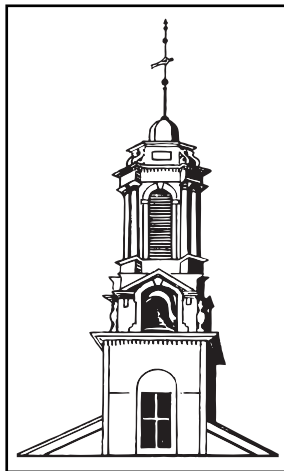


# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



**First Congregational Church**  
Lebanon, New Hampshire



Annual Meeting  
Sunday, February 9, 2020

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**ANNUAL MEETING 2020**  
**MODERATOR: Amy Driscoll**

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Invocation
3. Reading of the Warrant
4. Reading of the Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting
5. Reports for 2019:
  - PASTOR: Rev. Stephen R. Silver
  - CHURCH COUNCIL: Corrine Erskine
  - OFFICERS:
    - Clerk – Brian Clancy
    - Auditor – Valerie Nevel (for Parkers Accounting)
    - Treasurer – Terry Ellison
  - BOARDS:
    - Board of Governors – John Gilliatt
    - Board of Trustees – Valerie Nevel
    - Diaconate – Barbara Jones
  - COMMITTEES: Committee Chairs
  - WOMEN OF THE CHURCH
  - CHURCH HISTORIAN: Corrine Erskine
6. Nominating Committee Report
7. Election of Officers and Committees
8. Old Business
  - A. Review of Committee Structure
  - B. Campaign Planning Update
9. New Business
  - A. Proposed Budget for 2020 (see pp. 13-14)
10. Closing Hymn: “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”
11. Benediction

## WARRANT FOR 2020 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Lebanon, NH, will be held in the Parish Hall on Sunday, February 9, 2020, immediately following the worship service, for the purpose of:

1. The election of all officers provided for under the CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS of the church.
2. To hear the reports of all officers, committees, and organizations, as required under the CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS of the church.
3. To consider and act upon any other matters relating to the general church welfare that may properly come before this meeting:

Respectfully submitted,

Brian C. Clancy, *Clerk*  
Lebanon, NH 03766  
January 22, 2020

# MINUTES OF 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February 10, 2019

1. Moderator Amy Driscoll **called the meeting to order** at 11:20 and confirmed that a quorum of at least 25 corporate members was in attendance.
2. The **invocation** was offered by the Rev. Stephen R. Silver.
3. Reading of the **warrant** for the 2019 meeting: **Motion made** by Linda Jacobs, seconded by Terry Ellison, to dispense with reading the warrant. **Motion passed unanimously.**
4. Reading of the **minutes** from the 2018 meeting: **Motion made** by Terry Ellison, seconded by Barb Jones, to dispense with reading the minutes. **Motion passed unanimously.**

## 5. Reports

**Pastor** (Rev. Steve Silver): In addition to his report in the Annual Report document, Rev. Silver observed that the meeting marked nine years since his arrival at FCC, and he feels blessed to be pastor and engage in ministry here. He noted a few items of business in progress, including a review of our membership list to more accurately determine the size of our congregation and slow but continuing plans for an anniversary campaign, which will move forward in the coming weeks. Steve also emphasized our “Congregational” culture of lay leadership, noting a strong roster of volunteer committees, but he encouraged us to make sure those volunteer roles serve our faith lives, our desires and strengths, rather than becoming burdensome obligations. He commended our church’s leadership and thanked everyone for being so generous with time and service.

**Church Council** (Corrine Erskine, Chair): Report presented in Annual Report document.

**Clerk** (Brian Clancy): In addition to his report in the Annual Report document, Brian Clancy referred to the pending membership list review. This will result in a sizeable drop in the reported size of our congregation, but it will also convey a more realistic assessment.

**Auditor** (Vacant): Report from Parkers Accounting presented in Annual Report document.

**Treasurer** (Terry Ellison): Report presented in Annual Report document.

**Board of Governors** (John Gilliatt): In addition to his report in the Annual Report document, John Gilliatt highlighted ongoing insulation projects around the church and a planned energy audit for the Parsonage. He noted larger renovations intended for the Sanctuary, including floor refinishing, new carpeting, and pew cushions, which would all have to be completed together.

**Board of Trustees** (Valerie Nevel): In addition to her report in the Annual Report document, Valerie Nevel noted that our endowment funds fell roughly 8% because of exposure to market fluctuations, although she is confident in their long-term stability. She pointed out those whose bequests had provided for FCC so generously, and Linda Jacobs then read the list aloud.

**Diaconate** (Barbara Jones): In addition to her report in the Annual Report document, Barb Jones expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to lead this hard-working group of deacons. Rev. Steve Silver additionally mentioned the need for a new Scouting liaison due to Biff Simpson’s imminent move from the area. (*See additional Scouting discussion below.*)

**Church School and Christian Education Committee** (Marcia Corkins): Report presented in Annual Report document.

**Memorial Gardens Committee** (Pete Mason): Report presented in Annual Report document.

**Mission and Social Action Committee** (Kathy Beckett, *in absentia*): Report presented in Annual Report document.

**Music Committee** (Brian Clancy): Report presented in Annual Report document.

**Stewardship Committee** (Jon Scott): In addition to his report in the Annual Report document, Jon Scott encouraged everyone to read it closely, emphasizing in particular our annual pledge process, which this year has generated a third fewer pledges. He invited everyone to consider planning for support of the church in bequests and other estate-planning choices, noting that we have members who are qualified to discuss ways to do that.

**Women of the Church**: Report presented in Annual Report document.

**Church Historian** (Corrine Erskine): Report presented in Annual Report document.

**Motion made** by Linda Jacobs, seconded by Alyson Danyew-Ellison, to accept the reports of all the church's boards and committees. **Motion passed unanimously.**

## 6. Nominating Committee Report (Amy Driscoll)

Two updates to the proposed committee roster published in the Annual Report were noted: Meghan Davis has joined the Stewardship Committee, and Nan Parsons is no longer on the Board of Governors. Clerk Brian Clancy clarified the difference between “vacant” (minimum required by By-laws) and “open” (available but not required) positions. Amy Driscoll reminded everyone of the reality that we cannot fill all of our volunteer positions given the current size of our active congregation. She thanked everyone for being willing to serve the church.

Linda Jacobs asked about the vacant Auditor and Assistant Treasurer positions; the former role is currently being filled by an outside contractor (Parkers Accounting), while the primary duty of the latter role, recording and depositing weekly offering, was reassigned by Council to the Church Administrator two years ago. (The Assistant Treasurer position was nearly eliminated as a result.) It was noted that Terry Ellison devotes considerable time to his Treasurer duties, and a redefined Assistant Treasurer position might be helpful in sharing those responsibilities.

## 7. Election of Officers and Committees

**Motion made** by Terry Ellison, seconded by Barb Jones, to accept the full slate of nominations as presented at the meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

## 8. Old Business

**Scouting at FCC.** The Moderator asked for follow-up regarding the charter representative for the Scouting program, a role which Rev. Silver has agreed to fill on an interim basis only. Wendell Smith volunteered to assume the role, noting his favorable impression of the program on Scout Sunday the previous week (February 3).

**The Pastoral Relations Committee and compensation.** The meeting next revisited a conflict of interest that some have observed regarding the PRC's determination of pastoral compensation. Many churches delegate pastoral compensation to a PRC, and FCC has in fact done this for many years, even though our By-laws do not assign compensation to the PRC. **Motion made** by Valerie Nevel, seconded by Linda Jacobs, to have Council discuss this issue at its next meeting.

In discussion of the proposed motion, Amy Driscoll noted some challenges of formulating a fair, well-informed compensation package that follows the original pastoral contract, as the members of

the PRC have limited experience with compensation and contract issues. In her experience at other churches, Rev. Jo Shelnuttt has observed a model of having a PRC trigger the compensation process without actually taking on that process itself; she added that the PRC ideally serves as an intercessor between pastor and staff as well the congregation. John Gilliatt shared his experience of serving on the Personnel Committee, and Nancy Devenger asked for clarification of what the By-laws specify for these two committees. It was pointed out that the designated membership of the PRC does not include any of the church's financial officers, although they have typically been involved in the compensation process. There was general agreement that it was inadvisable to create any new committee for this task, and further discussion should consider both the PRC and Personnel.

The Moderator called for a vote on the motion to have Council pick up this discussion. ***Motion passed unanimously.***

**Capital improvements and campaign plans.** It was agreed to table this discussion, as campaign planning discussions are ongoing, and these will include consideration of the project list supplied in the Board of Governors report.

## 9. New Business

**Proposed Budget for 2019:** Asked for a brief summary of the proposed budget, Terry Ellison noted staff raises and the effective projections of income and expenses, as well as the somewhat low amount budgeted for capital improvements (\$5000). This was intentional, considering the availability of Dole Trust capital funds and the assumption that a campaign might address specific projects outside of the regular budget. Valerie Nevel clarified that Dole funds accrue annually, whether or not they are spent on anything. John Gilliatt noted that several large Sanctuary projects would have to be undertaken simultaneously, and he asked about the possibility of escrowing funds for capital projects. Wendell Smith expressed concern about the proportion of our budget that is supplied by our endowment.

Phil Hammond asked for clarification of pledge amounts as compared to overall stewardship. The amount pledged each year has typically accounted for about half of what we ultimately receive in unrestricted contributions from the congregation; that is, many of those who regularly contribute financially do not make an explicit pledge at the start of the year.

***Motion made*** by Jon Scott, seconded by Valerie Nevel, to accept the church's proposed budget for 2019. ***Motion passed unanimously.***

10. The congregation sang the **closing hymn**, "Blest Be the Tie That Binds."

11. Rev. Silver offered the **benediction**, again thanking everyone for their service.

12. Meeting **adjourned** at 12:20.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brian C. Clancy, *Clerk*

## PASTOR'S REPORT

It seems that recent years have been notable for anniversaries, the Reformation's 500th, for example, and Lebanon's 250th, which was followed in 2018 by our congregation's 250th. This coming year will be no different, as it will mark 400 years since the arrival of the Pilgrims in Massachusetts. The Pilgrims, of course, along with the Puritans who followed in their wake, were part of the non-conformist Protestant movement in England and, here in North America, became the Congregationalists, our forebears.

A variety of commemorative events have been planned, not so much celebrations as markings of a momentous event. Books are being published, symposia organized, new and old perspectives expressed.

And then it will be over. Life will go on. People will be born, married, die. The great rhythms of our lives will continue. If so, why bother remembering 1620? Or 1517? Or any other historical anniversary?

When I was in divinity school, in a class about the Prophet Isaiah, we had a discussion about the nature of time. In some religious traditions, the passage of time is seen as being like a wheel, circular in its progress. In our Western tradition, time is linear, with a past and a future, always moving forward. If we want to know where we are going, it helps to know where we have been. We remember events because they can help us think about who we are or, more accurately, how we have become who we are—and that, in turn, may give insight into who we will become.

The stories we tell about our past change over time. The story of the arrival of the Pilgrims has evolved to accommodate changing demographics and once-ignored perspectives. But I believe the heart of the story, the history of a people who wanted to live Godly lives in a place uncontaminated by the sins of a corrupted world, still holds true. That vision, more often than not, has fallen far short of lived reality. But it is still a lodestar for us. We still want to believe in the possibility that informed those long-ago hopes. At the same time, we confess our sins, acknowledging how so many were let down by or excluded from the dream of the New Jerusalem established on these shores.

However, we are not prisoners of the past. If we as Christians are beholden to anything, it should be to the God who has made himself known to us in Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified and resurrected that we may have new life.

It is in the church that we can see this new life most fully. I believe that is true of our congregation and the witness it offers to the wider community. As in past years, we've done some things well and have the opportunity to improve in others.

Worship continues to be at the center of what we do. We are blessed with excellent music, delivered to us by a talented organist, a variety of guest musicians, and our dedicated choir. I continue to find preaching to all of you to be incredibly rewarding. You listen, you react. As in years past, I would love to see more people at worship, but I believe this is the dream of all ministers. The world has changed, and we are competing against other demands on people's time. That isn't offered as an excuse, but as recognition of a new reality. The world our parents inhabited is gone. We need to ask ourselves how we can best share the Gospel going forward.

One way to do this is through seemingly simple gestures like the welcoming banner that hangs over our entryway. I know that people notice it, and that they believe it tells them something about who we are, because they tell me this. They also comment on the concerts we host, be they classical, choral, or otherwise. We have developed a reputation as a welcoming place, and that is gratifying.

Our children's ministry is changing. After many years of faithful service, our beloved Marcia Corkins stepped down as Church School Superintendent and has been succeeded by the estimable Nan Parsons.



Nan has introduced a new curriculum into the church school, which our kids have renamed the Children's Community Corner, and she has done a lot of work, with help from Ashley Oronte and others, reimagining how the space on our lower level is configured. We continue to deal with the ebb and flow of church attendance, but it is clear that there is a refreshed enthusiasm among our children.

We continue to open our doors to the wider community. In the past year, the Opera House has sustained its LOH on Location series in our Sanctuary, and the Anonymous Coffeehouse has hosted a number of programs in our Parish Hall. This latter program provides an alcohol-free, family-friendly venue that allows local musicians to perform in a relaxed environment and has proven quite popular. All of this introduces new people to our church.

We have made steps towards pursuing a campaign, about which you will hear more in the coming months. That said, we have established as priorities community care and creation care. In practical terms, we will focus on the kitchen, used by our church and outside groups, and sustainability efforts. These initiatives will position us strongly to move forward in the years ahead.

As I've written in years past, what comes next may seem familiar to those who have read my messages in previous years: this is where I offer my thanks.

You, the congregation and friends of First Congregational Church of Lebanon, continue to go the extra mile. Every church seems to be in need of more volunteers, and ours is no different. But you continue to punch above your weight, to get so much done. Your efforts make a tremendous difference to our operations, to our worship, and to our community.

Again, I thank our church staff: they are amazing! Brian Clancy, our Church Administrator, continues to perform above and beyond the call of duty; Barb Teeter, our Sexton, continues to care for our building with love and care. I would also like to thank the Rev. Jo Shelnutt, for filling the pulpit during my summer break, and for leading our Musical Drama Camp. And then there is Henry Danaher, a wonderfully talented musician, who announced his departure at year's end. As I said in my message about this to the congregation, we should be proud of him and what we have done to prepare him for the next stage of his career. We had more than five years of working together, and for that I am profoundly grateful.

I will once again thank both Marcia Corkins and Nan Parsons for their leadership. As a parent, I take personal interest in what happens in our church school program. As a minister, I believe it is vitally important for the future of this congregation. On both counts, I am more than pleased. I'm happy to express my gratitude to these two remarkable women and those who support them in their efforts to care for and educate our children.

Finally, there is one more anniversary this coming year: it has been ten years since I arrived at this church. A lot has happened and a lot has changed over the past decade. I know I've grown during my time with you. Thanks for making this a rewarding place to do ministry. I look forward to continuing our shared journey of faith, our collective mission to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ, in the year ahead and beyond.

Yours faithfully,  
Steve

## CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

Council began the year with reconsideration of our annual dues contribution to the NH Conference of the UCC, which had been \$7000 in 2018. With revision of our membership rolls, and a shift in emphasis toward our local community, Council voted to reduce our conference dues while increasing our budget for the Open Door Ministry by the same amount.

In February we discussed the proposal that was brought to us for the Anonymous Coffeehouse, planned to take place in the Parish Hall. We decided to try it and see how it goes, and we have now hosted it eight times.

In March we decided to authorize a \$5000 transfer from the Dole Fund to use for any capital improvements that might be needed for the coming year. In May Council added approval of a Dole Fund mission contribution of \$1200, in support of an immigrant family staying locally.

In October we voted to secure formal recognition of our tax-exempt status from the IRS. The same month, as the First Baptist Church continued to seek donations from the community for the rebuilding of their church, Council voted to donate \$500 to their cause.

Amid ongoing consideration of a capital campaign, and with benefit of a congregational visioning session last spring, Council voted in October to initiate a \$500,000 campaign in February 2020, to begin the work that is needed in three major areas—creation care, community care, and missions.

In November Council authorized another distribution from the Dole Fund for the Mission and Social Action account, in support of community assistance for rent, utilities, and other needs through our Open Door Ministry.

Council continues to consider the possible reconfiguration of our committee and governance structure, as other local churches have recently made similar changes.

In December, Council's primary discussion regarded plans to find interim and permanent successors for Music Director Henry Danaher, who after five and a half years here has accepted a new position at CCDC in Hanover. Henry's last Sunday at FCC will be January 5, and the Music Committee will lead efforts both to cover the interim period and search for a permanent successor.

Respectfully submitted,

Corrine Erskine, *Chair*

Brian Clancy, *Clerk*

## CLERK'S REPORT

### Membership Changes

During 2019 eight people joined the church as covenant members, two members died, and no one transferred or withdrew their membership. With this net increase of six members for the year, we begin 2020 with 208 members.

*Note:* It has been several years since FCC has conducted a thorough review of its membership rolls, and we are currently conducting such a review. Although each year's Annual Report calculates total membership according to the preceding year's changes, that total no longer accurately represents the number of covenant members actually involved or associated (on at least a minimal level) with FCC-Lebanon. Total membership is reported annually to the NH Conference and used to calculate a recommended amount for conference dues. On the basis of the current membership review, we will include a more accurate membership total in the 2020 Annual Report.

#### *New Members Received:*

Nancy Devenger, joined 2/10/2019.  
Leslie (and Claire) Thomson, joined 2/10/2019.  
Juliet Steele, joined 4/14/2019.  
Stacey Steele (and Dominic Watson), joined 4/14/2019.  
Karen and Christopher Chase, joined 10/20/2019.  
Kareen Miller-McGregor, joined 10/20/2019.  
Dawn Troutman, joined 10/20/2019.

#### *Members Who Died:*

Elizabeth M. Howard, d. 5/23/2019.  
Jean E. Mansell, d. 9/11/2019.

### Baptisms

Rev. Stephen R. Silver performed the following **baptism**:  
Claire G. Thomson, 7/14/2019 at FCC.

### Memorial Services

Rev. Silver presided at the following **memorial and graveside services**:

#### *Members of the Church:*

Elizabeth M. Howard, d. 5/23/2019, interment service 6/9/2019 at FCC Memorial Garden.  
Jean E. Mansell, d. 9/11/2019, graveside memorial service 9/17/2019 at Glenwood Cemetery, Lebanon, NH.

#### *Friends of the Church:*

Ruth E. Friend, d. 6/20/2019, memorial service 7/8/2019 at Ricker Funeral Home, Lebanon, NH.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brian C. Clancy, *Clerk*

## AUDITOR'S REPORT

[ *\*Not available in this edition. For questions or additional information, please contact First Congregational Church directly at 603-448-4281 or church@fccleb.org.\** ]

## TREASURER and FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Report for the year January 1 to December 31, 2019 / Proposed Budget for 2020

[ *\*Not available in this edition. For questions or additional information, please contact First Congregational Church directly at 603-448-4281 or church@fccleb.org.\** ]

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS REPORT

According to our church's *Constitution and By-Laws*, "The Board of Governors shall have general charge and care of the church's physical property." The Board has traditionally met on the fourth Sunday of the month. All meeting agendas and meeting minutes are available in written or digital form.

Following is a summary list of our work this year:

### ***Maintenance and Repairs Completed:***

- Insulation of Parlor and office area, replacement of fluorescent office lights
- Carpets cleaned in basement, office stairwell, and Parlor
- Parsonage sewer line cleaned out
- Parsonage energy audit

### ***Finished Projects:***

- Clearout of basement storage areas, including dirt cellar under Sanctuary
- Conduct fire drill and review fire evacuation plan
- Repair and repaint front steps and risers (Sanctuary entrance)

### ***Unfinished Projects:***

- Altar railings
- Insulation of Parsonage and Sanctuary
- Kitchen revamp
- Kitchen exhaust fan cover

### ***Major Projects List (Church and Parsonage):***

<i>Description</i>	<i>Project Category</i>	<i>Estimated Cost</i>
Insulation: Parish Hall, kitchen, office areas	Energy Savings	\$ 5,000
Insulation: Sanctuary ceiling	Energy Savings	29,400
Insulation: basement	Energy Savings	10,100
Parsonage insulation (2 estimates pending)	Energy Savings	14,000
Sanctuary: replacement of pew cushions	Cosmetic	10,000
Sanctuary: floor refinishing	Cosmetic	9,000
Sanctuary: replacement of carpet (incl. balcony)	Cosmetic	18,000
Resurfacing of front walk	Cosmetic	3,800
Basic kitchen "face-lift" (paint, flooring, countertops)	Cosmetic	5,000
Full kitchen renovation and elevator installation	Cosmetic/Accessibility	TBD

The chair wishes to thank all the committee members, as well as Brian Clancy and Steve Silver for all their support given.

Respectfully submitted,

John Gilliatt, *Chair*

Walter Scott, *Vice Chair and Secretary*

Terry Ellison

Brandon Mason

Wendell Smith

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

For the year ended December 31, 2019

[ *\*Not available in this edition. For questions or additional information, please contact First Congregational Church directly at 603-448-4281 or church@fccleb.org.\** ]

## DIACONATE REPORT

The Deacons of the church are responsible for the lay spiritual needs of our congregation, and we generally support our church members through prayers, cards, phone calls, and visits as well as our continuing prayer-shawl ministry. The Deacons also serve communion, address the ever-increasing need for gas and food cards through our Open Door Ministry, and coordinate with the Parish/Community Nurse project. We celebrated Praise in the Park with local Methodist churches and had our worship exchange with the West Lebanon Congregational Church. Phil Hammond again led our support of Samaritan's Purse, which provides boxes of children's gifts beyond the Upper Valley, and Barb Teeter again led our participation in the annual holiday basket drive by Listen Community Services. We continued supporting Eliot Fay in his ordination journey, and he has kept us posted about his progress.

We were pleased to have quite a few new members join the church this year, and we were so pleased to welcome Stacey Steele as a new Deacon. We were sorry that Denise Moriearty felt she could no longer continue serving on the Diaconate.

One of our goals was to encourage greater lay participation in our services, including preparing stewardship messages and children's moments. This continues to be an area we want to work on. The Church School has been renamed the Children's Community Corner, with the input of the children themselves, and the older children now participate in worship on the first Sunday of the month. That has been a good move. A new pew brochure of information about the church has also been drafted.

There is recognition that the church should initiate a careful review of the number of church committees and their purposes, in order to reflect more realistically the current numbers and interests of the church's members. We continue to review the church's membership rolls, to assess whether all those listed continue to have an interest in the church.

With our 250th anniversary celebration now behind us, the church's plans for our next century continue at a measured pace, as we consider a campaign and secure congregational input.

Several members of the Diaconate continue to be involved individually with community and social-justice matters. Kathy Beckett, for just one example, was active in collecting signatures from registered Lebanon voters for a petition to the City Council in support of our being a welcoming community for immigrants and refugees.

I wish to thank all of the Deacons who have served so faithfully this past year, and I am grateful for all they have done for this congregation and community.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Jones, *Chair*

Barbara Teeter, *Vice-Chair*

Bob Gerlach, *Secretary*

Alyson Danyew-Ellison, *Treasurer*

Kathy Beckett

Edward (Larry) Doyle

Phil Hammond

Denise Moriearty

Susan Pratt

Stacey Steele

Steve Teeter



## DIACONATE TREASURER'S REPORT

[ *\*Not available in this edition. For questions or additional information, please contact First Congregational Church directly at 603-448-4281 or [church@fccleb.org](mailto:church@fccleb.org).\** ]

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

### *Report for 2018-19 Program Year*

The Church School theme for our 2018-19 year was “The 12 Disciples.” The children learned about the lives of many of Christ’s apostles, and how several of them built the foundation of His church. As we learned what discipleship meant in the time of Jesus, we realized that we can and should be disciples, too.

The children showed their discipleship during the year by serving food at Community Dinners; making special favors for guests at the Senior Luncheon; making and sending Christmas and Easter cards to church members; inviting friends to join them in the Christmas pageant; purchasing animals for the Heifer International program; collecting money for the school in San Jose Villanueva, El Salvador; purchasing and delivering needed supplies for David’s House; preparing food for a coffee hour after worship; and being kind and helpful to friends and neighbors.

On Children’s Sunday in June, the children took part in the worship service, were presented with books and bibles, and shared their theme projects during coffee hour. The year ended with a Musical Drama Camp (*One Hundred Percent Chance of Rain*) led by Jo Shelnuitt and Henry Danaher, with much help from Linda Gerlach and others.

Many thanks to our church family, from all the children and from me, for all your love, help, and support. I have treasured working with this church’s kids for so many years, and I am so grateful.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Corkins, *Superintendent (through 6/30/19)*

Laurie Braley (*partial year*)

Nicole Mason

### *Report for 2019-20 Program Year (In Progress)*

The year 2019 has been a time of transition for the children of the church and their religious education. Throughout last spring and into the fall, we celebrated the dedicated children’s ministry of Marcia Corkins and wished her well in her retirement. For over thirty years Marcia has been a beacon of children’s education in the Upper Valley and at First Congregational Church. Her wisdom, love, and guidance have shaped the lives of many children.

Over the summer, a team of volunteers, including some of the children of the church, recruited teachers and assistants, cleaned and organized classrooms, and set the calendar for the 2019-2020 church school year. In September we inaugurated the Children’s Community Corner (The 3 C’s), a name the children created for their Sunday-morning program. The 3 C’s mission is to equip and challenge the youth of FCC to move beyond the church walls and into the community, working together to learn about and share the gospel through their example. James 1:22 tells us, “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive ourselves. Do what it says.” Much more than an academic exercise, the 3 C’s should be an encounter with God that affects the children’s lives day in and day out.

The theme for the 2019-20 year is “Finding Christ in Our Lives.” If we choose to follow God, we ask a special part of Jesus to live inside us. This isn’t New-Age spirituality but something we’re taught in the New Testament (see 2 Peter 1: 3-8). Being a Christian isn’t as simple as being nice to others and doing the right thing, although we should certainly do those things. There’s so much more! Who are the

leading figures in the Christian story? What attitudes and characteristics did they demonstrate to honor God? We will focus on understanding Christianity through Old and New Testament leaders, making sure there are thoughtful ties to a belief in God and Jesus and the story of God's grace and redemption through Jesus.

Our essential, guiding questions for the year ask the following:

- *Why is it that we can call anything good?* If God didn't exist, there would be no objective basis for calling anything good or bad. Everything would be a matter of opinion because there would be no higher-than-human moral authority.
- *Why should we be good people?* If God didn't exist, there would be no objective reason why anyone should live in any particular way. The word *should* imply a moral obligation that can't exist in an atheistic world.

We are examining these questions and many more through the dispositions of a Christian, as noted in Galatians 5:22-23: "[T]he fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, and against such things there is no law." Each month, we will look closely at Biblical figures who demonstrated one or more of these dispositions. To date, we have worked with Ruth, who displayed the disposition of love; Daniel, who displayed the disposition of self-control; David, who displayed the disposition of courage; and Jesus, who displayed the disposition of peace.

A new addition to children of the church's experience is the Marcia Corkins Godly Playroom. Children have an innate sense of the presence of God. The Godly Play approach helps our children to explore their faith through story, to gain religious language, and to enhance their spiritual experience through wonder and play. It allows children to actively engage in making meaning. The stories of the Bible line our shelves. These stories are told through the figures of the people and important artifacts. Here's what our schedule looks like each month:

- **2nd Sunday**—Telling the Story
- **3rd Sunday**—Creating the Story
- **4th Sunday**—Living the Story (*For grades 4 and up, this often means leaving the church.*)
- **1st Sunday**—Practicing the Story in Worship (*For our older students, this means remaining in the Sanctuary during the whole service.*)

Some additional milestones for this year:

- In September we participated in Kick-off Sunday with a bouncy house, pizza, and outside games.
- On the first Sunday of each month, children lead the Call to Worship, the Scripture readings, and tell the story they are learning about.
- The older children of the church engaged in several *Living the Story* experiences—picking up trash around the Lebanon Green; sharing guided meditation and a yoga session with a local teacher; visiting worship at Riverbank Church; and attending a production of *Scrooge* at a local community theater.
- In October the children served Community Dinner.
- In December we hosted an Open House for the congregation in the Children's Community Corner and dedicated the Marcia Corkins Godly Playroom.
- Children of the church and friends participated in this year's Christmas Pageant.

Upcoming plans include:

- Research organizations, both locally and around the world, to support with our weekly offerings and Lenten Lunch Bag Collection, which the children will lead.

- Consider participating in “Sleep Out!” a global outreach to shine a light on the injustice of youth homelessness.
- Attend other churches to learn more about how others enact their faith.
- Attend a production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* in June 2020.
- Lead worship on Children’s Sunday in June 2020.
- Plan Musical Drama Camp for August 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Parsons, *Superintendent (from 7/1/19)*

Laurie Braley (*partial year*)

Nicole Mason

## MEMORIAL GARDENS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Memorial Gardens Committee is responsible for overseeing the maintenance and planting of our memorial gardens in front of the church. The garden by the church sign is in honor of Betty and Ellis Howard, given by their family. The Memorial Garden in front of the stone is where cremated ashes of deceased church members and their families may be buried.

On June 9, 2019, the ashes of Betty Howard, who had passed away on May 23, were interred in front of the memorial stone. Family members and many others from our congregation and community were present for the committal service, conducted by Rev. Steve Silver.

The memorial stone is now engraved with the names and birth/death years of the following deceased members of our church: Leif and Beryl Thorsrud, Richard and Helen Wallace, Henry "Hank" Watson, Robert Bassett, Dr. Gordon Place, Elizabeth and Ellis Howard, Willmott "Bin" Lewis, Marilyn Guild Mason, and Margaret "Ginger" Smith. (The names of spouses may be engraved on the stone at the same time, whether or not both are deceased.)

Committee members maintain the gardens and plant flowers each spring. Alyson Danyew-Ellison did the planting work again for both gardens in 2019.

Anyone who would like to receive more information about the Memorial Gardens, or to contribute to them, should please contact one of the committee members. To reserve a space in the garden for interment, please contact a committee member or the Church Administrator.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brandon Mason, *Chair*  
Alyson Danyew-Ellison  
Ike Jacobs

## MISSION AND SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE REPORT

This year the Mission and Social Action (MSA) Committee continued to work on initiatives that are a part of our community's history, while also undertaking new projects in response to local needs.

For almost two years FCC has been a member of the New Hampshire Immigrant Solidarity Network, a group of faith communities that pledge to support the state's immigrants, and we have been true to that commitment in a number of ways. The church has contributed to the UVIP Asylum and Sanctuary Support Fund in order to help meet the basic needs of individuals and families living in the Upper Valley. MSA also made a commitment to publicize the Migrant Justice Milk with Dignity effort, asking Hannaford Supermarkets to obtain their milk and other dairy products from farms that provide fair and safe working conditions for their workers. The vast majority of those workers are immigrants.

MSA is working to deepen FCC's longstanding relationship with Epilogos Charities, a NH nonprofit whose work serves the community of San Jose Villanueva in El Salvador. MSA will provide information to our church community about Epilogos programs, including home building projects, classroom support, and the opportunity for individual community members to act as sponsors.

At UVIP's Micah Awards in October, FCC honored Marcia Corkins, who retired in June from her position as our Church School Superintendent. Our community overwhelmingly voted to recognize Marcia's many years of dedication to our children's Christian education by word and by loving example.

While FCC's monthly Community Dinners tend to serve a small number of individuals each month, it is acknowledged that the meals are worthwhile, since they provide an important connection to the local community. MSA plans to reach out to FCC members in order to enlist more participants to prepare and serve the meals.

In June, FCC hosted about 30 members of the Bike and Build Northern Route for two nights. MSA provided meals to these young adults who travel the northern U.S. helping local affordable housing affiliates with their building projects. Bike and Build has the larger goal of promoting affordable housing through their efforts. FCC once again hosted the CROP Hunger Walk luncheon for Upper Valley participants. CROP Hunger Walks are community-based walk events held in cities and towns across the United States raising funds to support the global mission of Church World Service, a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement, and disaster.

MSA initiated the "Fill the Cart" food collection project to contribute to the efforts of local food shelves to feed the hungry in the Upper Valley. The response of the FCC community has been very generous, and donations are made to a monthly rotation of three beneficiaries, the Upper Valley Haven, Listen Community Services, and the Upper Valley Humane Society. This effort expands the annual "Souper Bowl" in late January, once again organized by Ron Bailey, through which soup and other canned goods are collected and donated to the Haven, Listen, and Headrest.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Beckett, *Chair*

Ron Bailey

Corrine Erskine

Barbara Laro

Denise Moriearty

Jon Scott

Wendell Smith

Laurel Stavis

Steve Teeter

## MUSIC COMMITTEE REPORT

Music has long distinguished FCC among Upper Valley churches, and so many in our congregation value and support the role of music in our spiritual and community life. As 2019 draws to a close, both our music ministry and our service to Upper Valley performers and audiences continue to be robust, although the coming year brings challenges and opportunities.

The musical highlight of 2019 was undoubtedly the visit in early March by composer, conductor, and organist Paul Ayres, a culminating event in our congregation's 250th anniversary celebration. A gracious, friendly, and brilliant musician, Paul engaged with some 50 singers from across the Upper Valley in a day-long choral workshop at FCC. In worship, Paul directed an expanded choir in the premiere of "The Spacious Firmament," which FCC had commissioned from him for the occasion. He treated us to a virtuosic organ recital that afternoon, the finale to a weekend of great music and fellowship. We are so grateful to our generous congregation and the wider community for making Paul's visit such a success.

The Music at the Meetinghouse series continues to build its reputation as a foremost venue for a variety of musical genres in the Upper Valley. We hosted 46 events in 2019, as well as several student recitals. Classicopia and UVMC again led the way, and the Bel Canto Chamber Singers are grateful to rehearse and perform here throughout the year. Cantabile Women's Chorus returned for two concerts, and the NH Master Chorale premiered a stunning new commission in November. Camerata New England came to FCC with two superb chamber programs, and an ensemble led by Henry Danaher and Meg Davis offered a benefit concert for the UV Humane Society. LOH on Location featured several popular events—including a sellout (over 200 people!) for Lula Wiles in February—and Brooks Hubbard appeared as part of LebFest in September. Musicians and audiences alike affirm our Sanctuary's standing as one of the area's finest performance spaces, but a new project in the Parish Hall added another dimension to our role in the musical community this year—the Anonymous Coffeehouse, an informal, much-needed setting for local folk and acoustic musicians, free of both alcohol and admission charges. Presenting eight popular evenings in 2019 and now continuing into the new year, the Anonymous Coffeehouse has attracted a new and loyal audience to our building.

Once again this year, Music Director Henry Danaher regularly brought excellent, enriching music to our worship service, in his leadership of our choir, his collaborations with guest musicians, and his own playing on both organ and piano. We welcomed visiting instrumentalists, vocalists, and ensembles in worship on 22 Sundays in 2019, some of whom have become quite familiar to our congregation. Henry's musical and professional development has progressed considerably, and in December he accepted a new position at the Church of Christ at Dartmouth—news that brought bittersweet but heartfelt congratulations from our congregation. As Henry takes this well-earned step forward in his career, we wish him only the very best. We hope in 2020 to find a successor at least as devoted and invaluable as he has been to our congregational life.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Clancy, *Chair*

Henry Danaher, *Music Director* (ex-officio)

Meghan Davis

Jo Shelnutt

Steve Teeter

Gail Wasson

## PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

At the start of the year, the Pastoral Relations Committee completed a thorough review and update of the Pastor's compensation package. We have created clear guidelines and an explanation of how salary and all benefits are determined each year, which we hope will make this process easier in the future. Otherwise, the committee did not meet during 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Driscoll, *Moderator and Chair*

Barbara Jones

Nan Parsons

Jon Scott

Wendell Smith



## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

[ *\*Not available in this edition. For questions or additional information, please contact First Congregational Church directly at 603-448-4281 or church@fccleb.org.\** ]

## WOMEN OF THE CHURCH REPORT

The Women of the Church did not submit a formal report for 2019. The group organized and served the annual Senior Luncheon in May, and prepared two Community Dinners during the year. No receipts or expenditures were reported by Treasurer Barb Laro.

## CHURCH HISTORY

The month of January started out pretty slow but very cold. We began our services in the Parish Hall on the 13th. The following Sunday we had a bad snowstorm, and only 13 brave people made it to church. I know Jeff Williams was one of them because I could hear the church bell ringing!

We had two concerts in February, the first of which was “Mother Tongue,” starring Henry Danaher, Laurel Stavis, and Betsy Alexander from our church choir. A week later Lebanon Opera House (“LOH on Location”) presented Lula Wiles to a sold-out Sanctuary—over 200 people!

Scout Sunday was on February 3, and Troop 279 and Pack 279 led the service. Souper Bowl Sunday extended over three Sundays, ending February 10. Thanks again, Ron Bailey. The same day we welcomed two new members to our church family, Nancy Devenger and Leslie Thomson with her daughter Claire.

We held our annual meeting after church on February 10. Like last year, we had a quorum by two people. Hopefully next year we will have more people attend. You all missed a great potluck lunch!

We held a neutral pulpit service on February 17 for the congregation in Walpole, NH, and their candidate gave a lively sermon. Some members of the Walpole church even sang in our choir. Ron Bailey’s Fire & Ice hike was canceled again this year for the same reason as last year, no snow! I’m sure he’ll try again next year.

We worshiped in the Sanctuary the first Sunday in March to welcome Paul Ayres. His commissioned piece, written for our 250th anniversary and entitled “The Spacious Firmament,” was sung by our choir and members of the community. Incredible. The same afternoon Paul put on an organ recital, playing selections from Bach, Herschel, and the Beatles! It was attended by 50 or so people. We also held three other concerts in March: Vermont Chamber Artists, UVMC’s Faculty Showcase, and Revels North Spring Singers.

That month we also tried to help the food pantries at Listen and the Haven by filling a shopping cart as many times as possible. There has been talk about keeping the cart here all year long. The first full cart was brought to the Haven, all 165 lbs of it!

Steve held a Lenten discussion series for four Sundays on Paul’s letters to the church at Philippi.

The children gave us their Lenten Bags to fill again this year, and on March 31 we contributed to One Great Hour of Sharing. All the money collected was sorely needed this year. We’ve had many natural disasters around the world, and many people need help. The same Sunday we were treated to some beautiful music in worship from Henry and flautist Shayna Malool.

Barbara and Gordon Sargent’s daughter Carol Mistretta passed away in Connecticut in late March. Our prayers and thoughts are with them.

The 14th of April was Palm Sunday. The children collected their Lenten bags, bringing in a total of \$845 to be split between David’s House and Epilogos. We also received Stacey Steele and her mother Juliet Steele as members of the church, along with Stacey’s son, Dominic. We had a full church for Easter Sunday. There were also about 25 people for the Sunrise Service, and most of them came back to the church for breakfast. The church was fragrant with the smell of lilies on the altar.

There were two concerts in April, by Camerata New England and Classicopia. We ended the month with Bel Canto Chamber Singers singing for us during the service. What a treat! The church’s concert

calendar was full for May. Bel Canto was here May 3-4, Classicopia on May 11, the April Verch Band on the 17th, UVMC's Sing & Play Festival on the 18th, Camerata New England on the 19th, and the Samara Piano Quartet on the 31st. We have definitely become a music center for the city!

In May we filled up the shopping cart with food for the Humane Society.

June began with a concert by Cantabile, then Meghan Davis, Henry, and friends did a benefit concert for the Upper Valley Humane Society, followed by the Jubilate Singers on June 16. An exciting event began at our church on June 7, a new venue for live music called the Anonymous Coffeehouse. Guests can enjoy baked goods and non-alcoholic beverages while listening to local talent.

We lost a beloved church member in June, Betty Howard, and a few of us went to her memorial service in Laconia. On the 9th we had a service here for her in the memorial garden in front, followed by a small reception in the Parish Hall.

The FCC Outing Club hiked Indian Ridge on June 9, with eight people and two dogs joining in the fun.

Children's Sunday was also on June 9. Besides seeing the results of all the work this year's children produced during Sunday School, we also had a celebration for Marcia Corkins, who retired after two decades as Church School Superintendent. Thank you so much, Marcia!

We saw the arrival of 25 young people with Bike & Build on the 15th of June. We served them two suppers and one breakfast.

Steve took the last Sunday of June off, so Jo Shelnutt filled in for him. We also had the pleasure of listening to Maya Lynn, granddaughter of Nirmala and Rev. Richard Slater, play the violin, accompanied by Henry. Absolutely beautiful music.

The first Sunday of July we had the pleasure of having Peter Beardsley substituting for Henry on the organ. In honor of Independence Day he ended the service with Charles Ives' *Variations on "America."* We also learned that week of the passing of Ruth Friend, a leader in our choir for many years.

On July 21 we had a guest saxophone player, Mike Parker, play for us in worship. Despite having to endure hot, humid weather this month, the morning of our Praise in the Park service on July 28 was beautiful. We were joined by the Methodist churches of Lebanon and White River Junction. That night we also hosted the Ulman Fund 4K for Cancer runners at our church and had our community dinner.

In August we had our worship exchange, visiting West Lebanon Congregational Church on August 4, where Jo Shelnutt led the service. On the 18th their congregation came to our church, and Jeff Scott led the service. Each of these services was preceded by a breakfast provided by the Men's Fellowship.

Jo volunteered to be in charge of the Musical Drama Camp again this year. The production was *100% Chance of Rain*. Children ages 6-12 helped write and perform in the play. Noah's Ark was loaded with stuffed animals peeking through the windows. Very cute. God bless you, Jo!!

We also had four concerts in August: the Fischer Duo, Classicopia's Great American Songbook and the Power of Four, and Deux Saisons.

September 15 was Kick-off Sunday. This year's theme in Christian Education will be "Finding Christ in Our Lives," and new Superintendent Nan Parsons has worked hard to set up the space downstairs. There were about twelve children who brought their backpacks to be blessed and have their first Sunday School class with Nan, which the children have chosen to rename the Children's Community Corner. Following the service we had a pizza lunch, with the now-famous Bouncy House on the front lawn.

In September we continued our shopping-cart collection to fight poverty and hunger, with Listen benefiting in a monthly rotation with the Haven and the Upper Valley Humane Society. On Monday the 16th our church lawn was the site for a community gathering and rally for immigrant rights, to protest the way ICE is stopping traffic in the area to find illegal immigrants.

We started out the month of October by hosting the annual Crop Walk, which this year celebrated its 50th anniversary. We hosted about 60 people.

The church also hosted four concerts in October: Classicopia, UVMC's Cello Festival, the McKasson/McDonald/McLane Trio, and another LOH on Location event with Veronica Swift. On the 27th, Leslie Stroud played her flute during the service; she's so good. Having resumed on the last weekend in September, the Anonymous Coffeehouse offered a total of six concerts through early December.

On October 20 we received four new members into the church: Karen and Christopher Chase, Dawn Troutman and Kareen Miller-McGregor. Welcome!

Several from our congregation went to the Micah Awards Ceremony in Claremont on the afternoon of October 27. This year Marcia Corkins was honored from our family. Richard and Nirmala Slater were there, along with Jennifer Grant. Good to see them!

November was a busy month musically. In addition to the Anonymous Coffeehouse, we welcomed the Infinitus string trio for LOH on Locaiton, as well as a UVMC faculty concert, Classicopia, and the NH Master Chorale.

Steve Silver led a book group this month, discussing N. T. Wright's book *Simply Christian*. On November 24 Susan Sorensen substituted on the organ for Henry in worship, and bad weather resulted in only nine guests at the Community Dinner!

Advent started on the first day of December this year, and after the service we decorated the church for Christmas. We are doing the Giving Tree again this year, along with filling the shopping cart for Listen this month. On the 8th Steve and Rachel opened up the Parsonage to us for our annual Christmas party, where about 25 of us gathered to sing, converse, and eat! The following Sunday about 12 people went caroling around town, visiting the Towers, Harvest Hill, Genesis, and three homes.

Musical events this month featured Bel Canto, the UVMC Messiah Sing, and Classicopia. On the last Sunday of the year we had a carol sing for the service, along with more beautiful music from violinist Maya Lynn. Nirmala and Richard Slater were there. So good to see them again.

Let's hope that 2020 is a little better than 2019, wishing for peace and tranquility in the world this year. Happy New Year, everyone.

Respectfully submitted,

Corrine Erskine, *Church Historian*

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

*Note: All positions are three-year terms, ending in February of the year listed; positions marked with an asterisk (\*) carry only a one-year term. Membership size or ranges specified in FCC's By-laws are shown in parentheses. Positions marked *Vacant* must be filled to meet minimum membership; those marked *Open* are available but not required.*

*MODERATOR	Barbara Jones
*CLERK	Brian Clancy
*TREASURER	Terry Ellison ( <i>Interim</i> )
*ASSISTANT TREASURER	<i>Vacant</i>
*HISTORIAN	Corrine Erskine
*AUDITOR	<i>Vacant</i>
*CHURCH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT (Term: July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021)	Nancy Parsons

### CHURCH COUNCIL

*CHAIR	Linda Jacobs
*VICE CHAIR	Corrine Erskine
*MEMBER-AT-LARGE	Linda Oronte
*MEMBER-AT-LARGE	Leslie Thomson

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS (4-9)

<i>Open</i>	2023
<i>Open</i>	2023
<i>Open</i>	2023
John Gilliatt	2022
Brandon Mason	2022
Wendell Smith	2022
Terry Ellison	2021
Walter Scott	2021
<i>Open</i>	2021

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES (3)

Valerie Nevel	2023
Wendell Smith	2022
Barry Schuster	2021

### FINANCE COMMITTEE (5)

<i>Vacant</i> (Member-at-Large)	2023
*Treasurer	2021
*Member Board of Govs	2021
*Member Stewardship Comm	2021
*Member Trustees	2021

### DIACONATE (12)

Alyson Danyew-Ellison	2023
Bob Gerlach	2023
Linda Gerlach	2023
Susan Pratt	2023
Kathy Beckett	2022
Stacey Steele	2022
Barbara Teeter	2022
Steve Teeter	2022
Larry Doyle	2021
Philip Hammond	2021
<i>Vacant</i>	2021
<i>Vacant</i>	2021

### PERSONNEL SUBCOMMITTEE (4)

*Church Council Chair	2021
*Diaconate Chair ( <i>or designate</i> )	2021
*Bd of Govs Chair ( <i>or designate</i> )	2021
*Member Finance Comm	2021

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE (4-6)

Linda Gerlach	2023
Vacant	2023
Nicole Mason	2022
Nancy Parsons	2022
Open	2021
Open	2021

MEMORIAL GARDENS COMMITTEE (3)

Ike Jacobs	2023
Brandon Mason	2022
Alyson Danyew-Ellison	2021

MISSION AND SOCIAL ACTION  
COMMITTEE (6-8)

Jon Scott	2023
Steve Teeter	2023
Kathy Beckett	2022
Barbara Laro	2022
Denise Moriearty	2022
Ron Bailey	2021
Corrine Erskine	2021
Wendell Smith	2021
Laurel Stavis	2021

MUSIC COMMITTEE (4-6)

Meghan Davis	2023
Gail Wasson	2023
Brian Clancy	2022
Open	2022
Jo Shelnutt	2021
Steve Teeter	2021

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE (4-6)

Open	2023
Open	2023
Meghan Davis	2022
Jon Scott	2022
Valerie Nevel	2021
Steve Teeter	2021

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (3)

Barbara Jones	2023
Vacant	2022
Vacant	2021

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE (5)

Member Board of Govs	2023
Member-at-Large	2023
*Moderator (B. Jones)	2021
*Diaconate Chair	2021
*Other Member Diaconate	2021

NHC-UCC DELEGATES (4)

*Vacant	2021
*Vacant	2021
*Vacant	2021
*Vacant	2021

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Driscoll, *Chair*

Barbara Jones

## BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS

Blest be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
Is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne  
We pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
Our comforts and our cares.

We share each other's woes,  
Each other's burdens bear,  
And often for each other flows  
The sympathizing tear.

When we are called to part  
It gives us inward pain,  
But we shall still be joined in heart,  
And hope to meet again.

— John Fawcett (1739/40-1817)