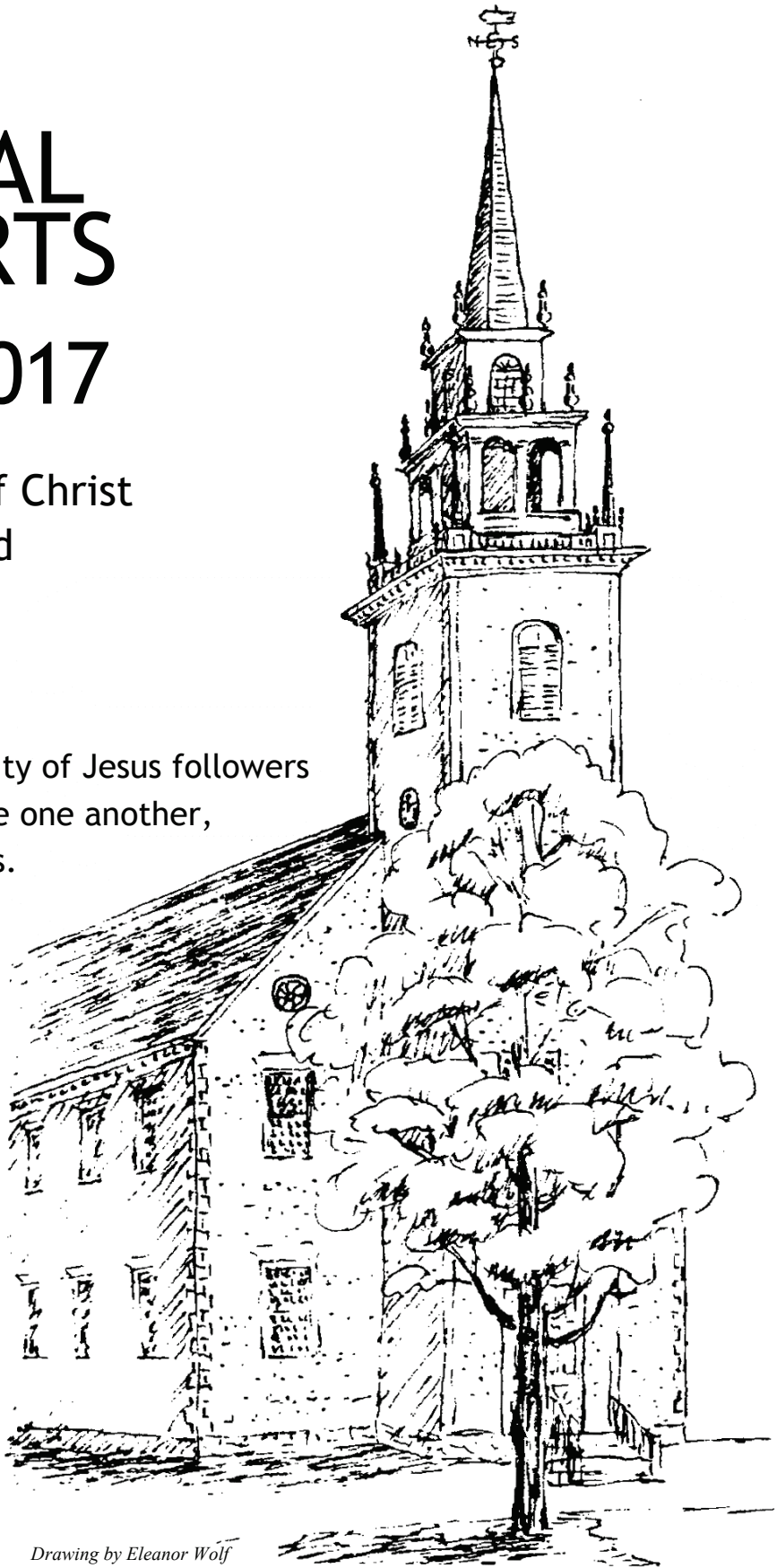


ANNUAL REPORTS

2016-2017

First Church of Christ
in Wethersfield

We are a community of Jesus followers
who love God, love one another,
and make disciples.



Drawing by Eleanor Wolf

Ministers of the First Church of Christ

Henry Smith	1641 – 1648
John Russell.....	1649 – 1659
John Cotton Jr.....	1660 – 1663
Joseph Haynes	1663 – 1664
Jonathan Willoughby.....	1664 – 1665
Gershom Bulkeley.....	1668 – 1677
Samuel Stone Jr.....	1666 – 1669
Joseph Rowlandson.....	1677 – 1678
John Woodbridge.....	1679 – 1691
William Partridge.....	1691 – 1693
Stephen Mix	1694 – 1738
James Lockwood	1739 – 1772
John Marsh	1774 – 1821
Caleb J. Tenney.....	1816 – 1821
Caleb J. Tenney.....	1821 – 1841
Charles J. Warren.....	1835 – 1837
Robert Southgate.....	1838 – 1841
Robert Southgate.....	1841 – 1843
Mark Tucker	1845 – 1856
Willis S. Colton.....	1856 – 1866
Aran C. Adams.....	1868 – 1879
Lewis W. Hicks.....	1881 – 1888
William H. Teel.....	1889 – 1895
William M. Baker.....	1895 – 1899
George L. Clark.....	1900 – 1919
Daniel R. Kennedy Jr.....	1920 – 1923
Carlos C. Rowlison.....	1924 – 1928
George A. Tuttle.....	1929 – 1933
Eugene M. Bushong.....	1933 – 1943
Charles C. Wallick.....	1941 – 1942
Keith M. Jones.....	1943 – 1978
Lowell Q. Haynes.....	1955 – 1964
Howard R. Whitebred.....	1965 – 1979
Albert N. Sherberg.....	1965 – 1977
Harold L. Harrison.....	1966 – 1975
James A. Fung.....	1976 – 1991
Donald W. Morgan.....	1978 – 1996
George W. Halstead.....	1979 – 1989
Barbara S. Noyes.....	1980 – 1982
Van M. Hall.....	1982 – 2006
A. Roger Williams.....	1989 – 1990
Beverly Fuller Berman.....	1990 – 1992
T. Michael McDowell.....	1991 – 2014
Patricia B. Handley.....	1992 – 2000
J. Jey Deifell Jr.....	1996 – 2009
Atessa M. Beauregard.....	2001 –
Pershing Parker.....	2001 – 2008
Deryk P. Richenburg.....	2009 –
Todd Willard.....	2010 –
Thomas Walsh.....	2013 – 2016
Wayne Luman.....	2015 –

NOTE

This listing is meant to include all ministers who have served the Church, beginning with its first settled minister in 1641. Names of colleagues, assistants, associates, etc., are indents. The list does not include a number of persons who served on an interim basis—between regular pastorates. Early records are not always clear with respect to some of these.

Table of Contents

Ministers of First Church of Christ	(Inside Front Cover) 2
Report of the Church Board.....	4
Report of the Board of Deacons	4
Reports of the Servant Leadership Team:	
Senior Minister Deryk Richenburg	4
Associate Minister Atessa M. Beauregard.....	4
Associate Minister Wayne Luman	4
Associate Minister Todd E. Willard	5
Reports of Individual Ministries:	
Church Historian	5
Director of Communications.....	7
Communication	7
Education	7
Finance and Property	8
Personnel.....	8
Preschool.....	8
Property	8
Outreach	9
Outreach Gift Shop	9
Research and Long-Range Planning.....	9
Trustee.....	9
Membership 2016	10
In Memoriam.....	10
Memorials Received	11
Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting Final	12
Minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting Draft	13
Minutes of the 2016 Annual Financial Meeting Final.....	14
Minutes of the 2015 Annual Financial Meeting Draft.....	16
Report of the Nominating Committee	18

Report of the Church Board

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die... a time to tear down and a time to build... a time to mourn and a time to dance..." (Ecclesiastes 3:1-4). These words from this well-known Scripture seem very fitting for this past year.

It was an emotionally mixed year as we witnessed firsthand the inexplicable sovereignty of God's hand: The loss of our beloved David Spicer and other long-time members of our church family; the loss of staff we deeply care about because the church could no longer support them—but God is renewing our faith in Him and our joy in Him as we see new people coming into our church and new members as a result. We also see a larger percentage of our church body taking an active role in building the Kingdom. God has also blessed us with the rebirth of the Marsh Building, which we can use for inreach and outreach and for many different activities. With Marsh completed, it has allowed us to go back to a three-service schedule in hopes of meeting the needs of worship times for more of our congregants.

It has been an honor to serve this congregation in the role as President for the past four years. Even though together we experienced some major changes and tests of faith, God has kept us faithful to His Word. We truly are one of the oldest, if not the oldest, thriving church in the entire country, and that is a true blessing only God could allow. I want to thank all of my fellow members who have served on the various boards and committees. Their dedication and love for this church is very moving, an obvious result of their love for Jesus.

I want to thank all of you for allowing me to serve these past four years as your Board President, and I would encourage more of you to get involved in serving the Lord through our church, so it can continue to be a thriving beacon of God's light in every season.

Paul Breglio

Report of the Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons has served First Church for the 2016-2017 church year primarily by faithfully supporting our worship in the Meetinghouse for Sunday services, preparing and serving Communion, and coordinating all concerts and holiday services. In addition to the direct support of our regular worship, Deacons host funerals, memorial services and baptisms as required.

Our principal challenge this year was to adjust to the challenges of having the traditional and Wind services both in the Meetinghouse. We are looking forward to returning Wind to Keith Jones Hall, where we can more flexibly schedule both services. After considerable deliberation and consultation with the pastoral staff and other ministries, we have decided to begin a three-service schedule, with 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. traditional services, and a 10:00 a.m. Wind service. This schedule will begin on March 19 and will continue for the balance of this year. It is expected that we will return to a two-service schedule for the summer, as usual.

The Deacons Board also has responsibility for maintaining our membership roster and for conducting new member interviews with appropriate follow-up. We are also represented on several other committees, such as Caring Ministries, Good Samaritan, and Music, where issues of joint concern are discussed and brought back, as appropriate, to the Deacons Board.

I would like to end this report by commending the members of this year's Deacons Board for the commitment and enthusiasm of their service this year. Their unwavering support is essential to maintaining the quality of worship that we have all come to expect here at First Church. Thank you.

Brian Flandermeyer
Chairman, Deacons Board

Report of the Senior Minister Deryk Richenburg

When I think of the last year I think of one word: *adversity*. A combination of financial cuts, the Marsh Building, and the death of our beloved David Spicer has made this a very trying year for everyone.

Through it all, you have handled yourselves so well. You have been faithful through the adversity. I am so thankful for you. And I believe God is at work, growing and transforming all of us through this process.

I want to especially thank the staff, Board, and Deacons. I know this has been hard, and I am honored to partner with you on this journey. You have lifted me up and made me look better. Thank you.

The future looks exciting as we will enjoy the fruit of our labors by using Marsh. I can't wait to see what God births in us as we rediscover the building. More importantly, I know God is doing something even greater in us as He uses us to bless the community around us. There are treasures awaiting if we grow in prayer, discern His calling, and live the poem He has for us.

Sincerely,
Deryk Richenburg

Report of Associate Minister Atessa M. Beauregard

What a glorious year to celebrate with my family of faith! For the first time, our church gathered for weekly church-wide prayer meetings throughout the year. Although often small, these gatherings seemed to seep into the marrow of our culture as a church, helping us become more prayer-centered as a faith family.

Several new Life Groups were launched last year, and we provided more training for the leaders. I have had the personal pleasure of participating in a Life Group with several amazing ladies, and can say that it has helped my faith walk tremendously. I hope you will choose to participate in one soon.

How marvelous to celebrate the opening of our stunning, renovated Marsh Building! Many of us had tears in our eyes as we visited the Prayer Room, a dream we have had for our congregation and have longed for over the years. In addition, celebrating our first Wind service in the new space in Keith Jones Hall—with the comfortable seats, the beautiful colors, the many screens, and updated technology—was an incredible blessing. None of this would have been possible without the tireless and gracious work of many volunteers and leaders. One of the high points of the year for me was having the privilege to cook and serve dinner for those precious leaders. I am humbled to belong to such an amazing church.

Starting in February, I went from full-time to part-time status. It has been a blessing to be able to spend more time writing, while remaining a pastor at FCC. This year flew by in a flurry of prayer classes, preaching, pastoral visits and counseling sessions. Every day I grow more thankful for the faithful and generous men and women who give so much to FCC. "May the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge, reward you fully for what you have done" (Ruth 2:12).

Joyfully in Christ,
Atessa M. Beauregard

Report of Associate Minister Wayne Luman

As is always the case, I want to thank the many members of our congregation who share their gifts and talents in so many significant ways. I also continue to thank the Lord for Diane Galloway, who has taken the lead and become more than care coordinator, stepping into the role of a capable care minister, and she continues to grow and excel in this ministry.

DivorceCare and *GriefShare* continue to grow and offer significant impact for Christ to the hurting. The testimonies of those who have been shown the love of Christ through these programs are amazing!

Many thanks to the Prayer Shawl Team, Pastoral Care Team, Extended Communion, Blood Pressure, Stephen Ministry, the Christmas and Easter Angel Flower Coordinator—individuals who faithfully serve our Lord, along with the many other volunteers who make First Church such a caring place.

2016 saw an emphasis on Life Group Ministry, and we added seven new Life Groups where members of the congregation can find community and continue in discipleship. Many of the Life Groups participated in our pulpit series "We're Going to Need a Bigger Boat" and "Press Send."

Our Men's Ministry is undergoing a transition of staff leadership; however, the dedicated men's leadership team can still offer a Men's Advance, and these men show a dedication to keep the men's ministry an active and vital part of FCC. This is being accomplished through the two men's morning Bible Studies, the Iron Sharpens Iron Conference, Men's Prayer Breakfast, and accountability groups. A special thanks to all the men who faithfully serve in this ministry.

2016 was also a transitional year for all the pastoral staff. We have had to adjust to the changing roles and responsibilities of pastoring FCC through a difficult season. However, I do know that Jesus Christ is faithful and true; that He is the unchanging Lord, the Rock on which the Church is built; and I know that if we cling to Him, He will see us through whatever we face and lead us into more than we can hope or imagine. I also know that we are stronger together, and I thank you all for allowing me to serve beside you.

Blessings,

Wayne Luman

Director of Community Development and Caring Ministry

Report of Associate Minister Todd E. Willard

We have had a blessed year in the Family Ministry department here at First Church. Our ministry serves children and youth and their families, and seeks to build stronger ties between all people in our church community.

One of the most exciting things we've been exploring is the *Sticky Faith* study conducted by the Fuller Youth Institute several years ago. *Sticky Faith* is a massive study that was conducted to try to understand what experiences and dynamics help foster a faith that lasts in young people who graduate from high school and transition into the adult world. As many of us know, this is one of the greatest challenges facing churches in our context. I'm encouraged by the results from both the *Sticky Faith* study and the follow-up work presented in *Growing Young* (another resource presented by the Fuller Youth Institute). In order to implement the insights from these works, we've created a *Sticky Faith* launch team that will meet regularly and seek to influence how our entire church community comes alongside of children, youth, and their families. Please keep this team in prayer as we seek to follow God's leading.

Our year has been filled with many exciting adventures. Last summer, we sent a team of 25 to serve in the Somerville, Tennessee, area with our annual Workcamp Mission trip. Our kids love these trips and keep coming back for more. It is a great disciple-making opportunity as they consider the truth of Christianity while serving others in Jesus' Name. We also brought a group of 40 for a week of summer camp at Camp Berea in Hebron, New Hampshire. Although it was a change for many of our kids who had grown accustomed to us having our own camp, God worked in great ways. We're looking forward to continuing both of these summer adventures in 2017. Our Vacation Bible Camp last July was a blast, and you may recall our Meetinghouse being transformed into a magnificent underground cave. More than 100 children had the time of their lives as they learned about Jesus, the Light of the world!

We are blessed to have many amazing volunteers who work with our children and youth on a weekly basis. If I had the space, I would sing all of their praises. Since I don't have the space, please continue to lift these amazing individuals up in prayer. If you know any of them,

please encourage them with a word of thanks for all that they do! We are excited for what God will do in the year ahead through our amazing kids and their families.

Peace,

Pastor Todd Willard

Report of the Church Historian

MARCH 2016 – FEBRUARY 2017

God's love for us and call to us are eternal while we live amid much that keeps changing. This report comes out as we at First Church rejoice at the completion of the renovation of our Marsh Building, a work that had the building closed for much of the past year and now constitutes a big change for the better. The next challenge is to put the newly refurbished facilities to good use.

A less happy occasion, but one with glorious music, occurred on February 11, 2017. It was the memorial service celebrating the life and ministry of David Spicer, who had died on January 18. For 29 years, David served as First Church's organist and minister of music. He was an outstanding musician and a true Christian, who not only provided great music for worship and other occasions, but also inspired and taught hundreds of others—from the very young to the old—often to be better, particularly musically, than they could ever have imagined being.

First Church's dominant theme this year has been prayer. In addition to regular prayer at worship services, there have been special prayer services, and lots of group and individual prayer.

Here is a summary of some of the year's other highlights:

MARCH 2016

March 1: Men's Bible Study met. It's a group that meets on Tuesdays at 7 a.m. for Bible study and prayer.

March 1: Prayer Shawl Ministry met. It's a women's group that meets monthly on the first Tuesday to knit and pray over completed shawls that are then distributed to the sick and sorrowing as a source of comfort.

March 5: Men's Prayer Breakfast met. It's a group of men who meet on Saturday mornings to share breakfast and prayer. Bud Reading is its founder, and David Spicer was a loyal participant.

March 12 & 13: Missions Weekend was celebrated with the theme *The Power of the Gospel*. The guest speaker was Dr. J. Ronald Blue, who spoke on Saturday and at the Sunday worship services. At the Sunday luncheon, missionaries John and Jennifer Burger were the speakers.

March 19: Church Family Easter Experience was held. It was an event looking toward Easter, focusing on an interactive Jerusalem village.

March 20: Palm Sunday was celebrated at Sunday worship services, complete with a distribution of palm fronds.

March 24: Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service, which featured the extinguishing of lights, was held to commemorate the Last Supper.

March 25: Good Friday was celebrated with a worship service in the afternoon and a memorial concert in the evening.

March 27: Easter Sunday celebrations began with an outdoor sunrise service, followed by a breakfast and then three well-attended worship services.

APRIL 2016

April 2: In what turned out to be a multiyear project that began in 2013, First Church's Bylaws Committee continued informing church members of its efforts and soliciting their input.

April 6: Churchwide Prayer meetings held on Wednesday evenings resumed.

April 10: New members were welcomed into the congregation at the 9:30 a.m. worship service.

April 13: A Women's Fellowship Luncheon, a periodic event, was held at the church.

April 17: An afternoon concert, aptly called *String, Pipe and Harp*, was held in the Meetinghouse.

April 24: First Church's Annual Meeting of the congregation was held shortly after noon and the conclusion of the morning worship services. New officers were elected.

MAY 2016

May 1: After each worship service, Tessa Beauregard signed copies of her fifth novel, *Land of Silence*, the story of the woman healed by touching the hem of Jesus' garment.

May 1: Parishioners were encouraged to help the Church's teenagers pay for their summer Workcamp mission trip and summer camp trip by participating in a Rent-a-Crew program—hiring a group of 3 to 5 of the teenagers to help with garden or other household chores.

May 22: Young people who have completed their Confirmation studies were celebrated; the commissioning of five new Stephen Ministers was announced.

May 29: This was the Reverend Tom Walsh's last day serving First Church. A reception was held to celebrate his service with us.

JUNE 2016

June 5: A focus at worship services was on First Church's youth choirs. In the afternoon, high school senior Ben Henderson, a student of David Spicer, played an organ recital.

June 5: This was Heritage Sunday, when all who have been First Church members for 50 or more years are honored at the worship services and at a special lunch in their honor.

June 5: The congregation was invited to sit on two different chairs to help decide, by voting, which of them should be purchased for use in Keith Jones Hall when it has been refurbished.

June 5: Cindy McDowell had a book signing for her book *Dwelling Places*, a daily devotional.

June 5: Because the Marsh Building was closed so that it could be refurbished, the Wind service started being held in the Meetinghouse beginning at 11 a.m., following a single traditional service which began at 9:30 a.m.

June 6: A new 13-week cycle of the weekly *GriefShare* program began.

June 12: The Annual Financial Meeting was held, and the budget for the 7/1/16 through 6/30/17 fiscal year was passed.

June 12: The Parish Nurses Ministry offered free blood pressure readings between the worship services, as they do periodically.

June 15 – August 10: Each Wednesday, beginning at 5:30 p.m., there was a free barbecue (donations accepted) on the church lawn, followed by a prayer service in the Meetinghouse for adults and separate age-appropriate activities for children three years old through high school.

June 16: The first of six Thursday evening meetings was held to study thought makeover, based on a video series called *Me, Myself & Lies*.

June 19: Summer Church School began. Those graduating from high school were honored at the 9:30 worship service. Also, an appeal was made for donations to the Food Bank box in the Wells Area.

June 25 – July 3: Group Workcamp Mission Trip was held for youth ages 14 and older. They traveled to Somerville, Tennessee, to help repair and transform homes.

JULY 2016

July 3: First Church Preschool, which operates on weekdays during the school year, announced that its enrollment for the next school year was at capacity and that there was a need for an additional teaching assistant.

July 24: Wind worship leader Bryan Minerly held a CD signing. The CD includes his renditions of his own faith-inspired compositions, as well as hymns by others.

July 25-29: Vacation Bible Camp, for children from age four through completed grade five, offered many activities under the theme *CAVE QUEST: Following Jesus, the Light of the World*.

July 31 – August 6: Students who had completed grade six and older went to Camp Berea, a waterfront camp where the mission is "to change lives for Jesus Christ."

AUGUST 2016

August 7: As happens on the first Sunday of every month, those attending worship services at First Church were given special envelopes to use for donating to the Good Samaritan Fund—a fund used to help those who appeal to First Church for aid.

August 21: Marcia McCann, who served on the First Church staff for 17 years, most recently as Director of Children's Ministries, left the staff. Her service to First Church was celebrated after the second worship service.

SEPTEMBER 2016

September 4: First Church joined with other Wethersfield churches for a joint outdoor worship service at Wethersfield's Cove Park.

September 7: A 13-week cycle of Wednesday evening *DivorceCare* sessions began.

September 17: Dr. Kenneth Boa, noted author and speaker, gave a Saturday evening talk.

September 18: This was Rally Sunday, with Ken Boa giving the sermon at a 10:30 a.m. combined worship service, which was followed by a church picnic.

September 20: The Tuesday morning Forever Young Seniors' Study resumed.

September 21: Midweek programs resumed. These included Pre-K Kids' Club, Kids' Club, Middle School PF, and The Way for senior high school students. At the same time, a program called Community for Parents was held.

September 25: Regular Sunday activities for church youth resumed, as did Sunday adult classes. There was *Sunday School with the Pastors*, starting with *Uncovering Blocks to Your Destiny* led by Pastor Tessa; Grace Gaillard's *Truth Seekers' Class* on the Psalms; and Glenn Sunshine's class on Ephesians.

September 30: David Spicer and the First Church Adult Choir joined with other area choirs in presenting a concert that opened the annual Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival.

OCTOBER 2016

October 2: This was Families in Worship/Communion Sunday, when Sunday School students in grades 1 and older attend worship services with their families.

October 2: An appeal went out to congregants who were not already in a small Life Group meeting regularly to share the Christian life, to join one. To help support these groups, the Church began making available a new Sermon & Life Group Series entitled *Press Send*.

October 4: A Tuesday morning Bible study for women, led by Nancy Carroll, resumed using *Wonderful Words of Life*, which focuses on "redemption history through the Gospel of Luke."

October 5: A series of Wednesday evening classes began, entitled *He Is Supreme: A Class On Colossians*, taught by Pastor Deryk.

October 8: Bible study and other groups from First Church continued to support South Park Inn in Hartford, which needs help, particularly on weekends, preparing and serving food to the poor.

October 9: The youth Confirmation Class began.

October 15: An afternoon tea was held as part of First Church's long-term support for ACTNOW (Anti Child Trafficking Network Of Wethersfield) and the related Love 146's Rapid Response Backpack program. Money was raised by selling tickets to the tea and, during the event, conducting a live auction.

October 23: Operation Christmas Child began with the distribution of empty shoe boxes to congregants, who filled them with gifts and returned them to the church by November 20 for them to be distributed to children before Christmas.

October 26: Pastors Wayne and Todd gave a presentation at the Women's Fellowship luncheon on *The Power of Grandparenting In A Disintegrating World*.

October 30: The Church's second annual all-ages Costume & Game Night was held, complete with a pizza dinner, board games, cards, trivia, coloring and more.

NOVEMBER 2016

November 11-13: The Men's Advance, a weekend program for men, was held at the Manadnock Bible Conference Center in New Hampshire. Ric Garland was the keynote speaker.

November 12: Congregants joined in a food-packing event in Berlin, Connecticut, for Feed My Starving Children.

November 13: During the worship services, the congregation was reminded that this was the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. An afternoon program called *Surviving the Holidays* was held to help those who had recently lost a loved one cope with the holidays.

November 18-19: *True Beauty*, a weekend program, was held for girls in grades 6 through 12. The program was named *Sent Together to Heal*.

November 20: Third-graders were presented with Bibles at the 9:30 a.m. worship service.

November 23: A Thanksgiving worship service was held on Thanksgiving eve. Because of construction in the Marsh Building, there was no annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner.

November 30: Midweek Advent services began with Communion and an Advent reflection.

DECEMBER 2016

December 11: A family-centered program was conducted along with a traditional Christmas Pageant.

December 18: The annual Christmas Concert featured Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Bach's *Magnificat*.

December 24: The celebration began with a Carol Sing on the church lawn and then a "Happy Birthday, Jesus!" party for children ages 5 to 9. Beginning at 6:30 p.m., there were four candlelight Christmas worship services with glorious music and a message from Pastor Deryk titled "Love Became Visible."

December 26: Volunteers, known as Christmas Angels, delivered to shut-ins and the bereaved the donated flowers that had decorated the church for Christmas.

December 25: On this Christmas Day, there was a single Sunday worship service.

December 28: The first of three successive Wednesday evening Churchwide Prayer Gatherings with praise music was held.

JANUARY 2017

January 16: The Church's annual Bro' Day event was held for boys in grades 5 through 12.

January 29: The annual concert of exquisite handbell ringing, this one called Super Bell XXV, was held in the Meetinghouse.

FEBRUARY 2017

February 4: An event was held off-site that featured roller skating to Christian music with people from both First Church and Hartford's South Church.

February 11: The Memorial Service for David Charles Spicer was held in the packed Meetinghouse.

February 16: The Marsh Building began getting its final touches in preparation for reopening celebrations on Sunday, March 12, 2017.

February 17-19: Snow Jam was held for those in grades 5 through 12 at the Singing Hills retreat center in New Hampshire.

With Thanks to God, Respectfully Submitted,
First Church Historical Resources Committee

Report of the Director of Communications

Through our website (www.firstchurch.org) and the use of social media, we are engaging, encouraging and informing many viewers—and even more who discover our presence and mission through their online contacts and friends.

At this writing, 848 people follow the church's dynamic Facebook page (www.facebook.com/firstchurchpage), and many of those people share posts with their friends. A post in January, announcing the passing of our beloved David Spicer, reached 5,604 different people, partly because it was shared 28 times (including shares of shares).

Our email blast, First Look, has been redesigned and is now weekly, sent out Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m. If you have separate email folders (primary, promotional, social), you may find it in your "Promotional" (or similar) folder, or even your "Junk" folder. (You can reconfigure your emails so you won't have to go to a different folder.) Its content now features a further reflection on the previous Sunday's sermon, along with a few updates on what's happening at First Church. To add your email address to our list, write to firstlook@firstchurch.org or call Pat at the church: 860.529.1575.

I thank Pat Gilbert (bulletin and Web Manager) and Linda Henderson (mailing labels and more) for their indispensable work, and I always appreciate staff members who create highly effective publicity materials for their ministries. In addition, I wish to thank volunteers Carrie and Wayne Plowman (Shepherd's Voice and mailings), Christy Richenburg (graphic design), and Paula Vining (office work and proofing) for their invaluable help in Communications. In addition, I wish to thank Tris Gaillard and the aforementioned Paula Vining for starting a Communication Committee designed to assist in a variety of areas.

Peace,

Dave Gilbert, Director of Communications

Report of the Communication Committee

During the past year, a small committee (Tris Gaillard and Paula Vining) was formed to assist Communications Director Dave Gilbert. We have been holding periodic meetings to come up with new and improved methods to communicate First Church news in a timely manner to our church family and friends.

Tasks accomplished and in progress include: promoting (and educating members about) the *My First Church* section; how to improve our visitors' and members' experiences on our website with a photo album of activities and other areas of church life; and providing a simple how-to card for easy navigation of *My First Church* and the *Church Life* app.

In addition, we are planning new campus and building signage for better direction to events, classrooms and buildings. We have found church volunteers for ongoing management of the name tag board, to help proofread the bulletin and other publications, and for helping to assemble mailings, and we are determining how we might improve the way we introduce new members to our church (and vice versa).

And finally, we are considering how best to keep our church family informed on the planning and execution of the Marsh Building development program, its goal being to maximize the use of our wonderfully renovated facility.

Tris Gaillard, Communication Committee Chair

Report of the Education Committee

Educational opportunities continue to thrive across all ages throughout the week. Adult classes were held Sunday mornings during both worship times. Church school classes for children from birth through Confirmation met each week. Numerous day and evening classes, Life Groups, Bible studies and community gatherings are offered for adults of all ages. On Wednesday nights, families can share dinner together at the church followed by a plethora of small groups whose participants pray, study, have fun, and encourage one another along their faith journey. Our on-campus

preschool, under the direction of Vickie Anderson, continues to flourish, adding two new functions this year: a new Parent/Tot class and a late afternoon after-school program.

Some structural changes were also made this year to streamline accountability, save money and include children and youth under the larger umbrella of Family Ministry. Associate Pastor Todd Willard is now the Pastor of Family Ministry, and Diane Krause is the Family Ministry Assistant. With the completion of the Marsh Building renovation, we will be taking a new look at our vision and mission and consider new ways to strengthen parents, empower youth, and nurture children so that they, too, will know God personally and become effective disciples for building the Kingdom of God.

With joy in Christ,
Helga Phillips, Education Chair

Report of Finance and Property

The Property and Finance Committee oversees the Stewardship, Trustee and Property Committees and works closely with the Finance Office to develop the annual budget. Since first being asked to fill this position, I have seen the signs of God's calling and thank Him every time I can serve in this capacity.

I am looking forward to reporting further and presenting the Fiscal Year 2017-18 Operating Budget at the June Congregational Financial Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Bird, Chairman of Finance and Property

Report of the Personnel Committee

During the past year and through the completion of this church year, the Personnel Committee (Tina Balmer, Peter Franzen, Burt Johnson, David Luce, Tim Penn and Bruce Tooker) has, will, or is in the process of doing the following:

1. Made a decision on how to respond to a new DOL ruling which affected pay, overtime and time-keeping records.
2. Completed a review of health insurance options for church staff.
3. Developed a charter and submitted it to the Bylaws Committee.
4. Served as an early focus group for the Bylaws Committee.
5. Is in the process of considering options for recognizing employees.
6. Will review salary structure and status.

The Personnel Committee is honored to serve as the representatives of First Church members.

The Personnel Committee Chairperson serves on the Church Board as a voting member.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tina Balmer, Chairperson, Personnel Committee

Report of the Director of Preschool

New Beginnings and Year of Grace, Continued

It was a true test of our faith in God to provide all that we needed for the many changes that were made this school year. We stepped out of our comfort zones, switched teachers around, added new classes and a new classroom, and watched God bless us in so many ways. We are so thankful for His faithfulness in bringing children through our doors each day. Because of our *increase in enrollment*, we get to love and serve 104 children in our preschool classes! In addition, some are attending Early Morning Drop-Off, Lunch Bunch, Extended Sessions and Scheduled Late Pick-ups each week.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 is our adopted verse for the school year. My staff has done a terrific job of encouraging and building each other up. We've been intentional "bucket fillers" by sharing uplifting Scriptures, compliments, words of encouragement, etc. We've stressed that a team means: **T**ogether **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore with God as our Coach!

Our TEAM changes: Please check out the Preschool section of the church website for more details: www.firstchurch.org/preschool

- Instead of teaching multiple ages, Traci-Lynn Fox is now teaching our 3s and Phoebe Ostergren is teaching our 4s.
- We added new staff members — Nicole Hannon, 4-day 4s teacher, Gabriella Marandino, p.m. 4s/Pre-K teacher, Seema Anup, teaching assistant to 3s, and Kristin Hacker, teaching assistant p.m. 4s/Pre-K. They have been a gift to us!
- Classes that are offered — **3-year-olds:** 2 days (T,TH) morning and afternoon and 3 days (M,W,F). **4-year-olds:** 3 days (M,W,F), 4 days (M-TH) and 5 days (M-F), 4s/Pre-K p.m. (M-TH) and Pre-K 5 days. We have the afternoon Add-On class (M-TH) for those children needing a longer day.

To connect our families, we hosted a Harvest hoedown in the fall (215 attended) and the traditional Thanksgiving Play and Feast, and we are currently prepping for our Family Fun Night & Art Show on April 25. We hope to share our Art Gallery again with you. We are especially excited to host this event in Keith Jones Hall!

As a schoolwide Outreach, our preschool families teamed up with the Haiti Missions team and collected items needed for their trip. The children were excited to see the photos shared of the children receiving their items. A thank-you to Lisa Breglio and Di Krause for giving us an opportunity to serve with you!

Our morning 4-year-olds sang for the Women's Christmas Luncheon and for the Marsh Building Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for our community. They also gave a Krystal Bell performance during the Super Bell XXV concert.

We send a special thank you to our church community: Lans Anderson worked countless hours laboring to get our new classroom ready for state inspection. We are deeply grateful to him and his support; Chuck and Barbie Robison for sharing their musical talents with our children; Jean Lucas for volunteering her time in the classrooms; and for Kathy Mayer for sharing her sweet dog, Kaydee, with the school, featuring her dog tricks and what it means to be a therapy dog.

We had 2 fundraisers: Kids Stuff Coupon Books and the Pecan Fundraiser. Our school photographer, Tammy Gillespie, donated 10% of her sales to us as well. The monies raised will be used to enrich our classrooms and outdoor space. We send a sincere thank-you to those of you who supported our school by purchasing pecans.

We have two families that were struck by tragedy this year. One family lost their father/husband due to a falling tree crushing his car, and another small child from our school is fighting an aggressive brain cancer. The outpouring of love and support from our school families and staff has been touching. Please lift these families up in your prayers as they face their grief and pain. Pastor Todd has been a tremendous support and is making himself available to them.

As we reflect on and wind down this school year, we are filled with grateful hearts. We have a tremendous preschool "family." We look forward, with eager anticipation, to our 2017-18 school year and are thankful for the returning and new families that will be joining us.

Vickie Anderson, Director, First Church of Christ Preschool

Report of the Property Division

The past year's biggest church (physical plant) project is, of course, the completion of the Marsh Building renovation work. Its reopening is both a relief to those who frequently use the facility and a joy for all as it enhances our ability to spread the Good News of our savior, Jesus Christ.

We thank Bob Keleher in particular for his work overseeing the Marsh project on a day-to-day basis. It has been an increased burden, in light of budget constraints and staff reduction, to maintain the rest of the church. Bob has met these challenges in an exemplary manner.

The new interest in engaging volunteers for projects around the church is an exciting opportunity for all of us to come together in a rewarding manner that goes beyond the work.

Yours in Christ,
Lans M. Anderson

Report of the Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee comprises members Karen Canna, Chip Darius, Marla Darius, Terri Dowling, Jean Koenig, Pastor Wayne Luman, Debbie Morrow, and Larry Smith.

The committee continued to emphasize developing short-term and career missionaries from within our congregation, supporting career missionaries recommended by the Connecticut Consortium and missionaries and other organizations providing direct evangelism, and other disciple-making efforts. These priorities are reflected in the allocation of funds approved by the congregation.

The committee introduced the Love in Action table to engage and educate the congregation in missions work. The table features supported missionaries, upcoming events, local organizations, and ways for the congregation to get directly involved with time and prayer.

First Church's own missionaries: Sam Hollings is serving full-time with InterVarsity at Southern Connecticut State University and part-time at Connecticut College; and Anneli Johnson is serving with CRU in Eurasia full-time, reaching students and young people.

We maintained strong ties with the Connecticut Consortium, including direct representation on the executive committee.

Members from First Church served overseas in short-term missions with MATH (Medical Aid to Haiti), BEM (Bethesda Evangelical Mission) in Haiti, RFA (Restavec Freedom Alliance) in Haiti, International Ministries in Bolivia, and Maranatha Church and Good Samaritan Hospital in La Romana, Dominican Republic.

Locally, partnerships have continued with ABC Women's Center, ACTNOW, Alpha Prison Ministry, Campus Crusade (CRU), Feed My Starving Children, Hartford City Mission, InterVarsity, Love146, South Park Inn, Young Life and Urban Alliance.

We had visits from the Hastys, Burgers, and Sheltons. Johan Gous will present on effective discipleship ("Producing Producers") for Missions Weekend, and local missionaries will also share at the missions supper and luncheon during the weekend.

Submitted,
Chip and Marla Darius, Co-Chairs

Report of the Outreach Gift Shop

The Outreach Gift Shop features handcrafted items from around the world. After being closed for over a year, during the Marsh Building renovations, we look forward to reopening this spring. Our shop has a fresh new look with new merchandise arriving soon.

TWICE BLESSED — A purchase from our shop is "twice blessed"—it not only buys a unique gift for a friend, loved one or yourself, but also provides needed income to a developing world artisan.

The mission statement of the shop is: "to reach out to our brothers and sisters in developing regions throughout the world by providing a market for articles created by economically disadvantaged artisans." We are a non-profit, mission-oriented shop, staffed by volunteers from our congregation, in cooperation with the Outreach Department of First Church.

On behalf of the people in the countries we help, the Outreach Gift Shop Committee would like to thank our patrons for their support over the years. Your purchases have made a real difference in the lives of so many disadvantaged people around the globe in giving them hope and "helping them to help themselves."

If you would be interested in serving in the shop, please contact me at 860.563.8069.

With joy in serving the Lord,
Pat Burns

Report of the Research and Long-Range Planning Committee

The Research and Long-Range Planning Bylaws Team has continued its work to remodel the Bylaws adopted in January 1971. The draft of the remodeled bylaws has been completed and reviewed by legal counsel and has been shared with the Board to be discussed and considered for recommendation to the Membership after the March Board meeting. During the past several months the committee provided preliminary updates with the Board, the Deacons Board and the Nominating Committee.

The Committee continues to recognize that as individuals, we are not all the same, that our needs and our passions are different, and that each of us may hold different views of what is important and what is not. The Apostle Peter reminds us in 1 Peter 3:8 that we should strive to be harmonious, sympathetic, affectionate, compassionate, and humble. In addition, we should be prepared to hear, consider and respond to the views of others in the same way we would like to have our own insights, issues and passions heard, considered and responded to by others.

In September, Research and Long-Range Planning (R&LRP) nominated members for an ad hoc Music Study Committee. The nominees comprised Robert Galloway, Chairperson, with Ruth Luipold, Drew Shattuck, Claire Spencer, Ellen Voth, and John Wieder. The Board approved the nominated team and the committee was formed to consider the future traditional and contemporary music needs of First Church and to make a recommendation for the Board's consideration. The report was presented in February and included a discussion of the role of music in worship, recommendations for moving forward, budget discussion, and conclusions. The Board is considering this report as it prepares a search committee to address the future of worship music at First Church.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephen K. Soderberg

Report of the Trustee Committee

The Trustee Committee oversees the investment of the First Church Endowment and authorizes the expenditure of Endowment funds. Committee members meet quarterly to review portfolio performance and discuss investment strategies as well as upcoming financial needs of the Church.

The Endowment began the fiscal year on July 1, 2016, with a value of \$2,117,178. As of February 28, 2017, the value of the Endowment was \$2,135,690. Withdrawals from the Endowment for the same period totaled \$92,672. There were no new bequests to the Endowment.

The Endowment was changed from a managed portfolio with US Trust (Bank of America) to an unmanaged portfolio with Vanguard Index Funds at the beginning of the fiscal year. This change was undertaken based on a recommendation of the Trustees and was approved by the Church Board. The driving force behind this move was to reduce investment fees charged against the Endowment. Fees were reduced from 1.1% to 0.1%, or approximately \$21,000 based on current value.

The Trustee Committee consists of five members: Bill Jagel, Frank McKee, Richard Geikie, Jon Vining, and Tom Englert. I would like to thank the members for their time, input, and willingness to serve the Church in this capacity.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Englert
Trustees Chair

Membership 2016

MEMBERSHIP — January 1, 2016..... 2087

Members Added:

Confession of Faith	10
Letter of Transfer	1
Reaffirmation of Faith	2
Associate	0
Total Added	<u>+13</u>
Total	2100

Members Removed:

Death	26
Transfer	8
Deacons' vote	0
*Members made inactive by Deacons	0

Total Removed

	<u>- 34</u>
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MEMBERSHIP — December 31, 2016..... 2066



BAPTISMS — 2016

Infant 4
Adult 1

In Memoriam

Year 2016

Irene Wainwright	January 10, 2016
Louise H. Dumond	February 1, 2016
Edna Timpson	February 3, 2016
Jean May	February 19, 2016
Kim Shirer	April 2, 2016
Marjory Heath	May 11, 2016
Chester Willard	May 15, 2016
Kenneth Beyer	May 29, 2016
William Strickland	May 30, 2016
Pierre Gagnon	May 31, 2016
Nancy Clark	June 2, 2016
Carolyn Irizarry	June 4, 2016
Elisabeth Fippinger	June 15, 2016
Martha Zahnke	June 26, 2016
James Doughty	July 4, 2016
Parker Roberts	July 9, 2016
Daniel Maycock	September 6, 2016

Trudy EiseleOctober 4, 2016
Mary MattesonNovember 8, 2016
Richard FormanNovember 9, 2016
Frederick Gibson Jr.....November 10, 2016
Dorothy Church.....November 25, 2016
Oliver MellenDecember 3, 2016
Sebastian DiMauroDecember 22, 2016
Elizabeth Stewart.....December 23, 2016
Elsie ParsonsDecember 26, 2016

Memorials Received

March 2016 - February 2017

Memorial Gifts Fund

In memory of:

Kenneth Beyer

Dorothy Church

Sebastian DiMauro

Trudy Eisele

Jenny Fong

Daniel Maycock

Jacqueline McKelvie

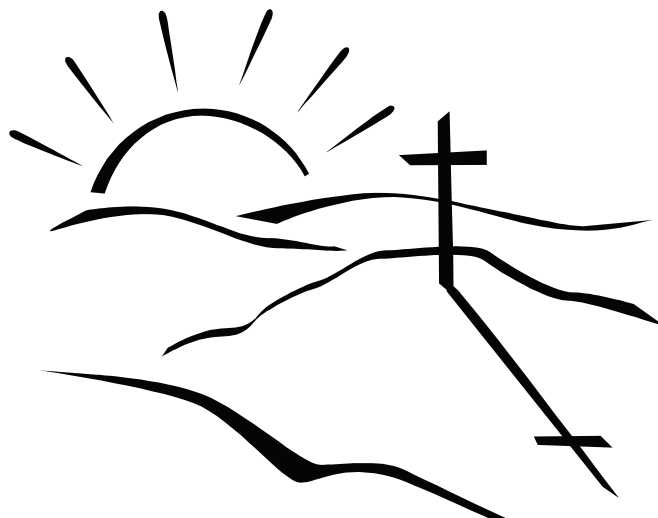
Oliver Mellen

Parker Roberts

John & Louise Rodick

David Spicer

Chester Willard



Minutes of the Annual Meeting First Church of Christ in Wethersfield April 26, 2015 Final

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Paul Breglio at 12:14 p.m.

Reading of the call

- The call was read by Clerk Carol Chase.

Scripture

- Pastor Deryk read Philipians 2:1-11.

Hymn

- *Standing on the Promises of God*, Hymn #306 in the gray hymnal, was sung.

Moment of memory

- Pastor Deryk read the list of 39 members who had passed away during the year 2014.

Acceptance of minutes

- Annual Financial Meeting minutes from June 8, 2014 were presented. There was a motion to approve. The motion was seconded. There were no changes. There was a call for a vote and all were in favor. The motion passed.
- Special Marsh Building Meeting minutes from March 8, 2015, were presented. There was a motion to approve. The motion was seconded. There were no changes. There was a call for a vote and all were in favor. The motion passed.
- Annual Meeting minutes from April 27, 2014, were presented. There was a motion to approve. The motion was seconded. There were no changes. There was a call for a vote and all were in favor. The motion passed.

Old Business: Overview of past year - Paul Breglio

- Paul began with Scripture from 1 Thessalonians 5.
- Paul told the congregation that no matter what the circumstances, he loves coming to this church.
- He praised the following activities that are happening at First Church: Forever Young Seniors; Glenn Sunshine's class; Centurions Program; Wednesday evening classes; Women's Ministry; Stewards; Class led by David and Donna Luce; RADIATE; Dedication of members showing the love of Christ; Love146; Short-term missions to the DR, Haiti and Peru; Prison Ministry; Supporting missionaries around the world through Outreach; Good Samaritan Ministry
- Regarding our brick-and-mortar site, we have about 100 projects going on
- He is looking forward to heading into our Marsh Building Project.
- He thanked our Leadership Team for their dedication and hard work.
- Paul cited our Vice President, Steve Soderberg, for his service.
- Paul made reference to the "\$2/day" letter that was just mailed out to the members.
- He closed with Psalm 84:10-12.

New Business

- The Annual Reports were presented for acceptance. There was a motion made to accept the reports as printed in the Annual Report. The motion was seconded. Buzz Willard spoke in regard to Page 10 - Box Pew Modification - during the opportunity for discussion. John Wieder offered corrections to misprinted numbers in regards to Page 13 - Members Removed: Death 39, Total Removed 49; Membership as of December 31, 2014, should read 2101. There was a call for a vote on the reports as amended. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- Ruth Luipold began by reading Psalm 37:5 and Ephesians 2:10. She then reviewed the work of the Nominating Committee. She stated that the position of Inreach listed in the Annual Report is incorrect. The position is open and will be presented for acceptance at the June 14th Finance Meeting. Ruth acknowledged the current Nominating Committee members and introduced the Vice Chair, Heather Dunn. Heather then read the list of all members whose names are being placed in nomination by the Committee for the 2015-2016 year. A motion was made to accept the names placed in nomination. The motion was seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- Pastor Deryk affirmed the ordination process for Wayne Luman. Wayne is looking to be ordained in the 4 C's. Pastor Deryk made a motion to encourage Wayne Luman to seek ordination. The motion was seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- Michael Bird presented two motions related to the funds necessary for the Marsh Building Project. The first motion presented by Michael read - *In accordance with current law, I move that the Memorial Gifts Fund be designated as unrestricted.* The motion was seconded. There was a discussion. There was a call for a vote. All were in favor and the motion passed. The second motion presented by Michael read - *I move that the First Church of Christ secure a line of credit or a loan up to one million dollars to smooth the cash flow while expenses are being incurred for the Marsh Building construction and the capital funds contributions are being received.* The motion was seconded. There was a discussion. There was a call for a vote. The motion carried with some in opposition.

Motion to adjourn following the Benediction

- A motion was made to adjourn following the benediction. The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous vote.

Benediction and Adjournment

- Pastor Deryk Richenburg ended the meeting with prayer and the benediction.
- The meeting adjourned at 1:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol J. Chase

First Church of Christ in Wethersfield

April 26, 2016

DRAFT

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Henry von Wodtke, Moderator, at 12:27 p.m.

Reading of the call

- The call was read by Clerk Pro Tem Ed Ryszkiewicz.

Scripture

- Pastor Deryk led the congregation in prayer.

Hymn

- *Be Thou My Vision*, page 532 in the gray hymnal, was sung.

Moment of memory

- Pastor Deryk read the list of members who had passed away in 2015.

Old Business: Overview of past year - Paul Breglio

- Paul began by reporting that the church is experiencing a financial slump in giving, with a potential budget deficit of approximately \$300,000.00. In order to reduce the projected deficit, the Finance Committee has recommended that salary and other staff cuts be made to bring down the shortfall to an approximate \$100,000.00 dollars.
- Layoffs have been planned and are in progress.
- No property will be sold. Only layoffs and staff cuts need to be made at this time.
- Paul reported that Pastor Tom Walsh has been asked to take a layoff.
- Paul stressed that no layoffs or salary cuts have anything to do with performance and that all related change is financially driven.
- He thanked Pastor Tom for his dedicated service as well as the Church Board, the deacons, the ministers, and all of the church's volunteers.
- Paul reported that one bright spot in the church's financial picture this year has been the Marsh 2.0 Capital Campaign, and he thanked Brian Johnson, Patti Sicord and Steve Soderberg, and all of the members of that committee, for their leadership related to the fundraising and other aspects of this campaign.
- Pastor Deryk affirmed that the impending cuts are and will be very difficult. He invited Pastor Tom to address the congregation.
- Pastor Tom delivered the following message:
"Lisa and I love you and have been privileged to serve you and serve the Lord with you. We respect this decision and see it as necessary. It is gutsy, difficult, strong leadership. We believe that the Lord has something very special in store for us, which He is calling us to. We look forward to this new season in our lives, will watch for that new door to open, and will eagerly respond when Jesus calls us from the boat. Please pray for us. We love you all."
- Tom's message was followed by a period of questions and answers. Highlights include: A member asked, "When will Tom leave?" Paul answered, "The end of June." A member asked, "Where is the shortfall?" Paul answered, "With giving in general." "Total giving units have steadily gone down." "Giving per unit has gone up, to about \$37.00 per week per giving unit, on average." A member asked, "Why was this not communicated earlier to the congregation?" Paul answered, "Financial results are printed each month in the 2nd and 3rd Sunday bulletins, and giving sharply declined at the end of February 2016." Malachi 3:6-12 was widely quoted.
- Marsha McCann also advised the congregation that she is another staff member who has been asked to make some personal decisions.

New Business

- Heather Dunn reviewed the work of the Nominating Committee. Heather read the list of all members whose names are being placed in nomination by the Committee for the 2016-2017 year. A motion was made to accept the names placed in nomination. The motion was seconded. After discussion, the motion was approved by unanimous vote.
- The Annual Reports were presented for acceptance. There was a motion made to accept the reports as printed in the Annual Report. The motion was seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Acceptance of minutes

- Annual Financial Meeting minutes from June 14, 2015, were presented. There was a motion to approve. The motion was seconded. There were no changes. There was a call for a vote and all were in favor. The motion passed.
- Minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting called to vote on the Reverend Wayne Luman as Associate Minister from June 7, 2015, were presented. There was a motion to approve. The motion was seconded. There were no changes. There was a call for a vote and all were in favor. The motion passed.
- Annual Meeting minutes from April 26, 2015, were presented. There was a motion to approve. The motion was seconded. There were no changes. There was a call for a vote and all were in favor. The motion passed.

Motion to adjourn following the Benediction

- A motion was made to adjourn following the benediction. The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous vote.

Benediction and Adjournment

- Pastor Deryk ended the meeting with prayer and the benediction.
- The meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Chase

First Church of Christ in Wethersfield
Annual Financial Meeting Minutes
Sunday, June 14, 2015
12:15 p.m. in the Meetinghouse
FINAL

Call to Order by Henry von Wodtke, Moderator

- *Mr. von Wodtke called the meeting to order at 12:19 p.m.*

Reading of the Call by Carol Chase, Church Clerk

- *The call was read*

Prayer by Deryk Richenburg

- Pastor Deryk asked Michael Bird to the podium to recognize him as a new father and prayed a special prayer over him.
- Pastor Deryk then led the congregation in a word of prayer.

Hymn #60

- *Great is Thy Faithfulness* was sung by the congregation.

Outreach/Missions Report - Terry Shook, Outreach Chair

- Actual net budget for Outreach in the past year was \$143,780, as shown on the Outreach 2014-2015 Expenses handout
- There will be an increase in this year's budget of \$900
- The question Outreach will be asking each program under its auspices is: Are we working for God's Kingdom?
- The Congregation asked no questions.

Property Report - Michael Bird, Finance & Property Chair

- Reference was made to Page 7 of the Annual Report identifying the Capital Projects done at First Church throughout the year 2014-2015 and those Items Awaiting Funding that we would like to do should funding become available.
- WiFi is one of these projects that has been personally most appreciated.
- There were no questions regarding the 2014-2015 budget.
- The only Capital Project included in the 2015-2016 budget is a Technology Upgrade in the Meetinghouse.
- There were no questions regarding the 2015-2016 budget.

Report on the Marsh Building Renovation - John Davis, Marsh Committee Chair

- To date, we have drawings, designs, permits and a nearly-completed general agreement from the Wethersfield Historic District Commission.
- Chairs for the Capital Campaign Committees have been selected.
- A meeting with Dr. van der Wyden will be occurring this week.
- A wider group of members will be added to support the Capital Campaign Committee.
- Question: Estimated time on beginning construction? Response: We are unsure at this time, as we need bids from subcontractors.

Report on the First Church Endowment - Tom Englert, Trustee Chair

- Pages 5 & 6 of the Annual Report, Fund Balance as of 4/30/15 is \$3,445,345.73.
- There was modest return of 4.08% on the Endowment monies.
- A bequest from Keren Gilbert was received. The family asked that the funds be used to cover any shortfall in the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 budgets and the remaining balance be used for the Marsh Building Renovation.
- There were no questions asked.

Proposed 2015-2016 Budget - Michael Bird, Finance Chair

- As the guiding principle for this year's budget - No large changes were made to the budget due to the Marsh Building Renovation Project. The following items were highlighted:
 - the Offering budget will remain flat (the same).
 - Special Offerings budget did increase due to increased financial giving during the Christmas and Easter seasons.
 - the \$1.4 million makes up most of the funding of the Church's budget, with \$150,000 taken from the Endowment.
- On the Expense side, this will stay relatively flat; some changes are:
 - an increase in the budgeted cost of heat from \$30,000 to \$47,000.
 - the upcoming year is a 27-paycheck year, with salaries being paid bi-weekly; we need to fund the additional pay period.
 - there was a reduction in the Music Staff budget due to the change in the Sunday evening service.

Action on the Proposed Budget – Henry von Wodtke, Moderator

- Mr. Von Wodtke asked for a motion from First Church to adopt the proposed budget for the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 as presented
 - A motion was made and seconded
 - Discussion: Staff salaries, no raise in several years, no raise this year. However, in this proposed budget, some benefits to the staff considered for reduction have been restored.
 - A vote was called. All were in favor.
 - The proposed budget was accepted.

Report from the Nominating Committee - Ruth Luipold, Chair

- The position of Inreach Chair has been filled. Jamie Tinker's name has been placed in nomination.
- A motion was made to accept Jamie Tinker as the new Inreach Chair.
- The motion was moved and seconded.
- There was no discussion.
- The motion carried unanimously.

Other Business - Henry von Wodtke, Moderator

- There was none.

Motion to Adjourn following Benediction - Henry von Wodtke, Moderator

- Mr. von Wodtke asked for a motion to adjourn after the benediction.
- It was so moved, seconded and approved at 12:49 p.m.

Benediction and Adjournment - Pastor Wayne Luman

- Pastor Wayne concluded the meeting by giving the benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol J. Chase

The First Church of Christ in Wethersfield
Annual Financial Meeting Minutes
Sunday June 12, 2016
12:15 p.m. in the Meetinghouse
DRAFT

Call to Order by Henry von Wodtke, Moderator

- *The meeting was called to order at 12:39 p.m.*

Reading of the Call by Carol Chase, Church Clerk

- *The call was read by the Church Clerk.*

Constituting Scripture and Prayer by Pastor Deryk Richenburg

- Psalm 122 was read.
- Led the congregation in a word of prayer.

Hymn #45

- *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* was sung by the congregation.

Outreach/Missions Report - Terry Shook, Outreach Chair

I would like to begin by thanking you, the congregation, for allowing me to serve as the Outreach Chair. There have been challenges, but despite these challenges, our congregation has been blessed. I would like to thank all of the Outreach Committee members who have served. And as we proceed, we continue to ask ourselves this question: What can our congregation do to honor the Great Commission?

Taking a look at the budget, we have areas that we cannot fund and we need to. The budget numbers for next year will be more severe than in the past. We are supporting several new missionaries. We have a member from our congregation going to Turkey to serve in the mission field. The Frank Metcalf Scholarship has been funded at \$13,000/year. An area of savings will come from not having a Peru trip next year. As you look at the finance numbers, you may now see them more differently than you have in the past. We have been living beyond our means, and we need to now look at the numbers today as a covenant for providing these funds.

Property Report

- **Marsh Building Update by Paul Breglio** – It doesn't look like much is going on on the outside of the building, but a lot has been going on inside. Some changes include: Abatement, mock-up windows, excavation for the new stairwell. The masonry pointing begins next week. There have been some unforeseen surprises: one is the vaulted ceiling that we were going to maintain in KJH. This ceiling contained asbestos, so we had to remove it in its entirety. A new design is being looked at that will impact the budget, but before a decision is made, a few different scenarios have to be looked at. Stairs on the Marsh Street side are going to be replaced. We thank the team overall as they have given up their time; we thank Bob Keleher, who is our go-to guy along with David Luce. As new issues come up, we will look at them and make positive decisions regarding their outcomes. We are very happy so far with the work that has been done.

Questions from the floor were addressed and answered. Our estimated date of completion is the first of the year, January 2017.

- **Capital Campaign Update by Stephen Soderberg** – On behalf of Brian Johnson and Patti Sicord, I want to thank all who participated on the committee. On Page 9, calculations are correct, but expenses that are negative numbers need to have parentheses or a negative sign placed in front of them. 216 families/individuals have provided funds totaling \$2,272,735 from the letters of intent. An additional \$40,000 has come in through individuals without letters of intent. Our Marsh Street balance is \$1,698,784.94 with the total projected budget at \$3,042,194.

A question from the floor was asked and answered.

Report on the First Church Endowment - Tom Englert, Trustee Chair

The Endowment Fund Balance is found on pages 5 & 6 [of the 2016 Annual Financial Meeting report]. The Trustees' proposal to the Board brought the funds of the Endowment from US Trust to Vanguard.

Questions were asked regarding the restricted funds, which are income only, versus the unrestricted funds.

Proposed 2016-2017 Budget - Michael Bird, Finance & Property Chair

Michael thanked the Trustees for their work on moving the Endowment Funds from US Trust to Vanguard. This has been the most arduous budget to put together. I would like to thank the Board, the Financial Committee and the staff that have put this budget together. Our budgeted offerings dropped from \$1.45 mil to \$1.3 mil, a 10% decrease based on the way the congregation's giving is tracking. The Endowment budget is flat. The income for the church is going down \$235,000. This information is located on Pages 1 and 2. The tough personnel cuts are found on Page 3, and show a \$220,000 decrease. The Marsh Building Project is in good fiscal position. We are in an OK fiscal position; however, the proposed giving needs to meet the budget.

Michael Bird made the motion that First Church of Christ in Wethersfield adopt the budget as presented for the fiscal year 2016-2017. Stephen Soderberg seconded.

Discussion: Why do we see a total for employees' salaries versus individual salaries? It has been the Church's policy for a long time to not give out the individual salaries of church staff. Is that enough money for health insurance? Insurance went down due to staff reductions. Insurance begins 1/1/17 through 12/31/17. Marti Bernardi commented that doing God's work isn't easy and all staff should be getting raises. By moving monies from the Endowment to fund our budget, the Endowment will eventually run out if we keep doing this. Somehow, we must move toward educating the congregation on tithing. I (Marti Bernardi) want to go on record by saying that if we don't start giving as a church, the money is going to run out—and then where will we be?

Michael mentioned that there are three sources of strain on the budget. They are: (1) decreased giving (\$145,000), (2) funding the budget with bequests (\$235,000), and (3) dwindling unrestricted monies.

Meg Macdonough shared her concern with Outreach income supporting 23 missionaries. The Outreach budget is set by church policy and represents 10% of the entire budget. We look at each individual missionary and organization before supporting them.

Judy Franzen mentioned that someone came up to her and said Deryk has to stop asking for money. There is a disconnect between those that give the 10% and those that don't. Kudos to Tegan and Todd for sharing their struggles on tithing with us.

Peter Carbone, Deacon, we need to increase attendance and membership. Do we need to change the leadership at the top? The response from the Church President was that our Board is totally behind the Senior Minister and that our congregation is losing membership through attrition.

Tina Balmer commented that, as members, we all have a part in bringing others to the church.

How many giving units do we have, and what is the average amount of giving? Response – there are 500 giving units; 90% give less than \$2200/year. Out of those 500 units, a little over 200 giving units decided to support the Marsh Building.

Paula Vining says it grieves her to remove staff, the music in the church is wonderful, David Spicer has been an incredible leader for 30 years, the children in the church are our future, and we are going to miss the leadership within Children's Ministries. In response, we did offer Marcia and David part-time positions.

How much of the music budget is being supported by the Reinfrank Fund? Response – \$54,000 from the Reinfrank Fund is supporting the music department's budgeted \$84,814.

Peter Franzen said that the survival of Christ in this location is pivotal.

Jey Rice asked what is a giving unit and what are the attendance numbers now? Response – A person or a family. The attendance numbers are just short of 500 but not 500, about 450-470. Jey asked what was the attendance 7 or 8 years ago? Response – Statistical data from membership and attendance shows that it has been decreasing since the days of Don Morgan and continued to decrease while Jey Deifell was here as well. This has been a 17-20 year reduction in attendance and membership.

Action on the Proposed Budget – Henry von Wodtke, Moderator

- A vote was called by Mr. Von Wodtke by the First Church congregation to act on the motion made by Michael Bird and seconded by Stephen Soderberg, which would accept the proposed budget for the 2016-2017 fiscal year.
- All were in favor.
- The proposed budget was accepted.

Other Business - Henry von Wodtke, Moderator

- There was none.

Motion to Adjourn following Benediction - Henry von Wodtke, Moderator

- Mr. von Wodtke asked for a motion to adjourn after the benediction.
- It was so moved, seconded and approved at 1:40 p.m.

Benediction and Adjournment - Pastor Deryk Richenburg

Pastor Deryk concluded the meeting by giving the benediction

Report of the Nominating Committee

Listed below with an asterisk (*) are the names to be placed in nomination at the Annual Meeting for officers, chairpersons, Board members and delegates, with the term of office for each. Individuals listed with a caret (^) are those who have agreed to serve another term in their current office. Those persons whose unexpired terms continue are also listed.

CHURCH OFFICERS 2017-2018 CHURCH BOARD

President: Steve Soderberg* (2 years) • Senior Minister: Deryk P. Richenburg

DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSONS

Communication .. Tristram Gaillard..... 1 year
 Education Faye Smith* 2 years
 Finance & Property..... Michael Bird*^ 2 years
 Inreach TBD 1 year
 Outreach Chip & Marla Darius 1 year
 Research & L.R.P..... Paul Marks* 2 years

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Ruth Luipold*^ 2 years
 Nathan Hollings 1 year

JUNIORS

Rachel Bugella* 1 year
 Rene Liz*^ 1 year

ADDITIONAL OFFICERS

Moderator.....Henry von Wodtke*^..... 1 year TreasurerJohn Bernardi*^ 1 year
 ClerkCarol Chase*^ 1 year

DEACONS

(1 Year)	(2 Years)	(3 Years)
Molly Minerly	John Cooper	Andrea Beaty*
Deane Felter	Justine Grandpré	Jon Beaty*
Richard Geike	Bob Galloway	Helen Durfee*
Rahul Mudimala	Vicki Silva	Shari Franzen*
James Otis	Brian Johnson	Petra Riley*
Kate Stiffle	Laurie Allen	Patti Sicord*
Barbara Walsh	Greg Voth	Terry Shook*

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

(1 Year)	(2 Years)
Bruce Tooker	Burt Johnson*^
Peter Franzen	Tim Penn*^

DIRECTORS — FIRST CHURCH HOUSING

(1 Year)	(2 Years)	(3 Years)
Joel Lasher	Brian Goodrich	John Bernardi*^
Judy Ogren	Carrie Plowman	Lee Sekas*^
Chris Rhines	Wayne Plowman	TBD

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2017-2018 (Submitted by the Church Board)

(1 Year)	(2 Years)	(3 Years)
Grace Gaillard	David French	TBD
John Hickey	John Wieder III	TBD
Robin Strom	Roger Willard #	TBD

(#-1 replaces Petra Riley)

CURRENT (2016–2017) NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Roger Willard, Co-Chair; Ted Willard, Co-Chair

Luke Adams	David French	Grace Gaillard
John Hickey	Petra Riley	Robin Strom
John Wieder III		

Our Vision

To foster a grassroots movement of Kingdom communities
who love God and love others in profound ways
and live to extend His Kingdom.

First  Church

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