

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



North Falmouth Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
North Falmouth, Massachusetts 02556
January 31, 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Pastor	1
Moderator	4
Elected Boards & Committees	
Board of Deacons	5
Board of Finance Report	6
Collector's Report.	9
Christian Education Committee.	10
Fundraising.	11
Hospitality Committee.	12
Director of Music & Chair of Music Committee	13
Outreach Committee	15
Stewardship Team.	17
Buildings and Grounds.	18
Appointed Committees	
Altar Committee	19
Auxiliary Organization	
Thrift Shop	20
Officers	
Clerk	22
In Memoriam	23

2020 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PASTOR

“Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don’t try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.” –James 1:2-4 (The Message)

“A smooth sea never made a skilled sailor.” – Author Unknown

Dear Friends,

When I started in January, I hardly anticipated a pandemic would come along and shut down the whole world and close the doors of our church. We thought in back in March we would get back to normal by the fall. How naïve!

To say this year has been challenging would be an understatement. As we have navigated these new, uncharted waters, we have had to adapt by becoming more creative and skilled in how we minister to each other and the community in ways we never would have imagined. God has a way of bringing us along through rough seas to make us evermore faithful and skilled ministers in living and sharing God’s word through Christ.

Despite the pandemic, we found ways to stay connected, enrich our spiritual life, and serve our community. Everyone’s willingness to adapt and learn has been deeply appreciated.

- Amid our financial challenges, Hank Bertsch worked tirelessly in securing the Payroll Protection Plan, which was a forgivable loan from the government to help with payroll earlier this past year.
- All of you have been extremely generous financially this year to help our church get through this hard time.
- Sue Long, Joyce Bock, and all those who help run the Thrift Store did an amazing job to open safely for several months this past year.
- As the year progressed, we realized how valuable it was to offer worship online to our members and the community at large. In light of that, a tech team was formed with Chris Polloni, Ray Rowitz, Sarah Bach, and Rodney Rountree to review our Wi-Fi and video capabilities. The congregation voted unanimously to move forward with this ministry. In the coming months, we will see the fruits of the tech team’s efforts when our Wi-Fi system is upgraded and a video camera is installed in the sanctuary.
- Members of the Tech Team came every Sunday to help set up for outdoor worship so that worship could be live on Facebook with live and recorded music.
- Babette Bach, the choir, and Sarah Bach learned new skills so that our music program could be online. Sarah was especially instrumental in putting the choir’s voices and Babette’s piano music together with special software. As the year progressed, their skills increased. The fruits of their labor culminated with the beautiful music that was offered on Christmas Eve.

- Lisa Allen had to adapt Sunday school this year, so she sent out learning and activity packets to the children. Each season she developed a new theme and curriculum. She also filmed a wonderful children's message every Sunday.
- Lisa Allen kicked off the Giving Tree Gift Drive in December for North Falmouth families in need. I took the project over when she left and delivered all the gifts to the school. The social worker there was thrilled. With your generosity, the children got every gift on their wish list, and we also included two Walmart and grocery gift cards for the parents.
- Sadly, we said goodbye to Lisa Allen this fall as she moved on to a full-time job. We had a wonderful outdoor celebration on her last Sunday.
- Despite the restrictions, Carolee Packard and Outreach continued to find ways to get much needed supplies and funds to the area organizations we support. Dennis Fox has been delivering meals for Cape Kids—a program that puts together weekend meals for children in the Falmouth schools who are experiencing food insecurity.
- Fundraising has been a particular challenge this year, but Carolee Packard and the rest of the cooking crew safely offered lobster dinners this summer and early fall.
- Carolee Packard rallied church members to do a spring clean-up around the church and David O'Hara got the men together to do it in the fall. Also, Bill Martin and others did a lot of much needed work around the outside of the Thrift Shop to spruce it up.
- As always, worship would not be possible without the Deacons who spent much of this year reviewing the safety precautions as outlined by the CDC and the state so that we could offer safe outdoor worship. They also made calls to folks who have been isolated by the pandemic. We thank Ken Evans for his devoted service to the Deacons as he had to step down for health reasons.
- In the beginning of the year, when the pandemic hit, I had to readjust and figure out ways to keep us connected. I offered a weekly email—Finding Joy, Staying Connected—for a while. I started a mindfulness walking group and continued the weekly devotional group online via Zoom, which is still ongoing. What has been truly surprising about the Zoom group is how deep and intimate the conversations have been. It is something the group looks forward to every week. Deepening our faith together not only brings us closer to God, but it also prepares us to live more faithfully as people of God. Also, this year, I facilitated a book group over Zoom that was as equally enriching as the devotional group.
- When the pandemic hit, I had to scramble to figure out how to offer worship live on Facebook. There was a lot of trial and error in working out the technical issues. We eventually moved worship into the sanctuary for a short time. From mid-July to the end of November we offered worship outside. Again, it was a lot of trial and error in getting everything to work, from the Wi-Fi to syncing up the music. I appreciate the help and patience of everyone. There was a lot of joy in being able to gather outside and see one another despite the pandemic. From those humble beginnings in my home office to where we are now—so many have contributed to the richness of our online worship experience.

- This past year, I am grateful for the two weeks of retreat time. One was an at-home reading retreat during the summer and the other was at St. Joseph's Retreat House in Milton, MA. While there, I learned how to do imaginative prayer that took me deeper into the study of scripture. My time there was supported by a spiritual director whom I met with every day. I am grateful the church offers this kind of time for me to learn and grow in faith and rejuvenate my well-being. On a monthly basis, I met with a spiritual director and on occasion I met with a leadership coach. I've also been meeting with other Falmouth clergy each week and with my clergy support group once a month online. I am grateful for these opportunities.
- The pandemic has certainly made it a lot harder to get to know everyone. I've tried to stay connected with those in assisted living facilities and who are isolated at home. Because of the pandemic, most of my communication has been by phone. I have delighted in getting to know each one of them.
- This year, I joined the board of Belonging to Each Other, which is an organization that offers temporary housing in Falmouth during the winter months to those experiencing homelessness. Our church did a hygiene kit supply drive in December and now, thanks to many of you, we have lots of supplies. Also, in December, I gave the opening prayer and eulogy for the annual National Homeless Persons' Memorial Service. I also have delivered some of the supplies we collected to the men and women in BTEO's temporary housing as a way of introducing myself to the residents.

Yes, we have definitely been challenged by the pandemic, but the gifts you have given this year has affected people in ways we can *never* imagine. God is always working beyond what we can see, imagine, or believe. The good news is that God exceeds our expectations. Regardless of pandemics, God is always working in and through us, if we are willing.

All the gifts you brought to the church this year are invaluable. All of you who served on the board and committees, 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, Lisa Allen, and Deb Pinkney? During this past year they inspired me with their generous spirit, their willingness to learn new things, and their amazing enthusiasm for our community. It is hard not to be full of gratitude for all they did.

What an honor it has been to be your pastor and teacher this year! May we greet the coming year with the boldness and the belief that all things are possible in Christ—despite whatever challenges we face. Navigating the rough waters of this pandemic has made us more faithful and skilled followers of Christ. Thank you for being on this journey together.

In faith,
Rev. Christina Williams

MODERATOR REPORT FOR 2020

WOW! What a year. In January, we welcomed our new settled Pastor. Pastor Christina Williams arrived the first of January and we celebrated. Having a settled Pastor brought new hope and new dreams. The youth, Lisa Allen and Pastor Christina moved forward and they all went to St. Johns in New York City. Pastor Christina worked very hard at trying to get know all of us as well as those in Nursing Homes or confined to their own homes. Then—things changed!

We thought that we might be closed for two weeks. The closure continued and it became time to rethink church.

Church Council started meeting via Zoom and the Deacons worked on new worship plans. We worshiped virtually, then outside and now back to virtual services. Our building was closed down, masks became the norm, and the doors are locked. The Early Education Program continued, Meals on Wheels continued, and the office stayed open. There were new guidelines and restrictions put in place.

Some things became obvious, our media, Wi-Fi systems needed updating and the buildings and grounds still need looking after. Plans were put in place to address these issues.

Votes for changes would have to be sent out via email and our Annual Meeting would need to be held via Zoom. Some of these changes may become the norm even after the pandemic leaves us. It has opened new doors and opportunities.

It is now time to look at how we want to proceed when “normality” returns. Now is the perfect time to open new doors, and think about where we want to go as a Congregation. Who Are We? How would we like to proceed? Do we need to change our Governing Structure? Are we being God’s Church? Are we thinking the Community needs to come to our church or do we as a church need to bring ourselves out to the Community? Now is the perfect time to regroup and think about how we will move forward in a changing world.

On a personal note, I need to say Thank You for all your support these past six years. I came on as Council President carefree and ready to serve my church. Very soon after, Don and I started a journey—one we did not choose. That journey ended when Don passed away in the early spring. The love and support of Pastor Christina, the staff, and the congregation here at North Falmouth Congregational Church has made the journey bearable.

God Bless All of You,
Carolee Packard, Moderator

DEACONS

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Members: Adrienne Latimer, Barbara Rountree, Chris Polloni, Susan Rowitz, Missy Fox

As we all witnessed, 2020 was a difficult year like no other. The deacons at NFCC continued to be responsible for duties pertaining to worship, funerals, memorials, weddings and other special services. The Deacons are also responsible for the membership of the church, by reviewing membership lists and being aware of the health and welfare of our members and friends.

We welcomed Pastor Christina to her new home and new church at the beginning of 2020. There was a nice press release article in the local Enterprise. To start out the year, we held NFCC offered two unique services. The 8:30 a.m. service was held on the last Sunday of January and February and provided folk music performed by fellow congregants along with an interactive discussion.

We followed UCC guidelines as the epidemic unfolded and the church building was closed. Initially, Pastor Christina provided services from her home and we started outdoor services July 12. Many discussions took place around safety and uncertainty on potential re-opening. We were able to safely hold services outside into December, and we were blessed with good weather every Sunday. While outside, a deacon kept a list of attendees for contact tracing, facemasks were required, and an offering “box” was available. No communion was initially offered, but pre-packaged wafers and cups were added to our outdoor worship service on the first Sunday of the month.

Pastor Christina’s installation service was postponed until 2021. In-sanctuary worship services for the congregation have not resumed. However, when inclement weather ended our outdoor services, they were streamed virtually from inside the sanctuary.

On Christmas Eve, we held a virtual Christmas Eve service and invited those at home to light candles. In lieu of poinsettias, the altar committee decorated an outdoor Christmas tree with scallop shells in people’s memory or honor.

While the Deacons have tried 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 church office) for their use to send a message to a shut-in or a friend.

I’d like to end with a big “THANK YOU” to the dedicated service of Ken Evans, who resigned after years of service. I would like to thank Adrienne Latimer, Missy Fox, Susan Rowitz and Chris Polloni for their dedication and unfailing service during these trying times. I would also like to acknowledge the time and talents of Ray Rowitz and Sarah Bach for their help in supporting our outdoor services.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Rountree, Deacon Chair

Board of Finance Report 2020

	01/08/21	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	Proposed 2021 Alternate 3
Income				
4000 Member Contributions				
4005 Pledge Giving		75,000.00	78,625.00	75,000.00
4010 Regular Unpledged Giving		16,000.00	20,161.00	18,000.00
4030 Loose Plate		3,600.00	1,762.42	1,800.00
4055 Easter		1,500.00	1,430.00	1,500.00
4065 Thanksgiving		1,500.00	905.00	1,500.00
4070 Christmas		2,200.00	1,350.00	2,200.00
Total 4000 Member Contributions		99,800.00	104,233.42	100,000.00
4100 Operational Income				
4150 Use of Building Income		4,200.00	2,207.53	2,000.00
4160 YMCA Rental Income		20,580.00	20,580.00	20,580.00
4175 Thrift Shop Sales		48,000.00	10,552.76	24,000.00
4185 Memorial Fund Interest		9,000.00	9,000.00	10,000.00
Total 4100 Operational Income		81,780.00	42,340.29	56,580.00
4200 Fundraising				
4210 Plant Sale		6,500.00	2,700.00	3,250.00
4220 Holiday Fair		6,500.00	3,700.00	3,250.00
4260 General Fund Raising		5,500.00	3,541.75	2,750.00
Total 4200 Fundraising		18,500.00	9,941.75	9,250.00
4500 Restricted Income				
4505 Offering Envelops Contrib		100.00	140.00	100.00
4516 Qrtly Income/Investments		16,468.18	16,468.27	16,522.63
4535 Hospitality Donations		600.00	49.25	100.00
4535.1 Hospitality Expense		-900.00	-116.48	-150.00
4540 Sunday Music		0.00	0.00	0.00
4560 CE/Fund Raising/Donation		0.00	0.00	0.00
4580 Flowers-Altar Income		650.00	124.00	325.00
4580.1 Altar Flower Expense		-750.00	-514.07	-375.00
Total 4500 Restricted Income		16,168.18	16,150.97	16,522.63
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		800.00	1,220.66	900.00
Total Income		217,048.18	173,887.09	183,252.63

Expense

5000 Ministerial Expense

5005 Ministers Salary	43,040.50	38,279.70	43,040.50
5010 Lieu of Social Security	4,669.60	3,720.07	4,669.60
5020 Ministers Housing Allowance	5,169.79	2,585.00	5,169.79
5030 Annuity	8,545.67	7,121.50	8,545.67
5040 Life Insurance/Disability	915.61	763.10	915.61
5035 Health/Dental Insurance			
5035.1 Medicare	0.00	0.00	2,160.00
5035.2 Vision	100.00	164.00	100.00
5035.3 Health/Dental Insurance - Other	12,721.68	12,836.90	3,720.00
Total 5035 Health/Dental Insurance	12,821.68	13,000.90	5,980.00
5045 Pastoral Expenses	2,400.00	1,482.54	2,400.00
5050 Parsonage Utilities	5,000.00	2,553.20	3,000.00
Total 5000 Ministerial Expenses	82,562.85	69,506.01	73,721.16

5100 Office Expenses

5105 Office Administrator Salary	20,603.44	17,375.60	20,603.44
5110 FICA Secretary	1,576.16	1,571.72	1,576.16
5120 Office Supplies	1,400.00	1,133.29	1,200.00
5125 Computer Expense	400.00	1,821.30	400.00
5130 Copier Expenses	2,300.00	2,555.43	2,400.00
5135 Postage/PO Box	900.00	964.50	900.00
5155 Advertising	1,000.00	465.00	1,000.00
Total 5100 Office Expenses	28,179.60	25,886.84	28,079.60

5200 Music/Choir Expenses

5205 Music Director Salary	20,976.80	17,749.64	20,976.80
5210 Music Director FICA	1,604.73	1,604.73	1,604.73
5215 Organist Substitutes	600.00	400.00	600.00
5220 Music Supplies	400.00	192.98	400.00
5225 Music Equipment Maintenance	1,000.00	578.00	900.00
5235 Music License Fee	200.00	277.00	200.00
5245 Music Soloist	0.00	125.00	0.00
5200 Music/Choir Expenses-Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total 5200 Music/Choir Expenses	24,781.53	20,927.35	24,681.53

5300 Parish Administration

5305 Stewardship Supplies	400.00	339.51	400.00
5310 Collectors Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00
5315 Altar committee supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00
5325 Guest Preachers	1,200.00	800.00	1,200.00
5330 Deacons Supplies	300.00	231.23	300.00
5334 Deacons Misc Expense	200.00	94.56	200.00
5335 Treasurer's Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00
5340 Accountant Salary	5,304.00	4,488.00	5,304.00
5345 Accountant FICA	405.76	109.25	405.76
5350 Payroll Expenses	950.00	920.90	950.00
5360 Pastoral Search Expense	0.00	2,573.50	0.00
5390 Publicity/Web Support	500.00	0.00	500.00
Total 5300 Parish Administration	9,259.76	9,556.95	9,259.76

5400 Church Operation

5415 Custodial Supplies	1,800.00	1,040.79	1,100.00
5420 Main Bldg Gas	4,800.00	3,861.48	4,800.00
5425 Main Bldg Electricity	6,500.00	4,885.98	5,400.00
5430 Main Bldg Telephone	2,200.00	2,571.98	2,500.00
5435 Main Bldg Water	175.00	188.11	250.00
5440 Main Bldg Insurance	10,018.81	14,117.00	11,120.91
5445 Worker Comp Insurance	1,100.00	1,045.93	965.00
5490 Church Operation - Other	200.00	0.00	100.00

Total 5400 Church Operation	26,793.81	27,711.27	26,235.91
5500 Christian Education			
5505 CE Director Salary	14,258.40	12,069.60	0.00
5510 CE Director FICA	1,090.77	1,091.13	0.00
5540 CE Supplies/Programs	725.00	587.46	400.00
5500 Christian Education - Other	1,000.00	296.00	1,000.00
Total 5500 Christian Education	17,074.17	14,044.19	1,400.00
5600 Property Maintenance			
5604 Mandatory Inspections	1,500.00	1,887.19	1,765.00
5605 Main Bldg Maintenance	0.00	1,778.63	0.00
5610 Grounds	0.00	3,756.50	0.00
5613 YMCA Expense Reimbursement	-7,200.00	-7,200.00	-7,200.00
5615 Parsonage Maintenance	0.00	658.56	0.00
5620 Church Equipment Maintenance	0.00	556.65	0.00
5625 Snow removal	2,700.00	825.00	2,000.00
5565 Contracted Cleaning Service	21,500.00	14,685.00	15,000.00
5670 Dumpster	2,100.00	1,544.79	1,500.00
5670 B&G Supervisor Salary	0.00	0.00	4,992.00
5675 FICA B&G Supervisor	0.00	0.00	381.89
5699 Property Maintenance - Other	6,100.00	0.00	6,100.00
Total 5600 Property Maintenance	26,700.00	18,492.32	24,538.89
5700 Thrift Store Expenses			
5721 Gas	0.00	903.74	0.00
5722 Telephone	0.00	882.75	0.00
5723 Electric	0.00	741.69	0.00
5724 Water	0.00	59.00	0.00
5727 Maintenance	500.00	53.95	500.00
5730 Supplies	0.00	460.18	0.00
5700 Thrift Store Expense - Other	4,000.00	0.00	3,200.00
Total 5700 Thrift Store Expenses	4,500.00	3,101.31	3,700.00
5800 Fundraising			
5805 Plant Sale Expense	2,500.00	0.00	1,250.00
5810 Holiday Fair Expense	1,300.00	0.00	650.00
5815 Gen Fundraising Expense	2,700.00	1,541.64	1,350.00
Total 5800 Fundraising	6,500.00	1,541.64	3,250.00
5900 Outreach			
5905 Outreach/Missions Expenses	10,700.00	11,943.86	12,000.00
Total 5900 Outreach	10,700.00	11,943.86	12,000.00
Total Expense	237,051.72	202,711.74	206,866.84
Net Income	-20,003.54	-28,824.65	-23,614.22

Collector's Report 2020

North Falmouth Congregational Church - No Falmouth MA Donations Account Balances (01/01/2020 - 12/31/2020)

Thursday, December 31, 2020

Page 1 of 1

Account	Period Activity	YTD Balance
<i>Giving Accounts</i>		
101 - Pledge	72,925.00	72,925.00
102 - Regular Givers	20,161.00	20,161.00
107 - Loose Plate	1,762.42	1,762.42
108 - Initial Offering Envelopes	140.00	140.00
201 - Easter Collection	1,430.00	1,430.00
202 - Thanksgiving Collection	905.00	905.00
203 - Christmas Collection	1,350.00	1,350.00
301 - Use of Building (e.g. Alanon)	2,207.53	2,207.53
307 - YMCA Income	27,780.00	27,780.00
400 - General Fundraising	3,641.75	3,641.75
401 - Spring Plant Sale Fundraising	2,700.00	2,700.00
404 - Holiday Fair Fundraising	3,700.00	3,700.00
501 - Sunday Flowers	100.00	100.00
502 - Holiday Flowers	24.00	24.00
504 - Flower Fund (investment)	986.00	986.00
601 - Deacons' Fund	215.00	215.00
607 - Hospitality	49.25	49.25
610 - Music committee	77.00	77.00
700 - CE General	550.00	550.00
903 - General Memorial Fund -- investment	1,055.00	1,055.00
913 - Other Income -- Restricted	30,628.07	30,628.07
925 - Falmouth Green Bag	292.00	292.00
926 - Bourne Green Bag	197.00	197.00
930 - Pre-paid pledge for next year	6,850.00	6,850.00
Total Giving Accounts	\$179,726.02	\$179,726.02

Count: 24

Period: 01/01/2020 - 12/31/2020

Year: 2020

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 2020

The first thing I would like to say is “THANK YOU” to Lisa Allen for her years of service to North Falmouth Congregational Church. Her love and devotion to the youth and families at our church was a gift to all.

Our youth and families shared in mission trips, spiritual time and fellowship. They knew they were loved and welcomed here at our church. The biblically-based love of God was very evident.

Sadly, at this time the CE position is on hold. This position needs to be re-evaluated. Our church has a small group of parents and children participating in our church programs. This is no different than any other local church. The demographics of the area we live in have changed. Many outside groups, organizations, and individuals are showing God’s love throughout our community in a secular way. Family life is very different than it was in the 50’s – 80’s era. Our church needs to think about how to address the needs of having a church community based Christian education for families in a new way.

This may mean that we need to look at the times and how we meet, or partner up with community organizations, and other churches. It may mean taking a look at incorporating more multigenerational programming, projects, and fellowship. Opening our minds and hearts to new possibilities will be necessary for growth in our church. Going forward in Faith and Prayer is the first step.

The question is “Are we, as a church, up to the challenge? I think so!

Submitted by Carolee Packard, Moderator

GENERAL FUNDRAISING 2020

Well so much for good intentions! We started the year on a very positive note.

“One Fundraiser for Each Month”! This was being done not only to support the church budget but to enjoy the fellowship of working together toward a common goal.

In January, we did manage to have a very successful indoor yard sale and luncheon.

On March 7th we held a wonderful, corned beef and cabbage supper along with Irish Step dancing and music. This was also a success.

During the summer, we held three drive-by lobster roll to go suppers. These were okay considering the times we are in.

Sadly, the Christmas fair and plant sale did not happen. They were missed by both the workers and those who would have attended. The fellowship was missed by all to say the least. Hopefully we will all be back next year working together on our wonderful events.

Thank you to all who support the activities here at North Falmouth Congregational Church.

HOSPITALITY ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Well, this was different year! I still would like to take the time to say thank you to all who helped during January through the first week in March.

Our Sunday coffee hours came to an abrupt halt when Covid 19 confined us all. There were no coffee hours or celebrations. When we all can resume being together, we will have a very special celebration.

Thank you, Betsy, for putting the schedule together.

God bless,
Carolee Packard, Marsha Martin, and Betsy Woodley

THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ORGANIST AND MUSIC COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020

The music at NFCC was provided in 2020 by a group of dedicated and talented people who work together to use their voices to create music for the worship services at NFCC. The musicians include the Chancel Choir and a Contemporary Music Ensemble. This was a difficult year for NFCC due to the pandemic, and the music program was no exception. Typically, the Music Director offers three rehearsals for the Chancel Choir each week: a regular Wednesday evening full rehearsal and a rehearsal in the morning prior to the 10 a.m. service on Sunday. In addition, there is an hour and a half rehearsal on Saturday morning for those who can't make the regular rehearsal, and those who need extra guidance. That's an average of about 4 hours of rehearsals each week. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, that could not be done this year which made it difficult for the Chancel Choir to function. Fortunately, the Music Director, with significant support from Sarah Bach, was able to transition the Chancel Choir from live rehearsals to independent recording sessions utilizing pre-recorded accompaniment and pre-recorded voice parts for either solo music or choral music. Sadly, we lost a few choir members due to technology challenges but we look forward to their return when we can be together again.

Recording music independently is a great challenge for all involved. This was, and continues to be, a significant challenge for the director and the choir members. As a result of these changes, the Chancel Choir was able to provide sacred music for services by relying more heavily on the contribution of pre-recorded music by soloists from the Chancel Choir, until we were able to develop ensemble pieces by combining separate recordings from contributors into a single recording. A task that required the skills of the Director to provide piano and organ practice recordings and for Sarah to combine the separate recordings using specialized acoustic software. It also required a significant commitment of the Chancel Choir members to make individual recordings without the benefit of direct supervision, or the ability to respond to each other's voices as typically happens during a live rehearsal. Hence, the sheer joy that choir members experience during rehearsals was not experienced. It required a level of faith from each choir member to trust that what each offered could come together to create something beautiful. It was a learning curve to learn how to use the editing software and endless amounts of time spent listening to each part to line up each voice with the accompaniment and correct minor issues with timing or correct intonation issues. Those hours lost in weekly rehearsals were spent preparing and creating recordings and then editing each recording. It is a much discussed topic amongst church musicians that it takes many more hours in a week to prepare music for services digitally than in our "normal" rehearsal preparation of the past. Music making has become a solitary experience which is not conducive to, nor satisfying to, the choral musician and director.

The Director and Music Committee wish to thank the choir members for their commitment to NFCC and the music program during these trying times.

Members of the NFCC Choir for the year of 2020 included the following:

Soprano: Sarah Bach, Joyce Kenneally, Toby Ryan, Linda Thomas, Rev. Christina Williams

Alto: Marge Marshall, Pam Polloni, Rosanne Amaru Tatro, Meg Tivey

Tenor: Alan King, Rodney Rountree

Baritone: Chris Polloni, Ray Rowitz

The Contemporary Music Ensemble provided music during the 8:30 service at the beginning of 2020. It included Lisa Allen, Susan McBride, and Rich Latimer, frequently joined by Brian Youmans on harmonica.

In March, the music program transitioned from live choral music by the Choir, to solos provided by the following people: Lisa Allen, Sarah Bach, Alan King, Rodney Rountree, Rosanne Amaru Tatro and Brian Youmans. The usual participation in special seasonal services (e.g., Christmas) was not possible this year, except via pre-recording due to the pandemic. It was a tremendous effort to prepare music for the Christmas Eve service of lessons and carols. A big thank you to the choir members for their perseverance and commitment to make music happen. Also we are in deep gratitude for Sarah's efforts to get all the music recordings put together and ready for Christmas Eve. We extend our thanks to Sarah Bach and Brittany Haskell Lord for their collaboration of "O Holy Night" on voice and organ that was shared between NFCC and The Church of the Messiah in Woods Hole. We also thank Lisa Allen and Alan King for their Christmas Eve solo work and extend our appreciation to Sally Rountree and Dave Allen for lending their voices to our Christmas Eve music.

In March, we offered our first St. Patrick's Day supper and sing along. Thanks to Carolee and kitchen crew for a delicious corned beef dinner! We offer a big thank you to our guest pianist and Irish dancer, Emily Murphy, for her music and fun tutorial on Irish step dancing. We also thank choir members for their singing and other fun offerings.

We were saddened that we could not offer the Christmas Carol Sing and Swedish smorgasbord in December but we hope to see this back in full swing in 2021!

We are always looking for more voices in the choir! Even in this time of the pandemic. New members can start with some private "Zoom" sessions with the Music Director to determine vocal range and ability to read music. Many choir members over the years began by not "reading" music but instead relying on their "ear" to learn the music. This choir welcomes all vocal ranges and all training ranges. If interested, please contact the Music Director.

We hope that we can return to live rehearsals and service by a later point in the new year.

In closing, we extend our thanks and gratitude to our pastor, the Rev. Christina Williams, for leading us through these difficult times. Her participation in the Choir has been and is greatly appreciated and her voice has greatly enhanced our soprano section. She has been a supportive figure as we feel our way through a new way of doing music and allowing us to learn and adjust with understanding and kindness.

Faithfully,

Babette F. Bach, Director of Music and Organist
Rodney Rountree and Meg Tivey, Co-Chairs of Music Committee
Sarah Bach and Rosanne Amaru Tatro, Music Committee

OUTREACH REPORT 2020

Outreach at North Falmouth Congregational is alive and well!

The committee met in January to set our budget for the year.

It was agreed that the Conference would be paid according to the Proportional Giving Standard and that \$4,700.00 of our budgeted \$12,000.00 would be used for helping the local organizations here on the Cape.

We are very pleased that the local community is being served in this unusual year of need. The organizations all are serving the underserved; those needing God's loving care and help. After setting our committee budgeted allocations, we found that adjustments needed to be made. The Village at Cataumet could no longer have us doing the monthly meal. We adjusted, and instead bought them much needed bed and bath linens.

The Cape Cod Council of Churches put out a plea for diaper money. We again responded with a donation to the Baby Center run Cape Cod Council of Churches.

We were able to accomplish the goal we had set by being organized at the first of the year and following up via email the rest of the year.

If you are interested in joining our Outreach Team, we will welcome you. Please contact Pastor Christina or the office.

Your Outreach Committee, Carolee Packard, Chair, Marsha Martin, Sandy Checklick, Lisa Allen, Ken Evans, Adrienne Latimer and Saramaria Allenby

LOCAL OUTREACH SPENDING 2020

CATAUMET SHELTER SUPPERS & LINEN	610.34
FALMOUTH SEVICE CENTER	1300.00
BOURNE FOOD PANTRY	750.00
NO PLACE FOR HATE	250.00
BELONGING TO EACH OTHER	400.00
CAPE COD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES	600.00
UPPER CAPE CHAPLIANCY	500.00
ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET	50.00
CARD MINISTRY	37.24
CHURCH SANITIZER/MASK FOR SERVICES	<u>78.00</u>
TOTAL LOCAL	4643.86
DONATION IN KIND LINENS	<u>200.00</u>
TOTAL OUTREACH LOCAL	\$4843.86

STEWARDSHIP ANNUAL REPORT

Our Stewardship theme for this year was “Together in Joy We Can”. Stewardship Sunday was held on November 8th.

Our Stewardship team consisted of Pastor Christina Williams, John Checklick, Shannon Heino, Mike Ryan and Katie Weldon. Kay Clark and Laurinda Morway also assisted in writing all of our thank-you notes.

As of 12/31/2020, the Stewardship campaign received 42 pledges totaling \$78,894. 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.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

RAY ROWITZ How do we say THANK YOU so very much for all that you have done these past three years. Many times you have had to drop everything to take care of issues in our three old church buildings! I guess we just say THANK YOU!

To Bill, Mike, Don, Dave, Tim, Chris and Malcolm as well as others we also say thank you. Back in 2014/2015 a survey of the church properties was done. Needless to say, the list of needs was long as far as upkeep and repairs in need of being done. Many of these went undone due to time constraints, illnesses, and dare I say the age of our congregants.

We have three old buildings, all of which are in need of maintenance and repairs. Some of the buildings are in need of minor repairs and others of major repairs.

Church Council and Finance has recommended we have a Building and Grounds Supervisor/Coordinator. Finance has built this position into the 2021 Budget. Work orders for minor repairs will be addressed, bids will be sorted through and followed up on, workdays will be organized, and the many inspections needed for certification of a public building will be addressed.

This position will be approximately 6 hours per week some weeks more and some weeks less.

Carolee Packard, Moderator

ALTAR COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REPORT

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 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 this year. As an alternative to the poinsettia altar display for Christmas, we put up a live light Christmas tree (graciously donated by Laura Murphy and her brother Robert) on the front porch of the church decorated with 98 memorial, honor and celebration shells.

Beverly Blaine was able to obtain a beautiful altar arrangement made of real-looking silk flowers which will be used on the altar when there is no flower donor.

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, Carolee Packard and Marsha Martin carried out the funded wishes of the Paige family by creating a special cornucopia on the altar table at our outdoor Thanksgiving Sunday service.

As a result of the pandemic, there was no annual meeting scheduled in November.

For the coming year of 2021, Marsha Martin will continue as chairperson of the Altar Committee. The Altar Committee associates for 2021 are as follows: Beverly Blaine, Sandy Checklick, Jean Davock, Melessa Fox, Cindy Kaleskas, Laura Murphy, Carolee Packard, and Jean Sawyer.

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 their assistance. A very special thank you to Ken Evans for picking up floral arrangements each week until the pandemic hit in mid-March.

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 and change the paraments as needed while NFCC continues to hold virtual services until it is safe for all to worship together in the sanctuary.

Respectfully submitted,
Marsha Martin

2020 Year End Thrift Shop Report

2020 has been a very challenging year for the Thrift Shop, as well as for everyone else. The COVID 19 virus has taken a toll on our mission to serve the community and be an important income source for the church.

During the first two and a half months of 2020, the shop made over \$7000. Then the pandemic hit. We still managed to deposit close to \$2500 using various ways of selling our merchandise. We use a recycling company that has paid us \$350. Our total donation to the church this year was just under \$10,000.

In January, we again offered free yarn so people could knit strips for blankets. The donations are sent to A Great Yarn in Chatham and distributed to the needy by the Housing Assistance Corporation of Cape Cod.

In February, we held an indoor yard sale in the covenant room. This was a great success, with the help of many parishioners who moved items from the shop to the church.

In March we closed the shop because of COVID. The committee came together in May using the yard behind the church to social distance. Joyce Bock's term on the committee was up, so Sue Long was elected to take her place as chair. We brainstormed ideas on ways to open the shop. There were many State guidelines. The limit on the number of people allowed in the shop was monitored using walkie/talkies between volunteers stationed at the entry and exit doors. A "return for credit" system was established for clothing that could not be tried on. Disinfectants were purchased for our customers, volunteers and equipment. A plexiglass barrier was made for the cashier desk. Lot's of signage was created that was required by the guidelines and for the customers to be aware of ongoing changes. A list of procedures and requirements expected of the volunteers was drawn up and distributed.

We decided to open on July 18. The shop would open for sales on Saturdays for 2 hours. Donations were accepted on Mondays only for 2 hours. Donations had to be quarantined for 3 days. Because of changing conditions with the virus, the opening was postponed. We held two sales on the front lawn and finally opened the shop on October 3. It turned out well and the customers were very grateful. In November we added Fridays. We also had 3 more outdoor sales selling Christmas items. Then the virus raised it's ugly head again in mid-November with active cases rising from 7 to 45 in just 4 days. The 2 holidays were coming and we needed to consider the safety of our "vulnerable" volunteers. We also did not want to contribute to community spread. Thus the reluctant decision to close again.

In December, the shop donated sweat shirts and pants for men and women to "Belonging to Each Other". This is an organization in Falmouth that helps the homeless with temporary shelter, basics needs, food and access to services.

The volunteers work very hard to make the shop a success. During COVID we had 25 hours of sales, during which volunteers worked 225 hours to accomplish. This does not include the hours put in by the members who write up minutes, schedule the hours, buy the supplies, make signs, keep track of the hours worked and the monthly deposits.

The following is a list of our volunteers who made this all possible:

Adrienne Latimer	Adrienne Ovia	Barbara Bosselman	Betsy Woodley
Beverly Blaine	Camilla Nevius	Carolee Packard	Eleanore Scavatto
Geordine Roderick	Ginny Nielsen	Jean Sawyer	Joyce Bock*
Joyce Kenneally*	Laura Murphy	Linda Thomas*	Lynn Young*
Marcia McLaughlin*	Marie Syverson	Mary Carman	Myrna O'Hara
Pam Fernsebner	Rin Morway	Roberta Markham	Sue Long*

Toby Ryan * denotes committee member

And the men who helped us throughout the year, along with extras they have done:

Ray Rowitz	Chris Polloni - plexiglass barrier	Dave O'Hara - new shed door
Bob Young	Bill Martin - cleaned gutters, trimmed trees and bushes, painted trim	

Unfortunately, we have lost some of our volunteers and could use more people to help when we do open, Please consider getting in touch with a committee member* for any help you have to offer, either during sale days or behind the scenes.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Long
Chair, Thrift Shop Committee

NFCC CLERK REPORT 2020

2020 Church Business Meetings- Jan 26- annual meeting

- a. *All church E-VOTE (Dec 2020):* Email vote of membership on approval of \$12,500.00 to be used for the purpose of updating of the church technology infrastructure.
- b. Results 50 Yes, 0 No

2020 Church Council meetings: Jan 21, June 16, Aug 18 (no motions), Sep 22 (no motions), Oct 20 (no motions), Nov 17 (no motions but planned Council e-vote), Dec 17

Dec 17, 2020

- a. *MOTION (Hank/Katie)* Council will move forward with the development of house manager position to take care of requisitions, inspections, getting bids for projects, etc.- *Passed unanimously*
- b. *MOTION (Hank/Jean)* to Satisfy IRS regulation, parsonage allowance is set at \$18,000- *Passed unanimously*
- c. *MOTION (Hank/Jean)* Upon the decision by probate court that the interest in the life estate has been abandoned, the listing for the Latimer estate be handled by Kinlin/Grover firm- *Passed unanimously*

Council E-Vote (**after Nov 17 meeting**): recommendation is for approval of \$12,500.00 to be used for the purpose of updating of the church technology infrastructure.

June 16, 2020

- a. *MOTION (Jean/Meg):* to proceed with opening plan for thrift shop- **APPROVED**

Jan 21, 2020

- d. *MOTION (Jean /Meg):* to donate \$800 for Kalyn Oliveira's Gordon College Ecuador trip, cover expenses for NYC; passed

Summary of Records

On December 31, 2020, there were 118 members of NFCC. During 2020 we sadly lost two members to death. We had no new members or baptisms during the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Rountree, Clerk

In Memory of:

David Gene Smith (1/11/2020)

****Don Packard (5/16/2020)***

****Gladys Hoke (7/11/2020)***

Bill Work (9/2/2020)

Paul Kenneally (10/19/2020)

**denotes member of NFCC*