

2023
ANNUAL REPORT



North Falmouth Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
North Falmouth, Massachusetts 02556
January 28, 2024, 11:30 a.m.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Pastor	1
Leadership, Rev. Dr. Claire Bamberg	2
Moderator	3
Elected Boards & Committees	
Board of Deacons	4
Board of Finance Report	5
Collector's Report	11
Hospitality Committee	12
Director of Music & Chair of Music Committee	13
Outreach Committee	14
Stewardship Team	19
Buildings and Grounds	20
Appointed Committees	
Altar Committee	21
Church Life	22
Auxiliary Organization	
Thrift Shop	23
Officers	
Clerk	25
In Memoriam	26

2023 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PASTOR

2023 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

I heard a quote recently from Glennon Doyle who has a podcast called *We Can Do Hard Things*, “When things fall apart, you find what is indestructible in you.” That quote sums up what we are capable as humans. If we lean into our pain and suffering, we find what is indestructible inside us. I think this applies to churches as well.

Last February, we began our journey into the future to discover what values this church holds dear. You shared your most vulnerable stories of the ways this church has impacted your life. After each story was told we reflected on what you valued most about this church. Collectively you decided on four values that speak to who you uniquely are as one of God’s churches—*community, outreach, fellowship, and friendship*. Each of these values is reflected in Jesus’ life, his ministry, his relationships with his followers, disciples, God, and Spirit. As we continue forward into the future, all that we do together as church should reflect one or more of these values.

Since the leadership team (Peter Allenby, Kay Clark, Faith Duffy) started working with Rev. Dr. Claire Bamberg, there is a renewed energy. As they have brainstormed ideas and projects, a vision for our church has emerged—to become an integral part of the North Falmouth community in offering a welcoming place of fellowship and friendship.

The leadership team, along with Church Life have been exploring how our church can become a gathering place not just for church members, but for our neighbors as well. They are looking for new ways to collaborate with other organizations, artists, musicians to provide a space that builds a beloved community right here in North Falmouth.

I invite you to take the time to read through this annual report to see all the projects we did this year for our neighbors and all the ways we brought our community together to find fellowship and friendship. I am thankful to everyone who participated in the life of our church this past year whether it was in big or small ways—in ways you had energy and time for, in ways that kept you connected, in ways that were life-giving and life affirming, in ways that gave purpose and meaning to your life, in ways that mattered to our neighbors.

We are doing the hard thing here at NFCC as we prayerfully reflect and act on where we believe God is leading us in this time of uncertainty. It is not easy to begin anew, to break old patterns, to hold onto what we value when we do not know quite where we are going or where we will end up. But I do know we are finding an indomitable spirit within this church that is resilient, indestructible, and does not want to give up. Thank you, church!

It has been an honor to serve you as your pastor and teacher for yet another year! May we greet the coming year with the courageous resilience and the belief that God’ love, faithful presence, and counsel will always be our guiding star.

With tremendous gratitude,
Rev. Christina Williams

Rev. Dr. Claire Bamberg

In 2023, at the urging of our Pastor Christina Williams, we explored the idea of engaging with a professional consultant. The idea was to find a person who might help us to frame the questions about our mission and purpose. And then help us figure out how to answer foundational queries essential to finding our best and most authentic path forward as a church. Who should lead such a mission?

After interviewing several candidates, we settled on the Rev. Dr. Claire Bamberg. Claire's organization Potentials Coaching and Consulting, is a good fit for our church and its search for a mission and place in our community. In Claire's words:

“Our **mission** is to work alongside you, encouraging awareness, supporting crucial and innovative change toward achieving your goals. Our **vision** is to empower thoughtful, creative people and systems towards sustainable change, making a difference in our world for the good of the whole.”

As a former pastor in the Congregational Church, Claire faced first-hand issues we are encountering in our Congregation: declining membership, and a need for a fresh and novel approach to growth. Our first meetings with Claire have been productive as we revamp our image and approaches to increasing awareness of our church.

The next few steps with Claire will be hugely important. With your input, we can begin to shape and redefine just who we want to be and to clarify our mission. Claire will help us with that and well as to how best to convey and communicate and begin anew the process of joyous and meaningful growth.

Are you ready? Let's go!

2023 Moderator's Report

Monthly meetings of the Church Council were held where all had the ability to participate of ZOOM. The issues of the roof, the trees in front, the clean up of building, new music director, future of the church with selection of a specialist, church finances, the Thrift Shop, stewardship, tech provisions, local outreach and pastoral relations were all discussed. With the help of significant bequests the future finances are much brighter than before.

Deacons Annual Report 2023

Deacons Chris Polloni, Linda Thomas, Melessa Fox

The Deacons continued to support Pastor Christina and assist at the many funerals that occurred with our parishioners this year. Christina continued to meet with her spiritual director monthly and Deacons funded a weeklong silent retreat in Gloucester in March which she attended. Christina also continued her work with Belonging To Each Other as their vice chair of the board. She opened their Fall Fling, a live silent auction to raise money. We also supported Christina with her Wednesday Theology and Knitting groups.

Two Co-directors of Church Life were hired, Lisa Allen 10 hours/week and Carolee Packard 5/hours week. We welcomed Stephanie Miles on March 28, and her first service was Palm Sunday. She has done a marvelous job of reinstating the choir back and started a bell ringers' group who performed for the first time on 1/7/24.

Maundy Thursday service was held again in the covenant room and soup and bread were served. Easter held a Sunrise service and 10 am service well attended.

Confirmation was held with 3 confirmands who completed their classes and wrote their statements of faith and presented them on Confirmation Sunday.

New Members David Kayajan, Barbara Ford, Faith Duffy, Paul and Samantha Smith joined our church on June 25, 2023.

A Leadership team has been formed and includes: Peter Allenby, Kay Clark, Faith Duffy, and Pastor Christina.

We welcomed Rev Claire Bamberg in August, and she led a workshop on 10/1/23 for vision of the future of our church and a listening session followed. She then met with the leadership team we and we enjoyed lunch.

We encouraged more participation from the congregation on Sunday to include helping with Lay reading and Ushering.

We continued to offer Facebook and Zoom during Sunday services. We advertised Tech support as a paid position of \$15 hour; Natalie and Faith on a per diem basis fulfilling the need.

At our meetings we have been discussing the need for improved Public Relations from the church to inform the community of our works and upcoming events. Christina is filling the role currently. As an example, our Thrive Program raised \$3500.

We encourage all wishing to serve on a committee at NFCC to come work with us.

Respectfully submitted,

Melessa Davock Fox

Board of Finance 2023

Let me get down to “brass tacks”. Let’s look at the finances of our church. Our financial picture reflects the underlying health of our church and congregation. Like most churches, we have felt a significant impact as our membership has declined over the past several years. We were able to cope with the pandemic. Government grants offered by the Federal government helped to patch over the financial hole we experienced as the church shut down. But we have lost members through attrition, finding other churches, or who simply got out of a routine of attending church in person. We offer services via the internet and venues for watching the Sunday services such as Facebook. And that is a positive development recognizing the larger role technology plays in all our lives.

We also have lost members through their deaths. We are an older congregation, and we all recognize that demographics do indeed matter.

I mention these facts because we feel the impact of our smaller congregation as we strive to put forth a reasonable and realistic forecast of our capital needs for 2024. There is no “sugarcoating” our financial picture. Our costs to maintain our physical structure and to maintain our church operations are increasing. The increases are not eye-popping. But one-time necessities such as putting a new roof on the church, and repairing a leaking portion of the roof are substantial. Our revenue has seen interesting and wonderful one-time bumps upward, largely through bequests left to the church. And our primary cash generator has been our thrift shop operations. Sue Long and her team of volunteers at the Thrift Shop have done an amazing job bringing in close to \$48,000 in 2023. Despite these gifts and funds generated by the thrift shop, rent from the YMCA to operate a child daycare in our building, we need more capital to come close to balancing our budget. A shrinking membership impacts our ability to meaningfully “move the needle” on this. For 2024, our budget will show an operating deficit of close to \$80,000. Again, while costs have somewhat increased, it is a disheartening decline in money coming into our church from a declining membership that has spelled the difference between our typical budget shortfall and this year’s \$80,000 or so.

Fortunately, we do have investments that we can and will tap to make up for the shortfall in 2024. And Church Council agrees with the Board of Finance that we will use some of those funds to reduce this deficit. But clearly, as a church we need to decide and define what we want to be. We will grow as a church community when we, as a congregation clearly have an offering, a “product” if you will, that people find interesting, attractive, and are willing to support with their energy and money. This must be a priority, *the* priority. Without it, you will see the Board of Finance (now a membership of two, down from five or six members in its heyday) recommend a budget each year that can only be balanced by drawing capital from our investments until...there is no more money.

We have an historic opportunity at hand. We can shape and mold and build a new version of our Congregational Church that can move forward furthering good works, whatever we deem them to be. Honestly, your money helps. But your real treasure, your spirit, your energy, your compassion and vision are what we need in order to build our church. Will you help? Want to join the Board of Finance?!?

Finally, on behalf of all members of the Board of Finance and all members of the church I extend my profound and humble THANKS to our Treasurer, Hank Bertsch for his years of diligence and effort here at North Falmouth Congregational Church. Hank is stepping down after many years. We will miss his diligence, accuracy, and proficiency in keep our church finances in as good shape as one could expect under all the circumstances. Hank is choosing to leave this role but he is always with us, a treasured member and loyal (if somewhat misguided) Cleveland Browns football fan! Thank you, Hank!

2023 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF FINANCE

	12/13/23	2023 Budget	2023 Forecast	Proposed 2024
Income				
4000 Member Contributions				
4005 Pledge Giving		50,000.00	56,000.00	56,000.00
4010 Regular Unpledged Giving		7,500.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
4030 Loose Plate		5,000.00	2,300.00	2,500.00
4055 Easter		1,200.00	1,685.00	1,500.00
4065 Thanksgiving		1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
4070 Christmas		2,200.00	7,000.00	2,200.00
4080 Contributions - Other		0.00	500.00	0.00
Total 4000 Member Contributions		67,400.00	83,985.00	78,700.00
4100 Operational Income				
4150 Use of Building Income		1,800.00	2,000.00	2,100.00
4160 YMCA Rental Income		9,780.00	9,780.00	9,780.00
4175 Thrift Shop Sales		40,000.00	44,000.00	40,000.00
4185 Memorial Fund Interest		3,500.00	3,500.00	3,000.00
Total 4100 Operational Income		55,080.00	59,280.00	54,880.00
4200 Fundraising				
4260 General Fund Raising		3,500.00	0.00	3,500.00
4260.1 General Fund Raising Expense		-1,750.00	0.00	-1,750.00
Total 4200 Fundraising		1,750.00	0.00	1,750.00
4500 Restricted Income				
4516 Quarterly Investment Income		64,091.78	64,091.78	66,499.21
4520 Latimer Endowment Revenue		20,301.09	13,534.06	28,820.83
4535 Hospitality Donations		150.00	150.00	150.00
4535.1 Hospitality Expense		-250.00	-250.00	-250.00
4580 Flowers-Altar Income		325.00	0.00	0.00
4580.1 Altar Flower Expense		-375.00	-400.00	-375.00
Total 4500 Restricted Income		84,242.87	77,125.84	94,845.04
4800 Outreach Income				
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	100.00	60.00	100.00
Total Income	208,572.87	220,450.84	230,275.04

Expense

5000 Ministerial Expense

5005 Ministers Salary	44,331.72	44,331.72	45,661.67
5010 Lieu of Social Security	4,809.69	4,809.69	4,911.43
5020 Ministers Housing Allowance	5,170.00	5,170.00	5,170.00
5030 Annuity	8,726.44	7,833.65	8,726.44
5040 Life Insurance/Disability	934.98	915.72	934.98
5035 Health/Dental Insurance			
5035.1 Medicare	1,978.80	1,814.00	2,097.60
5035.2 Vision	110.00	164.00	110.00
5035 .3 Health/Dental Insurance - Other	3,555.00	3,100.00	3,612.00
Total 5035 Health/Dental Insurance	5,643.80	5,078.00	5,819.60
5045 Pastoral Expenses	2,100.00	2,383.07	2,100.00
5050 Parsonage Utilities	4,000.00	3,600.00	3,800.00
Total 5000 Ministerial Expenses	75,716.63	74,121.85	77,124.11

5100 Office Expenses

5105 Office Administrator Salary	25,646.40	25,646.40	26,370.80
5110 FICA Secretary	1,961.95	1,961.95	2,017.37
5120 Office Supplies	900.00	1,800.00	1,200.00
5125 Computer Expenses	500.00	1,000.00	750.00
5130 Copier Expenses	3,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
5135 Postage/PO Box	800.00	900.00	900.00
5155 Advertising	750.00	900.00	0.00
Total 5100 Office Expenses	33,558.35	32,208.35	33,238.17

5200 Music/Choir Expenses

5205 Music Director Salary	16,204.58	15,000.00	22,666.59
5210 Music Director FICA	1,239.65	1,147.50	1,733.99

5215 Organist Substitutes	3,200.00	2,800.00	1,000.00
5220 Music Supplies	400.00	0.00	400.00
5225 Music Equipment Maintenance	900.00	900.00	900.00
5235 Music License Fee	300.00	290.00	300.00
5260 Music Search/Contingency	0.00	0.00	0.00
5200 Music/Choir Expenses-Other	0.00	1,692.80	0.00
Total 5200 Music/Choir Expenses	22,244.23	21,830.30	27,000.59
5300 Parish Administration			
5305 Stewardship Supplies	400.00	0.00	200.00
5315 Altar committee supplies	0.00	7.82	0.00
5325 Guest Preachers	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,500.00
5330 Deacons Supplies	200.00	100.00	200.00
5334 Deacons Misc Expense	100.00	100.00	100.00
5335 Treasurers Supplies	50.00	0.00	50.00
5340 Accountant Salary	5,463.12	5,463.12	7,035.11
5345 Accountant FICA	417.93	417.93	538.19
5350 Payroll Expenses	1,000.00	1,100.00	1,000.00
5355 A-V Tech Support	0.00	202.50	810.00
5390 Publicity/Web Support	300.00	900.00	0.00
5395 Promotion	0.00	0.00	1,800.00
Total 5300 Parish Administration	9,131.05	9,491.37	13,233.29
5400 Church Operation			
5415 Custodial Supplies	1,000.00	2,400.00	2,000.00
5420 Main Bldg Gas	7,200.00	4,000.00	5,000.00
5425 Main Bldg Electricity	8,800.00	9,500.00	9,500.00
5430 Main Bldg Telephone	3,000.00	2,600.00	2,800.00
5435 Main Bldg Water	248.00	248.00	248.00
5440 Main Bldg Insurance	17,050.00	17,050.00	18,311.00
5445 Worker Comp Insurance	1,174.00	1,174.00	1,139.00
5490 Church Operation - Other	100.00	0.00	100.00
Total 5400 Church Operation	38,572.00	36,972.00	39,098.00
5500 Whole Life			
5505 Whole Life Director Salary	10,998.00	9,000.00	12,586.60
5510 Whole Life Director FICA	841.35	688.50	962.87
5540 Whole Life Supplies/Programs	500.00	750.00	500.00
5500 Whole Life - Other	1,000.00	1,144.49	1,000.00
Total 5500 Whole Life	13,339.35	11,582.99	15,049.47

5600 Property Maintenance			
5601 Bldg & Grounds Supervisor	5,463.12	5,463.12	5,627.01
5602 Bldg & Grounds Supervisor-FICA	417.93	417.93	430.47
5604 Mandatory Inspections	1,500.00	1,886.87	2,000.00
5605 Main Bldg Maintenance	0.00	1,700.00	2,500.00
5610 Grounds	0.00	7,000.00	4,000.00
5613 YMCA Expense Reimbursement	-18,000.00	-18,000.00	-18,000.00
5615 Parsonage Maintenance	0.00	999.00	2,000.00
5616 Thrift Shop Maintenance	1,500.00	2,000.00	1,500.00
5620 Church Equipment Maintenance	0.00	2,189.20	5,000.00
5625 Snow removal	2,000.00	1,500.00	2,000.00
5565 Contracted Cleaning Service	21,000.00	26,500.00	21,000.00
5670 Dumpster	1,700.00	1,800.00	1,700.00
5699 Property Maintenance - Other	6,100.00	1,000.00	5,000.00
Total 5600 Property Maintenance	21,681.05	34,456.12	34,757.48
5700 Thrift Store Expenses			
5721 Gas	0.00	1,400.00	0.00
5722 Telephone	0.00	600.00	0.00
5723 Electric	0.00	650.00	0.00
5724 Water	0.00	124.00	0.00
5727 Maintenance	0.00	0.00	0.00
5730 Supplies	0.00	850.00	0.00
5700 Thrift Store Expense - Other	4,800.00	500.00	5,000.00
Total 5700 Thrift Store Expenses	4,800.00	4,124.00	5,000.00
5900 Outreach			
5905 Outreach/Missions Expenses	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00
Total 5900 Outreach	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00
Total Expense	231,042.66	236,786.98	256,501.11
Net Income	-22,469.79	-16,336.14	-26,226.07

2023 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COLLECTOR

North Falmouth Congregational Church - No Falmouth MA Donations Account Balances (12/01/2023 - 12/31/2023)

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

Page 1 of 1

Account Period Activity YTD Balance

Giving Accounts

100 - Pledges for Prior Year	0.00	100.00
101 - Pledge	5,465.00	50,980.50
102 - Regular Givers	1,016.00	15,299.25
107 - Loose Plate	399.00	3,251.00
201 - Easter Collection	0.00	1,685.00
202 - Thanksgiving Collection	275.00	730.00
203 - Christmas Collection	5,925.00	11,475.00
301 - Use of Building (e.g. Alanon)	2,667.00	11,641.61
307 - YMCA Income	0.00	18,920.00
502 - Holiday Flowers	80.00	180.00
607 - Hospitality	0.00	234.00
700 - CE General	50.00	100.00
903 - General Memorial Fund -- investment	250.00	28,267.68
906 - Capital Repair Projects	0.00	500.00
913 - Other Income -- Restricted	0.00	550.00
923 - Outreach	0.00	7,659.00
925 - Falmouth Green Bag	27.00	216.00
926 - Bourne Green Bag	0.00	209.00
930 - Pre-paid pledge for next year	500.00	2,630.00
989 - mission deposit other churches	300.00	1,534.00
Total Giving Accounts	\$16,954.00	\$156,162.04

Count: 20

Period: 12/01/2023 - 12/31/2023

Year: 2023

2023 ANNUAL REPORT OF HOSPITALITY

Although the number of members in the Hospitality Committee has dropped considerably for many different reasons, we were still able to serve coffee, juice and sweets at every Sunday service this past year. I can't thank my committee enough for always stepping up to fill in when the need arose. We also have had members of the congregation unable to serve coffee, offer to provide baked goods instead. We have all the Sundays covered through the end January.

Again, I want to thank all of the members who have stepped up to continue this wonderful fellowship for the North Falmouth Congregational Church.

Betsy Woodley
Hospitality Chairperson

2023 Music Committee Annual Report

It's been a busy year for Music at NFCC this year! The year began with a search for a new Music Director by the Search Committee consisting of Rin Morway, Chris Polloni, Meg Tivey, and Marsha Martin. We were fortunate to have Libby Lannon and Babette Bach providing music for services prior to the arrival of the new music director, and to have help from Rev Christina and others in the office to ensure music coverage! An excellent candidate was selected, with Stephanie Miles joining as NFCC Music Director on March 28, 2023.

From this point onward, after a three-year hiatus in live choir music in the sanctuary (we did have live music outside during the pandemic), we now have our "small but mighty" choir present each Sunday for worship, featuring: sopranos Joyce Kenneally, Toby Ryan, and Linda Thomas; altos Roseanne Amaru Tatro and Meg Tivey; tenor Alan King; and bass Chris Polloni. During the year we also were fortunate to have sopranos Lisa Allen and Christina Williams, alto Pam Polloni and tenor Malcolm Donald join us. Because of our long hiatus, we ended up powering through the summer of 2023 instead of having a usual summer break – so a special thank-you to all choir members!

The congregation has also enjoyed performances by several guest musicians during the past year, including guest soprano soloist Teresa Jazo, Lisa Allen on flute and Amelia Allen on ukulele, Paul Weller on clarinet and tenor saxophone, Deborah Bradley on violin, and, on Christmas Eve, Paul Weller on clarinet and Cynthia Weller on cello.

Christmas Eve also saw the debut of the Junior Choir (Bea and Winnie Hatch and Keira Murphy), who joined the Chancel Choir, and also performed a sacred dance (Bea and Keira). Christmas Eve also saw the debut of Paul Smith, who performed Silent Night on guitar during the 5 p.m. service.

Also in 2023, the bell choir rehearsed for their debut epiphany performance on January 7, 2024. Bell Choir members include Betsy Woodley, Lisa Allen, Carolee Packard, Bob Nelson, Katie Weldon and her sister Jane Pafford, Meg Tivey and Rosemary Modic.

As we move into 2024, we look forward to continued music making. As always, we welcome all who are interested in making music – please consider joining us! More choir and bell players would be greatly appreciated and are needed. And for those more interested in listening, please consider joining the music committee - new members are needed.

Meg Tivey (unofficial Chair, Music Committee)
Stephanie Miles (NFCC Music Director)

OUTREACH REPORT 2023

JANUARY Outreach Committee: We met via email /zoom to approve spending for the 2023 fiscal year. It was agreed on that the checks to Organizations being financially supported by us would be sent out in June and at the end of the year. All of these organizations help to make the Cape a better place for all to live. (See the Outreach Financial Report for a listing)

This year we tried to make Outreach more visible and connected to the Congregation. Reporting was done at the beginning of the service and collections were placed on the altar. We collected health care kit items, white socks, and canned soup.

Support was given in the following ways to various groups:

- Habitat for Humanity: One Saturday a month we provided snacks for the volunteer's morning break. At Christmas wreaths and gift certificates to the Thrift Shop were given to the families in the new builds.
- Clothing was donated by the Thrift Shop for the refugees twice this year.
- Lobster Rolls were made and sold throughout the summer to benefit the Housing Assistance THRIVE program (see financial section of Outreach Report).
- A concert was held in October to benefit Belonging to Each Other Falmouth. This was outside of our regular donations. The funds will be used towards the purchase of housing for the folks in need who are currently living in rentals, hotels etc.
- The older YMCA students, some members of the Aptuxet Garden Club and the Winter Soup group potted up pansy plants for distribution to the Bourne Meals on Wheels clients.

We also supported the North Falmouth Village Association's "Village Unplugged Night" by providing and cooking over two hundred hot dogs.

Thank you for your support! Carolee Packard, Marsha Martin, Saramaria Allenby, Lisa Allen, and Linda Thomas

OUTREACH SPENDING 2023

LOCAL SPENDING:

BOURNE FOOD PANTRY	500.00
FALMOUTH SERVICE CENTER	1000.00
BELONGING TO EACH OTHER	400.00
CAPE COD COUNCIL CHURCHES	500.00
UPPER CAPE CHAPLIENCEY	1700.00
VILLAGE AT CATAUMET	129.71
TOTAL LOCAL	4229.71
SNECUCC	6765.57
BARNSTABLE ASSOCIATION	236.25
TOTAL OUTREACH	\$ 11231.51

OUTREACH SUPPORT

BUDGET \$12000.00

DONATIONS: 300.00

 363.00

 6.76

BTEO CONCERT 570.00

TOTAL \$13239.76

EXPENDITURES:

BUDGET \$11231.51 (includes denomination

\$ 7001.82)

BTEO HOUSE 1600.00

TOTAL 12831.51

BALANCE 401.25

Spring plants for

Meals on Wheels 64.00

**BALANCE 337.25 unspent had been saved in
case needed for school Christmas gifts.**

OUTREACH INCOME

**SPECIAL PROJECTS AND GIFTS TO THE CHURCH FOR
OUTREACH**

LOBSTER ROLLS:

BENEFIT HOUSING ASSISTANCE CORP T.H.R.I.V.E.

PROGRAM Income \$7660.00

Expense 4653.24 \$3000.00

CONCERT FOR BELONGING TO EACH OTHER

INCOME \$ 608.63

TRANSFER FROM OUTREACH 1231.10

EXPENSES 109.73

towels to open house

BUDGET FOR PURCHASE OF

HOUSE 1600.00

(TRANSFER FROM OUTREACH BUDGET)

AT THE END OF FISCAL YEAR)

OUTREACH MINISTRY

**THANK YOU AS A CONGREGATION FOR SUPPORTING
THE LOCAL MINISTRIES OF CAPE COD**

HYGIENE KITS	STREET MINISTRY IN HYANNIS/LOWER CAPE
WHITE SOCKS	150 PAIR TO STREET MINISTRY/DUFFY HEALTH
	125 PAIRS TO FALMOUTH SERVICE CENTER

CLOTHING FROM THE THRIFT SHOP

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

PLANTS FOR THE MEALS ON WHEELS RECIPIANTS

HABITAT BAKERS FOR THE FALMOUTH BUILD WORKERS

**WREATHS/ THRIFT SHOP GIFT CERTIFICATES FOR THE HABITAT
HOMEOWNERS**

CANS OF SOUP FOR THE FOOD PANTRIES

WE ARE BEING THE CHURCH SHOWING GOD'S LOVE

Stewardship 2023

Central to the ongoing life of any church is the financial lifeblood of the church. Despite a decline in membership over the past several years, our efforts to remain financially viable have been, I think, notably successful. We have weathered the COVID pandemic, and we are in the early stages of reinvention and rejuvenation of our mission, our membership, and North Falmouth Congregational Church.

For the 2023 budget, our Treasurer and the Board of Finance projected giving via pledges at \$50,000. We had 24 pledges totaling \$47,320. And by end of year 2023, we had total pledged contributions of bit more than our budgeted \$50,000, at \$50,980!

In addition to pledges, the church received \$15,299 in regular giving. This amount is more than twice the \$7,500 what we had budgeted for regular giving. Fantastic! Loose plate giving totaled \$3,251, less than the \$5,000 budgeted target.

Our congregation may be smaller in number. But the hearts and minds of our members remain strong, alive, and growing. And the generosity of those who give reflects the importance and relevance of the spiritual mission of our church.

Thus far, our 2024 pledges total \$47,126 with an increase of pledging units (for the sake of this report, yes, you are a UNIT!) from 24 to 27. Wonderful!

Stewardship cannot thank all you give so generously of their wealth and time to ensure North Falmouth Congregational Church remains a vibrant center of community spirit. THANK YOU ALL!

Building and Grounds Report

Annual Report 2023

Submitted By:
Dennis Fox
B&G Supervisor

Activities to maintain the buildings of the church included but were not limited to the following in 2023:

- Building inspections by the Town of Falmouth, fire safety systems and kitchen equipment
- Oversight of cleaning services, snow removal services, trash removal, lawn care and pest control services
- Maintenance of heating and plumbing systems
- Maintenance of the AED Defibrillator

Major Repairs

Roof Replacement – 2023 saw the replacement of the roof on the main building. Contracted with Persson Construction at a cost of \$67,125, this project was completed in August of this year

Thrift Shop Painting – over the course of the year, volunteers from the church completed the painting of 4 rooms in the Thrift Shop. A special thanks goes out to Mike Ryan, John Scavotto, Bill Martin and Dave O’Hara for all their work on this project.

Tree Removal – Hamilton Tree was contracted to remove the clump of elms that stood at the left rear of the Thrift shop at a cost of \$650 eliminating shading to the building which was causing extensive mold on the roofs. Additional tree removal (2 Cypress trees) was accomplished at the front of the front entrance to enhance the entrance. Thanks go out to Dave O’Hara for this removal.

As of December 31, 2023, I am resigning my position of B&G Supervisor. I have enjoyed my tenure in the position but, looking forward, will not be able to dedicate the time necessary to best support the needs of the church. I will continue to assist the church in the coming months until a replacement has been appointed.

Annual Report----Altar Committee

North Falmouth Congregational Church

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 during virtual and outdoor services until services in the sanctuary resumed. The altar committee also contributed to the service by soliciting garden flowers from gifted gardeners for the outdoor as well as the indoor altar table during the summer. The Easter plant order and the Christmas poinsettia order were omitted again this year. As an alternative to the poinsettia altar display for Christmas, the David O'Hara family and Bill Martin put up a live lighted Christmas tree (generously donated again by the Packard family in memory of Don Packard) on the front porch of the church decorated with 34 memorial, honor and celebration shells each inscribed by Marcia McLaughlin. Five 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. During the summer and early autumn months, many individuals graciously donated flowers grown in their gardens. These arrangements were special and much appreciated by those attending services. At Thanksgiving Beverly Blaine carried out the funded wishes of the Paige family by creating a special cornucopia on the altar for Thanksgiving Sunday service.

As a result of the dwindling church membership, there was no Altar Committee annual meeting in November this year. Any necessary communication was done by e-mail or phone.

For the coming year of 2024, Marsha Martin will continue as chairperson of the Altar Committee. The Altar Committee associates for 2024 are as follows: Beverly Blaine, Melessa Fox, Cindy Kaleskas, Laura Murphy, Carolee Packard and Jean Sawyer. With deep sadness we mourn the passing of Jean Davock who was a longtime active member of the committee. Jean was always there to lend a hand.

During Advent, Christmastime and on Easter, we have a volunteer group of special workers who have given generously of their time. We are especially grateful for the assistance of David O'Hara, Jon & Meg O'Hara, Bill Martin, Linda Thomas, Leslie & Kiera Murphy and Stephanie Miles.

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. We will continue to fill the altar candles, change the Paraments in accordance with the UCC guidelines and assist altar flower donors as needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Martin

CHURCH LIFE 2023

- We have an ongoing program we're calling Take Two that is meeting monthly to discuss various faith related topics. We have done several discussions on the Gospels that we're not chosen to be in the Bible. Additionally we also did a fun after church activity in the summer with the last of our seasonal flowers.
- Over the summer we had a wonderful reunion party with many of our high school and college students.
- Our kindness tree was filled with hearts and inspiring messages and the tree of peace cranes was very well received.
- Each Sunday includes the Word for all Ages as well as educational programming as needed for children.
- We were able to provide Christmas gifts for 3 local families (approximately 70 gifts)
- The Christmas Pageant this year involved a wide variety of ages as well as several families from outside the church.
- In partnership with Saramaria Allenby we had a very inspiring vision board workshop to prepare for a great 2024

THRIFT SHOP
2023
ANNUAL REPORT

2023 has been a year of celebration for the Thrift Shop. We started with a decorated "60th Anniversary" cake at our April general meeting for all the volunteers. Joyce Bock gave us some history of the shop and announced she and Joyce Kenneally would go through the archives to unearth past history. They accomplished this task in time for our 2nd general meeting of the year in October. They presented the history and made a scrapbook for us and future generations to enjoy. The church showed their gratitude to our hard working volunteers, by providing a wonderful sit down meal that was prepared by Carolee Packard. She and Roseanne Amaru acted as waitresses to serve us. A picture and write-up of the event was printed in the Falmouth Enterprise.

An older community member donated her appraised jewelry collection to our shop. We sold some items to a dealer in Florida, we have pieces on consignment at a Falmouth jeweler, and we have sold the jewelry in the shop. A used locked, glass cabinet was purchased to showcase this valuable jewelry, along with other nice pieces.

We continue to receive many donations of upscale items that we decided to sell online at Poshmark, in order to reach a more diverse clientele. We put in many hours of picture taking and detailed descriptions to post on the site. After selling only 3 items in a year, we decided the effort was not worth the return. We recently started using local consignment shops for the expensive items and have a special "boutique" area in the shop.

The sales we have in the spring and fall to clear out seasonal clothing remains very popular. At the Mother's Day sale in May, we made \$1430 and in November we made over \$1700 after expenses, at a Christmas sale. Both sales were held in the covenant room.

This year we completed the painting of four rooms. The volunteers removed all the items from each room and then returned them when the painting was done. Thanks to Dennis Fox and his crew: Bill Martin, Dave O'Hara, John Scavatto, Chris Polloni, Bob Young. We have received lots of favorable comments on the brightness and neatness of the shop.

Our mission is to offer clothing and other items to the community at reasonable prices. Our outreach has included donating boxes of clothing to immigrants and giving gift certificates to the immigrants, individual families, and the Habitat for Humanity residents.

The Thrift Shop Team is:

Adrienne Ovian	Betsy Woodley	Bob Young
Carolee Packard	Carolyn Reynolds	Deb Shemo
Denise Sullivan	Donna Cooper	Eleanore Scavotto
Geordine Broderick	Ginny Nielsen	Jean Sawyer
Joyce Bock*	Joyce Kenneally*	Laura Murphy
Leslie Bennett	Lindsay O'Neil	Linda Thomas
Lynn Young*	Marcia McLaughlin*	Marsha Martin

Mary Carman Mike Ryan Myrna O'Hara

Sue Long* Toby Lee Ryan

*denotes committee member

These volunteers worked 2188 hours in the shop to sell, sort and organize. The shop was open 453 hours for sales.

We do not count the hours spent sorting and pricing jewelry, setting up and working at the sales in the covenant room, preparing for meetings, scheduling, etc.

The efforts of our volunteers has resulted in the shop giving the Church over \$47,000.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Long, Chair

NFCC Clerk's Report 2023

2023 Church Business Meetings

January 29, 2023—Annual Meeting

2023 Church Council Meetings

January 17

June 20

August 15,

September 19

November 21

December 19

MOTION – that Church Council approve the proposed 2024 budget. (Motion passed)

MOTION sent via email to the Congregation to approve the hiring of Rev. Dr. Claire Bamberg to complete Phase One of the strategic planning process at a cost not to exceed \$5,500. Unanimously approved.

MOTION sent via email to the Congregation to approve the funding of the roof replacement, to be done by Persson Roofing, with \$7,125 to come from the Unrestricted Reserve Fund with the balance of \$60,000 from the Vanguard-Latimer Endowment. Unanimously approved.

Summary of Records

On December 31, 2023, there were 97 members of North Falmouth Congregational Church. During 2023, we lost nine members to death. We had five new members, one wedding, one baptism and three confirmands.

Respectfully submitted,

Katharine C. Weldon, secretary pro tem

In Memory of:

Myrt Chatfield (2/2/2023)

Mary Jane Thomas (2/13/2023)

Dick Cudmore (10/26/2023)

Jean Davock (8/22/2023)

Caleb Fraser (11/11/2023)

Priscilla Fuller (8/8/2023)

Berry Galbraith (3/18/2023)

Camilla Nevius (8/11/2023)

Brian Youmans (9/22/2023)

