

# BROOKLINE COMMUNITY CHURCH

## ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 29th 2012 - 11:45 A.M.



John Weidman - Sculptor

Pastor Renee Rouse - Interim Minister

## ANNUAL MEETING 2012

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## AGENDA

Call to Order

Moderator

Opening Prayer

Rev. Renee Rouse

Discussion on Minutes of Annual Meeting, 2011

Presentation of Reports

- Clerk
- Minister
- Outreach
- Diaconate
- Landscape
- Treasurer
- Stewardship
- Finance & Property
- Christian Education
- Trustees
- Pastoral Relations

Presentation of Proposals

- Nominations
- Budget for 2012

New Business

Closing Remarks

Rev. Renee Rouse

Adjournment

## **MINUTES: Annual General Meeting - January 30th, 2011**

As required by our constitution, a quorum is based on average Sunday attendance in the 6 month before the annual meeting (excluding 'special services'). Accordingly, a quorum of 21 was called for.

The meeting, with 25 members present, was opened at 11.30 a.m. with a prayer by Rev. Smith.

### **2010 Minutes:**

Motion to accept the 2010 minutes by DWS, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Cleghorn.

There was a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

### **Reports:**

The moderator suggested that the meeting could go through all reports, engage in discussion as needed, and then vote on all reports together.

There was motion to do this by Judy Cook, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Cleghorn.

There was a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Issues raised during discussion on the reports are:

The Clerk clarified that the Ed Taylor funeral was in Maine, and that the Renewal of Vows took place at the Cathedral in the Pines.

The Board of Outreach added Brookline Food Pantry to its list of supported organizations

The landscaping report comments about the lack of water prompted suggestions that the Trustees look into a well for the Church to replace the current barely adequate point.

The Diaconate asked the signatures to their report be changed to reflect their true composition. This prompted a suggestion that all boards list any resignations in their reports.

The Board of Stewards updated their report to reflect an increase from 19 to 30 families pledging, with aggregate pledged amount increasing from \$25,800 to \$33,740. A request was made to look into using Pay Pal. A request was made to add signatures to the Stewardship report.

The Board of Christian Education added that Ann Desrochers would be resigning/retiring at the end of June 2011.

The Board of Pastoral Relations was asked for the names of those who the Church Cabinet appointed to the Pastoral Search Committee.

The Clerk confirmed that the date on the latest Auditors statement (namely Feb 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010) was correct.

Motion to accept all reports by Barbara Haskell Higgins, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill Dunbar

There was a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

### **Proposals:**

The Budget was presented and generated substantial discussion and many questions. The clerk was involved with this discussion and confesses to have not recorded every detail of the proceedings, but:

The constitution calls for a balanced budget.

There was a motion to increase the supply minister line by \$14,043  
Proposed by Bill Dunbar, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barbara Haskell Higgins. Passed unanimously

Discussion suggesting that we should meet again within 3 months to revisit budget issues

There was a motion to add an income line that allowed up to \$11,056 to be taken from unrestricted funds  
Proposed by Judy Cook, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Matt Linder. Passed unanimously

The 2 motions were thought to take of whatever was to happen when Rev Smith leaves, and would also allow for a balanced budget

There was a motion to accept the amended budget  
Proposed by Bob Ashton, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barbara Haskell Higgins. Passed unanimously

### **Other Business:**

C.E. succession is to be addressed at the Cabinet.  
Proposed by Judy Cook, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill Dunbar. Passed unanimously

Rev. Smith thanked all for attending and the meeting was adjourned at 1.10 pm.

## **CLERKS STATISTICAL REPORT**

### **BAPTISMS**

6 March 2011	Grace Sophia Fessenden
27 March 2011	Allen Timothy Quay
17 April 2011	Ciara Elizabeth McGarry
18 June 2011	Samantha Prokop
11 July 2011	Graham James Binnick
9 October 2011	Cameron Jane Crosswell

### **FUNERALS**

23 January 2011	Clare E. Kecy
4 April 2011	Agnes Homoleski
10 April 2011	Hector Homeleski

### **MEMBERS RECEIVED**

17 April 2011	Jen Coutou
17 April 2011	Sue Santoski
17 April 2011	David Larkin

### **CONFIRMATION CLASS**

5 June 2011	Kurt Ferrell
5 June 2011	Alyss Lombardi
5 June 2011	Tim Rencken

## **MINISTERS REPORT January-August 2011**

It has been an honor to serve the Community Church in Brookline for these past several years and for a part of 2011. Thank you all for these meaningful years together.

So many times stand out. Your support and love when Sarah and I went through her long illness will never be forgotten, together with Derek coming to live with us and helping so much.

I would also have to say that what will go down in my memory is the new family experience that I am now enjoying with Sally.

As our time in Brookline came to a close so many people came up to me and said how much they appreciated all that we accomplished not only in the church but in the community as well.

Then there was the delightful reception when we celebrated together the end of my ministry with you, and the beginning of a new adventure looking ahead to the future. And at my last service with you when I took the trip down memory lane and ministerial experiences and you gave yours truly a standing ovation. For that I will always be grateful.

Thank you all again for your love and support as Sally and I continue to unpack boxes and find a place for as much as we need in our lovely new home (and get rid of the rest of the stuff we do not need). We wish to one and all our very best – and, having just finished watching The Christmas Carol for the umpteenth time - and can only say

God Bless Us Everyone.

Your friend - David, and Sally of course

## **INTERIM PASTOR REPORT August - December 2011**

Entering into ministry with all of you here at the Brookline Community Church beginning in August of 2011 has been a blessing. This report will actually cover August – January 2011/12.

The greatest challenge of Interim work we face has been recognizing where we are when the work began. Historically, Interim Pastors have been sustaining Interims that were retired clergy or seminary students throughout churches here in New England. Intentional Interim work is much different, as it involves the Interim Pastor having goals to walk through. Which are the developmental stages of transition to assist in preparing the congregation for the next settled Pastor they will call for future ministry. The developmental stages are: 1. Coming to terms with the history. 2. Developing a new identity. 3. Evaluating the need for possible leadership changes. 4. Re-establishing relationship with your denomination(s) 5. Ready and committed to the future ahead and moving forward with a new Pastor. This process sometimes is uncomfortable and will feel unnecessary to many congregants, yet the process is necessary to move forward with a new settled Pastor. The key

to intentional interim is to encourage the congregation to try new things, learn new things, being open to change as a new settled will not just be a replacement of the last settled.

I have enjoyed getting to know members of the church and community of Brookline. This is still very much ongoing and I look forward to future conversations and visits with more of you. I enjoyed attending an Eagle Scout celebration upon my arrival. Getting to know the Brookline and finding my way around without getting lost is getting better. Thank goodness I was given a map it does help when you don't have a GPS☺

I met with the Search Committee in September to evaluate how to move forward on the stages of transition. We agreed on a transition team, which was finalized in November. Your transition team members are Susan Santoski (Search Committee), Peter Cook, (Clerk, Search Committee), Logan Levesque (youth group member), Sheryl Ellis (Superintendent of Sunday School), Barbara Haskell Higgins (Chair of Deacons). The team met the first time on December 4<sup>th</sup> and they have started preparing for the time line for your Church History. There will be get together where all those who attend will have an opportunity to share. I look forward to watching the team help you walk through the process. You are all important and your voice matters, please participate, what you have to say is important.

The Pastoral Relations Board has been a successful tool in knowing the concerns and successes the congregation feels. This committee has been supportive to your congregation and your Pastor.

The development of the Brookline Praise Team has been awesome. This group is multigenerational and it is exciting to see the amount of talent you have in your church. All and anyone are welcome; we will have rehearsals after church beginning in February. Musically, I want to thank Charlotte Farwell, Gary Zimmerman, and Kate Cherian for their faithfulness in playing for our services. Collis Jackson has blessed us also. The MP3 player with our hymns being adjusted for worship, I thank Sanjay Cherian for his willingness to make this happen when we may not have someone at the piano or organ. I am still hoping to create music teams that are willing to go to homes of our shut-ins to sing and participate in communion with them at least 2 times a month on a Sunday afternoon.

I enjoyed teaching about Communion and the Advent season to members who were interested. We had a great time making advent wreaths.

I am looking forward to working with the Outreach Committee in planning some short trips we can take as a congregation to some of our ministries we support.

I have made some changes to our bulletin and will probably continue to make adjustments as they are needed. Changing the children's stories to Children's moment allows the flexibility in what is presented to our children. Also, we have "tweens" who don't see themselves as children so I am working on helping you more culturally up to date. I have been adding new music and hope to blend hymns with contemporary music and adding drama. Anyone interested in lay reading or greeting at the beginning of service, please speak to your Deacons.

Finally, in our short time together, you need to know you are all very precious to God. He loves you all so much. Each of you has so much to offer your church. God wants to use all of you in revealing His love to all peoples. Jesus is our model on how to leave a sweet fragrance where ever we go, we are to “therefore, be imitators of God as dearly beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God” (Ephesians 5:1) So, with great expectation let’s look forward together in preparing the way for each of us to leave a sweet fragrance where ever we go in Jesus name.

Pastor Renee Rouse, Interim Pastor

## **BOARD OF OUTREACH**

The Board of Outreach ended the year with the completion of the Heifer Project – a joint effort with the Sunday School. This successful fund drive raised over \$5,000 to be sent to Heifer International for the purchase of an Ark of animals. The Gift Ark provides 15 pairs of animals which will improve the lives of countless families and children in this country and around the world. We thank the congregation for their generosity to this worthwhile endeavor.

This year Outreach held four senior luncheons in March, April, September and November. These luncheons are free and provide an opportunity for our senior citizens to come, relax and enjoy good food and good company.

Working with SHARE, we adopted three families for Christmas giving. The congregation responded generously with gifts and gift certificates and helped to provide a very Merry Christmas for local families.

The Outreach Board, on behalf of the church, supported a number of very worthwhile organizations during 2011.

These include:

*Marguerite's Place (womens' shelter)*

*Nashua Soup Kitchen*

*Home, Health and Hospice*

*Habitat for Humanity (Nashua)*

*His Mansion*

*Canine Companions*

*UMC & UCC Missions*

*Buckingham Place (veterans' housing)*

*SHARE*

*ridges*

*Veterans FIRST*

*Wycliffe Bible Mission*

*Disciple Makers*

*Food for the Poor*

*Local families in need*

*Clothing Barn*

### 2011 Outreach Committee

Linda Ashton

Nancy Dulac

Sandy Garvin

Donna Bretschneider

Nancy Dunbar

Ethel Long

## DIACONATE

During the 2011 year the Board of Deacons

- Provided acolyte training
- Video taped the Sunday services for broadcast over the local cable station
- Continued the practice of having the PIN envelopes in the pews during communion Sundays
- Oversaw and printed the prayer list
- Participated in baptisms
- Secured the participants for the Sunday services; greeters and ushers, acolytes, lay reader, children's story teller, coffee hour hosts
- Secured substitute ministers when needed
- Sent a representative to the monthly Cabinet meetings
- Sent a representative to the UCC Conference
- We hosted a Chocolate Buffet on February 12th
- Assisted at the Ash Wednesday service
- Assisted with the new member Sunday and hosted the coffee hour that followed
- Assisted in the preparations for Holy Week including Palm Sunday, the Maundy Thursday service, the Good Friday Vigil; and both Easter Sunday services
- Assisted with the annual Wild Game supper.
- Provided and served the ice-cream and toppings for the ice cream sundae coffee hour on Children's Sunday
- Participated in the Milford Crop Walk in May
- Assisted at the lake-side services during the summer months
- Assisted with the service at the Cathedral of the Pines in July
- We sponsored a collection to purchase an oak tree to be placed at the church and a second to be placed at Rev. Smith's new home. We presented a picture of the trees at a pot luck supper to say good-bye to Rev. Smith and Sally.
- We said good-bye to Kurt Ferrell and wish him well at college.
- We welcomed Kate Cherian as a junior deacon in October.
- Assisted at the Thanksgiving Eve Service
- Decorated the sanctuary for each season and decorated the church for the Advent season

We look forward to continuing our work with Pastor Renee, the church family, and the community in our search for a settled minister in 2012. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all members of the congregation who helped fill vital positions every Sunday as lay readers, acolytes, greeters, ushers, children story presenters, and coffee hour hosts through out the year. And special thank you to Olivia Cleghorn and Lisa Haight for all their help during the year.

Respectfully submitted,            Barbara Haskell-Higgins, Chair

Board of Deacons: Jeff Cleghorn, Art Fenske, Amy Fessenden, Vicki Goodwin, Russell Haight, Barbara Haskell-Higgins, Melanie Levesque, and Junior Deacon Kate Cherian

## LANDSCAPING COMMITTEE

In April 2003, the Church of Christ formally formed a Landscape Committee. This committee was charged with addressing the landscaping at the Church

Our memorial Magnolia tree given in Memory of Sid Hall continues to grow and flower each spring. The daffodils that were donated by Art and Helen Fenske continue to give us a burst of color to announce that spring has arrived.

Trustee, Clarence Farwell has taken over the final work on the brick path and will hopefully finish up this spring (2012). There is still time to purchase a "MEMORIAL BRICK" to be included in the path.

This year we struggled with the church lawn, remediating the ravages of the 2010 drought that left the center of the side lawn with no grass growing and only some very healthy dandelions. Again in the spring we sprayed with "Weed Be Gone" (following treatment with "Roundup" the previous fall). Unfortunately none of these treatments killed the dandelions. Peter and Judy Cook proceeded to dig the dandelions out, filled 24 large garbage bags and transported them to the dump. With a donation from the Pepperell Waste Water Treatment plant of 5 yards of their "premium compost" and the help of staff from Camp Tevya that we hired on their days off, we were able to spread the mulch in the area to be reseeded, seed and fertilize. With some timely help from hurricane "Irene" to water the area the seed got off to a great start. We again weeded any weed that was left and fertilized for the winter.

General weeding was done over the summer by our Camp Tevya crew. The Girl Scouts again planted annuals from seed in the planting beds on the right side of the church.

We acquired some "Emerald Gaiety Enormous" from the Library garden project. and donated some excess "spirea" from the left side planting beds to the Brookline Garden Club for their American Legion garden project.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Cub Scouts who did the Spring and Fall clean up around the church. We thank them for their continuing help.

We would also like thank Eli Ramos who is renting the Parsonage for his services mowing & fertilizing this fall.

The Board of Deacons purchased an American Elm tree to honor Rev. David W. Smiths tenure as minister. A home was found for it at the end of the parking area.

Respectfully Submitted by Judy Cook, Chairperson

Landscaping Committee

Judy Cook	Sandra Garvin	Monica Rencken
Art Fenske	Sue Laub	Trish Thompson

## **TREASURER**

Reports showing monthly detail are published each month and are available if required. The following show complete year (2011) totals.

### **Expenses - 2011**

<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>Approved Budget</b>	<b>Actual Expense</b>
<b>Salaries</b>		
Minister - Sal. & SS	\$17,500	\$17,000
Organist	\$4,178	\$2,311
Choir Director	\$1,294	\$0
Secretary	\$2,427	\$2,427
Bookkeeper	\$1,294	\$1,294
C E Director	\$5,000	\$3,685
D. Smith - Retirement		\$1,400
Interim Min. Renee.Rouse	\$14,043	\$15,542
C.E. Superintendent		\$2,500
<b>Benefits &amp; Expenses</b>		
Pastor - Retirement	\$3,190	\$5,469
Pastor - Health & Dental Ins	\$2,100	\$2,179
Pastor - Continuing Ed.	\$200	\$0
Pastor - Books/Periodicals	\$100	\$34
Pastor - Car Expenses	\$1,645	\$1,633
<b>Insurance</b>		
Worker's Compensation	\$330	\$279
Property/Liability	\$3,220	\$3,426
<b>Maintenance &amp; Supplies</b>		
<b>Church</b>		
Fuel Oil	\$4,000	\$5,597
Electricity	\$4,500	\$3,868
Propane	\$800	\$687
Telephone	\$450	\$501
Supplies & Maintenance	\$1,500	\$1,875
Janitorial	\$3,000	\$2,547
Clock Inspection./Maint.	\$200	\$200

Elev. Inspection/Maint.	\$450	\$325
Elevator Phone	\$350	\$373
Lawn Maintenance		\$790
<b>Parsonage</b>		
Fuel Oil	\$1,400	\$2,178
Electricity	\$800	\$1,116
Propane	\$70	\$0
Telephone	\$350	\$140
Maintenance/Repairs	\$0	\$303
<b>Pastoral Search Committee</b>	\$3,000	\$0
<b>Administrative</b>		
Copier Maintenance	\$1,000	\$501
Bulletin Covers	\$150	\$153
Postage	\$500	\$167
Office Supplies	\$1,100	\$945
Internet Service/Web Site	\$901	\$429
<b>Conference Dues</b>		
Dues - UCC	\$500	\$500
Dues - UMC	\$500	\$500
<b>Christian Education</b>		
Children	\$500	\$495
Youth Religious Ed	\$0	\$0
Adult Religious Ed	\$250	\$0
Vacation Bible School	\$750	\$663
Confirmation	\$500	\$446
Cradle	\$120	\$25
<b>Diaconate</b>		
Sanctuary	\$450	\$0
Music	\$200	\$0
Delegate Expenses	\$325	\$0
Misc.		\$191
<b>Outreach</b>		
Missions	\$5,000	\$5,000

<b>Stewardship</b>	\$200	\$104
<b>Totals:</b>	\$90,337	\$89,796

## Receipts - 2011

<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>Estimated Receipts</b>	<b>Actual Receipts</b>
Pledges	\$37,620	\$38,588
Pledges from prev. yr.pd.in 2010	\$140	\$240
Unpledged regular givers	\$11,770	\$20,572
Loose Collections & Donations	\$1,500	\$3,656
Sunday School	\$300	\$280
Building Use	\$1,300	\$1,265
<b>INCOME FROM TRUSTS</b>		
Brookline General Fund	\$0	\$372
Ellen S Swett (Trustees use)	\$0	\$24
Shedd	\$0	\$13
*James H Hall (Gospel of Church)	\$0	\$679
*E C Jensen (Interest only)	\$0	\$26
* Frances A Peterson (Int.preaching)	\$0	\$1,018
*Emily E Stickney (Interest only)	\$0	\$115
*James N Tucker (Int. for preaching)	\$0	\$339
*Wm & Lorraine Dubbin	\$0	\$1,422
Subtotal: Income from trusts	\$4,000	\$4,008
Interest on Savings & Checking	\$90	\$86
**Draw on unrestricted trust funds?	\$11,567	\$0
<b>SPECIAL EVENTS</b>		
Bingo	\$4,000	\$1,000
Poker	\$12,000	\$11,000

Wild Game Dinner & Raffles	\$2,500	\$1,309
Suppers	\$350	\$0
Easter & Christmas Collection	\$3,200	\$2,349
July 4th Bake Sale		\$198
Christmas Pies		\$110
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>\$90,337</b>	<b>\$84,660</b>

### Dedicated Funds - 2011

DESCRIPTION	1/1/11 Bal.	12/31/11 Bal.
*C.E. Children w/ Challenge/supplies	\$2,842	\$2,842
*Memorial - Grace Thompson-camp	\$115	\$115
*Brick Walkway	\$491	\$491
*Jr & Sr Youth Group Fund	\$936	\$680
*Flower Fund	\$518	\$501
*PIN/Diaconate Fund	\$1,249	\$1,861
Bowe Memorial Fund	\$16,095	\$16,095
*E.Anderson Grant-classroom doors	\$804	\$723
*E.Anderson Grant-book shelves	\$144	\$144
*E.Anderson Grant-Bibles	\$246	\$121
*Outreach	\$3,177	\$3,076
*Cook Estate,D.-Church Bldgs.&Don.	\$242	\$242
*Memorial - Midge Chandler	\$131	\$131
*Church Sign	\$200	\$200
Memorial - Helen Fenske	\$50	\$50
*Youth Group Workcamp	\$964	\$964
*Treasures of Brookline	\$635	\$635
*Memorial - Sarah Smith	\$672	\$227
Memorial - Nancy Degutis	\$900	\$900
*Heifer Project	\$834	\$5,004
Memorial - Agnes Homoleski	\$0	\$125
Memorial - Hilda Doll	\$0	\$25
OGHS	\$0	\$117
Elm Tree - David W. Smith		\$248
*Parsonage Rental		\$3,000
<b>Dedicated Funds Totals</b>	<b>\$31,244</b>	<b>\$38,515</b>

## **Budget Recapitulation**

Church Receipts 2011	\$84,660
Church Expenses 2011	-\$89,796
Dedicated Funds 2011 Change	\$7,271
<b>Net:</b>	<b>\$2,135</b>

<b>Deposits 2011</b>	<b>1/1/11 Bal.</b>	<b>12/31/11 Bal.</b>	<b>Change 2011</b>
Checking Account Balance	\$21,754	\$23,813	\$2,059
Money Market Account	\$14,652	\$14,671	\$18
Certificate of Deposit	\$11,633	\$11,690	\$58
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>\$48,039</b>	<b>\$50,174</b>	<b>\$2,135</b>

## **BOARD OF STEWARDS**

This year the Stewardship Committee created a Stewardship Booklet and a poster to promote the pledge drive. Each currently active family of the congregation received a booklet, either in person at church or through the mail. The booklet was also posted on the church's website and distributed to groups that use the church. A letter was sent to the Hollis-Brookline Journal and the Brookliner, with the purpose of letting the community know about our pledge drive and to request donations for the church, which acts as a community center in many ways.

The Stewardship booklet included forms for pledging financial support and time and talent to the church, a short letter to the congregation, and information about the ministries of the church presented in a graphical form. The promotional poster was a cross formed by words describing characteristics and acts of stewardship (i.e. gifts, service, tithe, talent, caring).

As of the first week of December 2011, 19 families had returned pledge forms to the church treasurer, with the pledge total of \$20,010. The number of families who had replied by the first week of December was the same as the number of families at this same time last year, but the pledge amount was down \$5,000 in comparison to last year.

The Stewardship committee decided to send a second mailing to 42 families with a friendly reminder that the church would greatly appreciate a pledge for the coming year. This was sent out during the second week of December. Nine more pledges were received.

**The pledge total for 2012 (as of 01/09/12) is \$30,930, with 28 families pledging**

## **BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

The primary goal of the Board of Christian Education is to foster spiritual growth and to encourage individuals to integrate their Christian faith and values into their daily activities. A detailed overview of our program is provided in the *Educational Ministries* booklet, updated and published each September, available in hardcopy and on the church website ([www.bccnh.org](http://www.bccnh.org)).

We strive to continuously improve our program and need your input to do so. You are welcome to provide input at any of our Board meetings (held the first Sunday of each month), via phone calls, and emails.

Highlights of Christian Education Offerings during the 2011 calendar year include:

### **Sunday School Program**

- From January to May we held weekly Sunday school classes for children in Pre-School - Grade 2 based on the *Worship Center* (Montessori style curriculum) and for Grades 3 - 6 based on *The Best of Whole People of God* (lectionary style curriculum)
- On May 22 we held our 2010-2011 End-of-Year Program followed by the Deacons' Ice Cream Social. The service included the recognition of six "graduating" 2<sup>nd</sup> graders with those who were present receiving their Bibles.
- In conjunction with the Outreach Committee, we have embraced the Heifer Project during the Sunday school year. On the second Sunday of each month the lesson has a focus on helping the children to better understand the mission of the Heifer Project.
- From September to December our weekly Sunday School classes for children continued with the Beginner class now including the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and our Middler class including the 4<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Pastor Renee held a Communion class in September to teach children and adults the history & meaning of Communion.
- The program has added a Bell Choir and Music Sunday, and the children donated a Thanksgiving Box to a family in Brookline.
- Our year ended with the Christmas Pageant and Carol Sing on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Youth Programs**

- The Youth Group began the year by sponsoring a luncheon for the Annual Meeting.
- On April 29 Youth Group Members participated in a "Lock-In" at Hampshire Hills. The overnight event brought Christian Youth Groups from the greater Nashua area together to experience fellowship through music, sports and other activities.
- The summer was a time for us to relax and enjoy fellowship while discussing our plans for the fall. Summer activities included a picnic/outdoor games/welcome new member's event in July, and a family beach outing on September 3<sup>rd</sup> at Hampton Beach State Park.

- The Youth Group had two overnight trips to the Horton Center which is a UCC Camp.  
The first trip in July was a mini overnight camp to get the teens familiar with the program. The second trip was in October to assist during a work weekend to get the camp packed and closed up for the winter.
- On October 8<sup>th</sup> the group participated in an apple picking/corn maze/hayride event which led to baking pies/desserts that were delivered to people who are home bound on October 9<sup>th</sup>.
- The annual Soup & Chili supper was held on December 4<sup>th</sup> after the Brookline Christmas Tree Lighting.

### **Adult Education**

- This year the Adult Education Program provided an opportunity to read and study the first book of the Bible in-depth. We explored the book of Genesis through discussion and by viewing lectures on this topic provided in a series featuring Rutgers Professor Gary A. Rendsburg.
- In November, Pastor Renee hosted a family activity class which included making Advent Wreaths and a lesson on the Advent Season. Five families attended.

### **“SonSurf Beach Bash” Vacation Bible School (VBS)**

- During the week of June 26 – June 30 thirteen families (22 children and 25 teen/adult volunteers) gathered to join in bible stories, crafts, music, games and snacks as the children explored the wonders of the beach and discovered the Big Answers to the Big Questions about Jesus, who He is and why they need Him.
- As a part of the VBS program this year a Mission Project was done in collaboration with the Confirmation Class. The Mission Project involved collecting items to support a girls school in Kabul, Afghanistan.

### **Administration**

- We continue to work on our “Safe Church Policies” with keeping up with current background checks and conducting new background checks when needed.
- We coordinated a smooth transition from our Christian Education Director to our new Sunday School Superintendent.

### **Cradle Roll**

- The Cradle Roll program is currently using a resource entitled *The First Three Years* by Mary Alice Gran. Participants periodically receive age appropriate support materials (leaflets) to assist parents in the faith development of their young children. Each leaflet includes an introduction paragraph, scripture lesson, some things to think about, a prayer for the parents and one for the child.
- There are 6 children age 0-2 on the active mailing list. There are 5 more children age 2-3 who are done with mailings except for birthday and Christmas cards

### **Intergenerational Worship**

- On February 6 we held a Boy Scout Sunday service honoring town scouts, and

- their leaders and celebrating the importance of faith and community service
- The Sunday school children were encouraged to participate in the regular service of worship on February 27 and April 24, the start of school vacation weeks.
  - On June 12 we invited seven students to join us for a special service of worship recognizing their achievements and honoring these High School Graduates of the Class of 2011.
  - At our Intergenerational Worship on December 18<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated our Christmas Pageant with a play entitled “The Perfect Gift”. The children also participated in a Show of Praise with “Do you hear what I hear” and a presentation of “We Three Kings” with David Larkin singing. The Youth Group did a craft with the Congregation and the Bell Choir performed “Joy to the World”.

### **Confirmation**

In February of 2011 three teenagers and their mentors embarked upon an intense journey designed to help the teenager explore their personal faith, to develop a significant relationship with a person in our church who is committed to Christ (their mentor), to ask questions, to develop a relationship with God and gain a deeper sense of commitment to the church. As part of this journey we had an opportunity to experience an Old Catholic Church service and to attend Sunday school and worship at a Baptist church. We visited a local funeral home; observed Church Board meetings; taught Sunday school classes, participated in a conference wide event with other United Church of Christ confirmation classes and enjoyed a weekend retreat at the Wanakee United Methodist Center in Meredith, NH. The class culminated in a very special worship service held at the Grove at Lake Potanipo where all the participants shared their favorite hymns, scriptures and memories from the Confirmation experience with the congregation.

### **Library**

- We continue to work on keeping the library up to date and adding new books and materials as they come in.
- New materials added in 2011 include: Informational materials on the Heifer Program with activities to be done at home and the “Left Behind” series of books.

### **Member at Large**

- Our Member at Large continued to support the Board with their input and ideas.

### **Youth Member**

- In November the position of Youth Member was filled.

### **Other**

- The Christian Education Board transitioned from a Christian Education Director to a Sunday School Superintendent.
- We would like to thank Ann Desrochers for her many years of guidance and devotion to our Christian Education Program.
- We welcome Sheryl Ellis as our new Sunday School Superintendent

The Board of Christian Education is eternally grateful to all those who volunteer to teach and help each week in our Sunday school classes and with youth activities. None of this would be possible without you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheryl Ellis, Sunday School Superintendent  
Ann Desrochers, Director of Christian Education  
Rev. Dr. David W. Smith, Adult Area Coordinator  
Pastor Renee Rouse, Adult Area Coordinator  
Vicki Goodwin, Youth Area Coordinator  
Jen Coutu, VBS Director 2011  
Amy Razzaboni, Administrator  
Dottie & Lisa Haight, Cradle Roll  
Howard Clements, Librarian  
Becca Cherian, Youth Member  
David Hoffman, Member at Large and Youth Advisor  
Rev. Dr. David W. Smith  
Pastor Renee Rouse

January 3, 2012

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

2011 was a busy time for the Board of Trustees. With the retirement of Rev. David W. Smith the trustees had to decide what to do with the Parsonage. Fortunately we were able to find a renter from within our church community. Eli Ramos rented the parsonage (4 Milford Street) on October 4, 2011. The rent was fixed at \$1,000. per month excluding utilities and a 1 year lease was signed. As part of his rental agreement he will take care of the mowing of the parsonage and church grounds. Fertilize (we buy the fertilizer), and do any trimming of shrubs. In addition he will undertake to paint the inside of the parsonage, and teach Sunday school.

The trustees will use a portion of the rent to repair the north side of the barn wall, and re-roof the roof over the kitchen/dining room and north side of the barn (this will include new sheathing) during the summer of 2012. The remainder will be kept in a separate account to be used for maintenance of church property.

The rental of the parsonage eliminated the need to budget for fuel oil, electricity, propane and phone for the building thereby reducing the budget for 2012 by the \$3433.49 spent in 2011 .

Early in the year the Parsonage water system was inspected and a new softener tank installed.

In September Hank Ward replaced all of the fluorescent light bulbs in the kitchen - hopefully this will resolve our problems with humidity (corrosion on the contact points).

Between October and December Hank Ward painted the Pastors office in neutral shades with the Trustees supplying the paint. He also finished wood trim and painted fellowship hall. Hank also repaired the drain and faucet in one of the church bathrooms.

In November Clarence Farwell attached the loose chimney cap on the kitchen chimney and put up the shutters on the attic window of the parsonage.

The trustees negotiated 1,700 gals of fuel oil from Shattuck at \$3.26 (\$5,557.30) for 2011-2012 heating season. This advantageous price was achieved by inclusion with the Brookline School District contract. This is only for the church building and does not include a service contract with Shattuck. We have a separate service contract for the church and parsonage with Absolute Mechanical.

Please note the separate Landscape Committee report. This is a committee that reports to the Board of Trustees.

Hank Ward joined the Board of Trustees in July and Judy Cook joined the board in September.

We would like to thank former board members Russ Garside and Ed Krom for their service as trustees to the Brookline Community Church.

Respectfully Submitted  
Judy Cook for the Board of Trustees

Clarence Farwell, Chairman, Hank Ward and Judy Cook

### **BOARD OF PASTORAL RELATIONS**

The Board of Pastoral Relations met twice with Rev Smith although there were no precipitating events. The Board has met regularly with Rev Rouse since her arrival to help her assimilate.

### **PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE**

The Pastoral Search Committee began meeting on January 5, 2011 to start the process of finding a new settled pastor for the Church. Our first major activity was to meet with representatives of the United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church in order to learn about their respective clergy assignment processes and timetables. Once we had a clear picture of our alternatives, we chose to seek an Interim Minister through the UCC as this approach offered us more time to perform a thorough search for our next settled pastor.

After considerable discussion and reflection and thanks to the thoughtful and candid approach taken by committee members, we were able to submit a Request for Interim Leadership to UCC Reverend Gary Schulte. Reverend Schulte used our description of our church's condition and our leadership priorities to identify appropriate candidates to lead us through the Interim Ministry period. Our constitution specifies that the Diaconate is responsible for selecting Interim leadership but, in the interest of efficiency and avoiding duplicate effort, they delegated that authority to the Pastoral Search Committee and participated in our process. By late June, we were introduced to Pastor Renee Rouse who received glowing references from Pastoral Search Committee members at her prior congregations. Pastor Renee met with us in mid-July and shared a very honest and frank view of the direction in which she saw us headed and how she could help us to prepare for our long-term solution for pastoral leadership. Those who met with her felt that we would be in excellent hands under her guidance and we are fortunate to have her join our community as our Interim Minister.

The next steps in the process began after Pastor Renee had a chance to serve with us for a few months and to get a feel for our community and how we operate as a Church. She has put together a Transition Team on which some members of the PSC serve and this team will lay the groundwork for understanding our history, our future direction and our spiritual and logistical needs. The PSC will stay informed as to the Transition Team's progress and, once the Transition Team has completed its work, will resume the task of finding a settled pastor to fulfill the leadership vision of our Congregation.

Thanks to all those who participated in this process and provided input and feedback to committee members. At each step of this process, we were reminded that a good search is one in which we attempt to discern God's will for us as a Church Family rather than to drive our own personal agendas and I feel that we have been successful in that effort. We look forward to continuing our work in 2012 with Pastor Renee, the Transition Team and the congregation as a whole.

2011 Pastoral Search Committee Members:

Bob Ashton	Sanjay Cherian (chair)	Peter Cook
Bruce Garvin	Christina Gialluca	Russell Haight
Megan King	Melanie Levesque	Adam Ouellette
Susan Santoski	Dona Taylor	

**AUDITORS STATEMENT**

January 5, 2012

I, Jefferson Walter Cleghorn, have performed an audit on the Brookline Community Church. To the best of my ability to so determine, the data and records reviewed appear to be free of material misstatement or error. This is my third year fulfilling this function for the church, and my last audit. I will not perform the audit for calendar year 2012 or beyond.

//signed//

Jefferson W. Cleghorn  
For the Brookline Community Church

**PROPOSALS**

- **NOMINATIONS**
  
- **2012 BUDGET**