jan 18 Junior Choir rehearsals begin, Charter House piano room
Confirmation Class begins in Interim Pastor's office
- Jan 19 Prayer Circle, Charter House Joyce's office (meets every other month)
ARC 12-week session, "Living the Questions 2"
- Jan 22 Habitat monthly meeting, Charter House conference room
- Jan 25 Choir Plus, Food Shelf collection during worship service, Annual Meeting, Potluck Luncheon
- Jan 26 *Church Matters* (monthly newsletter) deadline
- Jan 28 All-Boards meeting, Fellowship Hall (held every month)
Trustees, Deacons, Pastoral Care, Membership & Communications hold first meetings
- Jan 29 Collation of February issue of *Church Matters*, C.H. dining room (monthly newsletter)
- Feb 1 "Superbowl Subs" sold by the Grades 7-9 class
- Feb 3 Women's Fellowship meeting (meets monthly)
- Feb 4 Board of Christian Development (meets monthly)
- Feb 5 First Thursday Fix-it Crew, Fellowship Hall (meets monthly)
- Feb 7 Mothers Without Borders Sew-a-thon, Fellowship Hall (yearly event)
- Feb 8 Commissioning of Officers, Boards Chairs and Members
- Feb 22 Membership Gathering
Paper Church Directory available
- Feb 24 Board of Christian Development meeting (meets monthly)
- Mar 1 Junior Choir sings during worship service
- Mar 8 Adult Handbell Choir rings during worship service
Quarterly Nursing Home Service at Porter Health & Rehab, sponsored by the Board of Pastoral Care
- Mar 22 *One Great Hour of Sharing* offering taken during worship service
- Apr 5 Procession of the Palms by the Church School during opening hymn of Palm Sunday Worship Service, Sanctuary; Junior Bell Choir rings.
Celebration of Joyce Foster's 25 years of devoted employment and a celebration with Bill and Kerrin Warren, as they were moving to MA.
- Apr 8 "Scheduling Summit" held, Charter House dining room

Apr 9 Joint Maundy Thursday Service held at the Methodist Church
 Apr 10 Ecumenical Good Friday Service at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
 Apr 11 Children's Easter Party held in Charter House
 Apr 12 Ecumenical Sunrise Service held at Youngman Field
 Easter Morning Worship held, Sanctuary, with lilies on the altar
 Apr 17 & 18 Spring Rummage Sale, Fellowship Hall
 Apr 19 Addison Association meeting held
 Apr 21 Honoring Mothers work meeting to pack Health Kits for CWS
 Apr 26 PINS Auction, Fellowship Hall (concludes on May 3)
 May 10 Blanket Sunday (collection taken for CWS blankets)
 May 16 Special Bicentennial Celebration Concert conducted by Jessica Allen.
 May 17 Recognition of Sydney Dalton as Nursery care provider during worship
 Bicentennial Benefit, Sanctuary
 May 21 Last Choir rehearsal until Fall
 May 23 Church Tours (also held May 30 & 31)
 May 28 Vermont Conference Annual Meeting held at Lyndon State College
 May 30 Meeting House Bicentennial Program, Sanctuary, with Glen Andres and
 Nancy Rucker
 May 31 Worship service and potluck luncheon on the day of the 200th birthday.
 Jun 7 Children and Youth Sunday service, Confirmation class (6) received as
 new members, Sanctuary
 Jun 9 Women's Fellowship Annual Meeting and Salad Potluck Luncheon held
 at the home of Grace Barberis
 Jun 14 Reception of 5 new members during worship service, Sanctuary
 Jun 15 ARC 4-week discussion group 1, Charter House
 Jun 18 Holiday Bazaar Committee Chairs initial meeting, Charter House
 Jun 21 Book Discussion and light lunch to raise funds for MTCC, F.H.
 Jun 28 Hymn Sing worship service, Sanctuary
 Jul 2 Community Lunch program moves to Charter House Mon-Thu each week
 Jul 7 Parenting Discussion Group, led by Interim Pastor Jonathan New
 Jul 8 Church School Teachers' meeting, Charter House
 Jul 19 Texas Falls Potluck and Hymn Sing
 Jul 20 Book Discussion Group II begins 4-week run, Charter House
 Aug 3 Church receives qualification as "A Reading Church" from the State
 Women's Fellowship with 13 members reporting
 Aug 4 Cleaning and repainting of Fellowship Hall begins
 Aug 15 Sandbox crew works to finish project in fenced-in play area
 Aug 17 "Blueberry Bash" held in Fellowship Hall, music provider by Shader-
 Croft band; funds raised help support the Kitchen Fund
 Aug 29 Introduction of Pastor Andy Nagy-Benson and his family at a barbecue
 chicken meal, Fellowship Hall
 Aug 30 Unanimous vote at Special Meeting to call Pastor Andy Nagy-Benson as
 our settled minister.
 Sep 9 "Scheduling Summit", Charter House
 Sep 13 Rally Day, Commissioning of Teachers, Church School resumes; Choir
 sings after summer off
 Women's Fellowship Cookbook Pre-sale begins, Fellowship Hall
 Sep 15 Holiday Bazaar Chairs' meeting, Charter House
 Sep 17 & 18 Fall Rummage Sale, sponsored by Material & Financial Aid Committee

Sep 20 Presentation of bibles to 3rd graders
 Sep 27 *Neighbors In Need* collection taken during Morning Worship service
 Oct 4 CROP Walk held with many walkers from our church, "Feet" posted on
 bulletin board to show the number of walkers
 Oct 5 Community Lunch program held on Mondays at St. Stephens, Tuesday-
 Thursday at Charter House
 ARC adult study begins, Charter House
 Oct 8 Youth Bazaar Craft Group meets, Charter House
 Oct 11 Morning Worship with lay ministry leaders
 Oct 14 Stewardship Packets mailed
 Oct 18 Budget Informational meeting after Morning Worship service, Sanctuary
 Fall Addison Association meeting, Shoreham
 Oct 20 Charter House Emergency Shelter program meetings begin
 Oct 25 Music Sunday Worship service, Stewardship Sunday
 Children's Fellowship Hour for parents, Charter House
 Nov 7 Holiday Bazaar, Fellowship Hall
 Nov 8 Second Chance Sale held in Fellowship Hall
 Nov 14 Farewell celebration of Rev. Jonathan New's two-year term as our interim
 minister
 Nov 15 Grades 7-9 Pie Raffle held, to benefit the Giving Tree at HOPE
 Nov 21 Food for the needy collected in front of Shaw's, MNFC, and Greg's
 Nov 22 Harvest Table display for Morning Worship service
 Nov 29 Pastor Andy's first official church worship service; first Sunday in Advent,
 candlelighters: The Pastoral Search Committee
 Potluck Luncheon, Fellowship Hall, to celebrate our new settled pastor
 and his family, Andy and Gwen Nagy-Benson, Ella, Mary and Rachel
 Dec 1 Emergency Shelter opens at Charter House
 Dec 3 Wreaths, roping, and tree placed in the Sanctuary
 Dec 6 Second Sunday of Advent Morning Worship, candlelighters: Bill and
 Jean Fifield; articles (socks, hats, mittens and scarves) brought all month
 for the John Graham Shelter
 Alternative Gift Fair, Fellowship Hall (continues Dec 13 and 20)
 Dec 9 Organ tuned at church
 Dec 12 Christmas Baskets distributed by BPC members and Pastor Andy
 Dec 13 Third Sunday of Advent, candlelighters: Four generations of the Foster
 family; Church School Christmas Pageant held
 Dec 15 Holiday Concert with the MUHS Choral Group, with reception following
 in Fellowship Hall, sponsored by the Fellowship
 Dec 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent, candle lighters: Church School Grades 3 and 4
 Messiah Sing, Sanctuary, followed by reception in Fellowship Hall House
 Dec 23 Poinsettias arrive for Sanctuary
 Dec 24 Family-style Christmas Eve Service held in Sanctuary; candlelighters:
 Jim and Liz Robinson and family
 Musical interlude one-half hour before second service
 Traditional Candlelight Service held in Sanctuary, candlelighters: Rick
 and Sara Marshall and family
 Dec 25 Informal Christmas Day service held in Sanctuary, candlelighters: Mary
 Williams and Deb Boyer

WARNING

**ANNUAL MEETING
Congregational Church of Middlebury, Vermont
January 31, 2010**

The Congregational Church of Middlebury, Vermont, Inc. is hereby warned and notified to meet in Annual Meeting in the Church Sanctuary on Sunday, January 31, 2010, following the Service of Worship to transact the following business:

1. To approve the printed minutes of the Annual Meeting of January 25, 2009 and the Special Meeting of August 30, 2009
2. To receive and act separately on the reports of the Church Treasurer and the Church's invested funds.
3. To receive and act on written reports of all other Church Officers, Boards, and Committees.
4. To act on the proposed Church Budget for 2010.
5. To receive the report of the Nominating Committee and elect officers, board, and committee members for 2010 .
6. To consider any other business which may properly come before the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Stewart, Church Clerk

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE MIDDLEBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
JANUARY 25, 2009**

The 2008 Annual Meeting of the Congregational Church of Middlebury, Vermont, Inc, was held in the Church Sanctuary following the worship service, on Sunday, January 25, 2009. Moderator Russell Carpenter called the meeting to order at 11:10 AM. He welcomed the group and thanked the staff, committees, and other volunteers for their dedication and service during the year. 51 members were present. He read a piece entitled "Attitude" by Charles Swindoll, and said that positive attitudes have gotten us successfully through the year, in spite of unexpected events.

The following business was transacted :

Article 1. To approve the printed minutes of the Annual Meeting of January 27, 2008. The motion was made by Bonnie Stevens and seconded by Diana Cotter that the minutes be approved. So voted.

Article 2. To receive and act separately on the reports of the Church Treasurer and the Church's Invested Funds. Ed Williams explained the reports and answered questions. Motion made by Peggy Rush, seconded by Grace Barberis and so voted that the reports be accepted.

Article 3. To receive an act on written reports of all other Church Officers, Boards, and Committees. Russell commented that the Pastoral Search Committee were progressing with their assignment, and possibly by the summer, we would be preparing for a settled pastor. Bill Perkins made the motion, seconded by Thane Sandberg, that we accept the written reports. So voted.

Article 4. To act on the proposed Church Budget for 2009. Ed Williams explained each item in the Proposed Budget and answered questions. We go into the year with a \$16,000.00 deficit in the proposed Budget but our Moderator is confident we can raise the funds necessary to balance the budget, during the year, by having special fund raising. Jonathan New provided for the Annual Report, a Mission Spending Plan - A Narrative Budget, which indicated how we plan to spend our money to fulfill our church's mission. This was a new way at looking at the Budget Picture. Motion made by Dick Weed and seconded by Jean Fifield that we accept the proposed budget .So voted.

Article 5. To receive the report of the Nominating Committee and elect officers, board and committee members for 2009. As there were no nominations from the floor, Derwin Stevens made the motion, seconded by Thane Sandberg, that the slate of nominations be accepted. So voted.

Article 6. To consider any other business that may properly come before the meeting. Russell Carpenter again thanked the staff and volunteers and other loyal supporters. The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 PM. Jonathan New led the group in prayer, remembering those who had departed during the year. Grace was offered after which we enjoyed a Pot Luck Luncheon in Fellowship Hall, hosted by the Women's Fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Stewart, Church Clerk

**MIDDLEBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
30 AUGUST, 2009**

Moderator, Russell Carpenter, opened the Special Church Meeting in the Church Sanctuary at 11:10 AM, following the Sunday Worship Service. 125 members were present.

The moderator read the Warning and commented on the delightful evening we had enjoyed last night, with the congregation meeting the Pastor-elect and his family at a chicken BBQ, followed by a time for questions and conversation with the Pastor-elect, Andrew Nagy-Benson.

Following questions to Andrew from the congregation, John Emerson, Co-Chair of the Pastoral Search Committee, made the following motion on behalf of the Search Committee:

"We move that the Congregational Church of Middlebury, VT, UCC call the Reverend Andrew Jay Nagy-Benson as the Pastor and Teacher of this church."

Jean Fifield seconded the motion.

Members of the Search Committee each stated the reasons they would like to nominate the candidate.

The Moderator called for a paper ballot and ballots were distributed. The completed ballots were collected and the Moderator announced the results: 125 Yes, 0 No. The Moderator announced that we had voted to call The Reverend Andrew Jay Nagy-Benson to be our Settled Pastor. Andy was escorted back to the Sanctuary to rising applause. After brief comments by the Pastor Elect, Amy Emerson made the motion at 11:45 AM, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

The Moderator thanked the Pastoral Search Committee, for their diligence. They first met in March of 2008 to begin the search process.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Stewart, Church Clerk

2009 INTERIM MINISTER'S ANNUAL REPORT

With deep joy and satisfaction I offer this annual report as your now former interim minister. It's still astonishing to me that I had the good fortune to spend fully two years among you. Yet 2009 has been particularly gratifying as I watched you call a settled pastor, an event for which I had been working since beginning ministry with you in November of 2007.

From a fiscal perspective, 2009 was quite remarkable. The year began with a substantial projected budget deficit at a time when the economy was still deteriorating. However, new fundraising efforts and a higher level of giving among church members helped meet the projected shortfall. 2009 was also notable in that, despite the fact that many are still struggling financially, the pledging goal for 2010 was not only met but greatly exceeded, further reducing an even steeper budget gap foreseen for the current year. In short, 2009 has proved a pivotal year in which this congregation demonstrated its generosity and its confidence in the direction the church is headed.

It is significant to me that, in such difficult financial times, you should increase the hours of your Director of Children's Ministries. Common sense might have dictated, at best, a cap on compensation for your DCM and other staff members. Instead, church leaders recalled the strong recommendations outlined in the congregation approved PATHs Report and reaffirmed your commitment to children and youth by expanding the DCM's hours. I commend you for your courage to stretch further and dig deeper, and I fully expect a rich return on investment for your efforts.

One of the endeavors I was particularly grateful to be a part of this year was the Meeting House Bicentennial. I enjoyed digging into the history of this church's building and, along the way, unearthing the history of its former people, values, and theological understandings. It was a particular joy to commune with the spirit of the Rev. Thomas A. Merrill! The celebrations of this past spring, including the Sheldon Museum exhibit opening, tours of the building, evening lectures, a moving concert, and a special worship service on Pentecost Sunday, combined to do full justice to the significance of the church's architecture, the remarkable people who got the place built, and the prominent role of the building and the congregation to which it's been home for two hundred years. Thanks to some dedicated historians and devotees of this unique edifice who made our time of celebration possible — Glenn Andres, Nancy Rucker, Barbara Wells, and Maureen Williams.

I also enjoyed participating in two education experiences this year. This summer I led two evenings of conversation with parents about the challenges of contemporary parenting and how our faith can inform how we go about it. These "Faithful Parenting" sessions, involving a dozen or so church members, were filled with practical wisdom, thoughtful reflection on our faith, and plenty of laughter. This year I also wrapped up several months of lively and interesting meetings with the six young people who participated in the Confirmation process. All six participants — Nick Marshall, Ben Marshall, Sydney Dalton, Cheyenne Shute, Carlie Wright, and Hannah Kraus — were confirmed and joined the church in June. More important, during the course of our film-based discussions and during the reading of their personally crafted Faith Statements, they reminded me and others how much our young people have to offer, why youth ministry is so important to the life of the church, and why it's so rewarding to do it.

I have had the opportunity on several occasions to praise the Pastoral Search Committee for its dedication and persistence. I remember this committed group of church members again here, however, for two reasons. The first is that they have done their work with extraordinary diligence and faithfulness. Together they listened, reflected, reality-tested, and prayed. At every turn they did their work completely and well. The second reason that I recall their work is that they are the standard by which I will measure all other Search Committees with which I may work in the future. I am confident that they have served this church well and that, in the vital ministerial leadership of Rev. Nagy-Benson, the evidence of their faithfulness will be known for many years to come.

I've spent two years working alongside some of the best colleagues I have every known. In April, the church recognized Joyce Foster and her 25 years of faithful service with the church as Office Manager. Having worked closely with Joyce for two years, I have formed a deep appreciation for her invaluable contribution to church life and a respect for her competence and professionalism. I can't express how pleased I was to be able to help celebrate her unique ministry. Since he carries on his work almost always in the background Mal Chase rarely receives the credit that is due him as Facilities Manager. I lift him up here, however, because on a nearly daily basis I was grateful for his dedication to keeping the church's physical plant running smoothly and his unwavering good humor that kept my spirits up. I have been continually amazed with the very fine musical accomplishments of our organist, Jeff Buettner, and the fresh ideas and approaches that our Music Director, Jessica Allen, has brought to the church's music program. Individually, they are gems; together they are the crown jewels. May their extraordinary gifts continue to enrich this congregation's worship life for a long time to come! Finally, I'd like to recognize Jennifer Smith's contributions as Director of Children's Ministries. It has been delightful to see her grow into this position, taking her already considerable skills and knowledge and applying them to the religious education and spiritual formation of our young people. I have no doubt that she will continue to develop her expertise as time goes on, further stabilizing and enlivening the church's ministry to children and youth. My sincere appreciation goes to these and other teammates unnamed who joined with me in faithful ministry.

I conclude this report with thanks and more thanks. Thank you for demonstrating the good-will, compassion, and right spirit that can abide in the healthiest of congregations. Thank you for showing me how the liveliest congregations can continue to reach out in powerful mission that is innovative and that makes a difference. Thank you for reminding me that the mutual ministry of lay and ordained is the key to vital church life. Thank you for your often expressed appreciation of my ministry and its contribution to the life of the Middlebury Church. Above all, thank you for two of the very best years in ordained ministry that I have known.

May blessings be upon you as you take your next faithful steps together with new ministerial leadership.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Jonathan New,
Former Interim Pastor

ANNUAL REPORT

Rev. Andrew Nagy-Benson

January 6, 2010

Today is my thirty-seventh day as pastor of this congregation. One month, one week, and one day is not a long time. What follows, then, is less of an “annual report” than a medley of first impressions and forecasts.

Worship

It has been said that if a church gets Sunday morning right, everything else will fall into place. That may be an overstatement, but I appreciate the suggestion that worship lies at the center of a church community’s life. If worship is strong and vital, then it will inform how we live as individuals and what we do as a community. I am grateful to the lay readers, to all involved in the Christmas Pageant, and to Jessica, Jeff and the choirs (vocal and bell). Your efforts in recent weeks have contributed a great deal to our worship experience. Also, I want to express my appreciation to the Deacons for guiding me through Advent and Christmas services.

Pastoral Care

Over the past several weeks, I have had the privilege of serving two bereaved families, leading a holiday worship service at Porter Rehabilitation, and delivering Christmas baskets to many elders of the church. With Advent and Christmas seasons behind us, I expect to have more time to visit members of the church, particularly the homebound.

Education

Teaching has been an important part of my pastoral ministry. I look forward to bringing my love of the classroom to this congregation. In the coming months, I will be offering a weekly adult education class during daytime hours. This will be to complement the Monday evening classes that are already in place.

Colleagues

Joyce, Jennifer, Jessica, Jeff and Mal are not only a pleasure to work with, they are also exceptionally good at what they do. One does not need to be here long to see the extent of their commitment and competence. I feel fortunate to work alongside each of them.

Youth Group

Earlier this week, I sent a letter to prospective Youth Group members, students in grades 9 through 12. Our first meeting will be held on the evening of January 17. I am eager to build on the excellent work that Jennifer has done with our youth, and I am confident that by the end of this year the congregation will have reason to celebrate a vibrant and service-minded senior high youth group.

Names and Faces

From the first Sunday of Advent to today (Epiphany), I have met many church members. I am in the process of learning your names. Thank you for bearing with me. Name tags help. So do re-introductions. Might I also suggest that we produce a new Photo Directory in 2010? I know the Nagy-Bensons would appreciate it, and I have a feeling that other newer members would, too.

It has only been thirty-seven days, but each morning I wake up and thank God for the joy of serving this congregation. What began as a conversation with a warm and dedicated Pastoral Search Committee has become an opportunity to help lead a warm and dedicated congregation. I look forward to what God has in store for us in 2010 and beyond.

Grace and Peace,
Andy

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE 2009

Having defined the Pastoral Relations Committee's role and tasks at the end of 2008, the group moved forward in 2009 in discussions with Interim Minister Jonathan New, first in terms of his lengthening stay as Interim and then with regard to his departure in mid-November. On November 2 the PRC conducted an "exit interview" with Jonathan, asking questions developed by the group and circulated to Jonathan prior to our meeting. A copy of the interview will become part of the church archives and will be available to our incoming Settled Pastor.

Additionally, a copy of the PRC's definition and tasks was requested by, and circulated to, members of the Search Committee for use in their work.

Members: Steve Bliss, Jackie Davies, John Emerson, Joyce Haggarty, Katharine Scribner, Bonnie Stevens, Chair

PERSONNEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Personnel Advisory Committee (PAC) was authorized by the Church Council on June 23, 2004 at the same time that the council adopted the Personnel Policies. PAC has three members, each serving 3-year terms on a staggered basis. Members for this year have been Bonnie Stevens, Dottie Neuberger and David Hallam.

During this year PAC had no agenda or requests for clarifications and therefore did not meet.

David Hallam, Member (2009)

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE 2009

The committee held its first meeting on March 3, 2008, and its last meeting on August 28, 2009. The Search Committee met 36 times in 2008 and 30 times in 2009 for regular 2-hour Tuesday evening meetings, and several briefer meetings were also called. We reviewed complete pastoral profiles for 84 applicants, and we heard sermons from, and had conference calls with, around 10 applicants. The Committee met several strong applicants face-to-face.

In July 2009, the Committee advanced a unanimous and enthusiastic recommendation to the Church that we call The Reverend Andrew Nagy-Benson to our church as settled pastor. Pastor Andy and his family visited Middlebury on the weekend of August 29-30, attended a Saturday evening all-member dinner, and Pastor Andy then led the Sunday worship service.

At a formal meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, August 30, the church voted unanimously to call The Reverend Andy Nagy-Benson as settled pastor. Pastor Andy assumed responsibilities during Thanksgiving Week, and he led his first regular worship service on Sunday, November 29.

The members of the Pastoral Search Committee benefited from the constant support of the congregation, as well as much patience and the expressed appreciation of our members. The Committee is profoundly grateful for the wonderful blessing that is the outcome of our search, and we are optimistic about Pastor Andy's leadership and about the future of our Church and this faith community.

The Pastoral Search Committee

Margaret Carothers (Co-chair), John Emerson (Co-chair), Adrienne DeLaney, Peter Karpak, Nick Marshall, Diane Munroe, Peter Nelson, and John Wallace

CHURCH COUNCIL

A bicentennial celebration in May, and the expectation of a settled minister, were the two bright lights that encouraged Council members to remain cautiously optimistic as we entered into 2009 while facing a \$16,002.00 deficit and difficult economic times throughout the country.

Fun activities, out of the ordinary, were:

April 5 - Celebration of Joyce Foster's 25 years of devoted employment and a celebration with Bill and Kerrin Warren, as they were moving to MA.

May 16 - A special Bicentennial Celebration Concert conducted by Jessica Allen.

May 30 - A program around the history of our church (The Meeting House) with Glen Andres and Nancy Rucker.

May 31 - A church service and potluck luncheon on the day of the 200th birthday.

Aug 29 - The introduction of Pastor Andy Nagy-Benson and his family at a barbecue chicken meal.

Aug 30 - The unanimous vote to call Pastor Andy as our settled minister.

Nov 14 - The farewell celebration of Rev. Jonathan New's two-year term as our interim minister.

Nov 29 - Pastor Andy's first official church service.

Three fundraising projects, centering around our Bicentennial Celebration, were scheduled in an attempt to satisfy the budget deficit. The projects included the Bicentennial Concert on May 16, a cash prize raffle with winners drawn on May 31 at the pot luck, and the ongoing sale of canvas handbags with a Woody Jackson print of our church. These three projects produced a profit of \$8,919.28.

Council continues to be the clearing house for suggestions and recommendations from the Boards, Committees and individuals, including money procedures and policies. We are always concerned about being financially able to satisfy all budgeted obligations while committing to added expenses. Members should know that we appreciate all individual personal views and often there are multiple discussions before a decision is made.

We endorsed the Board of Christian Development's recommendation to increase the Director of Children's Ministries hours from 12.5 per week to 20 per week. The increased numbers of youth, the added projects, and reviewing our long term goals as written in PATHS, were all discussed.

We endorsed the wage increase for our Church Office manager, after carefully up-dating her job description, which clearly showed the added responsibilities she had been doing, including a category of assistant to the minister, and, a need to make wages comparable to similar positions in town.

We endorsed distribution of a letter to clarify the understanding re: same sex marriage and the change in VT laws.

A special thanks and appreciation to our reliable and dedicated staff who carried us through the year without any unexpected resignations. Rev. Jonathan New exceeded our expectations as an interim minister, and was very flexible with the needed extended time, while the search process proceeded.

A warm welcome to our settled minister, Rev. Andy Nagy-Benson and his family; also, to Carlie Wright and Cheyenne Shute, our new Nursery Care providers.

A settled minister, increased pledge amounts, special deficit gifts, balanced budgets, continued missions; including temporary housing, emergency housing, Friday suppers, noon lunches, a planned high school youth group, are reasons for entering 2010 with optimism and excitement.

In summary, there are no adequate words to describe the appreciation for everyone working together as a team. Thank you one and all.

Russell C. Carpenter, Church Moderator

MEETING HOUSE BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

In 2009 the congregation celebrated the Bicentennial of the completion and consecration of its Meeting House. Throughout the year there were a number of events honoring this landmark in our history.

In late March an exhibit curated by Barbara Wells and Nancy Rucker opened at the Henry Sheldon Museum. It featured documents and photographs from the collections of the church and the museum illustrating the history of the Meeting House and the lives of three of its founders, Gamaliel Painter, Thomas Merrill, and Seth Storrs. Panels prepared by Prof. Glenn Andres illustrated the relationship of its architecture to earlier buildings in England, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. The exhibit, which ran through the end of June, drew visitors from the church and the community.

In May, a concert of American music directed by Jessica Allen featured singers and instrumentalists from the choir, the church and the community. The program included an Ode written by Samuel Swift for the consecration of the Meeting House in 1809. It was sung, as it was originally, to music from a hymnal published in 1807, and in a modern version for chorus and small orchestra commissioned by the choir and composed by Jessica's brother Jeremy Allen.

On Sunday, May 31, the date of the building's consecration in 1809, interim pastor Rev. Jonathan New conducted a special service of rededication. Rev. Pamela Lucas brought greetings from the Vermont Conference, and former pastor Rev. David Andrews spoke. Messages from Rev. Wallace Anderson and Rev. Tinus Riekert were read.

That weekend also included tours of the sanctuary and steeple, a tea at the Community House hosted by Maureen Williams, and a program of talks by Glenn Andres on the history and significance of the Meeting House's architecture and by Nancy Rucker on some of its founders.

Articles in the Addison Independent, Burlington Free Press and Rutland Herald drew attention to the Bicentennial. During the summer and into the fall, tours of the sanctuary and steeple drew members of the church and community, as well as visitors from farther away. A tote bag with Woody Jackson's colorful illustration of the building was a souvenir of the celebration.

Many thanks to everybody who participated in the celebration by performing in the concert, leading tours, helping behind the scenes, or purchasing tote bags. Our third century has begun.

Glenn Andres, Nancy Rucker, Barbara Wells, Maureen
Williams, and Rev. Jonathan New

CHURCH HISTORIAN

During the last decade of the 20th century and the first decade of the 21st century, this congregation has experienced some changes as well as strengthening of our covenant. Passage of time brings an historical perspective to events and experiences we share.

The Meeting House Bicentennial Committee (see their report) has drawn our attention most effectively and successfully to the history surrounding our beloved church building as we celebrate 200 years of use of it for worship.

Church Historian Stephen Freeman, author in 1990 of “A Bicentennial History”, concluded the closing chapter of his books with these thoughts:

“Today we look back with gratitude for the rich heritage which we have received from our forbears. . . . The present is but an instant. As the next century opens before us, we humbly ask God’s guidance and help.”

Barbara A. Wells
Church Historian

BOARD OF DEACONS

The Board of Deacons consists of 12 members who each serve 3 years (4 new people each year). In 2009, the board only had 11 members, but functioned well thanks to all board members taking on extra duties.

The 2009 Deacons consisted of the following members: Russ Carpenter, Shannon Gleason, David Manner, Jeff Munroe, Alice Munson, Bill Perkins, Nancy Rucker, T.J. Springthorpe, Ruth Stewart, Janet Winkler and Jim Wright.

In October, Bill Perkins moved to Colorado and resigned from Deacons. The Board was fortunate to have Gail Regan immediately fill Bill’s unexpired term.

The on-going activities of the Board of Deacons center around Sunday morning worship. Deacons, usually working behind the scenes, coordinate with the minister, the choir director, the organist and any other person/group participating in the worship to ensure a smooth flowing service each week. The most visible responsibility of the Deacons is weekly ushering duties, but Deacons also prepare and serve communion, recruit lay readers, fill the pulpit when the minister is out of town, provide guest organists when the organist is out of town, work with the minister to develop the Sunday morning worship service, and oversee the music department.

In an effort to get more youth involved with in the service, Deacons have joined forces with Jennifer Smith, Director of Children and Youth Ministries in a “Youth Deacon”

program. Jennifer identifies 2 youths for each Sunday that work with the ushers handing out programs and lighting the candles. This program has received very positive feedback as the congregation seems to enjoy seeing and meeting the youth.

In 2009, the Deacons were asked to fill the pulpit 7 times. Rev. James Davis, Rev Alan Bond, Rev Larry Yarbrough and Rev Diana Scholl led us in worship this year with the other 3 Sunday's being lay-lead services prepared by Rev. Jonathon New.

The Deacons also volunteered to coordinate and supply the advent candle lighters this year as Rev. Andy started the first day of Advent.

The choir commissioned Jessica Allen's brother to write an original piece of music for the church's Bicentennial and the piece was performed during the Bicentennial celebration.

In July, the Deacons sponsored the annual Texas Falls Hymn Sing. 19 members of the church attended and 4 members of the Rochester Church spontaneously joined our group. The Rochester group asked if we would invite their church to next year's hymn sing.

In 2009, Deacons made two minor tweaks to the Sunday morning worship. 1) Ushers now bring a microphone around during joys and concerns so that all in attendance may hear and 2) food baskets are available every Sunday, not just the last Sunday of the month.

The Board of Deacons is looking forward to working with Rev. Andy in 2010 as we discuss the various aspects of worship and may try some new things on Sunday morning!

Respectfully submitted,

David Manner,
Chairperson, Board of Deacons

2009 MUSIC PROGRAM
Jessica Allen, Music Director
Jeff Buettner, Organist
Mal Chase, Hand Bell Coordinator

The phrase “abundance of activity” comes to mind as I contemplate the wealth of music presentations at The Congregational Church of Middlebury in 2009. The voice choirs, hand bell choirs, organist and many instrumentalists from the church (and some from the community) presented Preludes, Introits, Anthems, Offertories, Postludes, and periodic Benediction Responses within weekly services. In the latter months of the year, September-December, more instrumentalists and vocal soloists were invited to participate in services, and were integrated into the regular music offerings. This is something I hope to continue in 2010 as we think creatively about engaging more people of varying ages and talents in the music programs of the church.

The adult voice choir blossomed to nearly 30 people during Advent, and I hope for continued growth from within the church, and by inviting students from Middlebury College to join on a more regular basis in 2010. The choir moved down from the balcony to sing on the main level of the sanctuary during the fall months of 2009, and it seems that this is a positive transition for the singers and congregation.

The adult bell choir continues to be led by Mal Chase, who has been very generous with his time in this endeavor. The adult bell choir has performed as a two-octave (8 ringers) or three-octave ensemble (11 ringers), and played service Preludes throughout the year, Offertory on Christmas Sunday, and pre-service and service music on Christmas Eve. They are hoping to add to their membership in the coming year so that they have a comfortable group of 11 ringers ready at any time.

Music opportunities for the children of the church have been plentiful in 2009. We have continued to offer Junior Choir (under my direction) and Youth Bells (under the direction of Mal Chase) on an alternating schedule after church on Sundays for ages K-6, and older for bells. The youth bell choir played in a service mid-spring and continued to rehearse in the fall. They will be resuming their rehearsals in the New Year and hope to perform before Easter. The Junior Choir sang the Introit and Anthem for the 4:00 PM Christmas Eve service, which was an opportunity new to them this year. About a dozen children participated.

The Junior Youth Group of 7-9th graders worked together in collaboration with me to create a band of piano, flute, drum and voices for the Music Sunday event on October 25, 2009. They seemed to enjoy the process of putting this together, having some input regarding what instruments should be used and learning what it takes to perform together as an ensemble.

In addition to the music presented in weekly services in 2009, there was greater church and community collaboration for the following events:

Music Fundraisers:

February 1, 2009 – Organ Recital by Jeff Buettner and David Neiweem; raised \$231

May 16, 2009 – Bicentennial Celebration Concert with Choir and Orchestra; raised \$1,800 in private contributions for commission of a choral/orchestral work by Jeremy Allen and for the purchase of other special music for the event; raised \$1,347 (at event)

Funds raised for the church as a result of the music program totaled more than \$3,300 in 2009.

Other Special Music Events:

October 25, 2009 – Music Sunday (also Stewardship Sunday) involved more than 40 musicians from church and community, children, youth and adults.

October 31, 2009 – Hand Bell Skills Workshop (hosted by our church) drew ringers from all over the state of Vermont.

December 24, 2009 – Christmas Eve Prelude Music (beginning at 7:00 PM) involved more than 40 musicians from church and community, youth and adults.

We could not have offered such a rich program year without the enthusiasm, dedication and additional time spent by Jeff Buettner, Mal Chase, Amy Emerson and Nancy Rucker.

Submitted with hopes for another great year,

Jessica Allen

Music Director

BOARD OF PASTORAL CARE

The Board of Pastoral Care has the responsibility of assisting members in need. Organization is critical. In order to manage all the duties, each member of the board volunteers to oversee one or two responsibilities.

Cards are sent frequently to celebrate birthdays or births, to encourage those who are ill, and to support those who are grieving. We continue to distribute flowers and plants following the Sunday Service as well as the plants placed in the sanctuary for special occasions such as Easter and Christmas.

We celebrate each member who has achieved 80 years or more by delivering fruit, flowers or a birthday cake in honor of their special day or sometime during the month with a group lunch at an area restaurant. The board is always available to provide receptions for funerals or other occasions. The support from the Women's Fellowship and the many generous offers of cookies, set-up and clean-up help from members of the congregation assist us tremendously. We thank you.

During the quarterly services at Helen Porter Home Health and Rehabilitation, we assisted Reverend New and then in December Pastor Andy. Christmas bags were filled and delivered to over twenty church family members. The Baskets had lots of special homemade touches. A special thanks to the children who made homemade cards. Meals have been provided when needed for members who might be experiencing temporary difficult times in their lives.

Diana Cotter
Chair

BOARD OF MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS

Our board has worked on publicity for various events, New Member classes, *Church Matters* publications, Greeters, and Simple Suppers for Six Plus.

Leanna Maglienti, with help from Cathy Chase, has edited the *CHURCH MATTERS* and will continue to do that for the foreseeable future. YEA! Our web site is continuing to be handled by Norm Hadley. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Have you checked it out lately?
www.midducc.org

Rev. New conducted training during several Board meetings on welcoming visitors into a church setting.

New Member gatherings occurred in Rev. New's office a couple of times this year. With a settled pastor here we expect the January 24th gathering to be large as there has been considerable interest.

Simple Suppers for Six Plus was divided into groups with a leader. These have been great ways to get to know some of our fellow church friends.

Nancy Foster has done the publicity for various events and will continue to do so. She keeps the lists up-to-date so that a click on the computer sends received messages to many in the news media.

Linda Hadley has done a fine job keeping the "map" current. We would like to find a "leader" in each area to help with connections.

Board Members are: Maureen Williams, Nancy Foster, Cathy Chase, Linda Hadley, Leanna Maglienti, Larry Rogers, and Pat Chase. Linda, Leanna and Pat will be leaving the board but will continue to help where needed.

New Board members for next year are: Meg Wallace, Judy and Tom Jessup.

Maureen Williams and Pat Chase, Co-chairs

BOARD OF MISSION AND SOCIAL CONCERNS

Members: Glenna Emilo, Jean Fifield, David Hallam, Carol John, Mona Rogers, Ron Rucker, Diana Scholl, and Jim Wright.

Going off the board: Jean Fifield and Carol John.

New Board Members: Polly Birdsall, Patty Hallam, Ginny Heidke, and Paige Russell.

Our biggest challenges in 2009 were our reduced budget and a shift in how our budget was funded. In 2008, the BMSC had a budget of \$8000, which was funded from the congregation's pledges. In 2009, our budget was reduced to \$3,500 from the congregation's pledges and the Women's Fellowship, now Fellowship, agreed to give our committee an additional \$3,000. Our total budget for 2009 was \$6,500.00. Our committee had two challenges. The first was to understand where our funding would come in the future. The second was to integrate the Fellowship's desires for their funds into our Board's strategic plan. The BMSC has a representative from Fellowship on our Board, which helped us to coordinate our distribution of funds.

Another goal in 2009 was to understand what percentage of our funds is allocated between local, national and international organizations. We live in a global society and we need to think globally. In 2008, 92% of our giving went to local organizations, 6% to state and 2% to international relief organizations. In 2009, 89% went to local organizations, 4% to state and 7% to international organizations.

The Congregational Church of Middlebury is involved in many local programs which fit the category of "missions." These programs are the weekly Community Suppers, Middlebury Transitional Housing, Emergency Shelter at Charter House and four-day per week lunches.

Here are the special programs that the board supported in 2009:

PinS: Partners in Service with the State offices of "children and families" We held a two-Sunday silent auction. All funds (\$2,442.00) were used for scholarships for foster children to attend summer programs in Addison County.

One Great Hour of Sharing raised \$1,451.00.

Summer Lunch Program at Mary Hogan School: We attended monthly meetings and filled out a grant from the Vermont conference, which sent a donation to the program. Several church members and friends worked at the program for a week. Children were served breakfast and lunch and had a wonderful program of summer activities. This is a great program for the children of Addison County.

CROP WALK: This year Patty Hallam was the county coordinator and they had a successful walk, raising over \$21,000.00.

Neighbors in Need: The church donated \$ 827.00.

Blanket Sunday raised \$556.00

The Children's School, led by Jennifer Smith, collected over 1500 pounds of food in March for HOPE.

We hosted a screening of "The Preacher's Son" in October.

Diana Scholl organized a Hispanic Dinner at the Bridport Church for the Mexican farm workers. Once a month there is a Hispanic Mass and our church was the host for the meal. Thanks go to Chef Diana Cotter and others for the fine food. We plan on making this an annual event.

We continue to do our Mission Moments throughout the year in the beginning of the service to keep our congregation up to date on our efforts in their behalf.

In December, we held an alternative gift fair on the 6th, 13th and 20th. Organizations represented were Habitat for Humanity of Addison County; and 10,000 Villages. The Church School children represented Heifer International and Henriette's Relief Project.

The following is a summary of our distribution of funds for 2009:

HOPE	\$2,016
CVOEO Fuel Fund	\$ 500
Hospice Volunteer Services	\$ 200
John Graham Shelter	\$ 200
Kids4Peace-VT	\$ 184
Leicester Summer Camp	\$ 100
Women Safe	\$ 200
MCCC Housing	\$1,100
MCCC Suppers	\$1,000
Vermont Interfaith Power & Light	\$ 100
Addison County Habitat for Humanity	\$ 200
Clergy Rent Deposit Fund	\$ 200
Henriette's Relief Project	\$ 150
UCC -East Asia & Pacific Relief	\$ 200
Elderly Services	\$ 50
<u>Magicians without Borders</u>	<u>\$ 100</u>
Total	\$6,500

David Hallam
Chair, Board of Mission and Social Concerns

MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY CARE COALITION, INC

Housing Projects

The Middlebury Community Care Coalition, Inc (MCCC) was founded by members of our church in 2005 to manage the financial and legal aspects of Pleasant Street Community Housing and the Community Suppers. As a result of collaborative initiatives taken by the Congregational Church of Middlebury, the broader Middlebury faith community, and Middlebury College, MCCC expanded its outreach in early 2009 to include the Community Lunches and the temporary winter housing provided by Community at Charter House. These new initiatives were a response to the growing economic crisis and the sharply increasing number of individuals and families who need a helping hand. Support from the broader community for MCCC programs increased dramatically in 2009. Over 600 volunteers from the congregation, the community, and Middlebury College contributed over 18,000 hours supporting these programs. The Community Supper and Community Lunch projects are discussed elsewhere in this annual report. This report covers MCCC housing programs.

Volunteer activities with the housing projects included: furnishing apartments at Pleasant Street Housing and the living quarters in Charter House, making improvements to facilities and keeping them in good repair, cleaning apartments/rooms between residents, grant writing, fund raising, facilities/financial management, and resident support. Members of the congregation, the Mission Board, and Women's Fellowship contributed \$2100 in 2009. Many hundreds of items for furnishing MCCC apartments and Charter House have been donated by members of the congregation and community including furniture, linens, and basic supplies. Additional financial and in-kind support has come from other organizations/churches and individuals in Addison County, including the Walter Cerf Fund of the Vermont Community Foundation, United Way, St. Stephens, Memorial Baptist Church, the Methodist Churches of Middlebury and E. Middlebury, the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, St. Mary's and HOPE. \$2782 was contributed by the community in 2009, \$13,158 was received from grants for use in 2009, and residents contributed to the extent they were able.

In the summer of 2009, due to major State budget cuts, MCCC lost its support from the Agency of Human Services. Replacing these funds will be a major challenge for MCCC going forward.

Since the first offering of apartments in October 2005, MCCC housing has provided safe haven and shelter for over 65 families. The structure, security, and financial base this housing provides enabled over 90% of these families to graduate to their own stable housing. All 5 apartments at Pleasant Street Community Housing have been continuously occupied since early 2007. When Community at Charter House opened to residents this winter on December 1, it was immediately filled to capacity with 7 adults and 4 children (a 5th child is expected in late January).

In September of 2008 MCCC purchased the building at 39 N Pleasant Street. MCCC has since undertaken a number of upgrades to the building, including installation of a modern fire alarm and sprinkler system, substantial building upgrades to improve energy efficiency, installation of laundry and storage rooms, and significant improvements to the grounds. The cost of these upgrades was covered by an earlier capital campaign. The operating expense for MCCC housing projects in 2009 was \$72,758 while income from all sources was \$74,444.

Doug Sinclair

COMMUNITY LUNCH

On December 22, 2009 Community Lunch celebrated its first year anniversary. This new program has followed the format established by the Community Supper program. More than 70 volunteers from seven religious organizations have taken turns preparing and serving free lunches to the community. Monday and Tuesday lunches were served at St. Stephen's, and Wednesday and Thursday meals were served in Fellowship Hall. On May 1, 2009 the program moved into Charter House, where we served lunch Monday through Thursday through September 30th. Beginning in October, the Monday lunch moved to St. Stephen's, while Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday meals remained in Charter House.

In March we began preparing and delivering brown bag lunches to HOPE on Tuesdays and Thursdays. In October we added bag lunch preparation and delivery to CVOEO on Mondays and Wednesdays, so that now we send out lunches every day that we serve on-site. These lunches are picked up by clients of the food shelves and provide important nutrition for people who cannot come in for lunch.

We have provided about 4400 lunches this year, including serving about 430 children, 721 take-out meals, and 1356 brown bag lunches. Our attendance has been steadily increasing over the months, so that this winter we're routinely serving 25 to 30 people each day. People now know about the program, and many people are very hard-pressed economically. More important, perhaps, is the growing evidence that folks enjoy coming to lunch. They sit, eat, talk and stay till well past serving time.

Our financial picture has been stable this first year. Our total income was \$5218.00. The sources of revenue were:

- \$1000.00 gift from Community Suppers (19% of income)
- \$2142 donated by religious organizations (41% of income)
- \$1281 donated by individuals (25% of income)
- \$ 795 from Crop Walk (15% of income)

Our expenses amounted to \$4177. All of the expenses were for food and staples directly used for lunches, except for \$150.00 to defray some kitchen work in Charter House.

Our expenses and number of meals served nearly match, so that we could say that we served lunch for about \$1.00/meal. However, that would neglect the crucial role of volunteer hours and donated food. I would estimate that the donations equaled the monetary expenditures, so that in reality we provided lunch for about \$2.00/person.

Ginny Heidke, Coordinator

COMMUNITY SUPPER PROGRAM (MCCC PARTNER)

Thanks to the generosity of the members of this church and the larger community, the Community Supper program has been very successful in 2009. We have served an average of about 90 people and put up 35 takeouts throughout the year with some minor ups and downs due to weather. Thirty-two different groups in the county have provided the majority of the meals with our church taking responsibility for nine evenings, as well as giving additional support to some of the provider groups. Music has been provided by several people including Mal Chase, Mike Fiskio and Natalie Peters – these three just seem to know how to make our guests feel good! Working in conjunction with the lunch program we have been able to make good use of any left-over food, and some times we have run out of food.... Our guests are certainly the most important component of this program but many have made it work well for all by making contributions of food, doing clean-up, washing tablecloths and stocking our shelves by purchasing food at Costco. Our guests always ask me to extend their thanks, along with mine, to providers and to the church for allowing this to happen on a weekly basis. We are fortunate to be able to do this program and both guests and providers benefit.

Dorothy Neuberger, Coordinator

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

Three years ago, an Education Action Team, with input from parents, teachers, and students, crafted a working document for PATHS: The Final Report of the Task Force on Our Church's Future. The document was intended to be used as a guide for our Board of Christian Development, our teachers, and our congregation in guiding the Christian Education program at our Church. Over the past few years, the Board of Christian Development has worked hard to fulfill the items relating to Christian Education in this Report.

Last year the Board of Christian Development came to realize that for the children and youth programs to be successful at our Church, and for us to accomplish the many priorities listed in the PATHS report, we needed a full-time Director of Children's ministries (DCM). Due to budget constraints, this change has not been possible, however, we have managed to increase the hours of our DCM from 12.5 hours to 20 hours a week. This increase in hours has made a big difference in the progress we have made toward meeting the goals of the PATHS report. Our church school and junior high youth group are now active and engaged. Our children and youth are taking an active part in the Church service, and the communication with parents and the congregation have noticeably improved.

Our church school curriculum will be evaluated again this year. We are grateful for the flexibility and creativity of our wonderful teachers this past year. The Board hosted a surprise thank you lunch for the teachers at the beginning of the school year in September. We are indeed fortunate to have such wonderful individuals teaching our children.

An area where we still see a challenge is with our senior high youth. A year ago we lost our youth group director. Our DCM does not have enough hours to take this group on, despite making great connections with the group members individually. Several of the older youth of our Church participated in confirmation class this past year and have stayed connected to the church. But, we need to focus on programming beyond the small amount of volunteer work, such as in the nursery and church school and with helping to videotape the Church services. We hope that our new Pastor will be the link to this important group in our Congregation

Our adult education program continues to be strong. This fall there were two book-study opportunities that were well attended. On the four Mondays during Advent, a program called "Spiritual Centering during Advent," with reflections on the birth of Jesus through prayer, reflection, and music was held. There will be more evening book discussions in the spring as well as possibly some lunchtime offerings for those who find it difficult to get out in the evening.

In an attempt to draw more parents into the adult education program, we had two successful evenings this summer when Pastor-led discussions were held as an opportunity for parents to connect on issues of faith and parenting. Childcare was provided. We hope to provide more opportunities like that for parents to gather and discuss common challenges in the New Year. We are currently planning a Family Night Out. Families will come to the church together one evening and the children will be fed and entertained in Fellowship Hall. Parents will eat together and have a discussion about a relevant topic in the Charter House. Then, parents will join the children for dessert in Fellowship Hall.

We have much to accomplish and hope to keep the wonderful momentum going through 2010.

The Board thanks Jennifer Smith for her hard work, organization and enthusiasm with the children and youth of our Church. We also thank our dedicated Church School teachers. We are so grateful for your time and loving care and guidance.

Finally, we sincerely thank the members of the Board of Christian Development for their dedication to our children, youth, and adult education ministry.

Elizabeth Robinson
Steve Abbott
Co-Chairs

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

We were blessed to see the Church School continue to grow in attendance and welcome new families. A church school calendar was created and distributed to families in August. Church School began with Rally Day on September 13. All third graders received their own bibles. In October a Children's Coffee Hour was hosted in Charter House to allow parents an opportunity to meet the teachers and see the classrooms. The entire Church School met as a group every Sunday for a "Big Meeting" where they shared prayers, celebrations and concerns. During this meeting, they also collected donations for the Heifer International Project. Mal Chase and Jessica Allen continued to offer the children and youth musical opportunities with a Jr. Choir and Jr. Bell Choir. In March, the children and youth were asked by the Board of Missions and Social Concerns to help with the Lenten Food Drive. This was a very successful event for all involved. The Church School ended the year on June 7 with an emotionally charged Children and Youth Sunday focused around the theme of "Faith". During this service, six high school members were confirmed. Upon their confirmations, several youth chose new roles in the church. Some served on boards, taught church school classes, offered nursery care, lay read or helped with the food baskets.

The Junior Youth Group consisting of 7th-9th graders continued to be one of our most active groups. They regularly participated in service projects (Crop Walk, church dinners, rummage sales, food drives, pie raffle, Alternative Christmas Gift Fair, Easter Party, etc.) as well as fellowship activities (bowling, dinner, movies, parties, musicals, etc.). This year officers were elected to serve as: President (Harper Smith), Vice-President (Shiloh Solomon), Treasurer (Jessica Manner), Secretary (Paige Viens) and Historian (Daryl Morrison).

Five Church School classes were offered. The following church members were volunteers who devoted their time to teach the different age levels: Rachel Connor/Hannah Kraus/Tiffany Stowe- Pre-K/K grade class, Cindy Marshall- 1st/2nd grade class, Jill Ruffa- 3rd/4th grade class, Steve Abbott- 5th/6th grade class, Alison Joseph- 7th-9th grade class. Curriculum was assessed and needs were addressed. "Seasons of the Spirit" was ordered for grades 1-4. Meetings with the teachers were held each month. A resource library was created and classroom supplies were purchased.

Jennifer H. Smith
Director of Children's Ministries

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2009

According to the By Laws of the Congregational Church of Middlebury, the Board of Trustees is responsible for the maintenance and care of the physical property of the church, and it has responsibility for the management of all trust funds and endowment funds of the church. With this in mind, the Board accomplished the following projects this year:

ENDOWMENT:

1. The endowment has rebounded from the financial downturn of several years to the point that we are ahead of January 2009 by approximately \$150,000.00. Hopefully our investments will continue to increase in value.
2. The Trustees pledged to contribute from the endowment funds the sum of \$20,000.00 to the operating budget of the church in order to help meet the budget shortfall. This was accomplished by withdrawing \$5,000.00 quarterly. Decisions as to which funds to deplete were made in conjunction with recommendations from the Investment Committee, which is a sub-committee of the Board. At the December meeting, the Board voted to donate additionally the \$11,200.00 income from steeple rental to the 2009 operating budget, again because of the shortfall and needed maintenance expenditures.
3. The Investment Committee has been asked to meet regularly and to submit a quarterly report on our endowment prior to the withdrawal of funds for our pledge to the 2010 operating budget.

FACILITIES

1. A meeting was held with SAS architects of Engineering Ventures to discuss and view examples of projected improvements/replacement of the front steps and deck of the church entrance. This project will be very costly and will have to be delayed until our resources increase. We are awaiting a report from John Tenny regarding a temporary fix for the steps and deck.
2. One room in the Charter House is being rented for office space. The Emergency Shelter rooms are occupied from December until May 1.
3. The Fellowship Hall was painted and refurbished with the help of numerous volunteers, overseen by Mal Chase.
4. A leak in the church roof was repaired and one-third of the roof replaced. Repair of the water stain in the Sanctuary will be done shortly.

5. The Community Lunch program continues to be very successful and now takes place all year. Private sources (Lunch Program, others) purchased a new dishwasher and made other improvements in the Charter House kitchen.
6. Trustee volunteers were requested to oversee six weddings this year; too much responsibility has been put on Mal, the Pastor and Mirzet. This proved helpful but further planning is needed. Charges for use of the church by non-members were increased and equalized.
7. The Thursday Fix-It group consists of volunteers who provide minor repairs to the buildings. Their work is greatly appreciated.
8. We have reviewed our insurance coverage and sprinkler systems because of the changes in usage of the buildings.
9. Problems of maintenance, largely in Charter House, are constant as is the case with most old buildings. Whenever possible, decisions about repair and replacement are made carefully, with emphasis on quality instead of temporary solutions. Future budgeting should include an increase in the allowance for maintenance.
10. I commend the 2009 Board of Trustees for its faithfulness and dedication to making the best decisions. It has been a rewarding experience to work with them.

Adrienne DeLaney, Chairman

FACILITIES MANAGER'S REPORT

As facilities manager I am very fortunate to have so many angels in our church; these angels are always there to help. In many instances, I don't even have to ask them to help. They see or hear of the need, and then promptly do the work. Those who participate in the once a month Thursday morning fix-it crew do an amazing amount of work around the Church and Charter House, working to maintain the quality of our buildings.

I am also very fortunate to have folks relate to me their concerns as to repairs and improvements that should be considered for both building. This certainly helps give a sense of priority to the work that we should consider.

The custodial aspects of the Church and Charter House are taken care of by the Harambasic Family. They have been responsible for the special setups in the Church and the cleaning of both facilities. The increasing number of activities has required great flexibility of their part. I am very appreciative of their thoroughness and promptness.

In 2009, the expense for maintenance for our buildings far exceeded the budget for the year. In large part this was due to a series of unexpected repairs needed for the following:

1. Water from a leaking radiator in the Sanctuary went through the floor and caused considerable damage to the west wall in Fellowship Hall. There were other sections of the walls that showed water damage, but the cause of this damage was not always evident. This was, in part, the reason for the complete repainting of Fellowship Hall.
2. A leak (or leaks) in the slate roof of the Church caused water damage to the ceiling of the Sanctuary; not only did we need repairs to the slate roof, but also to the ceiling.
3. Several floor boards in the west balcony were replaced; the boards had not only split but also the subflooring had given way and no longer supported the floor boards.
4. Two weak spots in the floor of the Sanctuary (near the piano) required repairs of the under floor supports.
5. There was a strong air draft in the area of the pulpit; the north exterior wall of the Church was caulked (where the building sits on the foundation); so far this year, it appears that the air draft has been reduced but not eliminated.
6. There were three radiator leaks in Charter House, two required replacement of the flooring under the radiator; in the process we also found an air draft in the basement under the radiator in Joyce's office, which has been repaired.

In both buildings, there was considerable repair to the sprinkler system – both compressor pumps were repaired, and several pieces of pipe were replaced as they were either corroded or had considerable buildup of salts in the interior of the pipe. There were several repairs to the smaller boiler in Charter House (this is the boiler that provided hot water heat to the east end of the building).

During the year, there were the normal (required) inspections of the elevator, the fire detection systems, the sprinkler system, the four boilers, and the fire extinguishers.

As normal, we also replaced all batteries yearly (clocks, thermostats, electronic locks). The batteries in the hearing devices are replaced only when necessary. The battery in the sound device for the DVD recording is replaced twice during the year.

Mal Chase
Facilities Manager

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Fellowship's year runs from June, 2008-June, 2009. The Officers were: President Marion Cartland, Vice President Eleanor Cline, Secretary Ruth Stewart, Treasurer Becky Fifield, Auditor Amy Emerson, and President Ex-officio Mona Rogers.

The following were Committee Chairwomen: Holiday Bazaar 2008 – Diana Cotter and Mary Smith, Flowers – Barbara Wells, Hospitality – Alice Munson, Key Woman – Maureen Williams, Labaree House (Kitchen) – Becky Fifield, Ruth Stewart, and Alice Munson, and Spiritual Life – Joyce Haggarty.

As we do not meet in the summer, our program started with the Fall-Winter Rummage Sale on September 19 & 20, 2008.

Sunday, September 25th, a Taste Testing at Fellowship Hour using the new Cookbook recipes, was held. Cookbooks were for sale that day.

Sunday, October 19th, a Sunday Family program entitled "Mission Work in Mexico" was held. The Manner family told us about their mission work while they were there. It was very interesting and was followed by apple desserts for refreshments.

November 7th & 8th was the Holiday Bazaar. Moira Fairhurst made a beautiful quilt. Tickets were sold, and everybody wanted to win the drawing.

On December 9th, the MUHS Chorus gave their Christmas Concert in the Sanctuary. Invitations were sent to area churches, and it was open to the public. The chorus group was wonderful, and they look forward to next year. A reception of tea and cookies was held in Fellowship Hall. Each participant was given a bag of cookies to take with them as they left to return to their classes.

January 13th, 2009, we had a Tea and Dessert at Charter House following our business meeting.

April 5th we had a Taste Testing of desserts from the cookbook, and the cookbooks were for sale.

April 17th & 18th was the Spring-Summer Rummage Sale.

On May 5th we had gathered for a Bag Lunch followed by our business meeting.

June 5th, our Annual Meeting, was held at the home of Grace Barberis. Before lunch we were given a tour of her gardens. We then enjoyed our Annual Picnic Salad Luncheon. Everyone had a wonderful time, and we were invited to come again.

I would like to thank the officers and committees for their work to make our year a success.

Marion Cartland

FLOWER COORDINATOR

With ongoing support from members of the congregation, the Women's Fellowship Flower Fund, and designated church endowment funds, the Flower Coordinator helps plan the use of greens and flowers to decorate the Sanctuary.

The Fellowship Flower Committee members share flowers from their gardens as well as their skills in arranging them. We thank Joan Weed, Penny Campbell, Mona Rogers and Heather Viens. We are grateful to Ruth Stewart and Margaret Carothers for the Harvest Table display celebrating Thanksgiving.

We are grateful to our local suppliers: Werner's Tree Farm for creating evergreen roping and wreaths at Christmas, and Cole's Flowers for providing specially potted bulbs and plants at Easter and Christmas.

Thank you to all who are helping to make this program a spirit-lifting adjunct to our worship services.

Barbara A. Wells
Flower Coordinator

REPORT OF MEMBERSHIP

Church Membership, January 1, 2009, including 2 Associate Members	264
Gains during 2009:	14
New Members - Confirmation:	
	Sydney Dalton
	Hannah Kraus
	Benjamin Harris Marshall
	Nicholas William Marshall
	Cheyenne Shute
	Carolyn Wright
Reaffirmation	Rachel Connor
	Jean Rosane
	Robert Rosane
	David Turner
	Laura Turner
Transfer	Nancy Jakiela
Reactivated	Kathleen Heitkamp
	Philip Heitkamp
Losses:	
By Death:	5
	John Gale
	Bernard Stewart
	Elizabeth Collins
	Helen Foster
	Julia Bradley
Transfer:	4
	Kerrin Warren
	William Warren
	Earl Fairhurst
	Moira Fairhurst
Moved to Inactive by Board of Pastoral Care:	7
Removed by Board of Pastoral Care	6
Active Church Membership, December 31, 2009 (including 2 Associate Members)	256
Baptisms:	
Camden Todd Brusius	Nicholas William Marshall
Ava Mae Connor	Christopher Heath Evans Nash
Thea Elizabeth Connor	Michael Finn Evans Nash
Nicholas Garner Gill	

Ruth Stewart, Church Clerk

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We would like to nominate the following members of our church to serve in these positions:

NOMINATIONS

POSITION	NOMINEE	TERM ENDS JAN.
Moderator	Russ Carpenter	2011
Clerk	Ruth Stewart	2011
Treasurer	Mary Williams	2011
Auditor	Marion Cartland	2011
Auditor	Robin Bentley	2011
Historian	Barbara Wells	2011
Church Delegate	Charlotte Chase	2011
Church Delegate	Jackie Davies	2011
Church Delegate	Mal Chase	2011
Alternate Delegate	Larry Rogers	2011
Youth Delegate		2011
Church Council	Ed Williams	2012
	Michele Brown	2013
Trustees	Robert Foster	2011
	Rich Carpenter	2012
	Wade Cobb	2013
	Dick Cramton	2013
	Joan Weed	2013
Deacons	Alice Munson	2012
	Gail Regan	2012
	Muffin Carothers	2013
	Mark Gleason	2013
	Nancy Jakiela	2013
	Jeff Munroe	2013
Pastoral Care	Tom Bechtel	2011
		2011
	Dorie Bechtel	2013
	Donna Carpenter	2013
	Debbie Deering	2013
	Nicole Foster	2013
Christian Development	Charles Jakiela	2011
	Kimberly Cobb	2013

	Tiffany Stowe	2013
	Laura Turner	2013
Mission & Social Concerns	Glenna Emilo	2011
	Patty Hallam	2012
	Polly Birdsall	2013
	Ginny Heidke	2013
	Paige Russell	2013
Membership & Communications	Judy and Tom Jessup	2013
	Meg Wallace	2013
Nominating Committee for 2011:		
Trustees		
Deacons	Alice Munson	
Pastoral Care		
Christian Development	Liz Robinson	
Mission & Social Concerns	David Hallam	
Membership & Communications	Nancy Foster	
At-Large	Mary Jo Champlin	
At-Large	Norm Hadley	

Respectfully Submitted,

Diana Cotter, Mary Jo Champlin, Cathy Chase,
Adrienne DeLaney, Norm Hadley, David Hallam,
Nancy Rucker, Liz Robinson

BOARD, COUNCIL, AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS CURRENTLY SERVING

	<u>Currently Serving</u>	<u>Term Ends January</u>
<u>Church Council</u>	Robert Champlin	2011
<u>Deacons</u>	David Manner	2011
	Nancy Rucker	2011
	TJ Springthorpe	2011
	Ruth Stewart	2011
	Russ Carpenter	2012
	Gail Regan	2012
	Janet Winkler	2012
<u>Trustees</u>	Robert Foster	2011
	Peggy Rush	2011
	Derwin Stevens	2011
	Katharine Scribner	2012
	Len Tiedemann	2012
<u>Pastoral Care</u>	Charlotte Chase	2011
	Carole Cummings	2011
	Diana Cotter	2012
	Becky Fifield	2012
	Ruth Penfield	2012
	Sharon Saronson	2012
<u>Christian Development</u>	Steve Abbott	2011
	Charles Jakiela	2011
	Liz Robinson	2011
	Jeff Ellison	2012
	Sara Marshall	2012
	Pat Sheffert	2012
<u>Mission & Social Concerns</u>	David Hallam	2011
	Mona Rogers	2011
	Ron Rucker	2011
	Patty Hallam	2012
	Diana Scholl	2012
	James Wright	2012
<u>Membership & Communications</u>	Cathy Chase	2011
	Maureen Williams	2011
	Nancy Foster	2012
	Larry Rogers	2012