

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



North Falmouth Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
North Falmouth, Massachusetts 02556
January 30, 2022

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2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PASTOR

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”
—Isaiah 43:18-19

“The secret of change is to focus all your energy not on fighting the old but building on the new.”
—Socrates

Dear Friends,

The scripture above is one of my favorites; it always fills me with hope for what can be. Imagining all the many possibilities makes me feel expansive. It points me in a forward direction and reminds me that the past is gone—whether I like it or not. I can learn from the past, but I can’t relive it. I think this holds true for the Church as well. The Church is undergoing great changes, and I believe God is inviting us not to dwell on the past but to look ahead knowing that—if we are open and receptive—God will do new things in the Church—including ours.

I have often heard people say during this pandemic how much they want things to get back to normal. Yet, as time has passed, people are starting to say “the new normal”—recognizing the pandemic is changing us and how we do things. Likely it will affect how we live, and it has changed the church in ways we don’t yet know. Church right now seems like one, big, grand experiment as we navigate this new world. We can be sad about it, or we can be hopeful and get excited about the possibilities of what we can do right here in our corner of the world. I’m excited by that—aren’t you?

As I look over the last year, I see glimmers of new possibilities arising. 2021 had its challenges, but like last year we found hopeful ways to stay connected, serve the community, enrich our spiritual lives, and get reenergized about our church. Here are some of the highlights:

- The biggest agenda item for the Board of Finance this year was settling the Latimer estate. Hank Bertsch, the Board, and Shannon Heino generously gave a huge amount of their time in securing the funds for the church from the estate. We are in gratitude for all their hard work.
- As he did last year, Hank Bertsch applied for the Payroll Protection Plan, which was a forgivable loan from the government to help with the payroll and our bottom line.
- Once again, all of you have been extremely generous financially this year as we continue to be challenged by how the pandemic limited our fundraising abilities.
- Sue Long and all those who volunteered at the Thrift Stop did an incredible job staying open given the safety challenges. The church has benefitted from their commitment this year.
- We are grateful to Dennis Fox and the rest of our tech team, Chris Polloni, Sarah Bach, John Checklick, and Hope Oliveira for getting our worship services online every Sunday. Whether worship was indoors or outdoors, the tech team was there. People have expressed

their appreciation for the ability to attend worship online. Those who aren't physically capable of joining in-person worship are especially grateful online services.

- The Deacons continue to support worship, and three of the deacons stepped up to do double duty on the tech team—for which we are grateful. Every month, the Deacons assessed what safety protocols were needed at any given time to make worship a safe environment for all. This year, the Deacons welcomed Sarah Bach and Hope Oliveira. I appreciate all the support they offer not only every week, but also for the special services. This year we said a grateful goodbye to Barbara Rountree and Sue Rowitz who served us well.
- Babette Bach, Sarah Bach, and the choir continue to offer pre-recorded music for our services. This means using special software to put all the voices and music together, so that we still get to hear the voices of our choir despite not being able to hear them in person. When it was safe enough, what a joy it was to have some live singing during worship, even if it was only two or three voices. A big thank you to all those who participated.
- Another highlight of the year was being able to worship together in-person—in the sanctuary. And we got to sing—even if it was with our masks on! It was a sheer delight to worship together again—inside!
- This year, Sarah Bach and I became members of the church, and we said a loving goodbye to Hal King. Member Bill Macurdy also passed away this past year.
- Carolee Packard kept Outreach projects going this year with her ingenuity and energy, which offered the rest of us opportunities to help our community with much needed supplies and funds. One of the more notable ones was the impromptu Thanksgiving food drive for the Falmouth Service Center that was opened to our North Falmouth neighbors. And they responded generously! She collected an incredible amount of food in a short span of time.
- This year we saw all the buildings get a facelift—thanks to Dennis Fox. Both the parsonage, the church, and the Thrift Shop got some much-needed repairs and were painted. A big thanks to Bill Martin for his help painting the Thrift Shop.
- What started out as an in-person Lenten group in 2020 before the pandemic closed everything down has morphed into Theology Wednesdays on Zoom. This group of sojourners has taken a deep dive into their faith life. We did a study of the New Testament from The Massachusetts Bible Society, we did a 26-week series using Fr. James Martin's book, *Jesus: A Pilgrimage*, we have done a few video series from *The Work of The People*, one with Bible scholar Peter Enns, another with Brian McLaren, author of *We Make the Road by Walking*. During these sessions we ground ourselves in scripture, reflect on our faith, and what it really means to be a Christian in these times.
- This past year, I enrolled in a two-year program for spiritual direction. It differs from pastoral counseling in that I am not trying to offer advice, but I am guiding people in their search and desire to have a much richer and deeper relationship with God. Part of the program included participating in an intensive two-week retreat—on Zoom in August. I meet with two directees each month as part of my training and participate in a monthly peer group to discuss how we are growing as spiritual directors. On a monthly basis, I met with my spiritual director and on occasion I met with a leadership coach. I've also been

meeting with other Falmouth clergy and my clergy support group once a month online. I am grateful for all these opportunities to deepen my own faith, find inspiration, and gain more skills as a pastor.

- This year I became vice chair of Belonging to Each Other whose mission is to offer temporary housing in Falmouth during the winter months to those experiencing homelessness. I have helped provide meals for the folks who are put up in motels on nights when temperatures dip below freezing. In December our church hosted the annual Interfaith Homeless Persons' Memorial Service for the 63 people who died this past year on the Cape due to homelessness. I'm thankful for all the folks at our church who helped make this service meaningful. This service was seen by many and helped raise awareness on the issue of homelessness in Falmouth.
- The other community projects I worked on this year was the resettlement of Afghan evacuees in Falmouth as chair of the supply committee. I worked with four churches (including NFCC) to get all the supplies needed to resettle a family of nine.
- Last, but not least, I want to thank Jean Holmes and Katie Weldon for having the dream that our church can be a vibrant light in our community again. To make this dream come alive, a Reimagining Team was formed to help reenergize and reinvigorate the church. To that end, Don Remick, formerly the Area Conference Minister, was invited in to guide the congregation through a reimagining process. We met after worship, people shared their ideas, which were voted on, and the Reimagining Team has been charged with bringing the ideas with the most votes to fruition with the help of the congregation. Currently, the Reimagining Team members are Anna Dunphy, Chris Polloni, and Faith Duffy. Although, the pandemic has slowed some of this work, the team continues to move forward.

This list is not exhaustive of the many ways we came together this year to be the church. Again, we were challenged by the pandemic, but the gifts you gave this year have affected people in ways you can *never* imagine. God is always working beyond what we can see, imagine, or believe. Regardless of pandemic, God is always working in and through us, if we are willing.

I am thankful for all the new and different ways you offered your time, talent, and treasure this year. However, where would we be without our talented and dedicated staff—Babette Bach, Deb Pinkney, and Dennis Fox? They continue to inspire me with their generous spirit, their can-do attitude, and their contagious enthusiasm for our community. It is hard not to be full of gratitude for all they have done this past year.

What an honor it has been to be your pastor and teacher this year! May we greet the coming year with boldness and the belief that all things are possible in Christ—despite whatever challenges we face. God is indeed doing a new thing here at North Falmouth Congregational Church. It is springing up—do you not perceive it?

In faith and gratitude,
Rev. Christina Williams

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MODERATOR / COUNCIL PRESIDENT

When I mentally look back over the last six years my first thought is “Yikes”. Together we have all seen many things change and some things that never change within our church.

In 2012 we, as a church, put forth a vision statement for 2020. We wanted to be a community of faith based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. We wanted to open our hearts and doors to the greater community outside of our physical building.

It all started in 2015 when we opened our kitchen to the “baking lady”. Soon after we had both the YMCA Early Education Center and Elder Services using our building.

The church bylaws were revised, thanks to the work of the previous Church Council in 2015. Committees no longer had to meet monthly which left more time for folks to be the church. Provisions were made for electronic voting paving the way for the times we are now in. The past two years we have been meeting on Zoom and voting electronically.

We as a congregation have seen many pastoral changes.

There was a sabbatical with six months coverage, a retiring Pastor, interim coverage, bridge coverage, and a Search Committee to be named. Finally, the congregation called The Reverend Christina Williams to be our settled pastor here at North Falmouth Congregational Church. Shortly after her arrival the pandemic arrived.

The church got the much-needed broadcasting media equipment as worship was moved outside or to Facebook and Zoom. We all have missed being in person with one another these past two years. The pandemic has shown us the way to open new doors of opportunity.

It is now time for a new vision statement, to rethink our governing structure, and to think about how we can connect to the wider community. How well is North Falmouth Congregational Church spreading the living Bible? How will we connect to the wider community outside of our building? Are we being asked to keep the Good News of God inside of our church building or to bring it to the people on the outside? Is the church serving and inviting to both members and non-members of the community?

How we, as a Congregation, answer these questions will determine the future of North Falmouth Congregational Church. We are the hands of God just as Jesus was. He laid down the foundation, and we need to be the builders of a better world. Are we hiding our “light” under a basket or letting it shine for all?

It has been an honor to have served this church for the past six years.

Peace, Joy and Love to all of you,
Carolee Packard, Moderator / Council President, 2015-2021

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Members: Barbara Rountree, Chris Polloni, Missy Fox, Sarah Bach, Hope Oliveira

As we all witnessed, 2021 was another difficult year. The deacons at NFCC continued to follow UCC guidelines as the epidemic continued into its second year. Many discussions took place each month around safety and uncertainty on a potential re-opening.

Ash Wednesday services were held Feb. 17, with ashes available for pickup with the Order of Worship. Easter service was held April 1 outside. At the end of April, the Just Peace Players performed a play on Zoom, called “Hey, Save the Earth”. We were able to safely hold services outside from spring into October, and we were blessed with good weather. Some chairs and tent canopies were purchased for additional outdoor comfort. While outside (and continuing when inside), a deacon kept a list of attendees for contact tracing and facemasks were required; an offering “box” was always available. Pre-packaged wafers and cups were served during worship on the first Sunday of the month.

After understandable delays, Pastor Christina’s installation service was held outside on a nice fall day on Oct 3, 2021. The previous morning service included a blessing of the animals.

In-sanctuary services for the congregation began in the fall when the weather grew colder. In-person services continued to be available via Facebook and Zoom. We installed three HEPA air filtrations systems inside the sanctuary in August and we installed a video camera in the sanctuary and upgraded the sound equipment earlier in the year.

In lieu of poinsettias, the altar committee decorated an outdoor Christmas tree with scallop shells in people’s memory or honor. On December 18th, our spontaneous Christmas pageant was held—which was greatly enjoyed by everyone. On Dec 21st we hosted a community “Longest Night” service remembering the homeless. On Christmas Eve, we held an in-person service and invited those at home to light candles. It was well attended and candles were “blown out” with spoons.

Due to the spike in cases, in lieu of a carol sing, the Sunday after Christmas, Sarah Bach gave a season appropriate sermon from Christina’s past collection.

While the Deacons try to stay connected and informed of our members’ needs, we continue to require the assistance of the congregation. We are grateful to Marcia McLaughlin for maintaining our “Greeting Card Ministry” and others who have kept in touch with our church family. Beautiful photo cards are provided to the congregation (outside the church office) for their use to send to a shut-in or a friend.

I’d like to end with a big “THANK YOU” to Missy Fox, Susan Rowitz, Chris Polloni, Sarah Bach and Hope Oliveira for their dedication and unfailing service during these trying times. I would also like to acknowledge the time and talents of Dennis Fox, Sarah Bach, Chris Polloni, Hope Oliveira, and John Checklick for their technical expertise in providing the services online.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Rountree, BOD Chair

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF FINANCE

	01/05/22	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	Proposed 2022
Income				
4000 Member Contributions				
4005 Pledge Giving		75,000.00	74,665.00	70,000.00
4010 Regular Unpledged Giving		18,000.00	17,698.00	16,000.00
4030 Loose Plate		1,800.00	3,110.00	1,800.00
4055 Easter		1,500.00	405.00	1,000.00
4065 Thanksgiving		1,500.00	1,045.00	1,500.00
4070 Christmas		2,200.00	6,980.00	2,200.00
4080 Contributions - Other		0.00	500.00	0.00
Total 4000 Member Contributions		100,000.00	104,403.00	92,500.00
4100 Operational Income				
4150 Use of Building Income		2,000.00	1,642.00	2,000.00
4160 YMCA Rental Income		20,580.00	20,580.00	20,580.00
4175 Thrift Shop Sales		24,000.00	33,893.85	40,000.00
4185 Memorial Fund Interest		10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Total 4100 Operational Income		56,580.00	66,115.85	72,580.00
4200 Fundraising				
4210 Plant Sale		3,250.00	2,258.10	3,250.00
4210.1 Plant Sale Expense		0.00	0.00	-1,250.00
4220 Holiday Fair		3,250.00	192.25	3,250.00
4220.1 Holiday Fair Expense		0.00	0.00	-650.00
4260 General Fund Raising		2,750.00	80.00	2,750.00
4260.1 General Fund Raising Expense		0.00	0.00	-1,350.00
Total 4200 Fundraising		9,250.00	2,530.35	6,000.00
4500 Restricted Income				
4505 Offering Envelops Contrib		100.00	92.00	100.00
4512.1 Flowers-Altar Expense		0.00	-69.68	0.00
4516 Pauline Marsh Endow Revenue		16,522.63	16,522.60	18,408.56
45XX Latimer Endowment Revenue		0.00	0.00	24,095.33
4535 Hospitality Donations		100.00	0.00	100.00
4535.1 Hospitality Expense		-150.00	-101.10	-150.00
4580 Flowers-Altar Income		325.00	66.88	325.00
4580.1 Altar Flower Expense		-375.00	-221.00	-375.00
Total 4500 Restricted Income		16,522.63	16,289.70	42,503.88
4800 Outreach Income				
4840 Outreach Special Offerings		0.00	0.00	0.00
4860 Bourne Green Bag		0.00	0.00	0.00
4865 Bourne GB Donation paid		0.00	0.00	0.00
4870 Falmouth Green Bag		0.00	0.00	0.00
4875 Falmouth GB Donation paid		0.00	0.00	0.00
Total 4800 Outreach Income		0.00	0.00	0.00
4900 Interest CDs		900.00	129.87	200.00
Total Income		183,252.63	189,468.77	213,783.88
Expense				
5000 Ministerial Expense				
5005 Ministers Salary		43,040.50	33,394.64	44,331.72
5010 Lieu of Social Security		4,669.60	3,305.36	4,809.69
5020 Ministers Housing Allowance		5,169.79	5,169.95	5,170.00
5030 Annuity		8,545.67	7,833.65	8,802.04
5040 Life Insurance/Disability		915.61	915.72	943.08
5035 Health/Dental Insurance				

5035.1 Medicare	2,160.00	1,782.00	1,782.00
5035.2 Vision	100.00	164.00	100.00
5035 .3 Health/Dental Insurance - Other	3,720.00	4,899.90	3,390.00
Total 5035 Health/Dental Insurance	5,980.00	6,845.90	5,272.00
5045 Pastoral Expenses	2,400.00	2,383.07	2,100.00
5050 Parsonage Utilities	3,000.00	2,839.25	3,000.00
Total 5000 Ministerial Expenses	73,721.17	62,687.54	74,428.52
5100 Office Expenses			
5105 Office Administrator Salary	20,603.44	14,509.84	21,221.54
5110 FICA Secretary	1,576.16	1,576.16	1,623.45
5120 Office Supplies	1,200.00	1,283.92	1,000.00
5125 Computer Expenses	400.00	554.99	500.00
5130 Copier Expenses	2,400.00	2,852.48	3,000.00
5135 Postage/PO Box	900.00	1,147.00	1,000.00
5155 Advertising	1,000.00	534.00	750.00
Total 5100 Office Expenses	28,079.60	22,458.39	29,094.99
5200 Music/Choir Expenses			
5205 Music Director Salary	20,976.80	14,522.40	21,606.10
5210 Music Director FICA	1,604.73	1,604.73	1,652.87
5215 Organist Substitutes	600.00	0.00	600.00
5220 Music Supplies	400.00	0.00	400.00
5225 Music Equipment Maintenance	900.00	605.00	900.00
5235 Music License Fee	200.00	278.55	300.00
5245 Music Soloist	0.00	0.00	0.00
5200 Music/Choir Expenses-Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total 5200 Music/Choir Expenses	24,681.53	17,010.68	25,458.97
5300 Parish Administration			
5304 Member in Discernment	0.00	204.00	0.00
5305 Stewardship Supplies	400.00	176.16	400.00
5310 Collectors Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00
5315 Altar committee supplies	0.00	27.06	0.00
5325 Guest Preachers	1,200.00	600.00	1,200.00
5330 Deacons Supplies	300.00	0.00	200.00
5334 Deacons Misc Expense	200.00	0.00	100.00
5335 Treasurers Supplies	0.00	35.98	0.00
5340 Accountant Salary	5,304.00	5,300.00	5,463.12
5345 Accountant FICA	405.76	0.00	0.00
5350 Payroll Expenses	950.00	962.25	1,100.00
5390 Publicity/Web Support	500.00	223.44	400.00
Total 5300 Parish Administration	9,259.76	7,528.89	8,863.12
5400 Church Operation			
5415 Custodial Supplies	1,100.00	1,093.50	1,200.00
5420 Main Bldg Gas	4,800.00	4,887.27	4,800.00
5425 Main Bldg Electricity	5,400.00	6,746.91	6,800.00
5430 Main Bldg Telephone	2,500.00	2,335.87	2,400.00
5435 Main Bldg Water	250.00	315.17	300.00
5440 Main Bldg Insurance	11,120.91	13,778.00	15,844.70
5445 Worker Comp Insurance	965.00	1,124.44	1,125.00
5490 Church Operation - Other	100.00	0.00	100.00
Total 5400 Church Operation	26,235.91	30,281.16	32,569.70
5500 Whole Life			
5505 Whole Life Director Salary	0.00	0.00	10,998.00
5510 Whole Life Director FICA	0.00	0.00	841.35
5540 Whole Life Supplies/Programs	400.00	0.00	500.00
5500 Whole Life - Other	1,000.00	1,167.83	1,000.00
Total 5500 Christian Education	1,400.00	1,167.83	13,339.35

5600 Property Maintenance			
5601 Bldg & Grounds Supervisor	4,992.00	3,672.00	5,141.76
5602 Bldg & Grounds Supervisor-FICA	381.89	405.76	393.34
5604 Mandatory Inspections	1,765.00	1,831.47	2,000.00
5605 Main Bldg Maintenance	0.00	3,096.05	0.00
5610 Grounds	0.00	4,575.00	0.00
5613 YMCA Expense Reimbursement	-7,200.00	-7,200.00	-7,200.00
5615 Parsonage Maintenance	0.00	447.21	0.00
5616 Thrift Shop Maintenance	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
5620 Church Equipment Maintenance	0.00	974.25	0.00
5625 Snow removal	2,000.00	2,500.00	2,000.00
5565 Contracted Clearing Service	15,000.00	21,090.00	21,000.00
5670 Dumpster	1,500.00	1,443.65	1,700.00
5699 Property Maintenance - Other	6,100.00	0.00	6,100.00
Total 5600 Property Maintenance	<u>24,538.89</u>	<u>32,835.39</u>	<u>32,635.10</u>
5700 Thrift Store Expenses			
5721 Gas	0.00	971.72	0.00
5722 Telephone	0.00	899.57	0.00
5723 Electric	0.00	778.57	0.00
5724 Water	0.00	122.00	0.00
5727 Maintenance	500.00	1,138.10	0.00
5730 Supplies	0.00	395.26	0.00
5700 Thrift Store Expense - Other	3,200.00	150.00	3,200.00
Total 5700 Thrift Store Expenses	<u>3,700.00</u>	<u>4,455.22</u>	<u>3,200.00</u>
5800 Fundraising			
5805 Plant Sale Expense	1,250.00	1,222.11	0.00
5810 Holiday Fair Expense	650.00	0.00	0.00
5815 Gen Fundraising Expense	1,350.00	0.00	0.00
Total 5800 Fundraising	<u>3,250.00</u>	<u>1,222.11</u>	<u>0.00</u>
5900 Outreach			
5905 Outreach/Missions Expenses	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00
Total 5900 Outreach	<u>12,000.00</u>	<u>12,000.00</u>	<u>12,000.00</u>
Total Expense	206,866.86	191,647.21	231,589.75
Net Income	-23,614.23	-2,178.44	-17,805.87

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COLLECTOR

North Falmouth Congregational Church - No Falmouth MA Donations Account Balances (12/01/2021 - 12/31/2021)

Thursday, December 30, 2021

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Account	Period Activity	YTD Balance
<i>Giving Accounts</i>		
101 - Pledge	6,385.00	67,815.00
102 - Regular Givers	3,130.00	17,698.00
107 - Loose Plate	1,030.00	3,038.00
108 - Initial Offering Envelopes	0.00	164.00
201 - Easter Collection	0.00	405.00
202 - Thanksgiving Collection	175.00	1,045.00
203 - Christmas Collection	6,580.00	6,980.00
301 - Use of Building (e.g. Alanon)	42.00	1,642.00
307 - YMCA Income	2,315.00	27,780.00
400 - General Fundraising	0.00	80.00
401 - Spring Plant Sale Fundraising	0.00	2,258.10
404 - Holiday Fair Fundraising	0.00	192.25
501 - Sunday Flowers	100.00	100.00
504 - Flower Fund (investment)	164.49	204.49
601 - Deacons' Fund	0.00	675.00
900 - Other income -- unrestricted	0.00	516.00
913 - Other Income -- Restricted	0.00	4,852.80
925 - Falmouth Green Bag	35.00	110.00
926 - Bourne Green Bag	0.00	115.00
930 - Pre-paid pledge for next year	2,280.00	7,280.00
Total Giving Accounts	\$22,236.49	\$142,950.64

Count: 20

Period: 12/01/2021 - 12/31/2021

Year: 2021

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF HOSPITALITY

Oh, how we all long for our fellowship, coffee hours, and suppers! Sadly, at this time these have been suspended.

We were able to have cold drinks and cookies after a few of the outside services this summer. Refreshments were also available after the installation of The Reverend Christina Williams.

Regular coffee hours will return as soon as it is safe to do so.

Respectfully submitted,
Hospitality Committee

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 5:19-20)

2021 has been a year of challenges in the face of a continuing pandemic but there have been blessings and moments of joy woven into the fabric of our continuing efforts to provide music for worship.

As of mid-December 2020, we had returned to the sanctuary with only the minister, music director, deacon, and tech people. January 2021 continued in the same fashion but thanks to new equipment with a new camera and an upgraded sound system installed in late January, worship online was offered via Zoom and Facebook live and the sound quality and images were much improved. We were able to offer live piano music in the sanctuary with the exception of live singing and the choir and/or soloists continued to record their musical offerings to follow safety protocols until we returned to the garden in late spring. The choir offered recorded anthems for Palm Sunday and Easter while choir members offered individual solos during the months and Holy Week.

On Sunday, May 2nd, we were able to put the new dolly/cart to use to transport the electric piano, speaker, microphones and tech equipment to the garden for worship. It made setup a much easier and faster process and a lot less back-breaking work. I thank all those who lifted and toted the piano and more to the garden and back to the music room in 2020 and 2021. Your help was and is greatly appreciated.

During the summer of 2021, we were able to offer live singing in the garden allowing a couple choir members or an individual to offer a solo. The music committee along with me very carefully weighed and balanced decisions regarding singing and the health protocols offered by medical experts regarding the transmission of the coronavirus. We purchased four microphones to allow voices to be heard outside. There is nothing more satisfying than making music with other musicians and having listeners to appreciate it. It is a conversation that is necessary whether it be making music or preaching. We need each other!

On October 3rd, we had a busy day. The 10 am worship service offered a Blessing of the Animals and in the afternoon, we finally celebrated the installation of Pastor Christina Williams. We were blessed with good weather on a beautiful fall day. Many thanks to Marcus Greco for special violin music and to Pastor Christina, Lisa Allen and Sarah Bach for their vocal offering of "Sing a Happy Alleluia". It was a joyful day!

During our time in the garden, we laughed and groaned over the falling pine needles on the keyboard and the wind blowing each and every direction sending music flying, the birds of all varieties joining in song including the chickens offering their voices sometimes because of the music and sometimes in response to Pastor Christina's sermon. All God's Critters Have a Place in the Choir!

The remnants of Hurricane Ida unfortunately took care of the October choir anthem as so many were without power for days, but the choir did offer an anthem for Thanksgiving and the third

Sunday in Advent. We were able to reuse some of the recordings of carols from the previous year for this year's Christmas Eve service while some carols were sung live by the congregation. I am grateful for Sarah Bach's continued commitment, time, talent, and conscientious efforts to edit recordings for the weekly anthem or solos. We all look forward to eventually being able to sing together, rehearse together, and share in the camaraderie that we all enjoyed up until the pandemic arrived.

We returned to the sanctuary in late fall and began to allow in-person worship again. The purchase of HEPA air-filtration systems for the sanctuary has added another layer of safety along with everyone being masked. The congregation was allowed to sing quietly with the hymns and it was decided that a few singers could offer music live depending on the virus case levels in our area.

I do wish to thank and extend my heartfelt appreciation to the following singers who continued to offer their time and talent during the year of 2021: Lisa Allen, Rosanne Amaru, Sarah Bach, Joyce Kenneally, Alan King, Chris Polloni, Pam Polloni, Rodney Rountree, Toby Ryan, Meg Tivey and Christina Williams.

Faithfully,
Babette Bach
Director of Music and Organist

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MUSIC COMMITTEE

What a year! Thanks to the addition of video equipment in the sanctuary and an upgraded sound system, the sound of live music and recordings used for online worship is greatly improved.

Our heartfelt thanks to Babette and Sarah as they continue to successfully maneuver through the pandemic hurdles to provide wonderful music for the congregation; and of course to the choir and soloists for their continued musical contributions.

We spent part of our time reviewing copyright law as it pertains to the use of music in worship. Starting in 2020, we purchased a live-streaming license to cover our worship services being uploaded to public platforms like Zoom, Facebook Live, and YouTube. This was in addition to the license that covered hymns that are not in our two hymnals. Both licenses are renewed annually. The live-streaming license also covers our use of recordings of NFCC choir and/or soloists. We are not permitted to use recordings of other artists in our worship setting unless permission is sought and granted. Strict adherence to the music policy is paramount as enforcement during the pandemic by copyright and publishing institutions has intensified with extensive fines being attached to offenders. One artist recording is an extensive \$150,000 fine per song or track. The music program has worked diligently to create new recordings for worship, but when Covid case levels were low live music was offered.

In 2020 we created a guest minister music policy which rests in the hands of the Board of Deacons. This year we updated the policy and shortened it to make it more succinct. The policy was updated to support the music program with its pandemic challenges as we needed to rely on recordings when Babette was on vacation as many organ substitutes were unavailable or uncomfortable entering churches.

We thank Sarah Bach and Rodney Rountree for their service and commitment to the Music Committee.

Rosanne Amaru and Meg Tivey,
Co-Chairs of the Music Committee

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF OUTREACH

We are very happy to report that Outreach has continued functioning during this second year of the Pandemic. The financial report of Outreach spending is recorded on a separate sheet.

Hands-on Outreach projects included a January sock drive, the purchasing of bed linens for the transitional shelter in Cataumet, and “thank you” basket arrangements for the Meals on Wheels drivers.

In November a food and turkey drive was held for the Falmouth Service Center. This was held out in front of the church making it visible to the community. I am happy to say that folks driving or walking by contributed items for the drive.

Our church has committed to providing refreshments on the second Saturday of the month to the Habitat site in Falmouth. This Habitat build site will be going on for a while. If you would like to sign up or get more information on helping out, contact Debbie in the office.

Thank you all,
The Outreach Committee

OUTREACH SPENDING 2021

Local spending:

Card Ministry	43.35
Buckets for CWS relief	267.67
Bourne Food Pantry	500.00
Falmouth Service Center	1000.00
Belonging To Each Other	400.00
Cape Cod Council of Churches	500.00
Upper Cape Chaplaincy	1700.00
No Place For Hate	250.00
Alternative Gift Market Sponsor	60.00
Village at Cataumet	<u>512.67</u>
Subtotal	5233.69
Transfer to NFCC	
Emergency relief fund	<u>688.31</u>
Total local	\$ 5 922.00
SNECUCC	<u>6078.00</u>
Total Outreach	\$ 12000.00

2021 ANNUAL REPORT FROM STEWARDSHIP

Our Stewardship theme for this year was “A Future with Hope”. Stewardship Sunday was held on November 21st.

Our Stewardship team consisted of Pastor Christina Williams, John Checklick, and Debbie Pinkney.

As of 12/31/2021, the Stewardship campaign received 26 pledges totaling \$44,550. This compares to the prior year stewardship campaign that received 39 pledges totaling \$73,045.

The Stewardship team thanks the congregation for their continued financial support of North Falmouth Congregation Church.

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Technology upgrades

Wi-Fi Infrastructure Upgrade: The project included the replacement of Wi-Fi routers, a new gigabit switch, three new interior wireless access points, new microphones, replacement of the sound amplifier and two exterior Wi-Fi radios to enhance Wi-Fi access for outside services and increase Wi-Fi access to the Thrift Shop.

Video Broadcasting: In addition to the infrastructure upgrade, technology was added to the Sanctuary to allow improved broadcasting of services across Facebook, Zoom and YouTube platforms. This included the installation of a permanent pan/zoom camera in the Sanctuary, appropriate support hardware and software.

COVID Cleaning

This cleaning included electrostatic sanitation and deep carpet cleaning of the sanctuary as well as stripping and refinishing of the VCT flooring in the hallways.

Gutter Replacement

Gutters on both the church and parsonage were replaced in 2021.

Chimney repairs

An interior leak in the chimney at the parsonage was verified and work to fix this leak was completed in the spring.

Painting

Exterior painting was completed on the church parsonage and thrift shop.

Deferred Maintenance

A review of the buildings and critical systems was completed in 2021 and submitted to Finance for future budgetary consideration.

Major Repairs

Kitchen Fire Suppression: The fire suppression system over the stove in the kitchen was upgraded to current standards

Pest Management: Our continuing issue with pest, particularly rats from the chicken coop on our neighbor's property was addressed by extending our pest management contract to all three building.

Heat: Heat in the Covenant room required repairs this season. This highlights the need to address annual maintenance on the three furnaces heating the Y classrooms and the Covenant area.

Submitted By:
Dennis Fox, B&G Supervisor

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ALTAR COMMITTEE

The Altar Committee was responsible for overseeing the presentation of the weekly floral display on the altar and changing the paraments and banners in accordance with the religious season and other events taking place in the sanctuary. This was carried out by members of the altar committee until mid-March 2020 when the church was closed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Once services resumed virtually and outdoors, the altar committee contributed to the service by soliciting garden flowers from gifted gardeners for the outdoor altar table. It was necessary to cancel the Easter plant order and omit the Christmas poinsettia order again this year. As an alternative to the poinsettia altar display for Christmas, we put up a live light Christmas tree (donated by Jean Holmes and her family in memory of Quentin Holmes) on the front porch of the church decorated with 52 memorial, honor, and celebration shells. Three poinsettias were placed under the cross to add to the Christmas display on the chancel.

In the spring and fall, Carolee Packard planted annuals in the urns at the rear entrance and along the office entrance. She watered as needed as well as filling urns with greens at Christmas time. At Thanksgiving Beverly Blaine carried out the funded wishes of the Paige family by creating a special cornucopia on the altar for the Thanksgiving Sunday service.

As a result of the pandemic, there was no annual meeting scheduled in November again this year. All committee communication was achieved by e-mail and phone calls.

For the coming year of 2022, Marsha Martin will continue as chairperson of the Altar Committee. The Altar Committee associates for 2022 are as follows: Beverly Blaine, Jean Davock, Melessa Fox, Cindy Kaleskas, Laura Murphy, Carolee Packard, and Jean Sawyer.

During Advent, Christmastime, and Easter, we have a volunteer group of special workers who have given generously of their time. We are especially grateful for their assistance.

In the coming year, the Altar Committee will continue to investigate creating a new backdrop for the altar cross that will accentuate the flower arrangements which is not the case with the present drape. Beverly Blaine is looking into purchasing silk arrangements for the table with the mirror in the hallway and the pillar in the Narthex. We will continue to fill the altar candles and change the paraments as needed while NFCC continues to hold virtual and outdoor services until it is safe for all to worship together in the sanctuary.

Respectfully submitted,
Marsha Martin

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE THRIFT SHOP

The COVID pandemic continues to challenge us.

The committee met in January to discuss the suggestion to open the shop by appointment only. After much discussion, it was decided this idea would not work for “thrift shopping”. People do not come in for a particular item and leave—they browse—a lot. It would take many hours of behind the scenes work to accept, sort, and price donations for the few customers we would be able to accept.

Once vaccines became available, many restrictions were relaxed. In March we decided to get ready to open the shop in April. We started with reduced hours of 9-12 Thursday through Saturday. We also eliminated Thursday evenings due to lack of help and little income. The brochures that are published yearly of area Thrift Shops, were changed to refer readers to the NFCC website to view current hours of operation. Because it was necessary to quarantine the donations for 24 hours before sorting, we decided to limit the times of acceptance to 2 hours each on Mondays and Tuesdays. We also had to monitor the number of people in the shop, which could not exceed 10.

In May we held an outdoor sale in conjunction with the plant sale. We made \$115 in addition to the sales inside the shop. This is when the State lifted all COVID restrictions. We continue to require the wearing of masks by everyone. The fitting room was opened, but we decided to still allow customers a credit for clothing returned with the tag still attached. Donations are now accepted during open hours.

In July we had our general meeting for all volunteers. This is an opportunity for everyone to get together and socialize over ice cream and cookies. A short business meeting was held to discuss volunteer’s ideas and concerns. It was voted to permanently keep the 9-12 hours and eliminate Thursday evenings.

Over Labor Day weekend we held our \$1 sale. Everything under \$5 for \$1, items \$5 and up - half price. This goes over very well with the customers and helps us deplete our summer inventory, making room for winter things. Another outdoor sale was held in October for many paintings that had been donated and were too big to be displayed in the shop. Dave O’Hara and Mike Ryan put up impressive “walls” to display the art. Articles not sold were donated to Habitat for Humanity. This sale was in conjunction with the Church Fair, which sold Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas items that had been donated to the shop.

At the end of the year, we saw a large increase in COVID cases due to the Omicron variant. I want to thank the volunteers who have continued to support the shop during such uncertain times. They have been a true blessing to the Church and the community. Staying open would not be possible without their hard work and commitment.

The following volunteers worked **1435.75** hours with receipts from sales of **\$26,141.30**. The shop was open to customers for **333** hours.

Adrienne Latimer	Adrienne Ovian	Betsy Woodley	Camilla Nevius
Carolee Packard	Eleanore Scavotto	Ginny Nielsen	Jean Sawyer
Joyce Bock	Geordine Broderick	Joyce Kenneally*	Laura Murphy
Linda Thomas*	Lynn Young*	Marie Syverson	Marcia McLaughlin*
Marsha Martin	Mary Carman	Myrna O'Hara	Rin Morway
Sue Long*	Mike Ryan	Toby Lee Ryan	

*denotes committee member

Many thanks also go to the men who have attended to our needs this year. Helping set up for outdoor sales, bringing cardboard to the Bourne landfill and non-saleable items to the swap shop, fixing items within the shop, re-programming thermostats and at times, helping to lug filled bins to and from the basement.

Dave O'Hara Mike Ryan Bob Young Bill Martin

A special mention goes to Bill Martin, who spent many hours painting the lower half of the shop, resulting in a large savings for the church.

A welcome addition this year is having Dennis Fox available to handle our larger maintenance needs.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Long
Chair, Thrift Shop Committee

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CLERK

2021 Church Business Meetings

Jan 31, 2021 – Annual meeting

Nov 14, 2021 – Zoom Meeting to inform members about funds received from Latimer trust.

2021 Church Council meetings

Jan. 12 (no motions), March 16 (no motions), April 13, May 25 (no motions), June 15, June 30, July 14, Sep. (no motions), Oct. 19 (no motions), Nov. 16 (no motions), Dec.17 (no motions)

April 13, 2021

MOTION - (Rodney/ Barb) Give finance liberty to fund upfront costs of settlement - will get 2/3 back - passed (take from Peter to pay Paul, to front costs) (Motion approved)

June 15, 2021

Faith formation position *MOTION* (Sue Long / Meg): Put together small task force to look into the possibility of hiring multigenerational faith formation person.
(Motion approved)

June 30, 2021 Special Church Council meeting:

MOTION - that Council approves the creation of a Reimagining NFCC team to identify and conduct multigenerational activities of interest to our congregation and the surrounding communities. (Motion approved)

July 14, 2021 Special church council meeting by email

MOTION - (Katie / Jean)

Following Robert's Rules, I move that we allow the AA group and Wed. p.m. group to return to use our facility with the following restrictions: masks required, no use of kitchen, enter and exit through office door, and they use only the universal bathroom. (Motion approved)

Summary of Records

On December 31, 2021, there were 93 members of NFCC. During 2020 we lost 2 members to death. We had two new members and no baptisms during the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Rountree, Clerk

In Memory of:

Florence Fosgate (1/8/2021)

**Hal King (9/12/2021)*

**William Macurdy (8/18/2021)*

Mark Strickland (3/10/2021)

**denotes member of NFCC*