

The Spring Glen Church,
United Church of Christ

May Annual Meeting

Reports of 2015 – 2016

May 15, 2016



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Spring Glen Church Mission Statement

*We are responsibly united in this Church for the public worship of God, for fellowship and mutual instruction in Christian faith and life, and for concerted effort to advance the cause of Christ.
To these purposes we pledge, so far as we are able, our prayers, our gifts and our services.*

Booklet Contents:

SGC Mission Statement	page	2
Opportunities for Involvement 2015-2016	page	3
Minutes of May 2015 Meeting	pages	4-6
Minutes of January 2016 Meeting	pages	6-12
Bridge Interim Senior Pastor Annual Report May 2016	pages	12-13
Associate Pastor Annual Report May 2016	pages	14-15
Christian Education Coordinator Annual Report May 2016	pages	16-17
Moderator Annual Report May 2016	pages	17-18
Benevolence Annual Report May 2016	page	19
Christian Action Committee Annual Report May 2016	pages	20-21
Christian Education Committee Annual Report May 2016	pages	22-24
Board of Deacons Annual Report May 2016	pages	24-25
Delegates Annual Report May 2016	pages	25-26
Fellowship Annual Report May 2016	page	26
Hospitality and Special Events Annual Report May 2016	page	27
House Committee Annual Report May 2016	pages	27-29
Music Committee Annual Report May 2016	page	29
Stewardship Committee Annual Report May 2016	page	30
Theater Arts Ministry Annual Report May 2016	pages	30-31
Trustees Annual Report May 2016	pages	31-32
Youth Group Annual Report May 2016	pages	32- 33
Sr. Pastor Search Committee Annual Report May 2016	pages	33-34
Vision Committee Annual Report May 2016	pages	34-36
Open Door Annual Report 2016	pages	36
Nominating Slate May 2016	pages	37-40
Ways to Stay Informed	page	40

Opportunities to be involved at Spring Glen Church in the past year, 2015-2016
Join us in the coming year!

Service Opportunities: DOING

church committees
teach Sunday school
volunteer in the toddler room
cook for and/or serve at Columbus House once each month
cook for and serve at Martha's Place shelter each week
Weekly program Martha's Place: Self-care/self-esteem
Abraham's Tent (cook, serve, socialize, stay overnight)
Habitat- Sleeping Giant Build work days
lay caregivers- visiting homebound
provide meals for church members
provide rides for church members
bake for or serve at Memorial Receptions
church fall and spring clean-ups
service day to serve church family: leaf raking
delivering flowers at holidays
Ella Scantlebury – once a month visits to senior residents
deliver food to Hamden Food Bank
Literacy Tutoring
Youth Mission Trip to New Jersey
Intergenerational Mission Trip New Jersey
Blood Drives (June & February)
volunteer in the office
Farmers Market (on pause for 2016)
SGCW: Thanksgiving Bake Sale, Dec. craft fair
Attend wider UCC meetings: New Haven Association and CT Conference

Service Opportunities: GIVING

Mitten Tree: New Reach, CCA and New Reach
Covenant to Care: Hamden Youth Services
(backpacks, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Spring)
Toiletries: New Reach
Eye glasses: The Lion's
Hamden Food Bank (all year)
Adopt an Apartment (CCA): (backpacks, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Spring, household goods)
Furniture Co-op
Sunday School Marketplace: Water for South Sudan
March Forth for Literacy: children's books
CCA Food and Disposable Diaper donation (May)

Study Opportunities:

Sunday morning Bible study
Sunday evening Young Adult Bible study
Monday afternoon Bible study
Monthly contemplative prayer
Lunch & Learn: "Changing Faces of Homelessness New Solutions Using a Collaborative Approach"
All Church Read: *The One and Only Ivan*, by Katherine Applegate
Book Discussions:
The Lemon Tree by Sandy Tolan
My Grandfather's Blessings by Rachel Remen
Forum: Tree of Life Visit with Palestinian Women (6/17)
Film and Discussion: *Living for 32* (3/4)
Making a Killing (4/7)

Activities for Youth and Families:

Sunday school each week coffee hour each week
children's choir
Confirmation Class Youth Group
cooking for and serving at Columbus House
All Church Read: *The One and Only Ivan*, by Katherine Applegate
S'Mores Roast
Rally Day picnic
Sunday School Marketplace: Simply Smiles
Theater: James & the Giant Peach
Advent Festival
Christmas caroling Pancake Breakfast
Rock & Blues night Easter Egg hunt

Activities for Adults

coffee hour each week Bible Study
committees Book Discussions
service opportunities Film Discussions
Altar flowers donation Contemplative Prayer
Sunday morning greeters Women's Retreat
Liturgists New Member classes
choir needle arts
handbell choir theater arts
Open Door softball
S'Mores Roast Rally Day picnic
Advent Festival Christmas caroling
Rock & Blues night Progressive dinner
Pancake Breakfast
Museum visit: Creches of Central Europe (12/12)

Second Hours:

2/28 Refugee Resettlement
3/6 Program on End of Life Care & Decision Making
4/3 Guns and Gun Violence
4/14 and 4/24: Benevolence

Concerts/Theater performances

November: James & the Giant Peach
April: Two Bards with One Stone

Special Events/Services

12/4 Advent Festival Pageant
12/21 Longest Night/ Blue Christmas
12/24 Christmas Eve, 5:00 and 11:00
2/10 Ash Wednesday (at Mt.Carmel Church 7:30, and at SGC with Abraham's Tent, led by Jesus Squad)
3/6 Worship led by the Jesus Squad
3/24 Maundy Thursday 7:00
3/25 Good Friday 7:30
3/27 Easter Sunrise (6:15) and 10:00

Special Receptions:

Confirmation
Pastor David Minnick's retirement
Easter sunrise breakfast and special fellowship hour
4/20 Easter Sunrise (6:15) and 10:00

THE SPRING GLEN CHURCH

May Annual Meeting

May 17, 2015

Call to Order

Senior Trustee Bethany Appleby called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. on Sunday, May 17, 2015, in the absence of Amy Lynn, Moderator. Interim Senior Pastor David Minnick opened the meeting with prayer reflecting on the history of Spring Glen Church. The following documents were distributed to the Congregation: Agenda and Booklet for the meeting containing 2015 Nominating Slate and Annual Reports of Boards and Committees.

Minutes of the January Annual Meeting

Excerpts of the Minutes of the January 25, 2015 Annual Meeting were read by Debby Jagielow, in the absence of Judy Offutt, Clerk of the Church, with the full text available in the packet distributed to the Congregation. The motion was made, seconded, and a unanimous vote was taken to approve the minutes of the January 2015 Annual Meeting as presented.

Recognition of Annual Reports of Boards and Committees

Bethany called for a motion to approve Annual Reports of Boards and Committees with thanks to the chairs for their submissions and Julia McLaughlin for compiling the booklet. Bethany noted that communication continues to be an important mission of the church and offered thanks to Nick Appleby, Debby Jagielow and Julia McLaughlin for their efforts in this area.

Marcia Hoffmann inquired about the Vision Committee membership and Bethany referred to the committee's report on page 37 of the packet.

The motion was made, seconded, and a unanimous vote was taken to approve the Annual Reports of Boards and Committees as presented.

Slate of Candidates, Including New Chairs, to Fill Vacancies on Boards and Committees

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Alice White presented the nominations. Alice noted that five leadership positions are being filled this year: Treasurer, Senior Trustee, Benevolence, Christian Action, and House. In addition, there were sixteen committee positions filled. Alice thanked outgoing committee chairs and members for their service and new chairs and members for filling the vacancies.

Motion made and seconded to accept the Nominating Committee's Report and Nominations in the booklet. No additional nominations from the floor were made. Nominations unanimously approved.

Senior Pastor Search Committee Report

Rick Brownell, Chair, presented the following Senior Pastor Search Committee report.

The committee was called approximately one year ago and it has been a very good year. They have appreciated congregational input, and their full report is on page 33 of the packet. We are in a good place; it is an exciting time, as we have shared our church profile with several good candidates, are now reviewing list of 38 profiles, and recently scheduled a first round of interviews with some. Many thanks for the prayers from the congregation and ongoing support. Bethany thanked the members of the committee for their hard work.

THE SPRING GLEN CHURCH

May Annual Meeting

May 17, 2015

(continued)

Vision Committee Report and Proposed Use of Income from Ministry Endowment and Building Endowment

Bethany Appleby reported on Vision Committee activities starting with a quick refresher: there are two "pots" of money from Capital Campaign, Building Endowment and Ministry Endowment. Each year, a calculation is made to determine the amount available in interest and dividends available to draw from those funds. The purpose of the Vision Committee is to decide as a group how the funds are to be spent. In the past few years, Ministry Endowment funds were needed to cover general operating expenses. In April 2015, Council re-established the Vision Committee as it was previously constituted, to prioritize expenditures of these funds. The Vision committee's recommendations are voted on by Council, and, if approved, ultimately voted on by the Congregation. Membership on this committee is not proposed by the Nominating Committee, rather includes particular leadership roles and designees: the Pastor, the Moderator, the House chair, and representatives from Deacons, Trustees, and Christian Education.

From page 37 of the packet, the following was proposed for Ministry Endowment:

\$10,000 - to search process

\$1,500 to special musicians

\$1,000 to repay previous year overdraws

\$1,500 for Church Growth & Retention special projects

\$400 for Young Adult Bible Study

(First three items were approved in our 2015 budget)

\$14,400 Total from Ministry Endowment Funds

From page 38 of the packet, the following was proposed for Building Endowment:

\$3,500 - \$4,000 annual boiler maintenance

\$5,000- \$7,000 for water heater replacement

\$5,500 for driveway apron replacement

\$8,000 - \$12,000 for Glen Parkway steps replacement

\$3,000 for sanctuary windows exterior trim repair

\$2,000 - \$3,000 for miscellaneous repairs

\$27,000 – \$34,500 Total from Building Endowment Funds

Chuck Paul inquired on the process for allocating the money not yet allocated? Bethany answered the Vision committee will review, and requests should be funneled from committees to Vision Committee.

Motion to accept the proposed use of funds, seconded and unanimously approved.

Solar Panel Installation Update

Roger Johnson provided an update on the solar panel project. The panels are in place, operational, but not yet operating. United Illuminating will perform the final inspection, but that is still pending. Roger expressed hope that the system will be fully operating shortly. We have had unfortunate delays. However, Ron Offutt has been very patient and very persistent.

Mary Colwell offered thanks and gratitude for the new parking lot entrance: it is a great improvement. Bethany reported there are more improvements to come.

THE SPRING GLEN CHURCH

May Annual Meeting

May 17, 2015

(continued)

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved by the congregation.

Pastor Clare Robert offered closing prayer: Bless all that will serve this community in the coming year and who have served in the past.

The meeting adjourned 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debby Jagielow
Substitute scribe

Judy F. Offutt
Clerk of the Church

THE SPRING GLEN CHURCH

Annual January Congregational Meeting

January 31, 2016

Moderator Amy Lynn called the Annual January Congregational Meeting to order at 11:05am on Sunday, January 31, 2016. A quorum was present. The following documents were distributed to the Congregation: Agenda and January 2015 booklet which included:

A Year in the Life of Spring Glen Church 2015

Treasurer's Report for the Period Ended 12/31/2015

2015 Membership Statistics

Minutes from Annual January Congregational Meeting January 25, 2015

Minutes from May Congregational Meeting May 17, 2015

Vision Committee Report

Proposed 2016 Budget

Associate Pastor Clare Robert opened the meeting with prayer. "You called us ... bestowing gifts of leadership and interpretation of budgets ... gifts of speech ... Thank you for the call. Help us to be people of compassion and leadership."

Amy noted that the booklet with information for this meeting had been available in the front lobby for two weeks and everyone on the email list was emailed about the opportunity to request an email copy, so she hoped members of the congregation had had a chance to review the materials. Amy urged people to savor the information on the first page of the booklet, showing in summary form all that goes on in our vibrant church, thanks to everyone sharing their time and interests and skills.

Clerk Reports

The floor was turned over to Judy Offutt, Clerk of the Church, to present the Annual Report of Membership. Judy read membership statistics on membership gain, loss, baptisms, funeral or memorial services, and weddings. Judy read aloud the names of those who passed away in 2015, and led a moment of silence for them. Judy noted that there will be further movement of active members to

THE SPRING GLEN CHURCH
Annual January Congregational Meeting
January 31, 2016
(continued)

inactive status based on Clerk feedback and review by Board of Deacons with this being completed in the month of January in time for report to UCC. Judy thanked Debby Jagielow for all her work on this review of the Church Windows database.

Pastor Clare reported a correction to the membership report as the wedding of James Coatsworth and Sharon Medak was not listed. Motion to amend the report was made, seconded and unanimously approved by the congregation. Motion to approve the Annual Report of Membership as amended was made, seconded and unanimously approved by the congregation. Judy thanked Melissa Parnoff, Office Manager, for compiling the membership statistics.

Judy read highlights from the May 17, 2015 Congregational Meeting. Motion to accept minutes as written in the booklet was made, seconded and approved by the congregation.

2015 Treasurer's Report

The floor was turned over to Doug Hawthorne, Treasurer, to present the December and Year Ending 2015 Treasurer's Report.

Doug outlined the following information from the Statement of Changes in Fund Balances. Doug commented that the treasurer's report is posted each month in the parish house hallway highlighting that the report is intended to communicate where we are each month, demonstrate where money is being spent and give us a sense on the health of the church. Please provide feedback if you see ways to make this report better.

Doug reported that we ended the year with a \$6,000 operating budget surplus. (We began 2015 with \$13,000 surplus). Overall, in 2015 we took in less than what we spent. Doug highlighted that if you look at income and remove carry forward balance, interest income and money put in from vitality initiative, the amount we received in 2015 pledge payments is about what we received in 2014. Our 2015 expenditures are lower than what we spent in 2014. Doug gave credit to the Committee Chairs and members, along with Office staff members for doing a great job of stewardship to our church by watching expenditures.

Doug highlighted that our endowment funds dropped slightly but this looks like normal fluctuation in the market.

Motion to approve December 2015 Treasurer's Report was made, seconded and unanimously approved by the congregation.

January 2016 Vision Committee Report

Amy Lynn, Moderator, discussed the Vision committee recommendations, on pages 14-16 of the booklet.

She noted that because the recommendations for use of the Ministry Endowment income and the Building Endowment income interrelate with the 2016 budget, she would present the Vision committee recommendations, and then Ron Offutt, Senior Trustee, would present the proposed budget, and after both have been presented, the congregation will vote on approving the Vision committee proposals, and

THE SPRING GLEN CHURCH
Annual January Congregational Meeting
January 31, 2016
(continued)

on the approving the budget. As noted in the agenda, we will also vote on a question that we agreed last January would be voted on this January.

Amy discussed the information in the Vision committee report: as a result of Spring Glen Church's 2006-2007 Capital Campaign, we have a Ministry Endowment and a Building Endowment, and a Vision committee whose job is to prioritize how we spend the income from those two funds. Our guidelines provide that we can take out up to 5% of the value of each endowment annually (using a prescribed formula); any withdrawals in excess of that formula would require a congregational vote. The Vision Committee was active from 2008 - 2011, then we fell out of that practice; the committee was re-constituted in spring 2015. The Vision committee meets to prioritize goals; after Council has approved the Vision committee's recommendations, the congregation then votes, typically at both our January and May congregational meetings.

Turning first to the Ministry Endowment, Amy noted that under our formula, the income we are allowed to draw from the Ministry Endowment in 2016 is \$18,081. In addition, we have unspent income from prior years (\$2,826.57 from 2013, \$1,020 from 2014, and \$11,957.81 from 2015). Amy noted that the large amount from 2015 is primarily due to funds allocated to the Search process that were not spent in 2015. Thus, the total Ministry Endowment income currently available is \$33,885.38.

Amy then discussed the proposed allocations set out in the report, page 14 of the booklet, noting that some items (Toddler room teacher, substitute organists, and guest preachers), have been budget items in prior years, but trustees and Council believe that these are items that enhance church vitality, so can properly be funded from Ministry Endowment income. Amy discussed each of the items, noting particularly that we are allocating \$12,000 to the Search process and allocating \$12,310 to fund the 2016 operating budget. The reserve left for future initiatives this coming year is \$3,875.

The Vision Committee recommends the following allocations, most of which were recommended in the Trustees' draft budget:

Search process (including new pastor moving expenses):	12,000
Toddler Room teacher	900
Special Musicians	1,500
Substitute Organists	800
Guest Preachers	500
Membership Growth and Retention initiatives	1,000
Repay previous over-withdrawals	1,000
(leaving approximately \$11,000 to be repaid in future years)	
Fund 2016 Operating Budget	12,310
Reserve for future Vitality initiatives:	3,875.38
TOTAL	33,885.38

The Vision committee also recommends that 2016 income and the unspent amounts from prior years be consolidated into one designated fund, entitled Vitality Funds from Ministry Endowment income.

Because the Ministry Endowment was not intended to be used to support the church's annual operating budget, the Vision committee also expressed the hope that Trustees give serious consideration to

THE SPRING GLEN CHURCH
Annual January Congregational Meeting
January 31, 2016
(continued)

allocating some or all of any end-of-2016 surplus (up to the \$12,310 of endowment income that was allocated to the 2016 operating budget) back to the designated fund for Vitality initiatives.

In response to a question from Nancy Dittes about how we can get to a point where we stop using Ministry Endowment income for the budget, Amy noted that she and many others share Nancy's dismay with this practice, and that clearly identifying what we are doing is the first step toward stopping the practice. Spring Glen Church had been allocating endowment income to the budget for many years without everyone being aware of this, and a few years ago Mark Barrett suggested a way to present the information so that it is clear that is what we are doing. 2015 was the first year we did not allocate Ministry Endowment income to the budget, and we had hoped we could continue that good practice, but in this transition time, we cannot do that this year. To do that, we either need to raise more funds or cut expenses, whether operations or benevolence. We are hopeful that once we are through the transition, some people who may be hanging back will feel more committed and increase their pledging.

Kathy Kew Lee noted that she had thought the Youth Minister position, no longer funded in the budget, would be funded from Ministry Endowment income. Amy noted that youth group is indeed a strong priority for many in the Spring Glen Church, important both for the youth, and also for our church's future, and for the future of church in general. Amy noted that twenty-some year ago, the youth group leaders were volunteers, including the Offutts, the Cecils, the Uyekis, Jay Hirsch, Liz Ball, and Roger and Ruth Johnson. When Pastor Andy came in 2001, youth ministry was his passion so he led the group, with significant lay leadership from Jay Hirsch, Margie Liddell, Liz Ball, the Johnsons and others. When Andy left in 2010, lay leaders again filled the role. For three recent years, we then paid a Divinity school student to lead the youth group, but this model of having a new leader each year is not ideal for the youth group. Pastor David filled the role for one year, and we are now fortunate to have two excellent leaders from the congregation (Braxton Carrigan and Ruth LeBar), who may have taken the role thinking it was a paid position, but who are willing, since we just don't have the money to pay this position this year, to do it as part of their service to the church. We do not know what the model will be in future years, but it is possible that this model of having church members lead the group as their service to the church will work. It worked in past years, and we currently have great youth leaders.

Turning to the Building Endowment fund, Amy noted that this income is intended to maintain the church facility, and to build up to be available when significant work (such as a new roof or new boiler) is needed. She noted that the booklet lists the projects approved at the May 2015 meeting, and that all those items came in under budget. She noted that we have to allow flexibility for the House committee, Trustees, and Council, to act when unexpected needs arise, such as the sinkhole in the parking lot, which opened up the week after our May meeting.

The 2016 Building Endowment income amount is \$21,604; the amount left from prior years is \$24,419, bringing the Building designated fund to \$46,023. Following the House committee's recommendations, the Vision Committee recommends funding the following projects in 2016:

- Annual boiler maintenance costs (water treatment, cleaning, etc.) Est. \$1,000
(in future years, this expense should perhaps be moved to the Operating budget)
- Water heater: issues with the pilot light
- Glen Parkway steps railing replacement (both buildings)
- Sanctuary windows exterior trim repair, paint, Est. \$3,000

THE SPRING GLEN CHURCH
Annual January Congregational Meeting
January 31, 2016
(continued)

Incidental costs for ongoing miscellaneous repairs, Est. \$2,000 - \$3,000
Accomplishing these would leave the Building Designated Fund at about \$36,000 - \$39,000. As noted, this fund is expected to build up, to be available for long-term expenses.

2016 Church Budget

Amy turned the floor over to Ron Offutt, Senior Trustee, to present the 2016 Spring Glen Church Budget.

Ron walked the congregation through the 2016 Church Budget highlighting the following:

Total pledge amount is \$330,000 (for both operations and benevolences.)

Three years of actuals are provided for trend comparison (2013, 2014, and 2015).

\$12,310 is needed from Vitality Initiatives Fund to balance the budget. It is the intention of the Board of Trustees to discontinue these transfers year to year, noting that the Vitality Fund was designed for purposes other than balancing the budget.

Pastor salary lines are now divided to include housing allowances (following IRS guidelines).

Christian Education Coordinator salary was reduced by one month, because we have not had to pay for this position for the month of January.

Youth Group leader line was eliminated, noting this is currently managed by volunteers from the congregation, as it was in many past years.

Pastor insurance has large increase of \$10,500 representing an expected increase in health insurance coverage for a settled senior pastor and family. Both Pastors Ruth and Clare have healthcare coverage independent of the UCC.

Toddler Room Teacher Salary, Substitute Organists and Guest Preachers have been moved out of the budget and will be paid out of the Vitality Funds.

Office Manager Salary shows a savings of \$4,815 resulting from fewer hours worked in the position by our new office manager, Melissa Parnoff.

Vitality Initiative Fund ended 2015 with a balance of \$12,000. As set out in the Vision Committee's recommendations, this amount has been allocated to the Search Committee to support search expenses.

Ron noted a special thank you to the Search Committee members: Janice Ammons, Nick Appleby, Michele Backus, Nancy Beals, Rick Brownell, Jennifer Heath, Laurel Laster and Mike Palmieri. Please offer words of thanks and encouragement along with a hug. Nancy Dittes is managing a program to provide a light meal for the Search Committee each Thursday and would like to hear from congregation members to help.

Benevolence Budget

Benevolence pledges are once again calculated at 15% of 2016. This spring, the Board of Trustees will moderate a Second Hour on the topic of our Benevolence giving with the goal of establishing a system to periodically evaluate and adjust, as necessary, the percentage of pledges we allocate to Benevolence. Benevolence Prior Year balance should be corrected from \$6,365 to \$6,869 as correctly noted on the Treasurer's Report. Last year at this time, to approve a balanced budget, we reduced our Benevolence giving from 15% to 13.34% of pledges. This percentage was increased to 13.62% after voting to transfer \$878.14 to Benevolence from leftover 2014 Contingency funds.

THE SPRING GLEN CHURCH
Annual January Congregational Meeting
January 31, 2016
(continued)

At our January 2015 meeting, we agreed that at today's meeting, a recommendation would be made followed by a vote on whether any amount remaining in the 2015 Contingency line, \$2,052.26 at December 31st, 2015, should be allocated to 2015 Benevolence to make up the difference of 15% and 13.62%, (~\$4500). The Trustees recommend that the 2015 Contingency line balance at December 31st, 2015, \$2,052.26, not be allocated to Benevolence. The carryover balance of \$6,475, at line nine in the 2016 budget, already incorporates these funds, and reducing this carryover balance would only serve to further reduce Vitality Funds from which we are already taking \$12,310 to balance the budget. The Trustees note that the 2016 budget includes a return to the 15% rate.

Questions from the floor

Nancy Dittes pointed out line 128 showing that \$12,310 of the Vitality Initiatives Fund are earmarked as Transfer to Operations Fund. Amy responded that this is also reported in the Vision committee's Report.

Barbara Hobbs stated that she did not understand the Benevolence Funds carryover. Bernadette Welsh, Benevolence Committee Chair, answered that this is typical of past practice; money is allocated to Benevolence as pledges come in; thus, the benevolence portion of December pledges is not available to be paid out before the end of the year. It is typical for us to spend this early in the new budget year.

2016 Vision Committee and Budget Approvals

After hearing the Budget and Vision Committee reports, Amy Lynn, Moderator, led the congregation through the following votes.

Motion was made to accept the Vision Committee report and recommendation, seconded and unanimously approved.

Motion was made to accept the Board of Trustees recommendation to not apply money from the 2015 Contingency line to proposed 2016 Benevolence Budget, seconded and unanimously approved.

Motion made to approve the 2016 Budget as proposed by Board of Trustees, seconded and unanimously approved.

Search Committee Update

Rick Brownell reported that we are still on our journey. He had been hopeful that we would be done by now but we are not. The committee has made good progress.

Search Committee members have been given 70 Profiles of which 37% were retained to take a closer look. Committee members have interviewed (first, second and third interviews) which represents 16% of the original 70.

Rick and committee members have kept in contact with our Connecticut UCC South Central Regional Minister, The Rev. Mary Nelson Abbott. She urged that we keep the faith and not to rush this process. The time we have spent is not unusual. Keep focused on the future.

THE SPRING GLEN CHURCH
Annual January Congregational Meeting
January 31, 2016
(continued)

Rick thanked the congregation for their supportive prayers. Amy thanked Rick and the Search Committee for their hard work.

Christian Education Coordinator Search Update

Debra Tangarone, Christian Education Chair, provided an update on the search for our Christian Education Coordinator. Debra solicited support from the congregation to be on the lookout for qualified individuals for this position. We have interviewed two candidates to date and neither is the right fit. Shortly, she will be sending out a communication to the congregation with the job description enclosed soliciting support in finding a qualified candidate. Search and Christian Education Committees have agreed to be flexible with the job composition if the right solution is found.

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved by the congregation.

Bridge Interim Senior Pastor Ruth LeBar led the congregation through closing devotions. "Thank you for community, for your love, all of our ministries, some silent, and some unseen, some quite in focus for all of us to see. All of our ministries are needed and blessed by God binding us together in covenant together, named as yours. Fill us now with renewed hope and energies and faith, to go forward as one."

The meeting adjourned at 12:04 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Judy F. Offutt
Clerk of the Church

Interim Bridge Senior Pastor
Annual Report
May 2016

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. Matthew 11: 28-30

What a blessing it is to serve this church! From the very beginning of this ministry, I have experienced the collective strength and faith of this church. The yoke feels easy, and the burden is no burden at all. My experience is that we are not only yoked to the One who gives us life, we are also yoked to one another. We work as a team.

I had experienced this sense of 'one church' as a congregant here. Now I know how deep it goes. We have each other's backs. We serve each other. We lift the burdens of others as best we can. Sometimes the people that we serve are members or friends of our congregation. Sometimes they are people we will never meet. It makes no difference. We are called to this love. We respond.

**Interim Bridge Senior Pastor
Annual Report
May 2016
(Continued)**

In my short tenure here, it has been a joy to listen, to preach, to teach and to open the doors on Sunday mornings. I have gotten to know so many of you in a new way as I have worked with various committees and attended meetings. One of my special joys has been participating in the Monday afternoon Bible Study. I remember this study from back when it took place in the living room of Gay and Dotie Noyce. It has remained through all these years a group of faithful and humor-laced seekers of the Word. Thank you Monday afternoons!

The work of our church is complex in its components. We are very blessed to have so many competent people giving of their time and talent to keep us humming along. I have learned about our heating system. I have learned about how the message on our Whitney Avenue sign gets changed. I have learned the art of ringing the steeple bell. I have found out where the tablecloths for Great Hall are kept. I have yet to learn how to run the dishwasher. It's on my list.

All time is sacred time. Sometimes this reality becomes our experience. In January, I helped our church family lift up thanksgiving for the lives of Connie Fisher and Dorothy Seipold. The two memorial services were very different, yet each held the promises of God for new life. Each held tears and laughter. The saints are all around us.

In February, the season of Lent began. I was able to offer an Ash Wednesday service not only for the confirmation class, Jesus Squad and church members, but also for our guests in Abraham's Tent and many volunteers. Pastor Clare and I chose the Lenten theme of Essentials and we worked with that theme in multiple ways through the days of Lent.

Holy Week began with a joyous Palm Sunday and Pancake Breakfast. Together with the deacons, we held a worship service for Maundy Thursday in the Great Hall. Soup and Bread, Communion, the service of Tennebrae, Darkness, a single candle, and a lone voice singing, 'Were You There When they Crucified My Lord.' Thanks to all who brought this worship to life.

Terese Gemme, the Jesus Squad and I worked together to create a meaningful evening worship on Good Friday. Many people who were there spoke of how deeply they appreciated it.

Easter Sunday began in our Memorial Garden with scripture, poetry and music, followed by an unexpectedly scrumptious breakfast. It seems that everyone brought something! And we feasted on the food and the fellowship. Our Ten O'clock Easter service was radiant with color, joy, and music that almost lifted our roof right off!

As I write this message, I am working on preparations for new members to join our church, and two baptisms. Behind the scenes I have also been very involved with the search for our new director of Christian Education, as well as working with the search committee as we seek God's help in finding our new senior pastor. May God Bless our work!

What more can I say? These months of being with you in this new way will forever live within me as sacred time. An unexpected gift. A joy. A true blessing. And, it will be a joy to welcome our new pastor. It will be a joy to return to the pews. I cannot thank each of you by name in the space that I have, but I will just say that there are angels among us. Music angels. Office angels. Teaching angels. Budget angels. Fix-it, cook it and clean it angels. Angels who give in every way possible.

In my first weeks and throughout this bridge interim time, Clare has been by my side. She has pointed out the potholes in my plans. She has steered me around many a faux pas. She has been the most thoughtful, generous and hardworking of colleagues. I thank God for this new friendship. I thank God for the many new friendships that have grown from this work. Spring Glen Church is in God's hands. And there is no better place to be.

Yours in faith and friendship, Pastor Ruth

**Associate Pastor
Annual Report
May 2016**

My ministry at Spring Glen Church is in its fourth year, and I continue to be inspired by the dedication of our members and the steadfast way we are thriving, even through many years without settled senior leadership. I was helped to understand this experience through the words of one of our members, Jennifer Hanrahan, who is a lay caregiver and qualified chaplain, when she explained her theory of pastoral care. As I remember it, Jen said, "I think of it this way: it's as if we are all on a boat, sailing along together. Sometimes the sea is rough, sometimes calm. Some storms, some sunny weather. Sometimes we wonder if we will arrive at a destination but no matter what happens, we are called to stay in the boat together."

Jen's words helped me see that much of my ministry at Spring Glen Church has been staying in the boat as it travels along. But it is not just a useful metaphor for *my* work among you. *It applies for all of us*, members and friends, who stay in this boat and have for so many years, through many transitions and change. And when we will welcome a new settled senior pastor, the boat image may still apply. For even with a new captain, as it were, the key is to stay in the boat together. Supporting each other, helping each other, being kind to each other and giving some ideas about the direction of the boat as it sails forth, in Christ's name as we attempt to meet the needs of the world as we are able.

This year, as in past years, my ministry has been concentrated in three areas: Confirmation, Lay Caregivers, and the Women's Retreat. In addition, I preach monthly, participate in worship, attend regular Deacon, Council and Christian Education meetings, and confer with the senior pastor and staff weekly. I visit members in homes and hospitals and am available for pastoral consultations in my office. This year I officiated at the memorial service of long time member, Martha Newton.

Beginning in the fall, I organized a course on Contemplative Prayer, which met once a month for conversation and practice. This course is based on the curriculum developed by the publisher, Scripture Echo. Lessons covered practices such as Centering Prayer and Breath Prayer. Our meetings provided the opportunity to practice and to support each other in these ancient (but new to us) methods. Between sixteen and twenty people participated in the group. It will be offered next year in a similar format.

Confirmation Class this year has followed the 12-session curriculum developed three years ago. Our Confirmands will participate in their special service on May 22, and will read portions of their faith statements that day. Their lively questions and engagement in the curriculum have been a joy for me as their teacher, as they ready themselves to make the decision to reaffirm their baptism through the rite of Confirmation. My special thanks go to Karlee Etter, co-teacher who is a vital part of the program. She brings a steady good humor, personal insight and commitment to our young people. This is her fourth year of service to our church, in this capacity.

Our Confirmands are : Will Barrett, Justin Bleickhart, Spencer McCleery, Zachary Munzner, Evan O'Connell, Brynley Rainey, Anna Wootton and Timothy Yang.

The Confirmation retreat was held at our Church with leadership by Rev. Jennifer Whipple, associate pastor of First Church in Brookfield. Pastor Jen is an experienced youth leader and she provided many engaging activities included identifying spiritual gifts and making small flags with prayers for the world, family and self. On May 1, a review session was held to help the Confirmands prepare their faith statements, followed by a festive barbecue at the O'Connell Family's home in North Haven.

The Lay Caregivers continue in their ministry of providing a strong connection between the church and members who are not able to attend, or appreciate a special friendship with a caregiver. Some of our caregivers have been visiting for many years. In 2015 -2016, sustaining members were Sam Ball, Laurie Bleickardt, Carolyn Cary, Arnie Cary, Mary Colwell, Anne Dembinski, Nancy Dittes, Jennifer Hanrahan, Barbara Hobbs. Cynthia Licata, Paula Reagan, Muriel Smith, and Nancy Whitney.

**Associate Pastor
Annual Report
May 2016
(continued)**

This year, Helen Schaeffer and Sharon Medak Coatsworth joined the team. Lay caregivers visit monthly and keep in touch by phone. They also deliver flowers at Christmas and Easter.

The Team meets quarterly to check in and for training. In the fall, we had a training session on pastoral visits, with Tracy Blanford, R.N, who teaches at Gateway Community College. In the spring, Dr. Chad Marion, of Yale New Haven Hospital gave a presentation, open to the whole church, on "Essentials at the End of Life." At the end of each program year, we have continued the tradition of a luncheon at Paula Reagan's house, an enjoyable way to thank and celebrate our dedicated caregiving team.

The Women's retreat has evolved over the past two years from being a member- organized and led event to one with outside leadership. This has been a welcome development for those who have been part of the leadership team because it means that we can have a more relaxed and spiritually fruitful weekend. The leadership still has many responsibilities, including selecting the leader, deciding on a theme, evaluating the event, and communication with participants. This year, Shelia Brantley, Carolyn Cary, and Alex Roman served on the leadership team, and thanks go to them for their good counsel and practical follow through.

This year our leader was Rev. Linda Fernandes-Bailey, formerly associate pastor at the Southington Congregational Church. Pastor Linda is an experienced spiritual director and graduate of Yale Divinity School. The theme of the retreat was "Seasons of Faith." As in past years we met from Friday to Sunday at noon, at the Incarnation Center in Deep River, CT. Nineteen women from the church attended.

Funding for the retreat came from the Bake Sale, held just before Thanksgiving, and the Crafts Fair, held in December. Without these funds, we would not be able to offer scholarships or pay the professional leader. Thanks to Rita McCleary, Barbara Hobbs and Ellen Schowalter for organizing the Bake Sale and to Nancy Whitney for organizing the Crafts Fair. The Spring Glen Church Women's Fellowship Designated Fund also provided funding for the retreat.

As you know, my formal time commitment is 25 hours a week, which varies depending on the needs of the church in a given week. It can be challenging to keep within those boundaries but necessary as well, for mutual good, so that we understand the limits of a part time position, with its inherent fluidity of needs and choices.

This year, it was difficult to say good-bye to Pastor David at his retirement, and easy to say hello to Pastor Ruth, coming out of retirement to serve as Bridge Interim senior pastor. It has been a joy to work with Ruth who has led the Church with uncommon spiritual depth and commitment. I have learned a lot from her in a few short months. We certainly miss Laurie Bleickardt as Coordinator of Christian Education and wish her and her family Godspeed on their move out of state. I have appreciated working with Dr. Terese Gemme, choir director and organist, as we craft the worship service together in staff meetings. She has a master's touch in picking hymns and anthems to complement preaching themes and prayers. And I appreciate the work of Melissa Parnoff, office manager, who helps with day- to- day administrative matters with efficiency and good humor.

I thank God for this opportunity to be your associate pastor and to be sailing in this boat together.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Clare Robert
Associate Pastor

Christian Education Coordinator Annual Report June 2015-December 2015

Our 2014-2015 program year ended with Christian Education Sunday on June 14. All teachers and special helpers to the CE program from the 2014-2015 program year were invited to come up front during worship and be recognized. The Sunday School sent a donation in their honor of \$200 to the Appalachian Service Project.

Summer Sunday School ran from June 21 – August 30. Our theme was taken from the book *What's So Amazing about Polar Bears?* Each week during the 8-week session, children examined how we should honor, respect and preserve God's foremost creation, the Planet Earth. A CE Committee member was assigned to each Sunday to act as the point person should any problem arise. Attendance ranged from 5-19 with an average class attendance of 10. We also provided Toddler Care throughout the summer months.

On July 23, close to 20 people participated in a summer book discussion on the book *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate at my home. The majority of participants were Sunday School students.

The fall Sunday School session began on Rally Day, September 13. New teachers were commissioned. Poor weather resulted in our church-wide picnic moving from the lawn to Great Hall. About 94 people stayed after worship to share sandwiches, salads and desserts. Fifty-two children currently participate in Sunday School, aged birth-Grade 8. I recruited teachers for the fall and winter sessions and held teacher training for each session.

On Rally Day, we also kicked off a Pew Pal program. The Cheshire Congregational Church donated over 75 stuffed animals that we have washed, tagged and distributed among the Sanctuary pews. The tags read, "I am a Pew Pal. I will keep you company while we worship. I can stay here, or you can take me home. If you do, please love me the way God loves you!" This program was designed to give us reminders that God loves us and cares for us. The comfort of God's care for us is like the comfort children get from stuffed animals. Some adults also seem to be comforted by the program. Children can take the animals home. Barbara Hobbs has cleaned soiled stuffed animals, tagged them and distributed them in the Sanctuary. I conducted a Time with Children to explain this new program. Also in September we launched a Toddler Room Ministry Team. To comply with our Safe Church policy, two adults are required in the Toddler Room at all times. We were having a difficult time recruiting an adult to assist Brianna Etter-Speaker, our paid Toddler Attendant. Debra Tangarone recruited eleven volunteers who now rotate once every couple months to serve as the second adult. This system seems to work well. Having two adults in the Toddler Room helps us ensure the safety of our youngest worshippers.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Music Committee, beginning on September 20, CE offered Sunday morning child care beginning at 9:00. This was intended to allow more parents of young children to participate in choir or the Sunday morning Bible Study. Unfortunately, not many parents participated and this service will be suspended in January 2016.

On September 24, thirty church members participated in a Safe Church training run by Pastor David. Lay Caregivers, Sunday School teachers, members of the Toddler Room Ministry Team, Youth Group leaders and any other adult who provides child care or works with children were encouraged to attend. All who came completed Volunteer Disclosure forms as required by the Safe Church policy. Lay caregivers started paperwork to have their criminal background checks completed as required by our Safe Church policy.

On October 18, the CE Committee presented Bibles to four fourth-grade students. Each Bible was personalized with a Bible verse selected by the child's family.

On November 8 following worship, we held the Sunday School Marketplace. Putting the concept of "Love Your Neighbor as Yourself" into action, our teachers led students in making craft items to sell

**Christian Education Coordinator
Annual Report
June 2015-December 2015
(continued)**

at the Marketplace. The pre-K/K class bejeweled pumpkin-scented candles and created their own candles from dried beans, popcorn and lentils. Students from Grades 1/2 sold pinecone turkeys while the Grade 3/4 team painted and assembled spinning tops and a unique item called a "Ten Commandments Reminder." Children from Grades 5/6 sold mugs containing assorted treats. The 7/8 graders educated shoppers about Simply Smiles. We raised a total of \$700.66 that we donated to Simply Smiles.

On December 6, we held our Annual Advent Festival. Close to 130 people attended at least one part of the three-part event. Tara Barrett supplied us with many craft projects to create. The Jesus Squad baked cookies and the Confirmation Class assisted in the craft-making. The Advent Pageant was written and directed by Kathy Lee. The Sunday School children concluded the pageant by singing "Go Tell It on the Mountain." The evening culminated with a potluck supper. Many hands assisted with all aspects of the Advent Festival and I am grateful for all the people who played a part in its success.

Throughout the fall, I assisted in promoting the Halloween Party hosted by the Jesus Squad and the Theatre Arts Ministry's production, "James and the Giant Peach."

Each month, I produced a Sunday School E-News alerting parents to upcoming church events. This newsletter gets delivered to church school parents, teachers, CE members, Youth Group leaders and church staff. This targeted communication helps transmit relevant information regarding church school opportunities to a specific sub-group of our church family. I think this tool was extremely effective in recruiting participants and engaging new families in church school activities. I thank Debby Jagielow and Debra Tangarone for their assistance on the newsletter.

I conducted a Chapel lesson in October, November and December.

One Sunday School class per month served as greeters.

I secured or provided childcare for new member meetings and the Longest Night Service. I also prepared children's bulletins on Sundays when there was no Sunday School.

Due to my family's planned move in the summer of 2016, I resigned from my position as Christian Education Coordinator effective January 1, 2016.

I am grateful for all the support to the CE Program, especially from our vibrant CE Committee: Debra Tangarone, Chair, Betsy Barker, Kathy Lee, Cynthia Licata, Gayle Logan, Michele O'Connell and Eric Summerer. I am also very grateful for the pastoral leadership of Pastor Clare and Pastor David.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Bleickardt
Christian Education Coordinator, December 21, 2015

**Moderator
Annual Report
May 2015**

This has been a rich year in the life of Spring Glen Church, filled with study, service, discernment, change and continuity, worship and contemplation, and opportunities for spiritual growth, deepening faith, and strong community.

In this interim time, Spring Glen Church has been blessed with strong pastoral leadership – Interim Sr. Pastor David Minnick, Bridge Interim Sr. Pastor Ruth LeBar, and Associate Pastor Clare Robert. We

**Moderator
Annual Report
May 2015
(continued)**

have been blessed with strong CE Leadership – CE Coordinator Laurie Bleickardt, CE Chair Debra Tangarone, and the CE Committee. We are blessed with the gifts of many lay leaders, committee chairs, and committee members.

We are blessed with the start of a new chapter: The Rev. Barbara Frey is our new CE Coordinator, and the Sr. Pastor Search committee has called the Rev. Jack Perkins Davidson to be our new Sr. Pastor, with a candidating weekend and congregational vote scheduled for June 5, 2016.

I hope you will find a few minutes to read the year-end reports in this booklet, and to be aware of the many ways that we all work together to create this vibrant Spring Glen Church community. Together, sharing our time and our talents and working together, we serve the needs not only of SGC's members and friends, but also of the wider community:

- through worship, through insightful and thought-provoking sermons, and through inspiring music,
- through exciting and challenging opportunities to study, learn, and discuss together, whatever our age,
- through opportunities to serve and to share our many blessings, both within our church community, within our local community, and with far-reaching mission trips and benevolence giving,
- by maintaining and improving our building, so that we and so many community groups have a safe and welcoming place to meet,
- by overseeing our finances, so that we can continue and grow,
- through opportunities for us to connect, discuss, get to know each other better, have fun and build connections together,
- by sharing information and staying connected with the broader UCC and with our fellow church members.

Thank you, all, for sharing your time and talents, and for being part of this spiritual community.

In Council this year, we have continued to work hard to ensure that people are aware of the many committees and boards and all the work that they do, as well as the many ways the church shares and publicizes information: the bulletin boards, Springboard, Friday Pastor's emails, Sunday bulletin announcements, website (www.springglenchurch.org), SGC Facebook group. Please take note of the many ways you can stay informed (page 40 in this booklet).

This is an exciting time in our church life, and there are so many wonderful things happening here, and so many ways for you to get involved, to deepen your spiritual life, to share in our mission and outreach, our passion and vitality, to express your love of God.

Peace,
Amy Lynn
Moderator, Spring Glen Church UCC

**Benevolence Committee
Annual Report
May 2016**

Spring Glen Church's mission of charity is enacted through the governance of the Benevolence Committee. Funds are distributed to 5 international and 20 regional/local charities. Our Budget supports Our Church's Wider Mission.

Information about our charities can be found on the Spring Glen Church's website under the "Adult Ministry" menu and our committee submenu. This year our funding, expected to be \$46,675 for calendar year 2016, represents 15% of the church pledges. We thank our generous congregation for their support.

Also in the Benevolence budget are funds allocated to support SGC mission trips and a Nursery School Scholarship fund.

The Benevolence Committee also raised additional benevolence funds during the June 2015 – May 2016 program year:

Columbus House gift certificates \$790.

Blanket Sunday and Tools for Hope cards \$480 (2015).

Special Christmas Eve offering (in 2015, this offering went to IRIS and to the UCC Ministers Fund) \$2,115.32.

Easter Offering for One Great Hour of Sharing \$1476.00

We gratefully acknowledge, Nick Appleby for his "Rock-N-Blues" night event which raised funds for New Reach on January 30, 2015. The event on January 22, 2016 raised \$1130 for IRIS.

In March, CT Conference Minister Kent Siladi met with members of the Benevolence Committee to discuss Our Church's Wider Mission and the CT Conference per capita share.

In April 2016, the Benevolence Committee and Trustees jointly sponsored two Second Hour discussions on our church benevolence giving. We discussed the benevolence practices at other Connecticut UCC churches and information provided by Kent Siladi about OCWM, SGC's rich tradition of generous giving, through our pledging, our additional benevolence gifts, our in-kind gifts, and the sharing of our building space. We discussed our budget needs, and discussed the need for flexibility in some years on the exact amount of the benevolence pledges. While our strong benevolence giving is an important defining characteristic of SGC, pledges are not our only benevolence giving, and the work done at SGC is also God's work, so we discussed the idea that there may some years need to be flexibility on the benevolence percentage.

Respectfully submitted, Bernadette Welsh, Chair. Marcia Hoffmann, Treasurer of the Benevolence Committee. We thank Jean Davis, Marianne Fontana, Angie Schriever and Beverly Harrison for their service this year.

Christian Action Committee Annual Report May 2016

Abraham's Tent: In coordination with Columbus House, SGC hosted Abraham's Tent Feb 8-14. Abraham's Tent coordinates with 12-15 local congregations during the winter months to help provide shelter for those who are homeless. This helps off load the shelters that are filled to capacity each winter. Our guests included 6 homeless men and 6 homeless women. Alice White and Sue Spight coordinated all of the SGC food preparation, companioning and overnight supervision and reported the week was a big success. A highlight was the Ash Wednesday Service held just for them by our youth group The Jesus Squad and The Rev. Ruth LeBar.

Christian Community Action- Adopt an Apartment: We provided ongoing support for a family of 7 throughout the year that included: providing deliveries of cleaning supplies, backpacks for school, Thanksgiving food basket items and Christmas gifts including school uniforms for the three children. In May we are collecting diapers and food items for the CCA food pantry.

Columbus House Monthly Meal: Continuing the decades old tradition and under Amy Lynn and Gayle Logan's leadership, SGC served a monthly meal all year. All meals were prepared and served by many Spring Glen congregants as well as Boy Scout Troop 608 that SGC also sponsors.

Congregational Service Day: On October 25 several congregational members provided leaf raking and yard cleaning services. We gathered as a group for a light lunch and then traveled as a group to rake and clean. Many hands made light work- and made it fun!

Covenant to Care: Through this agency we continue to honor a long standing commitment to work with Connecticut children in need. This year we chose to keep our efforts local and through the agency, were in covenant with the Town of Hamden Youth Services to help them with special gifts for children and their families especially in need. This year's efforts included:

- 25 Backpacks and \$900 of extra supplies for their school supplies closet.
- 31 Thanksgiving Gift baskets for 31 Hamden families along with \$850 in gift cards to purchase additional food items.
- 184 Angel Tree gifts of warm hats, gloves socks and scarves (including 40 that were knitted by members of the congregation). The gifts were divided equally among New Reach, The Town of Hamden Youth Services and Christian Community Action to be distributed to their families and children.
- 33 Holiday gift bags given in December to the Town of Hamden Youth Services for their daycare children in greatest need.
- 30 Spring Gift bags focused on gifts to encourage exercise as part of their effort to coordinate with Michelle Obama's "Let's Move!" Initiative to help fight childhood obesity.

Ella Scantlebury Senior Women's House: Spring Glen Church continues to coordinate with Christian Tabernacle Church in providing a monthly Saturday afternoon program for this residence of elderly ladies. Many thanks to Sue Spight, Ellen Schowalter, Paula Reagan and Barbara Hobbs for their ongoing support.

Farmer's Market: Led by Amelia Iuliano, the market ran most weeks in the church parking lot from mid-June to October 13. This year's market also included a couple of food trucks and coordinated efforts with AARP's Experience Corps who utilized the opportunity to collect children's' books for re-distribution.

Christian Action Committee
Annual Report
May 2016
(continued)

Habitat for Humanity: Sleeping Giant Build VII Led by Arnie Cary and Richard Davis resulted in numerous volunteers throughout the year who worked on building a house to its completion in Fair Haven Heights. It was dedicated in late March and ready for the Malave/Reyes family to move in. The Build was also made possible due to the funding provided by The Benevolence Committee of \$2,500 which once again was a major sponsor for this yearly effort. Several of the volunteers worked on other fundraising efforts throughout the year to help raise the \$50,000 needed to build each home.

Interfaith Blood Drive: Was held on February 24th at Spring Glen Church and was co-hosted by Temple Beth Shalom. The drive had a very good turnout with 65 donors yielding 57 usable pints.

Lunch and Learn: On Feb 7 The Committee prepared and hosted a lunch/ panel discussion focused on "The Changing Faces of Homelessness: New Solutions using a Collaborative Approach." Our guest panelists were: Bonita Grubbs from Christian Community Action, Alison Cunningham from Columbus House and Kat Challis from New Reach. We had an informative gathering and learned about the most recent implementation of the Coordinated Access Network (CAN) to help all area shelter providers better coordinate their efforts to maximize the speed and effectiveness of housing the homeless (including the veterans) throughout Greater New Haven.

Martha's Place Women's Shelter: On a weekly basis, Sue Spight and Carolyn Cary help to companion women as they prepare to be re-housed through two programs: "Meals for Martha's Place" is now in its third year of operation, thanks to the support of individual women and area wide church groups who prepare and help serve a meal every Wednesday night for the 20-25 residents. Sue and Carolyn help to serve the meal as well, followed by conducting a weekly program "Relax, Release, Renew" to help the women with self-care, self-empowerment and encouraging positive emotional health.

Spring Service Trip: On April 29-May 1 a service trip to Tom's River New Jersey was completed by (10) adults and (1) youth. Led by Curt Johnson, the group helped with repair and rebuild efforts still needed in the aftermath of Super Storm Sandy. The Tom's River United Church of Christ provided a place to sleep and welcomed the group on Friday evening with dinner and fellowship, followed by a briefing from the Visitation Relief Center of nearby Brick NJ on the Saturday work projects. The day included several different projects from "wrapping" a home with tarpaper in preparation for siding to ditch digging, lock repair and food and clothing sorting at the center's main facility for food and clothing distribution. The group worshipped with the Tom's River UCC Sunday morning before heading home. The team's mission was accomplished with the added benefit of a generous donation from the Benevolence Committee to be sent to both the church in gratitude for their hospitality and to the Visitation Relief Center to help them with their continued work. In addition to Curt, the team included: Scott Muirhead, Jay Hirsch, Arnie and Carolyn Cary, Laurel and Katie Laster, Lee Cromey and Rich Walser from Trinity Church on the Green and Dayle and Bruce Johnson from New Jersey.

Respectfully submitted,

Christian Action Committee
Carolyn Cary, Chair
Rhonda Voos, Vice Chair

Bethany Appleby, Liz Ball, Diane Demetriades, Lee Laster, Janet Morrison, Sue Spight

**Christian Education Committee
Annual Report
May 2016**

The Christian Education Committee guides the educational ministry of the church by supporting the children's church school, confirmands, youth group, adult education, and intergenerational activities. The committee provides oversight and leadership around educational opportunities that encourage and nurture the life-long process of faith formation.

The 2015-2016 program year brought its share of blessings and challenges! On the blessing front, we celebrated Teacher Appreciation during worship on June 14. To continue the work of a Spring Glen team that traveled to West Virginia in early 2015, CE made a gift to the Appalachian Service Project in honor of our Sunday School and Adult Education teachers.

Our sincere thanks to those that served as teachers for Summer Sunday School from June 21 to August 30. The children responded well to the curriculum of *What's So Amazing About Polar Bears?* And a special thank you to the members of the CE Committee who served as point people for Summer Sunday School to enable CE Coordinator Laurie Bleickardt to enjoy her time away.

CE kicked off the 2015-2016 program year with a Rally Day "picnic" in the Great Hall on September 13 (weather conditions were such that we held the event inside this year). The committee (with a generous donation from Spring Glen Church Women) provided sandwiches and drinks and extends its thanks to those that brought salads and desserts. A special thank you to the Jagielow family who helped to make the day a great success.

Spring Glen was blessed to welcome the Rev. Ruth LeBar and Braxton Carrigan, who volunteered to lead Spring Glen's Youth Group this year. An early exercise led the youth to select a new name; from that point forward they've been known as the Jesus Squad! Activities included a trip to Hammonasset; cooking for Columbus House; organizing a Halloween party for the Sunday School children and their parents; a trip to see the film *Concussion*; a well-attended Pancake Breakfast (and sleepover) on March 20; and cooking a meal for our guests from Abraham's Tent. A highlight was the worship service led by the Jesus Squad and Pastor Ruth in the Great Hall on March 6. It was a blessing for all involved.

The committee wishes to acknowledge the contributions of Pastor Clare and Karlee Etter who guided the Confirmation class yet again this year. The class, comprised of eight students, met as a group from October to May. Highlights were a retreat led by the Rev. Jennifer Whipple of UCC Brookfield on February 6 and a study hall and dinner at the home of Ryan and Michele O'Connell on May 1. We look forward to Confirmation Sunday on May 22.

Our Adult Education program held steady this year. Close to 55 individuals attended the Tree of Life Educational Fund-sponsored visit with Palestinians Shurouq Isam Alatrach and Hebe Elias Bannoura on June 17. Special thanks to Doug and Susie Hawthorne for coordinating the event. We partnered with the Unitarian Society of New Haven to present a three-part series on guns and gun violence this spring. The film *Living for 32* was screened at the Unitarian Society on March 4. Gun control advocate and Spring Glen Church member Angie Schriever gave a well-attended presentation at Spring Glen on April 3 and we screened *Making a Killing: Guns, Greed and the NRA* on April 7. Our sincere thanks to Angie for recommending and leading this series. A special thank you to Pastor Clare for leading a group on contemplative prayer this year; over 20 individuals have participated in these gatherings.

Christian Education Committee
Annual Report
May 2016
(continued)

Just under 20 gathered at the home of Laurie Bleickardt on July 23 to discuss Katherine Applegate's *The One and Only Ivan*. The discussion was a good one – most of the attendees were under the age of 18! I had the privilege of leading a discussion of the remarkable *The Lemon Tree* by Sandy Tolan, which offered personal perspectives from the Middle East, on October 15. Our thanks to Ellen Schowalter for leading a discussion of Rachel Naomi Remen's *My Grandfather's Blessings* on February 18.

Sunday morning Bible Study continues to be a great blessing for the dozen or so who gather to read and reflect on the Scriptures we hear during worship each week. Our Monday afternoon Bible Study has been blessed by the leadership of Pastor Ruth and Doug Hawthorne. Our Bible Study geared to folks in their 20's and 30's continued to grow under the leadership of Kathy Lee and Teri Osborn this year. A special thank you to the Bleickardt, Hawthorne, Jagielow, (Roger) Johnson and Tangarone families for providing child care so that these young adults could gather in fellowship and study.

Our thanks to Laurie and our Sunday School teachers for organizing a memorable Marketplace during fellowship hour on November 8. Proceeds from the successful event went to Simply Smiles. An army of volunteers made the Advent Festival held on December 6 a resounding success. Special thanks to our Craft Team (Betsy Barker, Tara Barrett, Laurie Bleickardt, Cynthia Licata, Michele O'Connell and Gayle Logan), Pageant Team (Kathy Lee and Eric Summerer), Potluck Team (Connie Rogers, lead; the Brownells, Doug Hawthorne, the Healys, the Jagielows, Larry Logan, Amy Lynn, and Alex Roman), and members of the Confirmation Class and Youth Group. Some 130 individuals participated in one or more of the day's activities. How wonderful to create a space for folks to relax, experience fellowship with others and meditate on what Advent truly means.

It was with sadness that we accepted Laurie Bleickardt's resignation as Spring Glen's Christian Education Coordinator on December 31, 2015 as she prepared for her family's impending move to New Jersey. Laurie touched the lives of our children and their families in countless ways. Her joy in the children, her tireless energy, her compassion and sense of humor, all contributed to making Spring Glen's CE program the success it is today.

I am indebted to the members of the Christian Education Committee: Betsy Barker, Kathy Lee, Cynthia Licata, Gayle Logan, Michele O'Connell, Pastor Clare and Eric Summerer, who rallied to support the CE program in the absence of a paid staff member. They bring a wealth of creativity and wisdom to their role.

Palm Sunday saw our traditional palm processional, followed by crafts completed in Sunday School. Some very enthusiastic children (and adults!) participated in our annual Easter Egg Hunt following worship on March 27. Our heartfelt thanks to Caitlin Barker who supplied over 500 pre-filled eggs for the hunt and to the many hands that "hid" the eggs in the outdoor playground and Memorial Garden.

CE successfully implemented a Toddler Room Ministry Team this year, a group of volunteers who work with staff member Brianna Etter-Speaker to ensure our youngest members are safe and well-cared-for. Sincere thanks to Bethany Appleby, Jasmine Brownell, Laura Callinan, Beverly Harrison, Nick Healy, Peter Lamothe, Larry Lee, Michele O'Connell, Ellen Schowalter, Eric Summerer, Debra Tangarone, Emma Tangarone and Lindsay Triplett for serving as Toddler Room volunteers.

**Christian Education Committee
Annual Report
May 2016
(continued)**

And finally, a warm thank you to all who taught Sunday School this year: Betsy Barker, Kevin Basmadjian, Lee Duval, Brianna Etter-Speaker, Doug Hawthorne, Debby Jagielow, Curt Johnson, Carl Legere, Kathy Lee, Larry Lee, Cynthia Licata, Colette Matthew, Kathi Reid, Alex Roman, Ellen Schowalter, Emily Smith, Alex Smolnik, Eric Summerer, Stefanie Summerer and Lindsay Triplett. It takes a village!

As I step down as CE Chair this year, I reflect on the many blessings I've received. I have grown in my own faith walk sitting alongside you in Bible Study, for book discussions, and thought-provoking forums. Spring Glen offers a slice of "heaven on earth".

I would be remiss not to acknowledge the input of an ad hoc Adult CE team: Pastor Clare, Janice Ammons, Bethany Appleby, Carolyn Cary, Doug Hawthorne, Ruth and Roger Johnson, Ellen and John Schowalter. This was the patient lot that provided input and support to building our current program of adult Christian education.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Tangarone
Chair, Christian Education Committee

**Board of Deacons
Annual Report
May 2016**

The Board of Deacons continued to fully support the worship life of Spring Glen Church. Although most of our efforts follow a traditional path, we are also engaged in seeking new ways to enhance the spiritual life of our Church. Church Vitality has become a discussion item and we are seeking ways to ensure that no segment of our Church membership feels alone or forgotten. Our regular Sunday duties included readying the sanctuary for worship, preparing and helping our pastors in serving Communion, welcoming guests and visitors, and providing assistance with Baptisms, Confirmation and new member celebrations.

As has been our custom, the Deacons hosted a soup and bread supper preceding our Maundy Thursday service. Although not the exclusive domain of the Deacons, our Laity Sunday service was organized and fully supported by our board members. We have also attended memorial services and provided support to our pastors as the need arises.

Deacons have come forward to serve in other Church ministries. We assisted the Lay Caregivers in outreach to our elder or bereaved church members as well as others in need of special care. We continued to provide a comforting atmosphere for those who participated in our Longest Night gathering during the Christmas season. We have tried to reach out with special written notes and phone calls to those who may be in need of some comfort, due in large part to the efforts of Shelia, and try to assure them that they are very much in our prayers.

Thanks are given to:

**Board of Deacons
Annual Report
May 2016
(continued)**

Chuck Paul, Susie Hawthorne, Barbara Hobbs and Debbie Jagielow for the work given in updating our membership rolls.

Shelia Brantley for sending out kind notes to those Church members in need.

Pastor Dave Minnick who helped us "stay the course" with new determination.

Pastor Claire Robert who has a deep seated commitment to those unable to attend Church, or have special immediate spiritual needs.

Special thanks to Pastor Ruth LeBar who serves us in many special ways, and who, along with Braxton Carrigan, has devoted much time to our youth.

We thank all Deacons who served during this past year: Shelia Brantley, Jasmine Brownell, Braxton Carrigan, Arnold Cary, Brian Geddes, Jennifer Hanrahan, Susie Hawthorne, Barbara Hobbs, Mimi Houston, Teri Osborn-Kolton, Larry Logan and Chuck Paul.

Many thanks are also extended to those involved in sub-committees that enhance our worship and church life. Bobbie Kraus and the Altar Guild, Chuck Paul and all of our faithful ushers, the Memorial Garden Committee, the members of Tape Ministry, and the dedicated Lay Caregivers.

Respectively Submitted by:

Dave Meyers
Senior Deacon

**Delegates
Annual Report
May 2016**

Committee Co-Chairs: Richard Davis and Rita McCleary

Delegates: Lynn Andrewsen
Nancy Beals
Sarah Libby (also New Haven Association Secretary)
Muriel Smith
Dick Smith

Every UCC Church in the Greater New Haven Area is encouraged to send delegates to its twice yearly meetings, in the Fall and the Spring, to attend the Annual (Fall) Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the UCC, and to participate in the examination and ordination of individuals wishing to become ministers in the church.

Each church is allotted a number of votes on issues confronting the larger body depending on the size of its congregation. At present, Spring Glen Church has two votes. However, attendance by all delegates is welcomed, as indeed is participation by every member of a UCC church and, of course, its pastors.

Delegates from Spring Glen Church serve terms of two years. The co-chairs are requested to attend the SGC Council meetings and share one vote on Church Council matters.

The Connecticut Conference of the UCC declared this year the "Year of Discernment," and has encouraged all member churches to participate in this process or discernment. The annual and bi-

**Delegates
Annual Report
May 2016
(continued)**

annual meetings are wonderful opportunities for this to occur, whether through informal conversation, topic presentations, or small group discussions of projects that particular churches are engaged in.

For its part, the New Haven Association has begun issuing grants up to \$1000 to churches to fund a wide-range of initiatives from self-study to community outreach, to foster its commitment to sharing between congregations.

A part of the New Association's business is just that: Business. Its budget, like ours, shrinks as our congregations shrink. The challenge is how to make do with less, while remaining vital and active. Yet another way to think about our interdependence as a wider church.

You might recall that our church hosted the Spring 2014 Meeting of the Association, with a presentation on helping prisoners transition back into the community after incarceration.

You can find detailed reports on the Fall and Spring Association Meetings and the CT Conference Annual Meeting on the SGC website. You can also learn more about these larger UCC organizations at their websites: www.newhaven-ctucc.org and www.ctucc.org. Please also feel free to ask any of us delegates more about what we do and how you can join in!

**Fellowship Hour Committee
Annual Report
May 2016**

Fellowship Ambassadors (subcommittee of Fellowship Committee)

The Fellowship Ambassadors thank the over 75 individuals and families who helped serve food and fellowship (some more than once) to our members, friends, and guests over the course 50 fellowship hours and special programs from summer 2015 through summer 2016. **Thank you for answering our call for this ministry to serve one another and provide tasty opportunity to socialize and connect one-on-one on a weekly basis.** We extend a special thank you to those who offered to be on the "on-call" list should replacements be needed on short notice. Special thanks for Peg Limbacher who continues her service of helping with special events and kitchen organization. We hope many of you will willingly answer our call for volunteers again next year to continue this valuable time for our church family.

Gratefully submitted,
Debby Jagielow

Coordinator of Fellowship Ambassadors on behalf of Nancy Dittes, Katharine Healy, Andri Smith, Emily Smith, Stefanie Summerer, Liz Wootton

Hospitality and Special Events Annual Report May 2016

Special Events:

August 23, 2015 – the second annual S'mores party was held. Lawn games and good conversation along with s'mores were enjoyed by all.

January 30, 2016 – Was the eighth annual Rock and Blues night. Once again we helped the music committee with set-up and clean –up for the Pot Luck Dinner.

February 27, 2016 – Carolyn Paul organized our annual Progressive Dinner.. It was fun to meet different people at each course, appetizers, soup/salad and main course, before we all arrived back at the Great hall to enjoy dessert with all participants.

Special Fellowship Hours for 2015/2016:

September 13, 2015 – Rally Sunday Picnic on the Front Lawn coordinated with the Christian Education Committee

December 6, 2015 – Celebration of David Minnick's ministry, as he spent his last month with us before retirement

February 7, 2016 – Lunch and Learn coordinated with the Christian Education Committee

Meals and Wheels

Meals and Wheels is a group of members who provide meals and transportation to those who request them. This flexible group of volunteers is coordinated by Ellen Schowalter. This year they provided complete meals to those recovering from surgery, or childbirth. Transportation is provided upon request, usually to doctor appointments.

Requests can be made through the office or by contacting Ellen directly.

Memorial Receptions:

June 2015 – May 2015 3 separate Memorial Receptions were held. The lives of Dick Edwards, Dot Milford and Connie Fisher were celebrated. This special committee is coordinated by Mary Cameron, who organizes receptions in the Great Hall after a Memorial Service upon request.

Fellowship Hour:

Under the leadership of Debby Jagielow our Fellowship Ambassadors help make each Fellowship Hour special. Please read their Annual Report.

Respectfully Submitted by Pam Brownell, Hospitality and Special Events Chair

House and Grounds Committee Annual Report May 2016

The House committee manages the maintenance and improvements of the buildings and grounds. This year the committee is Carl Backus, Tom Barker, Jack Brown, Dave Giblin (co-chair), Jay Hirsch, Roger Johnson (co-chair), Scott Muirhead, and Phil Notaro. Scout Troop 608, their parents, Eagle Scout candidates, and Ron Offutt often contribute to planning projects and work days throughout the year.

**House and Grounds Committee
Annual Report
May 2016
(continued)**

Numerous other volunteers contribute to the appearance and mechanical upkeep of our church. House would like to thank everyone who helps out.

This year has been a busy one for mechanical and large-scale projects. Our furnace has new feed-water relays with upgraded electronics, new pressure gauge manifolds that adhere to revised inspection codes, upgraded zoning so that the Sunday school classrooms can be heated separately from the Sanctuary (before they could only be heated together), and a new thermostat in the nursery school. What does this all mean? We have heat when and where we need it.

In late May of 2015 we replaced our 26-year-old water heater with a new, more efficient one. Once the heating season began in October, the pilot light in the water heater began extinguishing in an unreproducible way. House committee, the manufacturer, and the installer have all tried to identify why the pilot light will not stay lit for more than a couple days. While it is easy to relight and there are no safety concerns, house is still trying to solve this problem. The thermocouple was adjusted, the vent pipe was replaced with one having a smaller diameter, extra combustion air has been fed into the boiler room, a smoke test was performed, the thermocouple and pilot tubes were replaced (under warranty). There is no way to solve this problem by automating the pilot lighting based on a call for hot water (a pressure drop in the pipe), as you might find in an on-demand heater. What does this all mean? If the hot water from the tap is only warm, the pilot light has probably gone out on the water heater. We're working on a solution.

Spreadsheets are being used to track all utility costs and usage. We are using the history to better budget and determine whether or not we would save money by investing in future energy/water efficient devices (in terms of time to break even). Our solar power has saved the church at least ~\$500 per month as compared to last year's numbers. This savings peaked in February, where we saved ~\$800 as compared to the same month last year. We banked enough energy between July 2015 and March 2016 to receive a credit of ~\$150 for the 2,680 kWh that we accumulated over the year. (By the way, to put this in perspective, 2,680 kWh would power my house for 6 months.)

The second-floor floors were waxed just before Easter. It was noticed that a couple of tiles in the great hall were loose enough to lift up after the refinishing. They have been glued back down in the meantime, but house committee has begun to consider what options there are to replace the floors in the long term.

The following areas have been painted thanks to Phil Notaro: the sanctuary (front side walls, sides from chair rail down, and all of the rear and balcony area), the narthex and entrance from Glen Parkway door. The Boy Scouts painted the parish house first floor hallway and attached new cove base as part of Aiden Ayers's Eagle Scout Project.

Both of the sets of concrete steps on the Glen Parkway side of the church were replaced. The previous steps were spalling and previous patches had failed. The driveway apron from the Whitney Avenue lot was also replaced as it had been lifting, cracking, and becoming a nuisance to drive over. The railings for the Glen Parkway entrances are currently being welded, sand-blasted, and repainted. We are looking to set them in place once they are ready.

A sinkhole developed adjacent to the eastern-most drywell parking lot drain. The sinkhole and old cinderblock drywell were excavated and a new catch basin was installed with fabric and crushed stone. Two pipes were connected to the drain: one that connects to the other two drains on the main line, and one at an angle to the southeast drain. All four drains in the parking lot are connected to share the drainage of the lot. It is recommended to continue cleaning these out every year or two.

**House and Grounds Committee
Annual Report
May 2016
(continued)**

During the fall clean-up it was noted that the drain nearest Whitney Avenue is beginning to crack on the underside. House will continue to monitor this crack, since the contractor did not recommend replacing it at that time.

Some smaller projects were worked on throughout the year. Toilets, faucets, and sinks have been maintained and, in some cases, replaced. The timer for the outdoor light to the parish house (Glen Parkway side) was replaced. The door closer in the upstairs bathroom was replaced.

House committee is on board with the building use policy that was put in effect this year. Members of the committee along with the sexton will help support the inspection of the space so that security deposits can be reimbursed. Keypad codes for single use are to be used when entrance to the building is needed during off-hours.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me. As Chuck Paul says - my office hours are every Sunday morning during coffee hour.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Giblin, Co-Chair

**Music Committee
Annual Report
May 2016**

Members: Amanda Cecala (Chair), Theresa Voss, Amy Masback, Carl Legere, Susie Hawthorne (Bells), Sue Wilber (Children's Choir), Terese Gemme (Organist & Adult Choir).

During the 2015-2016 year, the Music committee met monthly with 2 exceptions due to lack of agenda items. Our only new initiative was our Welcome/Welcome Back party and overall attendance was down for the entire year averaging 2-3 total members per meeting.

Welcome/Welcome Back

We kicked off the 2015-2016 year with a Welcome/Welcome back party prior to our first rehearsal on September 9, 2015. There were snacks, refreshments and good conversation but no new faces. With more advertising I think this could be a great annual event to attract new choir members as well as an opportunity for choir members to talk about their summers without interrupting rehearsal time.

Silent Art Auction

After discussion with council, the committee agreed we would take a year off the Silent Art Auction and re-address next year if there is interest and/or financial need. Proceeds from last year's auction were divided evenly between two causes: 50% (\$500) went to the benevolence committee to offset some cuts from the new budget and 50% (\$500) went towards extended toddler room hour to allow parents of young children attend either Sunday morning bible study or choir rehearsal. Extended toddler room hours were rarely utilized and this service was discontinued December 20, 2015, leaving a balance of approximately \$350 to be used at the discretion of the music committee with appropriate notification to the congregation and council.

Bells Benefit Concert

Sue Wilber identified a need for new bells equipment, specifically new tables and a bell tree to fit the new bells as our current one only fits the old bells. We have discussed this on and off throughout the year and decided it will be scheduled for the fall of 2016.

**Stewardship Committee
Annual Report
May 2016**

For surely I know the plans I have for you. . .to give you a future with hope."—Jeremiah 29:11

Our Stewardship theme this year was "Trust in the Promise." We placed posters around the church to promote this theme; the image included the small silhouette of a child, riding a bicycle – complete with training wheels. That image resonated for our committee: a child on his bike, in learning mode, eager for the possibilities ahead in his exploration.

We felt this theme, and the accompanying image, spoke to our situation this fall. As a church, we were looking toward our future with eagerness and hope. While we have been in a time of staff transitions, we are also secure in the knowledge that we are a strong congregation, with much to be thankful for, and a sense of anticipation for what the future holds.

We continued our practice of having church members share what Spring Glen Church means to them, and why they make a financial commitment to the church. Thank you to Kevin Basmadjian, Dick and Carol Shank, David Giblin, and Meg Myers for providing these meaningful remarks in worship during weeks leading up to our stewardship campaign.

We tried several new practices this fall as part of Stewardship. Perhaps the biggest change was sending information out predominantly through email, and asking households to pledge via an online pledge system. This was an effort to "go green," and keep costs down. We continued to mail hard copies to those families who preferred them. We also included inserts in the bulletins for four Sundays with stories and messages related to our Stewardship theme. Finally, we posted the names of everyone who pledged as a visible recognition and thank you.

While many members responded to the call to pledge financial support for the church, our overall trend of shrinking pledge units continued this year, reflecting our overall lower numbers of church members and church attendance. However, despite a drop in pledge units, members were generous in their giving, and the dollars pledged were almost flat with the previous year.

Thank you to the members of the Stewardship Committee who all committed time, creativity, and energy to this year's Stewardship efforts: Ray Andrewsen, Nick Healy, Debby Jagielow, and Ellen Schowalter.

Respectfully, Jennifer Heath, Chair

**Theater Arts Ministry
Annual Report
May 2016**

The Theater Arts Ministry produces a variety of plays, chancel dramas and other performances intended for the church and the community at large. In addition to providing insightful and entertaining theater, the group contributes to the financial support for the operating budget and the upkeep of the Great Hall. Over the past year, the Theater Arts Ministry presented two major events:

**Theater Arts Ministry
Annual Report
May 2016
(continued)**

**James and the Giant Peach, directed by Kevin Basmadjian
November 21-22, 2015**

This production featured a cast entirely made up of children from Spring Glen Church. Attendance for the two performances was excellent, and the show was very well received.

**Two Bards (With One Stone)
Consisting of two one-act plays:
The Shakespeares, directed by Dick Smith and Colleen Shaddox
The Hamlet Thrill-ma-geddon, directed by Nick Appleby
April 29-30, 2016**

This production broke new ground for the Theater Arts Ministry - The Shakespeares was presented in the form of a staged reading with minimal costumes and set, while The Hamlet Thrill-ma-geddon was a full performance, with costumes, props etc; however the "set" for Hamlet was provided by a slideshow (with sound effects, animation and video clips) that was projected on a screen behind the actors (the screen was designed and built by Dave Giblin, and will be available for use at other SGC events in the future). The cast of The Shakespeares also performed two readings in Branford earlier in April, and there are plans to tape a reading of the play for local TV.

In addition to the major events, the TAM stages occasional minor events throughout the year, such as informal play readings and movie evenings featuring video of previous productions. The group is open to all, and we enthusiastically welcome anyone who has an interest in being involved in theater at SGC!

Respectfully submitted
Nick Appleby

**Board of Trustees –
Annual Report 2015/2016**

The trustees prepared the 2016 budget, and authorized the 2016 Ministry and Building Endowment distributions.

We developed Melissa Parnoff's Office Manager Contract and Pastor Ruth Lebar's Bridge Interim Contract and Job Description. We finalized the endowment loan agreement for the solar installation and completed all paperwork and approvals for the zero-emission renewable energy credits (received first payment of \$2,000 in March 2016). Thanks to Curt Johnson, Bethany Appleby, and Margie Liddell, the final version of the Personnel Handbook was approved and implemented in September. Similarly, with the guidance of Amy Baker and Melanie Kregling, the final version of the Building Usage Policy was approved and implemented in November. Steve Munzner completed a review of the church's financial records in March and identified no material errors or irregularities. Phil Ross continues to manage weekly plate counting procedures with Sue Wilber. With the Benevolence Committee, we planned and managed two 2nd Hour programs in April to educate members on the church's Benevolence Giving

**Board of Trustees –
Annual Report 2015/2016
(continued)**

system and discuss methods to allow for more flexibility in the rate setting process. We plan to work in future months on developing an agreement between the church and the weekly Nursery School, work with Stewardship on a Planned Giving pamphlet and program, and assist hard-working search crews trying to fill vacant staff positions.

Faithfully Yours,
Ron Offutt, Sr. Trustee

(Members of the Board: Amy Baker, Curt Johnson, Melanie Kregling, Margie Liddell, Steve Munzner, Phil Ross, and Doug Hawthorne - Treasurer, ex officio)

**YOUTH GROUP (aka JESUS SQUAD)
Annual Report
May 2016**

September to May flew by in a whirl of activity. Six high schoolers, plus Braxton Carrigan and myself, found our way together into a year full of variety. We played, we learned, we served and we worshiped.

Some Highlights of our year:

September: We took a trip to Hammonasset State Park. A beautiful sunny afternoon gave us time to wander, hula hoop, toss a Frisbee and rename the group to 'Jesus Squad.'

October: With a lot of help from Tara Barrett, we planned and hosted a Halloween Party for the Sunday School children. Decorations, games, food and crafts were much enjoyed and appreciated. On the third Sunday of the month, we cooked two big casseroles for Columbus House and talked a bit about homelessness.

November found us eating pizza and bowling, going to Flight Trampoline Park in New Britain and enjoying a great performance of James and the Giant Peach!

December's highlight was the Advent Festival. With terrific help and guidance from Jay Hirsch, the group produced a gazillion cookies for the children of the church to decorate. A lot of fun.

January: We took a trip down to Milford to see the film 'Concussion'. Later on that month we again cooked for Columbus House.

February: We attended and served lunch at the CA's Lunch and Learn with a focus on Homelessness held in our Great Hall. A week later we cooked a meal for and shared fellowship and worship with Abraham's Tent. Two weeks after that, a few of us were able to attend a second hour presentation on the challenges that face refugees, especially those from Syria.

March: The first highlight was the special worship service that we planned and shared with the congregation. Our Great Hall was once again our sanctuary and the service was deeply meaningful for the Squad and for many others. Later on that month, Becca Stevens became part of our group as another adult leader. She and Braxton led the Squad on an overnight at the church and the next morning (Palm Sunday) Jay Hirsch joined the gang and they all cooked up a great breakfast for the rest of our church family to eat. And eat we did. The pancake breakfast is the major fundraiser for the summer mission trip. Thank you to all the generous souls who dropped an offering in the basket! On Good Friday, some of us were able to gather in the sanctuary and lead the Good Friday Service.

YOUTH GROUP (aka JESUS SQUAD)

Annual Report

May 2016

(continued)

April: We began winding down. It became increasingly difficult to find any time when the majority of us could meet! But we did have a last fun meeting trying to play Jenga on a tippy table.

All in all, it has been a good year. My deep thanks go out to Braxton and Becca and Jay. In so many ways, your hands and your hearts enriched us all. And the parents! Thank you! You drove your kids to and from meetings, you fed us, and you made sure that we had our bases covered in more ways than I can remember.

We are blessed indeed that our teenagers can still find the time, the desire and a way to be active in our church. They have much to offer, much to share. My prayer is that we, as a church, can continue to look for ways for us all to grow together. Partnering across the generations is not always easy, but it can bear the tastiest of fruits.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Ruth

Sr. Pastor Search Committee

Annual Report

May 2016

It is with great joy and thanksgiving that the Search Committee enthusiastically recommends the Reverend Jack Perkins Davidson to be the Senior Pastor of Spring Glen Church!

In May 2014, the members of Spring Glen Church entrusted us with the responsibility for prayerfully selecting a Senior Pastor candidate for your consideration. Using the UCC system to attract and interview prospective candidates, we were charged with narrowing the applicant list until we could settle on a single candidate to recommend to the church members, who would then vote on whether to accept the candidate.

We gathered input from you over the course of several months. This information allowed us to create our Church profile, which was posted to the UCC site in February 2015. We continued to be mindful of what we heard from you throughout the process -- as we reviewed ministerial profiles, as we read, listened to or watched sermons, and as we interviewed potential candidates via phone, Skype and in-person. Three candidates each planned and led a worship service for us.

One person has emerged for the Search Committee as the best choice for Spring Glen's future: the Rev. Jack Perkins Davidson. Jack grew up in the First Congregational Church of Old Greenwich and graduated from Harvard Divinity School with a Master of Divinity. During his last year of seminary, Jack worked as the Ministerial Intern at the historic Old South Church in Boston. Since 2011, Jack has served in ordained ministry as Associate Minister with First Church of Christ, Congregational in Redding, CT.

We see in Jack a person who is eager to go all in to connect with us and to have us directly experience God, not simply hear about God. Whether you are with him in a small group session, in worship, or in music (where you may find him drumming or strumming and singing), we think that you will see Jack as someone who is comfortable in offering an authentic presence. He is consumed with a passion for making the world a more just image of God's Heaven here on Earth.

We stand on the threshold of a possible future together. We will be scheduling several opportunities during the month of May for you to meet Jack, his wife Laura (a social worker at Amistad High School in New Haven) and their 1-1/2 year-old daughter PJ. Sunday, June 5 has been scheduled as candidating Sunday. Jack will participate in the service, with the centerpiece being his preaching of the message.

**Sr. Pastor Search Committee
Annual Report
May 2016
(continued)**

A congregational meeting will be held immediately following the service. A vote will be taken on whether to call Rev. Jack Perkins Davidson to be our Senior Pastor. We hope that you are able to meet Jack and his family prior to June 5 and that our shared worship with him that Sunday will enable you to vote faithfully according to what you think is best for Spring Glen Church.

If you have any questions or input about this, please contact search committee chair, Rick Brownell at 203-230-0681 or rick.brownell@comcast.net.

Peace be with you,

Senior Pastor Search Committee

Janice Ammons, Nick Appleby, Michele Backus, Nancy Beals, Rick Brownell (chair), Jennifer Heath, Laurel Laster, Mike Palmieri

**Vision Committee Recommendations
(Approved by Council 5/9/16)**

The Vision Committee is charged with prioritizing congregational spending from the funds generated by the Ministry Endowment and the Building Endowment.

These two endowment funds were created following our 2006-2007 Capital Campaign. The Vision Committee was originally formed in 2007, comprised of the Pastor, the Moderator, the House chair, and representatives from Deacons, Trustees, and Christian Education. During the years 2008 - 2011, the Vision committee made recommendations for use of Building Endowment income and Ministry Endowment income: Vision committee presented proposals to Council (in Dec/Jan and in May); Council voted, and then the Vision committee's proposals were presented to the congregation at the January and May meetings for congregational vote. In April 2015, Council re-established the Vision Committee as it was previously constituted. The current committee members are Bridge Interim Sr. Pastor Ruth LeBar, Moderator Amy Lynn, House Co-Chair David Giblin, Deacon representative Dave Myers, Trustee representative Ron Offutt, and CE representative Debra Tangarone.

Ministry Endowment Fund

Income from the Ministry Endowment Fund supports church growth and vitality in ways not included in the annual operating budget. According to policy, annual income distribution is limited to 5% of the average balance of the fund over the previous three years. For 2016, the 5% maximum distribution amount is \$18,081. (Distributions in excess of that 5% maximum would require a congregational vote).

As of December 31, 2015, unspent amounts from prior years:

2015: 11,957.81

2014: 1,020.00

2013: 2,826.57

Total Ministry Endowment income available for 2016 (2016 permitted amount plus prior years' (2013-2015) unspent): \$33,885.38 (Note: Ministry Endowment income is often referred to as Vitality Funds)

Vision Committee Recommendations (continued)

In our 2016 budget, the congregation approved allocation of \$30,010 as follows:

Search process (including new pastor moving expenses):	\$12,000
Toddler Room teacher	\$900
Special Musicians	\$1,500
Substitute Organists	\$800
Guest Preachers	\$500
Membership Growth and Retention initiatives	\$1,000
Repay previous over-withdrawals	\$1,000
(leaving approximately \$11,000 to be repaid in future years)	
Fund 2016 Operating Budget	\$12,310
Reserve for future Vitality initiatives:	\$3,875.38
TOTAL	\$33,885.38

Because the Ministry Endowment was not intended to be used to support the church's annual operating budget, the Vision committee's January 2016 report, approved by the congregation, expressed the hope that Trustees give serious consideration to allocating some or all of any end-of-2016 surplus (up to the \$12,310 of endowment income that was allocated to the 2016 operating budget) back to the designated fund for Vitality initiatives.

**The Vision Committee recommends the following allocation of the unallocated \$3,875:
additional \$1,000 to Membership Growth Initiatives
\$2,875 to be allocated as needed by vote of Council, if needed during the remainder
of 2016**

Building Endowment Fund

Income from the Building Endowment Fund is used to maintain the Church Facility, thereby freeing the annual operating budget from the obligation to fund maintenance projects. It is the primary purpose of the Building Fund to provide monies for Church Facility expenditures which do not recur annually, or to meet emergencies having to do with the Church Facility, its improvement, preservation, and maintenance in ways not provided for otherwise in the Church's annual budget.

Annual distributions of Building Endowment income go into the Building Designated Fund, to fund current projects and to build up a reserve for major repairs as they are needed in future years, and for larger long-term expenses that require more than one year's Endowment income allocation (such as the roofs done in recent years). According to policy, annual income distribution is limited to 5% of the average balance of the fund over the previous three years. For 2016, the 5% maximum distribution amount is \$21,604. (Distributions in excess of that 5% maximum would require a congregational vote). As of March 31, 2016, the balance in the Building Designated Fund was \$37,331 (this includes the 2016 distribution, and reflects expenditures of \$8,800 from the fund in 2016).

At the January 2016 congregational meeting, the congregation approved the Vision Committee recommendation as to Building projects that may be funded in 2016:

Annual boiler maintenance costs (water treatment, cleaning, etc.) Est. \$1,000 (in future years, this expense should perhaps be moved to the Operating budget)
Water heater: issues with the pilot light
Glen Parkway steps railing replacement (both buildings)
Sanctuary windows exterior trim repair, paint, Est. \$3,000
Incidental costs for ongoing miscellaneous repairs, Est. \$2,000 - \$3,000
Total estimated costs: \$7,000 - \$10,000

Vision Committee Recommendations (continued)

Accomplishing all of these items would leave the Building Designated Fund at about \$36,000 - \$39,000. (Note: this fund is expected to build up, to be available for long-term expenses).

The congregation approved use of Building Designated funds in 2016 for all of the above projects subject to the discretion of the House Committee, Trustees, Vision Committee, and Council, once there is more detailed information on the costs. Since the Fund needs to be available for unforeseen expenses as well as for as much as possible to be held in reserve, the actual expenditures are at the discretion of the House Committee, Trustees, Vision Committee, and Council.

The following expenses have been paid from the Building Designated Fund to date in 2016:

Heating system:	\$1,017
Boiler maintenance, upgrade, and monthly water treatment:	\$2,600
Water heater repairs	\$130
Sanctuary painting	\$4,848
TOTAL	\$8,595

Building Designated Fund balance as of 4/30/16: \$37,331.

Projects to be considered in future:

- Install motion sensors on light switches
- Clean/Replace Sanctuary window drapes
- Paint front and walls above chair rail in sanctuary
- Spruce up bathrooms
- New energy-efficient refrigerators
- New exterior lighting in front of church (sign and tree).

The Vision Committee does not recommend any additional allocations at this time.

Open Door Annual Report May 2016

"Open Door" is a unique group, since we welcome people of all faiths to join us. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month for lunch and have an interesting program. We are open to all; it's a wonderful group and we hope you'll join us next year. Our programs this past year were:

Nov. 2015: Uplifting program by the VNA: "Get Your Happy Back"

Dec. 2015: pizza party canceled due to scheduling conflicts with Miller Senior

Jan. 2016: speaker Valerie Della Rocco from Partnerships, an adult day-care center

Feb. 2016: Angela DeLeon of People's Bank made us aware of fraudulent activities

March 2016: Michael L'italien, pharmacist at Walgreens, gave a most informative talk on "Basic Nutrition for the Elderly."

April 2016: canceled because food provider, Eli Whitney School, was closed

May 2016: Sue Marchese scheduled to speak on "Women's Suffrage"

June 2016: Luncheon at JRoos.

--submitted by Laura Carlson

Nominations

May 2016

(page 1 of 4)

Shown below are the names of members continuing their terms through May 2017 and those being nominated for re-election at the Annual Meeting of the Spring Glen Church United Church of Christ on May 15, 2016. Nominations will be voted on at this meeting for those members with a date in the last column as well as those members whose names appear in italics.

	First Elected May	Present Term Ends May	Re-Nominated For Term To May
Moderator -- Amy Lynn	2013	2017	
Clerk -- Judy Offutt	2013	2017	
Treasurer -- Doug Hawthorne	2015	2017	
Board of Deacons			
<i>Teri Osborn Kolton - Senior Deacon</i> (2016)	2013	2018	
Brian Geddes	2014	2016	2018
Braxton Carrigan	2015	2017	
Arnie Cary	2015	2017	
Mimi Houston	2015	2017	
<i>Alexandra Roman</i>	2016	2018	
<i>Carolyn Paul</i>	2016	2018	
<i>Emma Tangarone, Youth Deacon</i>	2016	2018	
Vacancies (5)			
Judy Offutt, Clerk, ex-officio	2013	2017	
Board Of Trustees			
Ron Offutt - Senior Trustee (2015)	2015	2017	
Curt Johnson	2013	2017	
Margie Liddell	2013	2017	
Philip Ross	2013	2017	
Amy Baker	2014	2016	2018
Melanie Kregling	2015	2017	
<i>Tom Dembinski</i>	2016	2018	
Doug Hawthorne, Treasurer, ex-officio	2015	2017	

	First Elected May	Present Term Ends May	Re-Nominated For Term To May
Benevolence			
Bernadette Welsh - Chair (2015)	2013	2017	
Marcia Hoffmann - Treasurer	2014	2016	2018
Beverly Harrison	2015	2017	
<i>Diane Hirsch</i>	2016	2018	
<i>Luz Maiuri</i>	2016	2018	
<i>Stefanie Summerer</i>	2016	2018	
Christian Action			
<i>Bethany Appleby</i> - Co-Chair (2016)	2015	2018	
<i>Scott Lucker</i> - Co-Chair (2016)	2016	2018	
Lee Laster	2013	2017	
Amelia Iuliano	2015	2017	
Liz Ball	2015	2017	
Janet Morrison	2015	2017	
Sue Spight	2015	2017	
<i>Julie Beaver</i>	2016	2018	
Christian Education			
<i>Cynthia Licata</i> - Chair (2016)	2015	2018	
<i>Gayle Logan</i> - Co-Chair (2016)	2014	2018	
Eric Summerer	2013	2017	
Betsy Barker	2014	2016	2018
Michele O'Connell	2015	2017	
<i>Sharon Cerasoli</i>	2016	2018	
The Rev. Clare Robert, Associate Pastor, ex-officio			
The Rev. Barbara Frey, Christian Ed Coordinator, ex-officio			
Delegates			
Richard Davis - Co-Chair (2014)	2010	2016	2018
Rita McCleary - Co-Chair (2014)	2010	2016	2018
Lynn Andrews	2014	2016	2018
<i>Dave Myers</i>	2016	2018	
Vacancy			

	First Elected May	Present Term Ends May	Re-Nominated For Term To May
House Committee			
Roger Johnson - Chair (2015)	2015	2017	
David Giblin - Co-Chair (2015)	2014	2017	
Carl Backus	2013	2017	
Jack Brown	2014	2016	2018
Scott Muirhead	2015	2017	
Jay Hirsch	2015	2017	
<i>Jack Fisher</i>	2016	2018	
<i>Gabe Johnson</i>	2016	2018	
Music Committee			
<i>Theresa Voss - Chair</i> (2016)	2014	2018	
James Coatsworth	2014	2016	2018
Amy Masback	2015	2017	
Carl Legere	2015	2017	
<i>Nancy Whitney</i>	2016	2018	
<i>Jackson Roman</i> , Youth Member	2016	2018	
Terese Gemme, Organist, ex-officio			
Sue Hawthorne, Bell Choir Director, ex-officio			
Sue Wilber, Chime Choir/Soul Singers Director, ex-officio			
Nominating Committee			
Alice White - Chair (2014)	2010	2016	2018
Anne Dembinski	2014	2016	2018
<i>Barbara Hobbs</i>	2016	2018	
Vacancy			
The Rev. Ruth Lebar, Bridge Senior Pastor, ex-officio			
Amy Lynn, Moderator, ex-officio			
	First Elected May	Present Term Ends May	Re-Nominated For Term To May
Hospitality and Special Events			
<i>Debby Jagielow - Chair</i> (2016)	2016	2018	
Special Events / Fun Raising (ad hoc)			
Nick Appleby	2009		
Eric Summerer	2009		
Memorial Services Reception Coordinator-Mary Cameron			
Helping Hands (Meals and Rides) Coordinator- Ellen Schowalter			

	First Elected May	Present Term Ends May	Re-Nominated For Term To May
Fellowship Ambassadors			
Debby Jagielow - Coordinator (2014)	2012	2016	2018
Catie Carrigan	2014	2016	2018
Katharine Healy	2014	2016	2018
Nancy Dittes	2013	2017	
Andri Smith	2014	2016	2018
Emily Smith	2015	2017	
<i>Liz Wootton</i>	2016	2018	
Stewardship			
<i>Ellen Schowalter</i> - Co-Chair (2016)	2012	2018	
<i>Pam Brownell</i> - Co-Chair (2016)	2016	2018	
Ray Andrewsen	2013	2017	
Nick Healy	2014	2016	2018
<i>Chuck Paul</i>	2016	2018	

Ways to Stay Informed

There are many ways to keep in touch with SGC news and events. We hope you take advantage of the ones that fit your lifestyle:

- Emails from the church office, including Pastor's weekly email on Friday of the weekend's upcoming events, and other special announcements. Make sure Melissa in the office (springg@snet.net) has the preferred email address of anyone in your household who should receive the emails.
- *Springboard*, our monthly newsletter sent via email, or via postal mail by request. Archives also available online at <http://www.springglenchurch.org/newsletter-archive>. Contact Melissa to receive the postal edition.
- Weekly worship bulletin - the Sunday order of worship includes an insert of upcoming events and new announcements.
- SGC website (www.springglenchurch.org) for news, helpful information about church committee and programs. Calendar of events, including other activities in the building. A password protected portion of our website also includes the member directory and committee meeting minutes.
- Facebook group for sharing member news, promoting events, and other items of interest. Any member may post to this group. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SpringGlenChurch/>
- [Bulletin boards at church](#)

We look forward to connecting with you in person and virtually, and welcome your participation at Spring Glen Church!