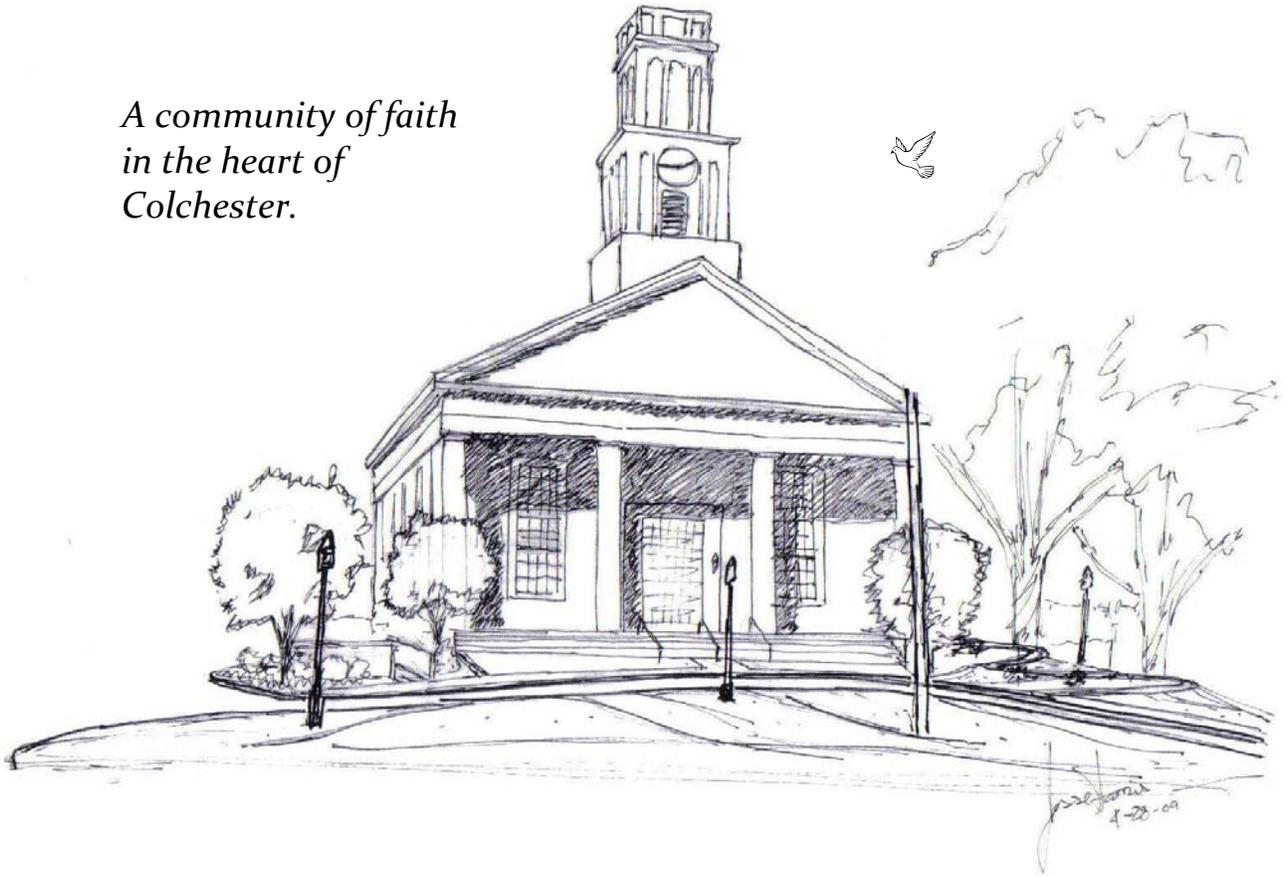


Colchester Federated Church

American Baptist Churches and United Church of Christ

*A community of faith
in the heart of
Colchester.*



60 Main Street, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Annual Report to the Congregation

May 6, 2018

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Pastor's Annual Report

"I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope." (Jeremiah 29:11, CEB)

I began my ministry at Colchester Federated Church on May 15, 2017, so it's been almost a year. I am grateful for the faithful steps we are taking as a church to serve God and God's people. One memory that stands out from this year together is the Service of Installation that took place on November 5, 2017. I remain appreciative of the outpouring of love and support from that day. As we held hands to end the service around our sanctuary, I knew that we have a hopeful future together. Thank you for the warm welcome that you have extended from day one, including all the hard work that went into preparing the parsonage to be home for me here in Colchester. As I further reflect, here are some of the areas where I've specifically focused my time and attention in this year of ministry together:

Communication

-I did a website redesign, moving our church website to Clover (a company that focuses on websites for churches.) Our website now looks good on desktops and mobile devices, allowing sermon videos, bulletins, the calendar, events, and pictures to be easily shared. Websites have become the front door for churches, and ours is looking good (if I do say so myself!)

-I moved the weekly Pastor's Note (*This Week's Thoughts*) to MailChimp, a free email communication service helpful for non-profits in order to be more dynamic and user-friendly.

Discipleship

-Our CE Director Nicole Hosford and I brought back the Discipleship program. We have five high school students and three Class Mentors in our 2017-2018 Class. We have used curricula from the UCC and ABC for our 14 classes. Additionally, our class participated in a UCC Confirmation Retreat at Silver Lake and will have the Closing Retreat at Camp Wightman May 5-6. We served a meal at St. Vincent De Paul in Middletown. We had interfaith experiences, including attending the Colchester Interfaith Thanksgiving Service and Shabbat at Congregation Ahavath Achim. Our class led the Ash Wednesday Service, wrote "What Do I Believe" papers, read the Gospel of Luke, and reflected on CFC worship services. Our class will be baptized/remember their baptisms on May 19 at the Salmon River and will be confirmed the next day, presenting their Confirmation Stoles to the congregation to visually represent their faiths on Pentecost. It has been *wonderful* to walk with these amazing young people on their faith journeys!

Relationship Building

-I've had a particular focus on building relationships at CFC, in Colchester, and beyond. I have visited congregation members in homes, hospitals, my office, Starbucks, etc. Thank you for allowing me to be part of your lives!

-I've participated in various interfaith events and developed relationships with Rev. Ron and Rabbi Ken here in town. As Pastor of CFC, I am a permanent member of the Cragin Library Board and faithfully attend those meetings.

-And I am grateful to have built relationships with our terrific church staff: Kim, Nicole, Susan, and Dave. Having a good staff makes life better in churches, and CFC is blessed to have such gifted people serving among us. Thank you to our staff for helping me settle into CFC!

Pastor's Annual Report

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UCC Association/Conference involvement & our Korean Partnership

-I am currently serving a term on the New London Association Council.

-Our church is part of the Connecticut Conference UCC Korean Partnership, so Jen Clarke and I attend meetings to represent CFC. As part of our Korean Partnership, I joined the CTUCC delegation to South Korea from April 16-24 spending time with our friends at The Hanmok Church in Suwon and signing another four-year Partnership Agreement on our church's behalf. And I remain thankful that Rev. Choi and Mrs. Lee, JongMee came to Colchester to attend my Installation. Our Partnership helps us remember that the Body of Christ includes people around the world. What a gift to be united in praying for peace in these tumultuous times.

Pastor's Office

-It's important to me that the Pastor's Office feels like a welcoming space to be—whether that's during Bible Study, Ministry meetings, or Pastoral Care. I am thankful for Women's Fellowship gifting me funds to purchase four new chairs to improve the office, and hope that a spirit of hospitality is felt by all who stop by.

Worship

-I am passionate about preaching, and worship will always be a focus in my ministry. Not every sermon is a home run, though I devote time and attention to providing quality sermons week in and week out that help us think, learn something new, and grow in our Christian faiths. It feels great to have been at CFC long enough to get through Advent/Christmas and Lent/Holy Week/Easter (we Pastors sometimes mark time by Liturgical Seasons!)

In the end, I am excited to see what next year will bring and what new and faithful steps we will take together. God is indeed giving us a future filled with hope!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Lauren

Minutes of the Annual Election Meeting

May 7, 2017

The 2017 Annual Election Meeting of the Colchester Federated Church was called to order on May 7, 2017 at 11:59 a.m. by Rev. Jerrie Shepard Matney, who offered an opening prayer, and then called for nominations for moderator. John Hirsch was nominated by Deborah Howard, seconded by Jeannette Tomlinson and elected by acclamation. Approximately thirty-five members were in attendance.

The Clerk suggested the waiver of the reading of the Warning aloud, without objection. The Clerk then suggested the waiver of the reading of the Minutes of the Last Meeting aloud, also without objection. After review, Deborah Howard made a **motion** to accept the Minutes, which was seconded by Jessie Mae Kessler and **passed** by acclamation.

Paul Goodwin then made a **motion** to amend the Order of the Day to take up the Budget after the Reports and the Elections. Said Motion was seconded by Deborah Howard and **passed** without dissent.

The Annual Reports were then taken up. Pastor Jerrie added to her report to note the departure of the Plecans and the Averys from the Congregation. A **motion** was made by Kurt Frantzen and seconded by Karen Monteleone to accept the 2015-2016 reports. Karen then spoke to clarify the Mission of Wellness Report in that Jeanie Cullen will be serving as Chair and Diaconate Representative, but is not filling the office of Parish Nurse. Donna Wink called attention to the activities of the Ministry of Christian Education. There being no other comments on the reports, the Moderator put the motion to a vote, which **passed** without dissent.

The business of elections was commenced, with Jeannette Tomlinson presenting the slate for the Ministry of Gifts and Leadership. She noted that Christine Miskell is Diaconate Representative as well as Chair for the Ministry of Christian Education; and that Lynn Stefanowicz is no longer serving on the Mission of Personnel. **Motion** was then made by Deborah Howard and seconded by Steve Bradstreet to accept the slate as presented. At this point Pastor Jerrie rose to suggest that the Reports and Elections Slate be available a week before the Annual Election Meeting; Mark Bosse spoke to this and will bring this suggestion to the Diaconate. Pastor Jerrie also spoke to keeping the Mission of Pastor-Parish Relations strong, to which Denise Turner responded that recruitment to the Mission is in progress. There being no further comments, the Moderator put the motion to a vote, which **passed** without dissent. Deborah Howard then made a **motion**, seconded by Steve Bradstreet, to grant the Ministry of Gifts and Leadership continuing authority to fill any vacant positions, which **passed** without dissent.

The Budget was then taken up. The Treasurer, Tom St. Louis, handed out the budget reports. The Moderator then called on Paul Goodwin, as Chair of the Ministry of Stewardship, to present the Budget. He reported that this Budget is basically the same as presented at the January Financial Meeting, with, however, the addition of the fundraising since then and the matching funds applied thereto. He thanked the many involved for their efforts in sponsoring, working on and contributing to, the various fundraisers, spoke to continuing those efforts, and thanked our anonymous donor, which was met with a round of applause. Although we do not have a final figure, as the money is being counted today, Deborah Howard estimated that we exceeded the \$20,000 goal by a couple of hundred dollars. The Assistant Treasurer, Steve Bradstreet, also reported \$1,500 in new pledges! As of this point, we then conjecture that we have a balanced budget. John Hirsch then spoke to keeping up our efforts at the Capital Campaign. **Motion** was then made by Deborah Howard and seconded by

Minutes of the Annual Election Meeting
May 7, 2017
Page 2

Steve Bradstreet to accept the Budget as presented. Chris Wink rose to thank Paul for his efforts on the Budget. There being no further comments, the Moderator put the motion to a vote, which **passed** without dissent.

The Moderator then called for other business suitable and proper to come before said Meeting. Deborah Howard rose to **nominate** Hattie Turner to the honor of Deacon Emerita, which was seconded by Steve Bradstreet. Deborah then read into the Minutes her remarks in support thereof and a copy was submitted to the Clerk. There being no further comments, the nomination was put to a vote and **passed** without dissent. Jeannette Tomlinson then rose to **nominate** Deborah Howard to the honor of Deacon Emerita, which was seconded by Donna Wink. Jeanette then read into the Minutes her remarks in support thereof and a copy was submitted to the Clerk. There being no further comments, the nomination was put to a vote and **passed** without dissent.

There being no further business, Kevin Avery made a **motion** to adjourn which was seconded by Deborah Howard and **passed** by acclamation. The meeting was then adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Mark E. Bosse, Church Clerk

Membership Clerk Annual Report 2017

Event	Name	Date	Notes
Baptism	Tiezzi, Grant David	4/30/2018	Performed by Rev. Cheryl Caronna
Baptism	Henderson, Jack Thomas, son of Henderson, Jason and Gina	7/23/2018	
Death	Alferi, Thomas	1/13/2018	
Death	Erickson, Bernard	12/28/2017	
Member	Henderson, Gina	4/30/2017	
Member	Henderson, Jason	4/30/2017	
Member	Holm, Linda	4/30/2017	
Member UCC	Lorincz, Lauren Rev.	7/18/2017	Letter of Transfer, Pilgrim Congr. Church
Transfer	Caronna, James F.	2/16/2018	Letter of Transfer, Canterbury Congr. Church
Transfer	Caronna, Rev. Cheryl Anderson	2/16/2018	Letter of Transfer, Canterbury Congr. Church
Transfer	Poulios, Lara	6/4/2018	Letter of Transfer, Asylum Hill Congr.Church

Deborah E. Howard, Membership Clerk

Diaconate Annual Report

Getting to know you! This past year, our church and Pastor Lauren have taken the first steps of learning about each other. It has been a renewing and rewarding experience as we've begun this shared ministry together. How this year has flown by!

We have so much to celebrate...

- ...Pastor Lauren's arrival and presence to her installation with Rev. Choi attending, among many others.
- ...our visit by the Korean youth in the summer and our continued Korean Partnership.
- ...the dedicated work of Stewardship and all those that give a hand.
- ...the important work being done updating our membership roll.
- ...our music and Christian Education filling our church with a beautiful sound of song and children's laughter.
- ...our open doors to the community, from meetings and meals, to concerts and forums.
- ...so many new and returning friends in our congregation.
- ...the spirit of this wonderful community of faith.

Thank you to all who have helped bring such life to this church this past year. Just imagine what we might accomplish next!

John Sawchuk and Donna Wink, Co-Chairs

COLCHESTER FEDERATED CHURCH
MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT

Composition of Balance:

Rental 63 Linwood deposit Jamie Gilbert	1,250.00
Stained Glass Windows Fund	100.00
Lighting & Electrical	100.00
In Memory of Loren Marvin Historical Room	1,785.00
In Memory of Corrie Hendricks	375.00
In Memory of Wallace Hempstead and family	100.00
In Memory of Windsor Morgan	250.00
In Memory of Harry Hendricks	5,000.00
In Memory of Eunice Turner	445.00
In Memory of Samuel Turner	100.00
In Memory of Deacon Aaron Turner	220.00
In Memory of Wilmas Fedus	475.00
In Memory of Lorena Hayes	55.00
Refugee resettlement fund deposit 842014	500.00 5,602.39
Unrestricted Funds	1,729.27
Interest	684.35
2009 & 2010 / 2011/2012 / 2008 2013/2014/2015/2016	
Interest	0.48
not use service charge bank	(15.00)
	\$ 18,756.49
TOTAL	\$ 18,756.49
Kittredge FoodService Stove	\$ 5,000.00
Transfer to checking	220.00
Transfer to checking	2,383.45
Couch for Lounge from Loren Marvin fund	900.00
Transferred to checking 1-3-2017	6,852.39
Transfer to checking Gilbert security window fund light fund	200.00 10.00
service charge 2017/2018	10.00
<u>Activity</u>	\$ 15,565.84

Balance Left	\$ 3,190.65
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COLCHESTER FEDERATED CHURCH
MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT
Page 2

Composition of Balance:

In Memory of Loren Marvin Historical Room	885.00
In Memory of Corrie Hendricks	375.00
In Memory of Wallace Hempstead and family	100.00
In Memory of Windsor Morgan	250.00
In Memory of Eunice Turner	445.00
In Memory of Samuel Turner	100.00
In Memory of Deacon Aaron Turner transferred checking	-
In Memory of Wilmas Fedus	475.00
In Memory of Lorena Hayes	55.00
Refugee resettlement fund	500.00
Unrestricted	30.65
non useage service charge bank	(25.00)

TOTAL	\$ 3,190.65

Women's Fellowship Annual Report

The Women's Fellowship encompasses all women of the church. It is a group that first focused on fellowship of women getting together once a month at a meeting with a program. However, declining attendance at meetings led to discontinuation of them. The focus of Women's Fellowship continues to be bringing the multigenerations of women of CFC together to share fellowship and plan outreach to members of our church and community. Women's Fellowship also purchases or helps purchase needed items for our church. This year Women's Fellowship purchased chairs for the Pastor's office.

Women's Fellowship has sponsored the following events in 2017:

- Mother/Daughter Banquet, a dinner celebrating all women of the church.
- Holly Fair, the only fundraiser held by Women's Fellowship, which profited \$3,290., consisting of handmade items, crafts and baked goods, a café, white elephant room and children's crafts, from which we donated a total of \$1,645. to the church's general fund.
- Purchasing, making, and delivering fruit baskets for individuals or families in our congregation that needed outreach.
- Hosted receptions for funerals at our church.

Checking account balance as of 12/31/17: \$ 624.45

Savings account balance as of 12/31/17: \$2,947.33

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Marvin

Ministry of Mission and Witness Annual Report

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. ~
Hebrews 10:24 NIV

The purpose of this ministry is to educate the congregation about wider mission and ministry of the church, as well as develop awareness of the denominations to which we belong and to encourage giving of our collective resources and talents to mission.

Below is a list of Mission & Witness' past program year's activities and beneficiaries (June 2017 – May 2018)

- School supplies & backpacks for Colchester Social Services – June-August – summer mission collection of school supplies and purchase of 16 new backpacks with local mission monies.
- Back to School clothing and shoes for 3 sponsored Colchester Youth for Colchester Social Services – August
- Puerto Rico and Florida Victims of Storm Harvey – September – Special mission collection and donation from global mission monies for recovery and aid, donated through UCC Disaster Ministries
- Spaghetti Dinner supporting Restavec Orphanage in Haiti – November
- Thanksgiving Food Drive Collection – November – to benefit the Colchester Food Bank
- Juniper Missions in Haiti – global monies used to replace the destroyed, leaking roof of the mission's Christian translator and outreach work within the village.
- Colchester Community Lunch recipients – December – donation of gift basket and gift cards using local mission monies
- St. Vincent De Paul of Middletown – December – giving tree collection of socks and gloves
- Retired Ministers Fund – December - Christmas Eve collection
- Year-end donations were made to the following organizations using local mission monies:
 - Santa Anonymous, a local Christmas giving program
 - All Saints Amesbury, a Massachusetts based women's ESL program, offering free education and social integration for immigrants
 - New London Community Meal Center/Soup Kitchen
 - Colchester Fuel Bank
 - Martin House in Norwich – provides meals and housing for clients challenged by addiction and mental illness in a safe and nurturing environment
 - Reliance Health in Norwich – non-profit organization that promotes mental wellness and health to at-risk individuals
 - Interval House in Hartford – donation for aid and prevention of domestic violence
 - ABC's Welcoming & Affirming Ministry
 - UCC's Open & Affirming Ministry
- Souper Bowl Sunday – canned food and soup collection to benefit Colchester Food Bank – February – 221 cans collected and donated
- Souper Bowl Sunday – collection of 152 mugs donated to St. Vincent De Paul for their soup kitchen

Ministry of Mission and Witness Annual Report

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- Minimalist Soup & Bread Luncheon to support Teen Challenge of New England & New Jersey – March – a Christian-based drug and alcohol rehabilitation program
- One Great Hour of Sharing – collection in March
- Korean Partnership – Activities included but were not limited to the following
 - We hosted students and 2 chaperones for the Sacred Journey youth group delegation that came to the US from South Korea in July/August which included these activities
 - Trip to Brownstone Water Park
 - Yard Goats Baseball game
 - Cookout, games and kayaking
 - A trip to NY – Empire State building, Madame Trousseau’s Wax Museum, Central Park...
 - A week at Silver Lake Camp
 - Booth at the Town Green
 - UCC Tri-Conference Annual Meeting In June - Dinner with Korean Partnership and our South Korean guests
 - In November we also hosted the Reverends Mr. and Mrs. Choi for their visit to attend Pastor Lauren’s Installation which includes many activities including
 - Dinner at Fresca Restaurant
 - Dinner at a Korean Restaurant
 - Walk around in the Mohegan Casino shops (museum was closed)
 - Meeting with Pastor Lauren
 - Greeting from them and their Church at Pastor Lauren’s installation and in our regular service and a song from them at our service

We’d like to give a special note of thanks to the following groups and individuals:

- The ladies of *Our Brother’s Keeper* who continue to gather weekly to create sleeping bags and stuffs them with necessities for the homeless population of Eastern Connecticut and beyond.
- The folks who host and make lunches every two weeks for our Community Lunch Program here at CFC, including a distinct word of appreciate to Gretchen Marvin, who coordinates the program.
- Our Sunday School youth, who collected over 150 boxes of and-aids for a parishioner’s mission trip to Haiti, and made homemade candy bowls to include in our Community Lunch Christmas gift bags.
- Jennifer Clarke, who joined M&W as liaison to promote connection with our partner church in Suwon South Korea, The Hanmok Church.
- Pastor Lauren, who supported our ministry with her guidance, ideas and positive energy.
- All of you, CFC members and friends! You gave generously and graciously, sharing your gifts of time, talents and resources as a way to connect as brothers and sisters in Christ, locally and globally.

Ministry of Mission and Witness Annual Report

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In closing, we would like to recognize Melinda Karchner, who will be leaving the ministry after four years of dedicated and passionate mission work. Her heart for mission work is an inspiration to us all.

In service and love,

Jennifer Clarke, Shelly Hirsch, Melinda Karchner, Kathy Landry & Susan Sanford

Ministry of Mission and Witness 2017 Donations

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
01/17/17	New London Association UCC	\$ 446.06	New London Association dues
01/17/17	Missionary Society of CT	\$ 1,500.00	Basic Support and Silver Lake Conference Ctr.
01/17/17	Missionary Society of CT	\$ 496.50	Christmas: Retired Ministers Fund
01/17/17	American Baptist Churches	\$ 500.00	Camp Wightman
01/17/17	American Baptist Churches	\$ 496.50	Christmas: Retired Ministers Fund
01/17/17	American Baptist Churches	\$ 808.00	Basic Support
01/17/17	New London Community Meal Center	\$ 500.00	Support of country based soup kitchen
01/17/17	All Saints' Amesbury	\$ 500.00	Community ESL Program and local missions
02/06/17	St. Vincent DePaul	\$ 51.00	"Souper Bowl Sunday" collection
03/13/17	Teen Challenge of NE and NY	\$ 770.00	Donation to their programming
03/19/17	Custom Wear (Charlie Dente)	\$ 116.75	Welcome Back backpacks (Prison program)
03/21/17	World Vision (Melinda Karchner)	\$ 1,000.00	South Sudan mission
03/26/17	Church Source (Charlie Dente)	\$ 76.17	Bible purchased for Welcome Back project
03/31/17	Colchester Food Bank	\$ 118.75	Donations collected from CROP Walk walkers
05/06/17	Missionary Society of CT	\$ 500.00	UCC CT per capita dues – partial
08/17/17	Eastsport (Susan Sanford)	\$ 277.76	Backpacks for back to school backpack program
09/28/17	UCC	\$ 443.35	Hurricane Harvey and Irma relief
10/10/17	UCC	\$ 500.00	Hurricane relief for Puerto Rico
10/31/17	UCC	\$ 790.00	UCC CT per capita dues – remainder
11/27/17	New London Association UCC	\$ 402.38	New London Association fellowship assessment
11/28/17	Juniper Community Missions	\$ 500.00	Donation for use by Haiti Mission Team (1/18)
12/07/17	Santa Anonymous Program (Lynn Stefanowicz)	\$ 742.83	Christmas gifts purchased for local families
12/12/17	AWAB	\$ 250.00	Donation to Welcoming & Affirming Baptists
12/12/17	Colchester Fuel Bank	\$ 500.00	Donation to aid Colchester families

Ministry of Mission and Witness 2017 Donations

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
12/12/17	Interval House	\$ 500.00	Donation to aid victims of domestic violence
12/12/17	Martin House	\$ 500.00	Donation to aid mental health and addiction issues of its clients
12/12/17	New London Community Meal Center	\$ 500.00	Support of country based soup kitchen
12/12/17	Open and Affirming Coalition (UCC)	\$ 250.00	Support of its mission
12/12/17	Reliance Health	\$ 500.00	To support mental health and wellness
12/12/17	All Saints' Amesbury	\$ 500.00	ESL program for recent immigrants
12/12/17	Community Lunch Program (Melinda Karchner)	\$ 439.44	Gift Cards/presents for Lunch Program clients
	Total:	\$15,475.49	

Ministry of Christian Education Annual Report

Mission Statement

The ministry of Christian Education at Colchester Federated Church celebrates all people as children of God embarking on their own faith journeys. We strive to offer safe and comfortable Christian experiences for everyone at all stages of development to experience God by connecting real faith to real life through the messages of the Bible. We work to provide resources and support that help all members of our congregation to grow in their faith. Guiding us in our mission are our core values:

- † *Embracing diversities of faith and life*
- † *Worshipping and learning together*
- † *Growing in our relationship with God*
- † *Growing in our relationship with each other*
- † *Making a connection between church and home*
- † *and relying upon our faith in dealing with the challenges of everyday life.*

Ministry of Christian Education

The Ministry of Christian Education consists of four members and a chair. Renee Misbach, Wendy Moores, and Pat Culhane serve as members, while Christine Miskell serves as chair. Nicole Hosford serves as the Director of Christian Education. The ministry continues to function with less than the designated six members. Mrs. Miskell has served as the ministry chair for two years and is willing to stay on in the position. The ministry has had no vice-chair for several years and at the time of submission of this report, no vice-chair has been identified.

Despite the lack of membership, the Ministry of Education continues to plan, prepare, and implement a variety of programs including Sunday School, Youth Groups, and Vacation Bible School. The Sunday School curriculum is created by the Director of Christian Education with support and approval of the Ministry. It is also the responsibility of the Ministry to recruit and train volunteers to teach Sunday School, staff Vacation Bible School (VBS) and coordinate the Youth Groups (Adventures Club and Teen Time). The commitment and dedication of the volunteers are vital to maintaining a robust Ministry of Education.

In accordance with the CFC's Safe Church Policy, the Ministry began conducting background checks on all adult volunteers working with children in Sunday School, VBS, and Youth Groups. Background checks are conducted through Praesidium. The cost of the background checks is currently being covered by the CE budget.

Vacation Bible School

VBS was held August 14 -18, 2017. The theme was Fun Maker Factory and it was open to children going into Kindergarten through the Fifth grade. The children enjoyed a program of songs, snacks and games based on bible stories. Approximately 61 children from Colchester Federated Church and the community participated in this special annual event, which was again offered at no-cost and open to all.

Thank you to Cheryl and Jim Caronna for purchasing the VBS kit again this year.

Ministry of Christian Education Annual Report

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Recruiting sufficient numbers of volunteers to effectively staff the VBS program is crucial to the success of the VBS program. This year we had 30 adult volunteers. They were assisted by 21 youth volunteers (grades 6-12).

The VBS theme for Summer 2018 will be “Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus”. The kit has been purchased and was paid for with a donation from the Caronnas. VBS will be held the week of August 13th -17th 2018. As stated in her contract, Mrs. Hosford will be the sole director of VBS this summer.

Sunday School

This year the Ministry has continued the practice of creating our own Sunday School curriculum based on bible stories. Each week, the Director creates detailed, age-appropriate lesson plans for each of the classes. Lessons include child-friendly versions of the story, as well as related games, crafts and other activities. The current system provides a detailed lesson plan and all required materials in order to minimize the preparation time required of our dedicated volunteer teachers. We have 54 youth registered for Sunday School. On average, 35 attend each week.

In March, we introduced Gloria Carabillo, who has generously offered to staff the Nursery during the 10 a.m. service. On average, there are three children in the crib room each Sunday.

This year, we have four Sunday School classes include primary (i.e., pre-school to 2nd grade), intermediate (3rd grade -5th grade), Breakfast Club (6th grade -8th grade) and High School (9th-12th grade). Most Sundays, the youth meet with just their class for Sunday School. However, we have had some large group activities in which all ages were combined this year, including Valentine’s Day/Matching Funds campaign envelope decorating.

It was difficult to recruit volunteer teachers again this year. We are thankful for the commitment of our volunteer teachers (Lynda Stevens, Shauna Rago, Megan Stillwell, Wendy Moores, Sue Sanford, Ted Sanford, and Laurie O’Neil) and our youth volunteer, Jade Totten. At the time of submission of this report, the Ministry had not yet begun recruiting volunteer teachers for next year’s Sunday School Classes.

In October, we held our traditional Bible Presentation. Sixteen youth (six in Grade 3 and 10 older youth) received NIV bibles donated by Dolores Sawchuk.

In December, the Ministry planned, wrote, and presented the Christmas Pageant which was performed by the youth during the morning service on Sunday, December 24th. We would like to thank Christine Miskell for her wonderful efforts with the pageant.

During Lent, our traditional Communion Class was offered to Third graders and older. This year the class included nine youth, who along with their families, participated in three, one-hour classes that took place on Sundays after the 10 a.m. service. The curriculum, developed and delivered by the Director of Christian Education and the Senior Pastor, covered vocabulary, the history of communion, and the manner in which communion is received at CFC. The children played a pivotal part during the Maundy Thursday service and will celebrate taking communion with the Congregation for the first time on May 13th by hosting coffee hour.

Ministry of Christian Education Annual Report

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Boy Scout Sunday was celebrated on February 4th. Girl Scout Sunday was celebrated on March 11th.

The Ministry hosted an Easter Egg Hunt after Church on Easter Sunday.

The Ministry of Christian Education worked with the Youth Group Coordinator, Lynn Goodwin, to host a Talent Show on March 24th in to raise monies for the Capital Campaign and for the Matching Fund Campaign.

Children and Youth Sunday: On June 10, all of the Sunday School classes will be participating in Children and Youth Sunday again this year. This service will allow the children to demonstrate what they have learned throughout the year. A potluck picnic is planned following the 10 a.m. service.

Our Sunday School program could not exist without the many volunteers who offer their time and talent to our children and youth week after week.

Youth Groups

This year, the Youth Groups (Adventure Club for grades 3-5 and Teen Time for grades 6-12) were led by Lynn Goodwin. The Youth Groups met throughout the year for a variety of community service and fun activities including lunch and board games, movies, preparation and serving of a meal for the St. Vincent DePaul soup kitchen, crafting for the Holly Fair, caroling at Harrington Court, a progressive dinner, and the Talent show/dinner fundraiser. All events were well attended by youth and had many volunteers from the church. The Ministry would like to thank the volunteer leader, Lynn Goodwin, for her hard work and dedication in planning and organizing all of the youth group activities.

Discipleship

This year the Discipleship class returned. Pastor Lauren and Nicole Hosford led five youth and three mentors on a faith journey helping them to understand our Christian traditions. The focus areas included worship, mission, church life, scripture, and fun and fellowship as a class. The program includes 15 classes to be held between September 2017 through May 2018. Along with classes, the confirmands and mentors will attend two retreats, one at Silver Lake (Feb 2018) and one at Camp Wightman (May 2018), help with worship services, and attend services at a local synagogue and mosque. Curriculum for the classes was adapted from Affirming Faith (UCC), We Are Baptists: Studies for Youth (ABC), and Our Whole Lives: Sexuality Education (UCC). River baptisms/Reaffirmations will be held at Salmon River on Saturday, May 19, 2018. The culmination of classes will come on Discipleship Sunday/Pentecost (May 20th), where youth will decide on becoming adult members of our church. Many members of the congregation have expressed joyful praise at seeing this program return.

Conclusion

This year has been a growth year for the Ministry of Christian Education. The number of youth participating in Sunday School and Youth Group events continues to grow. Creating CFC's own Sunday School curriculum continues to go well. It allows for flexibility to adjust the schedule or add topics as needed. It is time consuming. In fact, curriculum development and lesson preparation takes up the majority of the Director's time.

Ministry of Christian Education Annual Report

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It is exciting to see the growth of both the Youth Groups and the Sunday School program. Care providers report that their children have fun and enjoy coming. We have had several new families regularly participate on Sunday mornings.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Hesford

Director of Christian Education

Ministry of Church Life Annual Report

Our members this year are Amy Domeika and Avis Hull who doubles as our Diaconate Representative. We are fortunate to have many friends around the church to offer a hand when needed. Avis and I have both discussed a need for new members on the committee. We are scouting for anyone who would like to join and grow Church Life. Emily Trigueros has been volunteering for special events. Avis and I are discussing starting up monthly meetings again.

Avis Hull is tasked with decorating the sanctuary with flowers. She always finds a way to take the smallest plant and make the most out of it!

Banners are changed regularly as needed by helping hands from wherever they can be found.

Thank you so much to our satellites!!

Our Year in Review:

Pancake Supper

Pancake Supper continued with its Mardi Gras theme. Thank you to Deb Howard and Lynn Stefanowicz as well as all families who pitched in for creating a warm atmosphere after such a cold winter.

Hanging of the Greens

Thank you to those who always jump in to help Hang and Unhang the Greens! This event seems the most difficult to find volunteers for. But everyone who can stay after the 10 a.m. service to help gives it their all! Taking down the greens is the easier of the tasks. Everyone at the 10 a.m. service grabbed one thing and brought it forward. Packed up in record time!

Flowers

We thank all of those who helped to beautify the church with flowers and to those who donated flowers for Christmas and Easter. We have truly enjoyed delivering a plant to a home-bound friend in the name of the Church. Balleck's Garden Center in East Haddam continues to provide high-quality plants at a low-price point, enabling us to decorate the sanctuary while making a small amount of money.

Miscellaneous

- Father's Day gifts
- Mother's Day flowers

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Domeika

Ministry of the Community

We are very pleased to have worked this past year with the Colchester Historical Society in the forum and dedication of the School for Colored Children. AS a wonderful by-product of this, Sally Whipple has agreed to join our ministry. We thank Pastor Lauren's arrival and her presence in the community, from coffee hours at Starbuck's to "Ashes to Go" on Channel 3. The Ministry of Community looks forward to the opportunity this upcoming year will provide.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Ministry of Community

Ministry of the Home and Family

The scope of this Ministry includes parenting, singles and divorce, life cycle issues, parenting one's parents, mothers' groups, helping those in grief, and homebound members' visitations.

As a community of faith, we reach out to help those who are grieving or those who may be experiencing any of the above issues. I am hopeful that at some point in time, there will be members of the congregation willing to serve on this Ministry along with me. We are blessed to have such a loving Church family who take care of one another.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Monteleone, Deacon

Ministry of the Home and Family

Mission of Wellness

"The Mission of Wellness connects and supports people spiritually, physically, emotionally and intellectually in crisis and/or joyful situations throughout all stages of life. We will visit and support those in need. We will provide fellowship and education that embraces the whole body, mind, and spirit."

Greetings:

The Mission of Wellness has continued to share information and resources through monthly Crier as well as weekly bulletin articles. The Mission also provided monthly blood pressure screenings at both Sunday services, made phone calls, and visited with the sick and home-bound.

The Mission of Wellness with assistance from Pharmacist Jeffrey Abule, and Jeffrey's employer Walgreen's in Manchester, provided a Flu Vaccine Clinic on Sunday, October 15, 2017 in the Church's gym from 9:00 to 10:30 am. Twenty-eight flu vaccines were administered.

Our Parish Nurse coordinated a Red Cross Blood Drives on Friday, December 8, 2017, and on Friday, February 2, 2018, both from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Church's gym. Thirty-seven pints of blood were collected at the February drive.

The Mission of Wellness coordinated with Pastor Lauren Lorincz to provide a Healing Service on December 10, 201. Reiki was available after the service.

We hosted a Vision Board Workshop on January 14, 2018. Krista started us with a meditation to focus on what our best year would look like. We then selected our material to use. There were 11 participants who all enjoyed the process.

The Mission hosted a 'Tween Time Coffee Hour on February 18, 2018, where we had an assortment of resource materials available. If there is a specific topic we can focus on in our Crier Articles in the future, please let us know.

Jeanie Cullen, Chair of the Mission of Wellness, participated in monthly Diaconate meetings. The Mission members connected monthly for planning.

The Mission of Wellness wishes to thank everyone who prayed, listened, shared, visited the sick and home-bound, baked, cooked and delivered meals, made phone calls, sent emails and cards. All your hard work and efforts are greatly appreciated.

A special thank you to Karen Wheeler, Dolores Sawchuk, Karen Monteleone, Karen Partington, Amy Domeika, Pat Culhane, Donna Hathaway, Avis Hull, Barbara Bossee, and Melinda Karchner for assisting with the Red Cross blood drives. I also wish to thank Dolores Sawchuk, Avis Hull, JessieMay Kessler, and Karen Wheeler for providing baked goods for the blood donors.

Mission of Wellness

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A special thank you to Al Letendre for assisting the Red Cross with setting up for the December blood drive. An additional thank you to Al Letendre, Scout leaders and the boys from Boy Scout Troop 72 for their assistance to the Red Cross with breaking down after the December and February blood drives.

I also wish to thank our Church Office Manager Susan Skoglund for her assistance with coordinating the blood drives and for being a liaison between our Church and the Red Cross. I also wish to thank our Sexton Dave Hock for cleaning the gym and setting out the tables and chairs for both blood drives.

Last but not least, a special thank you to Pastor Lauren Lorincz for her assistance and spiritual guidance and for her continuing support of the Mission of Wellness.

Grace, Peace, Joy and Health,

Jeanie Cullen, Chair, Barbara Besse, Krista MacGregor, and Carilyn Marvin R.N.

Ministry of Music Annual Report

We had a wonderfully active, fun, musical year at Colchester Federated Church this year. It brings me joy to see all of the work, time, and dedication everyone puts into making our music such an important role in our worship services.

I would like to start off by thanking the members of our senior choir. Their weekly dedication is to be commended. The choir sings at every 10 am service from September thru June. They sing at special services throughout the year as well, such as Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and both Easter and Christmas services. They rehearse every Thursday evening, and are supportive, fun, and enjoy singing as a way to praise God. Thank you all. We also had two new members this year, Pastor Lauren joined our alto section, and Emery Lewis has also been singing with us as well. The choir would love to welcome any new singers who would like to give it a try, and that is always the case all year long.

I would like to acknowledge our soloists this year as well. During several worship services we also had several soloists, vocal and instrumental, which was a wonderful addition to our services.

I would like to thank Necia Stopa for bringing the bell choir she plays in to our church to play in our service. It was wonderful to hear the bells.

I would also like to thank the children who have participated in our children's choir this year. Although they are a small group, they love to sing, and are a joy to work with, and I hope next year to have more children join them. The children's choir sang in worship five times this year, and will also sing for children's Sunday in June.

The piano has been maintained this year, and the organ will be serviced in the next several months.

I am looking forward to a wonderful musical year ahead. Thank you.

Kim Lewis

Music Director

Ministry of Gifts and Leadership Annual Report

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to serve and to help this past year. We are sure the new energy in this church will entice many more of you to come forward. Going forward, we look to will continue to look at and utilize the full structure of our church and continue to encourage more people to consider being a Satellite. Opportunities truly abound—there is still time to answer your call.

John Sawchuk, Chair

Positions	Current	Yr Started	Term Ends	Term
Treasurers and Clerks				
Church Clerk	Mark Bosse	2008		yearly
Treasurer	Tom St. Louis	2017		yealy
Assistant Treasurer	Steve Bradstreet			yearly
Membership Clerk	Deborah Howard	2010		yearly
Diaconate				
Co-Chair	Ted Sanford	2018	2020	1st
Co-Chair	John Sawchuk	2017	2019	1st
Emeritus	John Barr	Life		
Emeritus	Deborah Howard	Life		
Emeritus	Dolores Sawchuk	Life		
Emeritus	Jeannette Tomlinson	Life		
Emeritus	Hattie Turner	Life		
At-Large	Jen Clarke	2017	2019	1st
At-Large	Tom Evans	2018	2020	1st
Wellness	Jeanie Cullen	2017	2019	1st
Stewardship	TBD			
Mission and Witness	TBD			
Education	Christine Miskell	2016	2020	2nd
Church Life	Avis Hull	2015	2019	2nd
Gifts & Leadership	TBD			
Music	John Dooley	2015	2019	2nd
Workplace	TBD			
Community	TBD			
Home & Family	TBD			

Ministry of Gifts and Leadership Annual Report

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Positions	Current	Yr Started	Term Ends	Term
Ministry of Stewardship				
Chair	Paul Goodwin	2015	2019	2nd
Vice Chair	Chris Wink	2015	2019	2nd
Finance Representative				
Member	Cara Lovering	2018	2019	1st
Member	Rich Hosford	2017	2019	1st
Member	John Makris	2018	2019	1st
Member and Diaconate Rep.				
Satellite	Deborah Howard			
Satellite				
Satellite/Men of Service	Tom St. Louis			
Mission of Finance Advisory				
Asst. Treasurer and Chair	Steve Bradstreet	2004		
Member	Deborah Howard	2007		
Member				
Member	John Hirsch	2007		
Congregational Treasurer	John Hirsch	Appointed 2008		
Baptist Treasurer	Steve Bradstreet	Appointed		
Church Treasurer	Tom St. Louis	2017		
Mission of Fundraising				
Chair	Liza Ringuette	2018	2020	1st
Member	Shelly Hirsch	2008		
Member	Pat Culhane	2009		
Member	Kerry McRae	2008		
Member	Nancy Dooley	2012		
Satellite	Avis Hull	2014		
Satellite	Renee Misbach	2014		
Satellite	Diane Capasso	2013		

Ministry of Gifts and Leadership Annual Report

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Positions	Current	Yr Started	Term Ends	Term
Ministry of Mission & Witness				
Diaconate Representative				
Member	Susan Sanford	2015	2019	2nd
Member				
Member	Cheryl Letendre	2017	2019	1st
Member	Shelly Hirsch	2016	2020	2nd
Member	Kathy Landry	2017	2019	1st
Member				
Satellite	Charles Dente	2016	2018	2nd
Satellite	Melinda Karchner	2016		
My Brother's Keeper Satellite	Karen Partington			
Prayer Shawl Satellite	Joan Frantzen			
Ministry of Education				
Chair	Christine Miskell	2017	2019	1st
Diaconate Representative				
Member	Renee Misbach	2016	2020	2nd
Member	Wendy Moores	2016	2020	2nd
Member				
Member				
Member				
Satellite (Children's Choir)	Lynn Goodwin	2013		
Adult Ed Satellite				
Ministry of Church Life				
Diaconate Representative	Avis Hull	2016	2020	2nd
Chair	Amy Domeika	2016	2020	2nd
Member	Emily Trigueros	2018	2020	1st
Member				
Member				
Member				
Satellite				
Satellite				
Mission of Ushers	Rich Hosford	2017	2019	1st
Mission of Flowers				
Mission of Greeters	Dolores Sawchuk			

Ministry of Gifts and Leadership Annual Report

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Positions	Current	Yr Started	Term Ends	Term
Mission of Wellness				
Parish Nurse and Chair	Jeanie Cullen	2017	2019	1st
Member	Barbara Bosse	2017	2019	1st
Member				
Satellite	Carolyn Marvin	2012		
Satellite	Karen Wheeler			
Satellite	Cheryl Letendre	2017		
Ministry of Gifts & Leadership				
Chair and Diaconate Representative	TBD			
Member	Joyce Moore	2016	2020	2nd
Member	Karen Monteleone	2016	2020	3rd
Member	John Sawchuk	2013	2019	3rd
Member	TBD			
Member	TBD			
Satellite	Denise Turner	2016		
Satellite	Dolores Sawchuk			
Satellite	Jeannette Tomlinson	2016	2018	1st
Mission of Personnel				
Member	Chris Wink	2015	2017	1st
Member	Ted Sanford	2016	2018	2nd
Member	Denise Turner	2016	2018	2nd
Member	JessieMay Kessler	2017	2019	1st
Member				
Stewardship Representative				
Diaconate Representative				
Denomination Delegates				
UCC Conference & Assoc.	John Sawchuk	2015		
UCC Conference & Assoc.	Lynn Stefanowicz	2014		
American Baptist Conference of CT	Denise Turner	2013		

Ministry of Gifts and Leadership Annual Report

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Positions	Current	Yr Started	Term Ends	Term
Ministry of the Community				
Chair	TBD			
Diaconate Representative	TBD			
Member	John Sawchuk	2016	2020	2nd
Member	Kurt Frantzen	2016	2020	2nd
Member	Greg Barden	2016	2020	2nd
Member	Denise Turner	2016	2020	2nd
Member	Mark Bosse	2016	2020	2nd
Member	Sally Whipple	2018	2020	1st
Satellite	Gayle Furman	2016		
Satellite	Michele Wyatt	2016		
Others				
Ministry of Music	John Dooley	2015	2019	2nd
Ministry of the Workplace	TBD	2018	2020	1st
Ministry of Home & Family	Karen Monteleone	2013	2019	3rd
Pastor-Parish				
Member	Tom Evans	2017		
Member	Liza Ringuette	2017		
Member	Denise Turner	2017		