

History Of The What-So-Ever Club/Thrift Shop

Compiled On The Occasion Of The 60th Anniversary

The following are the minutes of the first year of the What-So-Ever Club.

March 14, 1963

A group of women met in the Church basement at 8pm, March 14, 1963, to discuss the possibility of an organization to meet once a month in the evening with the idea of helping support the interests of the North Falmouth Congregational Church.

Those present at this first meeting were:

Mrs. Betty Fraser	Miss Pat Morman
Mrs. Betty Upton	Miss Lucille Ogden
Mrs. Guinivere Cole	Miss Ethel Cahoon
Miss Betty Cook	Miss Lee Lamson
Mrs Alice Whitmore	Mrs. Pat Peterson
Mrs. Elsie Peterson	

Due to a previous engagement, the Minister's wife, Mrs. Annah Tucker, was unable to be present, but a letter of regret and suggestions was received and read by all present.

It was decided to meet the second Thursday of each month at 8pm and to elect officers, as well as to decide a name for the organization at the next meeting.

A discussion was held regarding the ways and means of making some money, as the church is in need of many repairs. The idea of a Thrift Shop was expressed by those present. In order to get started on one, it was decided to take the matter up with the Trustees as well as the Church Council.

A few of the members present expressed the idea that a special meeting should be called in order to get started, therefore it was decided to meet March 19th.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 and refreshments were served by Lee Lamson and Elsie Peterson.

Respectfully submitted,
Elsie Peterson
(Acting Secretary)

March 19, 1963

A special meeting of our group was held in the Church basement to discuss the opening of a Thrift Shop, to be located in the downstairs back room which has a separate entrance.

It was decided to open the "Shop" on May 1st providing the Trustees and Church Council approved of the idea.

Two more ladies joined in our group namely: Miss Dorothy Swift and Mrs. Florence Sawyer.

Guinivere Cole and Pat Peterson served refreshments.

The next regular meeting of the group will be held April 11th at which time officers will be elected and a name for the organization will be chosen.

Respectfully submitted,
Elsie Peterson
(Acting Sec'y)

April 11, 1963

The newly formed group of women met in the Church Green Room, April 11th at 8pm with ten members present.

The group decided to call themselves the "What -So-Ever" Club and elected Lee Lamson as Acting President, Pat Moorman Vice President, and Elsie Peterson as Secretary-Treasurer for six months.

It was stated that approval had been given us by the Trustees and Church Council to open a Thrift Shop. It was decided to get together a donation and consignments in order to open on May 1st. Each person donated 50 cents to purchase stationery supplies.

Our minister, Rev. Francis Tucker dropped in at the meeting to inform us that Mr. Cauty of Falmouth requested a volunteer to call people on the phone regarding Blood donations. Pat Peterson volunteered.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:15. Dot Swift provided refreshments.

Respectfully submitted,
Elsie Peterson
Sec'y

May 9, 1963

The "What-So-Ever" Club met in the Green Room of the Church, May 9, 1963 with twelve members present.

The President, Lee Lamson, called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm.

The Secretary's reports for March 14, 19, and April 11th were read and approved.

Mrs. Lamson reported on the opening of the Thrift Shop in the downstairs backroom on May 1st. Mrs. Alice Whittemore was elected Treasurer of the Thrift Shop, with Pat Peterson and Gwen Cole to help distribute the payments on the first Tuesday of each month.

Betty Upton will lead in devotions at our next meeting.

Cora Berry was welcomed as a new member.

The letter received from Mrs. Tucker, Mach 14 was again read to the members and as she will be able to attend future meetings, it was decided to keep our tentative date, that is, the second Thursday in each month.

Refreshments were served by Alice Whittemore & Betty Upton

(Not signed in the usual way because she ran out of room.)

June 13, 1963

The What-So-Ever Club met in the study of the Church June 13, 1963 with nine members present and one guest.

The President, Lee Lamson, called the meeting to order at 8pm. Treasurer & Secretary's report were read & approved.

Betty Upton read Spirit of Fellowship for devotions.

It was voted to close the Thrift Shop until further notice.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9pm.

Respectfully submitted
Elsie Peterson

Refreshments were served by Florence Sawyer

Oct. 10, 1963

The W.S.E. Club met in the Green Room Oct. 10, 1963 with eleven members present.

Lee Lamson, President, called the meeting to order at 8pm.

The Secretary's report was read and approved.

Due to the absence of the Treasurer, no full report could be given. However, Alice our Treasurer had phoned Lee reporting that we had \$64.05 in the treasury as of this date.

Ways and means of making money were discussed. It was agreed that, as we have merchandise left from our Thrift Shop to have a White Elephant table together with a Food Sale to be conducted the 19th of October with Lee and Elsie in charge. Several members offered to come the day before to sort out the merchandise. Gwen Cole and Betty Cook discussed a party for the children to be held some time in November. A small fee will be charged hoping to add to our treasury.

Lee, reminded us her six months as acting President were up and preferred not to have this office at this time, so Ethel Cahoon agreed to be our next acting President for the next three months. Our other officers agree to remain for a few more months.

Refreshments were served by Lee and Elsie.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.

Respectfully submitted
Elsie Peterson
Secretary

November 13, 1963

The W.S.E. Club met in the Church basement November 13, 1963 with eleven members present. Our new President, Ethel Cahoon, called the meeting to order at 8:40.

The Secretary's report was read and approved.

Alice Whittemore, Treasurer, reported that we made \$31.20 during our Food Sale and from the White Elephant table a sum of \$10.55 was realized making a total of \$41.75. It was also reported that we have \$4.86 in our "kitty."

Favors for Fraser Nursing Home were discussed. Betty Fraser will bring in some ideas.

A supper for February was also discussed.

It was agreed that we would serve cookies and coffee at the next Church Council Meeting which is to be held November 16th.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45. Refreshments were served by Ethel Cahoon and Dorothy Swift.

Respectfully submitted
Elsie Peterson
Sec'y

December 12, 1963

The W.S.E. Club met in the Church basement at 8 o'clock Dec. 12, 1963 with seven members present.

Ethel Cahoon, acting president, opened the meeting with the reading of Christmas Resolutions.

The Secretary's report was read and approved.

Gwen Cole reported for the Treasurer stating that we have a total of \$106.95.

A donation of seventy cents was added to our "kitty" making a total of 5.56. Out of this sum it was agreed that we purchase gifts for our minister's two grandchildren. Lee Lamson will do the buying and Mrs. Sawyer volunteered to deliver same.

Due to the lack of time, the party for children cannot be held this month. Gwen Cole stated that Ray Hall, WB Radio Entertainer, would put on a movie sometime in January or February but would still try to get a movie for the children during the Christmas school vacation.

Plans were made for a Coffee Hour on January 14th at the home of Mrs. Blair Lamson from 9:30 to 11am.

Plans were also discussed for a Public Supper to be served sometime in February, preferably Washington's birthday, February 22nd.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:15.

Sandwiches and coffee were served by Betty Upton. Betty Fraser made the coffee.

Respectfully submitted
Elsie Peterson, Sec'y

Annual Report 1963

The What-So-Ever Club was formed in march 1963 with the purpose of helping to support the interests of the North Falmouth Congregational Church.

We held nine meetings during 1963 with an average of ten members present. The following projects were proposed and carried out: A Thrift Shop; Food Sale, with a White Elephant Table; provided refreshments at a Church Council meeting, and a Coffee Hour.

Proceeds of projects will enable the What -So- Ever Club to help the Church.

Respectfully submitted
Elsie Peterson, Sec'y

1964-1984

For the next 21 years the What-So-Ever Club more than lived up to its name. "What-So-Ever means just that—whatever needs to be done, we are there to do it." Their activities and accomplishments are woven tightly into the history of the church and the greater community. The following attempts to describe the work done by this amazing group of women.

CLUB

- Membership varied from 20-25 over the years
- Meetings were held on the second Tuesday of the month in the Fellowship Room of the church.
- Each meeting began with an inspirational reading
- The club maintained a Sunshine Committee that sent cards, baskets and plants
- Coffee Hours were held regularly, both in members' homes to raise money and at church on Sundays.

THRIFT SHOP

The following list shows how busy the group was with the running of the Thrift Shop. They also paid for all the improvements to the building.

- In March of 1964 the Ernest Hatch property next door became available for sale for \$10,000. Rev. Francis Tucker was minister at that time and the trustees were Eugene Allen, Darroll Peterson and Earl Hays. At the same time the church had a bequest of \$2000 from Mr. Henry Kirk. It was decided to use this money as a down payment on the property. The Thrift Shop moved in and went into business.
- \$500 downpayment put on Hatch House
- 6/2 1966 Opened the Thrift Shop in the Hatch House
- Proceeds for the first 4 months were \$713.33.
- Began the "New Table" at TS which funded the What-So-Ever kitty for club activities.
- Christmas items were made for the New Table
- Youth Group used the basement of TS for meetings
- Sold chances at the TS on a green afgan
- Unsold clothing was donated to the Morgan Memorial
- In 1967 consignments were accepted from club members
- 10/10/1968 - Camilla Nevius, in her role as church treasurer, gave a report on the Hatch House funds
- In March 1969 TS opened on Tuesday evenings
- 1969 had working meeting at TS and went to Friendly's after
- 1969 dues for the kitty fund were raised from 2 cents to 25 cents
- 1982 voted to continue 25 cent dues
- 1969 new steps on TS

- September 1969 there are fewer workers so hours will be only Thursday 10-2 and continue to price on Tuesday evenings but not be open
- Knitted hats and decorated candles made for New Table
- September 1972 Elsie Peterson tried to resign from president and was rejected,
- March of 1973 Marcia McLaughlin was asked to find a place for the 10th Anniversary!
- Purchased a new back door for TS,
- May 1973 a Spring outing was held with each member receiving \$5.00 towards expenses.
- October 1973 Elsie Peterson (president from 1963-1973) refuses to be president any more and 2 month rotating terms are instituted
- Silver collection was taken up for the kitty
- 1978 \$600 to paint trim and stain shingles on TS
- 1979 Cement walk installed between parking lot and TS
- MORTGAGE ON HATCH HOUSE IS PAID OFF. Taken out on 10/29/1965 for \$5500 to be paid in 20 years. Paid in full in February 1971 (less than 5 ½ years),
- 11/20/1976 Phone is approved for the thrift shop at \$1.50/month. This was an extension of the main church phone.
- Spent \$1500 to shingle 3 sides of TS
- Installed 30 foot split rail fence between TS and Landers property
- Painted, installed new floors, and new toilet and wash basin in the bathroom
- 1978 \$600 to paint trim and stain shingles on TS
- 1979 Cement walk installed between parking lot and TS
- 1978 \$120 for 4 dry wells to eliminate damp basement
- 1978 \$560 for new wooden steps and cement walk
- 1980 Milestone of \$50,000 income reached in 14 years
- 1980 \$575 for landscaping
- 1980 New front and back combination doors
- 1981 \$200 for lawn care at TS
- 1981 voted to replace the bulkhead
- 1981 Nels Johnson painted the interior of the TS
- 1982 purchased \$10,000 CD
- 1982 purchased 150 commemorative tiles @ \$1.65 each for the church 150th anniversary. Tiles actually will cost \$2.05 and will sell for \$3.00
- 9/1983-3/1984 meetings were held at the Village Junction while the church was under construction
- 7/30/1984 Room will be added connecting Thrift shop to the garage
- 9/11/1984 Addition completed for \$6070 by Darroll Peterson. Actual total cost was \$6551.52 all paid
- 1985 \$3300 spent to paint trim of TS

CHURCH

The following represents all the ways the What-So-Ever Club supported the work of the church.

- 1980 pledge to church increased by 15% from \$160 to \$184 per month
- 1981 pledge to church increased to \$200 per month
- 1982 pledge to church increased from \$2400 to \$2880 yearly
- 1982 donated \$10,000 CD to the Building Fund

In addition to contributions of crafts and baked goods to church fairs every year, the club supported the following efforts:

- Storm windows
- Collecting green stamps for a coffee pot
- Pledged \$120 to the Church for the heater fund
- \$120 to the painting fund
- Redecorated the Green Room for use by the new pastor as study, “ We plan to use the money which we raised from selling Christmas trees and see how far that money will go. We would like to paint, buy new drapes and, if possible, buy a rug for the study. Gwen Cole was named chairman of this committee.
- New drawers installed in the church kitchen
- Washed woodwork in the church, spring cleaning in the church kitchen
- 4/13/71 purchased a portable communion set for ministers and deacons to use.
- \$500 to the Renovation Fund
- Installed 5 new storm windows on back of church,
- Redecorated the Ladies Room in the church costing \$118.52.
- New in ground sign made for TS
- Two lamps donated to Green Room
- \$500 given to repair church basement
- Cleaned church kitchen
- New tablecloth for the Fellowship room
- Purchased cooking utensils for church kitchen at a cost of \$279
- Coat rack
- Spent \$750 to refurbish and rewire chandelier in the sanctuary
- Bought a \$60 Eureka vacuum for the church
- 2 dozen creamers and 2 dozen sugars for church kitchen and 10 insulated plastic coffee pots, Wallpaper, and buy new curtains for the Ladies Room at the church,
- 1976 A cookbook was compiled as a fundraiser. A copy still exists in the Thrift Shop archives.
- 1980 voted to carpet the choir loft at the church
- Sponsored a “Banner Workshop” for \$100, added \$75 to “Banner Workshop” to include lunch,
- 1980 contributions to Fleamarket and Christmas Bazaar were a Christmas table, food table, and “New Items Table”,

- Bought small folding table and 12 little chairs for young children in Sunday School
- Bought new refrigerator for church kitchen
- Purchased 36 cups and saucers at Woolworth's to match the current pattern. Also salad plates if available
- Purchased silver service in memory of Ethel Cahoon
- Bought hand held vacuum cleaner for the church
- Bought 12 bibles for the 3rd grade Sunday School at \$12 each
- Purchased 20 hymnals
- Bought new Electro-Lux vacuum for the church
- Bought emergency equipment - First Aid Kit, folding cot, blanket and pillow
- Saved General Mills coupons and S&H green stamps for silverware for new addition
- Refrigerator purchased for church kitchen
- \$3000 approved for new furniture and drapes for the Nye Room
- 1983 set aside \$2000 to buy furniture for the "Ladies Parlor" in the new addition
- 1983 spent \$90 for new white stole for the minister

PARSONAGE

- bought a stove, \$50 for plant and food for the parsonage when the new minister arrives

DONATIONS

One of the founding principles of the What-So-Evers included charitable giving. They consistently responded to causes not only in their local neighborhood but around the world.

- Fraser Rest Home was a constant recipient of outreach from the club, including holiday favors
- In 1970 made Thanksgiving placemats, and in 1980 bought gifts for the patients.
- 1968 Protestant Guild for the Blind
- 1969 sent clothing to children at an orphanage in Nhu-Tring in Vietnam. Captain Frank Valois is stationed there and works in psychological warfare and works with villages and orphanages. He is son-in-law to Mr. & Mrs. Cameron Smith of North Falmouth
- 1969 Sohuaro School for Asthmatic children in Tucson
- Sent 3 blankets (cost \$9.00) to Church World Service Clothing appeal
- "Each member volunteered to write individual letters concerning the Prisoners of War".
- Collected shoes and clothing for Red Cloud Indian Mission in south Dakota
- Sent \$10 to a mission in the Congo for children's books
- Falmouth Hospital
- Books for Sunday School Library
- 1978 \$50 to Red Cross Blizzard Fund
- 1978 6 boxes (138 lbs) of clothing sent to Church World Service
- Ongoing donations to Morgan Memorial
- Baby clothes donated to Birth Right Inc.
- Surplus crutches donated to Falmouth Nursing assoc.

- “Clothing was given to a family who lost so much in a fire which destroyed upper floor apartment of Jenkins Funeral Home”
- Donations to Women of the UCC
- 72 lbs of clothing to Church World Service
- \$500 to Ethiopian Famine Relief Fund
- \$50 for gifts to patients at Fraser Nursing Home
- 1980, November, A special meeting voted to send \$100 to Italian Disaster Fund (an earthquake on 11/23/1980 left at least 2,483 people dead, 7700 injured and 250,000 homeless)
- 5/1982 a large box of children’s clothing was sent to Fall River after a fire disaster
- Gave \$25 donation to support of AFS student

SUPPERS

- Harvest Supper, Suppers-to-Go, Chicken Pot Pie Luncheon, May Day Breakfast, Voted \$300 to Prudential committee as a “Silent Supper”
- 3/13/1984 All-church potluck and housewarming hosted by WSE with 100 people in attendance

PARTIES

Yearly Christmas Parties were held, some quite elaborate.

- 1968 Christmas Party at Smith’s Surrey Room in Falmouth using the kitty fund
- 1970 “Mystery Ride”
- 1973 Christmas party was a progressive supper including “Happy Hour”
- Christmas 1974 - “Each member brought a casserole and 13 of us sat down to two large tables. At each place there were Christmas favors consisting of a small fruit cake and candy made as surprise favors by Lee Lamson. After the delicious meal we adjourned to the living room to open our gifts. We had each brought a gift and a dish towel for the church as the supply there is nearly depleted. We sang Christmas carols and listened to Elsie at the organ. We all had a delightful time.”
- 1974 Club banquet will be held at Daniel Webster Inn,
- 1975 the Annual club dinner was held at the Nimrod Club
- 1977 the annual outing was held at the Big Fisherman in East Falmouth
- 1979 annual dinner party was held at the Captain Barlow Restaurant
- 1981 annual outing was dinner at Windjammer Restaurant in Wareham 23 attending
- 1982 annual outing was to the Hills restaurant in Hyannis
- 1982 Christmas Party was at the church and \$50 was given to the Wrights for Christmas gift,
- 1983 20th anniversary luncheon at Daniel Webster Inn then returned to the church to play Bingo with “lovely prizes”
- 1983 Picnic lunches at Heritage Plantation
- 1983 Christmas party was held at Lorraine Johnson’s on Chester Street with 28 present
- 2/14/1984 Valentine evening at the Junction

- 1984 18 people met at Aptuxet Trading Post and enjoyed picnic lunches and tours of the Museum,
- 1984 Christmas party was a dinner held in the Covenant Room with Carols and a singalong and a Yankee Swap
- 1985 Valentine luncheon was held in the Covenant Room with 20 people present. Everyone wore an unusual hat, many coming from the Thrift Shop.

ENTERTAINMENT

- Frequently played Bingo after meetings.
- Invited by Pocasset Baptist Church to attend film “To Russia with Love”
- Outing to Gray Gables Ocean House in Monument Beach. Each member received \$2.00 from the kitty towards her meal.
- Matching baby pictures to the members

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMING

The club valued learning about the world near and far. Many programs were held at their monthly meetings. They included:

- Slides of New York and the Boston Flower Show
- Elsie Peterson played musical selections on the organ
- Slides of trip to Paris by Rev Beverage and wife Sue
- The Bell Ringers from Barrington College
- Jan Nowak showed slides of family trip across country
- Author Mildred Teal gave a talk about her book on ecology
- Dodi Sands gave a book review on “Dark Quartet.”
- Pearl Struth, North Falmouth School librarian reviewed books
- Pam Polloni showed slides of marine life
- Demo of flower arranging
- Presentation by Pocasset Mental Health Center, six “admission bags” made and delivered to Pocasset which developed into 30 bags per year being made
- Dr and Mrs Garrey spoke and showed slides of African safaris
- Pat Svarczkopf spoke about Sapphire Engineering
- Speaker was Mrs Thomas Clementz giving a travelogue with colored slides of Greece and Isle of Crete
- Chuck Fenrick, executive Director of Falmouth Chamber of Commerce spoke of the planning of the Industrial Commission for the development of the land at Thomas Landers Road
- Review of religious books by Ellie Bronson (Hodge)
- Dudley Hallett, President of Falmouth Historical Society shared many interesting stories and pictures of North Falmouth, Silver Beach, Megansett
- Rev and Mrs Wright showed slides of Europe featuring many cathedrals
- Chris Polloni spoke about his work at URI with computers
- Fern Eldredge, owner of “Old Tavern” showed many antiques while restoring the house

- Speaker was Geneva Katz, RN, Associate Director of New England Medical Center Hospital in Boston
- Mrs Dudley Hallett spoke and showed slides of trip to Japan
- Visited Falmouth Historical Society
- Rev. David Loomis spoke of his work as chaplain at Falmouth Hospital
- Rev. Cal and Betty Wright showed slides and spoke of trip to Scandinavia, France and Germany
- Speaker was AFS student from Ecuador
- Mary Latimer spoke about “Making it with Shells” - craft items were then made from shells from Sanibel Island, Florida
- Alma MacDonald spoke about canoeing
- Craft hour covering pictures frames with calico prints
- Speaker was Dave Hebert, Park Ranger from US Corps of Engineers in Buzzards Bay who Showed a film of the history of the canal
- Speaker was Martha Herring who did handwriting analysis
- Bob Knapp spoke and showed slides of Poland where he had worked
- Elizabeth McSherry spoke of her travels all over the world with her husband General McSherry
- Dr. John Everton, director of Cape Cod Council of Churches showed slides of recent trip to Russia
- Bill & Shirley Dunkle showed slides of North Falmouth homes before and after
- Connie Tulloch, director of Barnstable County Hospital Adult Day Health Center spoke about the center
- Dick Sawyer of Pocasset spoke about “Some Indian Background on the Upper Cape” - customs and habits of the various tribes of this area
- John and Betty Willis spoke and showed slides of Ireland, John’s boyhood home
- The Wrights presented a slide show with music about England, France, Belgium and Germany
- Speaker Adrianna Burga, AFS student from Peru
- Alma MacDonald spoke about her trip to Japan
- Sue Martin spoke about Nutrition
- Speaker was chaplain Larry Horne from Otis Air Force Base
- Speaker was Amy Rader photographer for the Enterprise
- Bob Knapp spoke on “The High Road from London to Scotland” with COLORED slides
- Speaker was Captain Carol who talked about the history of the Salvation Army and the work they do in our area
- Dudley Hallett from Falmouth Historical Society showed slides and spoke about the older homes in Falmouth

REFRESHMENTS

Every meeting included delicious treats. Enterprise articles detail who the hostess was and who made the goodies. Here is a sampling.

Flaming birthday cake, fancy ice cream rolls, cookies, coffee, apple crisp with ice cream, pineapple chiffon pie, lemon meringue pie, apple pie, strawberry shortcake, fruit tarts, squash pie with ice cream, pumpkin pie, cherry dessert, strawberry ice cream puffs, pecan pie, brownies, brownies with ice cream, Valentine decorated dainty cookies, peppermint stick ice cream with chocolate sauce and cookies, blueberry pie with ice cream, lemon custard pie, lemon chiffon pie, impossible pumpkin pie, cream puffs,

REFRESHMENT TABLE

The refreshment table was frequently described in the minutes and in the Enterprise coverage. Much attention was given to special arrangements for the season or holiday.

- Centerpiece of wine, pink, white and yellow dahlias
- beautiful centerpiece of red & white carnations
- fragrant pink mayflowers which Elsie Peterson had gathered from the woods
- centerpiece of tulips and greens

July 16, 1985

Attendance: Dodie Sands, Guin Cole, Doris Douglas, Betty Wright, Betty Upton, Alma MacDonald, Virginia Page, Lorraine Johnson

It was the consensus of those present that the What-So-Ever Club should not be disturbed but that they should continue with their primary purpose running the Thrift Shop. They should do whatever and how much they wish to do otherwise.

It was agreed that they do need more workers to operate the shop three days a week and one day for sorting and marking. Everybody agreed that there should always be at least two people at the shop when it is open.

The What-So-Evers are to have their regular September meeting on Tuesday, September 10th with Dessert at 7:00pm. Dodie - coffee, Betty Upton, Guin Cole, and Lorraine Johson - cookies. Elaine Spurrier will talk on "Flowers of the Bible" and a meeting will be held after the program to decide definitely the future plans for the What-So-Evers.

It was felt there is a need for an all over women's organization in our growing church, possibly to meet four or six times a year at a luncheon with program and purpose. They would work with other Falmouth church organizations such as Dine Around, Church Women United, etc.

It was suggested that we as a committee recommend to the Church Council that the church have a Hospitality Committee which would plan possibly two supper meetings a year with program and to include the whole church. We need to get better acquainted with all the members of our church family.

The What-So-Evers might like to have a November meeting as a luncheon and invite the women of the Waquoit Church as guests. After that, plans for a new women's group to start the new year.

It was suggested the shop have its own phone, (probably not necessary)

September 10, 1985

We met in the Nye Room with 12 members present and a few guests. Meeting began with coffee and cookies. Serving on the refreshment committee were Guin Cole, Lorraine Johnson and Betty Upton. Dodie Sands provided coffee.

Elaine Spurrier talked on "Flowers and Fruits of the Bible" It was a very interesting lecture.

We then had a business meeting conducted by Dodie Sands, president. The future of the What-So-Evers was discussed in great detail. Attendance has been very poor at our meetings and it seems advisable at this time to terminate the What-So-Evers as a social group.

The working group that runs the Thrift Shop will continue, being known as the North Falmouth Congregational Church Thrift Shop.

A vote of thanks was given to Dorothy (Dodie) Sands, president for the past 10 years. Also a vote of thanks to Virginia Paige for the many wonderful programs which she has been in charge of for many years.

It will be recommended at the next church council meeting that perhaps in the future the church may have some kind of a social club to include more members of the church.

And personally, it is with regrets I write this last report having been a member of the What-So-Evers since it was organized in 1963. But as I look back, it is with great pride on the many accomplishments, we as a working club, were able to do so much for the church, especially during the years when the church was struggling and did need our support.

Sincerely
Betty Upton, sec

A New Era: 1986-2022

And the working group carried on the good work of the Thrift Shop.

1988 - There were 2 unsuccessful break-ins which required repairs. Also, the chimney was cleaned, shrubbery pruned and a sign was put up in the front yard.

1989 - Attic was insulated. "We are most fortunate to have so many faithful and efficient volunteers who keep the shop 'the best boutique in town'"

1990 - Conversion of the garage into a beautiful new room.

(There is very little information recorded for 1991-1993.)

1994 - Repairs made to front porch

Purchased air conditioner for church office

Helped pay for ventilation system in the Church steeple

1995 - A new roof was put on the front of the building costing \$4200

\$5000 was transferred to savings

New tables were purchased for the church for \$983.32

1996 - The shed was purchased for overflow use for \$2432

\$4000 was transferred to savings

1997 - Paid for new railings in the church sanctuary \$1225

Paid for new walkways at the thrift shop 1180

\$8000 was transferred to savings

1998 - \$9733 was donated to paint the parsonage

\$9000 was transferred to savings

Dehumidifier was installed in the basement

Hot water heater installed for the first time

1999 - \$500 donation made to Kosovo

\$1524 spent for new doors for the parsonage

\$2100 spent on outdoor electrical work at the Church

\$11,000 was transferred to savings

The savings account balance at the end of 1999 was \$30,466.53

2000 - Yearly sales hit the \$30,000 mark

2001 - Ginny Nielson started to volunteer

2005 - instituted summer evening hours, May 5-September 29 yielding \$2000

2009 - Thrift Shop was reorganized. Rather than pledging to the church, the Thrift Shop became a committee of the church with the monies deposited into the church account and controlled by the Board of Finance. Bylaws and procedures were established to create more uniformity. A committee with six members was formed which meets each month to decide important issues.

- 2009** - a clothing drive focusing on warm winter clothing benefitted North Falmouth Elementary School, Bourne Food Pantry, and Hyannis homeless street mission
- 2009** - A major flood in the basement from a broken water pipe. Damaged items were cleared out, and 9 inches of water was pumped out. A large heater was run to dry out the basement and a new dehumidifier was installed.
- 2010** - June 24 - The newly elected Thrift Shop Committee met for the first time.
- 2011** - Total volunteer hours worked was 3116.50, which is 5.5 hours for every hour the shop was open.
- 2011** - The tragic passing of Betty Lou Fraser in an automobile accident at the post office was noted. She was a founding member of the What-So-Evers.

Thrift Shop Annual Report 2012

Our second social event of the year was held in July with our annual Ice Cream Social. The three volunteers who had worked the most hours were honored. After the fun, our second general meeting was held. Volunteers were encouraged to give us feedback on how they thought the shop was working out for all. Sally Eldridge was honored for her work as chairperson of the committee. She had to step down due to other demands on her time. Marcia McLaughlin was appointed as chairperson.

Another social event was held in September with our third general meeting taking place after the fun. It is always good to have all the volunteers together at the same time to talk over things affecting the overall operation of the Thrift Shop.

One of our goals is to make the shop look the best for our customers. Additional shelving has been added so that items can be displayed easier. We appreciate comments from all our volunteers as to how to make it more customer friendly. It is a warm and cozy little shop, really bright on a sunny day in winter. It is especially warm now that we have a new boiler in the basement after the old one went to the happy hunting ground for old boilers!

The shop was open for a total of 595.5 hours. Our volunteers worked a total of 3250 hours which was 5.50 hours for every hour the shop was open. We welcomed four new volunteers and lost five volunteers. Our total income for the year was \$50,955.91 which went into the church budget.

There are 26 volunteers who work as a four person team on each shift. We also have a group of men who help us with disposing of items that we can't sell, taking them to Pick-of-the-Litter in Falmouth and Dorothy's in Bourne. Some of the men also break down cartons and help with maintaining the building, inside and out. Since we are always busy with overflowing donations, we could use more help.

Respectfully submitted,

The Thrift Shop Committee

Adrienne Latimer, Eleanore Scavatto, Marcia McLaughlin, Nancy Callahan, Sally Eldridge, Sue Long,
Rev. Fred Meade (ex-officio)

Thrift Shop Annual Report 2013

The year 2013 began a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Thrift Shop. This was established when a group of ladies from the church got together to socialize, calling themselves "The What So Ever Club." Later, they decided to do something for the church and community by selling used clothing from a room in the basement of the church one day each week. From that meager beginning we have grown to what we are today, selling not just clothing but dishes, glassware, knick knacks, and many other items. This year we have made almost \$45,000 for the church.

To celebrate the anniversary special sales were held each month. A designated color for the month gave a 50% discount on all such colored items in the shop. On October 6th a celebration was held during coffee hour with a special cake and a history of the Thrift Shop.

Three general meetings were held during the year. The first one usually held in February was postponed due to the weather. Rescheduled in April, it was a success. The next get-together was our annual Ice Cream Social in July and our last was held in October. Other than a social gathering of all volunteers, these meetings allow discussion of issues volunteers have and also is a time to recognize volunteers for their hours given to the Thrift Shop. Men from the Building and Grounds committee are invited also since they play such a large part in maintaining the building inside and out.

Many improvements have taken place over this year. New racks in the "Children's Room" have made it easier to shop and keep it organized. Previously, clothes were in boxes on a table which made it hard for shoppers to see all items. A hanging rack was installed in the "Sweater Room" which again made it easier to see clothes. When these and other items were in boxes and bins everything became a jumble giving sorters on Wednesdays quite a job organizing everything for customers that week. Recently a new rack was installed in a room with men's clothing. Often we call on the Building and Grounds Committee for a helping hand with such tasks we are not capable of doing.

A safe was purchased and installed. This addition enabled us to keep money and other items in a safe place.

There are often items donated to us which we can't use. We constantly recycle as much as possible to the Salvation Army, local food pantries, other church Thrift Shops, and swap shops at landfills.

Other improvements included removal of vegetation on and around the building, replacement of an air conditioner, addition of a third lock on the front door, and removal of knives for sale on the front porch for safety reasons. Again, The B & G Committee is constantly there for us, working on our list of things we would like to have done.

A "Work Day" was established each month whereby volunteers come to help with projects that can't be completed during the hours when the shop is open. It can be change-over of seasonal clothing, installing racks, or anything a volunteer feels needs to be accomplished.

Nancy is the volunteer who keeps track of all our volunteer hours. The total for this year was 3069.75 hours of the 568.50 hours that the shop was open. That means that there were 5.4 volunteer hours for every hour the Thrift Shop was open. The IRS calculates volunteer hours at \$19.00 per hour, so the Thrift Shop donation to the NFCC is \$58, 325.25 in volunteerism, not to mention the actual income previously noted. The shop was closed for seven regular business days due to snow storms or holidays.

The Thrift Shop was able to promote the purchase and installation of the sound system in the Covenant Room. Many of the volunteers realized the need for this when we have attended various meetings when speakers could not be heard. Our budget unfortunately did not allow us to purchase it. However, the Finance Committee was able to use funds that had been raised by the Thrift Shops years ago so that this could be purchased and installed.

Respectfully submitted,

The Thrift Shop Committee and Volunteers

Adrienne Latimer*
Geordine Roderick
Laura Murphy
Myrna O'Hara
Adrienne Ovian
Ginny Nielsen*
Lynn Young
Nancy Callahan*

April Merriam
Jean Sawyer
Marcia McLaughlin**
Pam Fernsebner
Camilla Nevius
Joyce Bock
Marie Syverson
Sally Eldridge*

Eleanore Scavotto
Judy Crossman
Martha Rosewell
Sue Long*
Florence Fosgate
Kathy Texeira
Mona Coombs
Toby Ryan

* Denotes member of Committee

** Denotes Chairperson

Thrift Shop Annual Report 2014

It was another successful year for the Thrift Shop. Our volunteers work hard each week sorting donations, straightening the shop, and maintaining the style of what is accepted from donors. We were also helped by several men of the church who respond to our calls for help.

There were three gatherings of volunteers held during this year. The first was held in March, next was our ice cream social in July when we honor the three volunteers who have worked the most hours for the year. This year the top three were Geordine Roderick, Ginny Nielsen, and Adrienne Latimer. The last get-together was held in September. These meetings offer a chance for all volunteers to get together to socialize and exchange ideas about the shop. General meetings are held so that Thrift Shop business can be conducted as required by our bylaws.

Occasionally we have sales that are advertised on our “Sandwich Board” on our front lawn. This usually happens when seasonal change-over is taking place as we weed out clothes not appropriate for the next season. Since we are the cheapest thrift shop around we are considering other ways to get customers into the shop. We are currently advertising what we have in the shop along with the price.

New ways of displaying merchandise are always under consideration. The mens’ area was updated by adding a rack where T-shirts and shorts could be hung. Some of the shelves were put to better use. Bins that had been on the floor were thus eliminated which makes for much easier shopping for our customers. It also means that volunteers no longer have to spend time folding and keeping things looking neat in the bins.

In June, Marcia made a “Mission Moment” Thrift Shop presentation at the 10 AM service. It generally updated what happens weekly and monthly at the shop. An appeal was made for more volunteers. Everyone was invited to tour the Thrift Shop and do some shopping after the service. Refreshments were served outside.

Last year a “Work Day” was established. On the third Sunday of the month. This allows culling out -dated items and doing other projects that cannot be accomplished when we are open during regular hours. Improvements such as racks for hanging clothes is just one thing that is accomplished during this time. Recently another “Work Day” was established on Wednesday morning. It was noticed that many volunteers could not come on Sunday to help but would be able to come during the week. Since the shop is already open for sorting on Wednesday, the first Wednesday of the month was chosen.

A master list of projects is being established for the Building and Grounds Committee. This will help them to see our side of what is needed in and around the Thrift Shop for improvements, making it more appealing for volunteers and customers.

Some of our volunteers can no longer work at the Thrift Shop and others spend the winter in warmer climates. This makes it hard to schedule shifts with not enough volunteers to fill the slots left open. An appeal for volunteers was made through the Sandpiper and the announcement page in the Order of Worship. Five people responded to this and they have already been put on the schedule. We are very thankful for such a great response. We can still use more volunteers so if you would like to work at the Thrift Shop be sure to ask any of the volunteers about the possibility of becoming one of the great group. Men are always welcome to be a volunteer, this is not just limited to women.

One of our faithful volunteers, Madeline, (Maddie,) Woodruff, passed away in February. She would have been 104 on her birthday in March. She had volunteered for several years on Thursday mornings and enjoyed every day working with us. We miss her cheerful face and her attention to looking like she was always dressed to attend a special function. Her jewelry always matched her outfit!

One reason that the Thrift Shop can function without too many problems is the manpower that comes forward when there is a need for stronger people than the women. Several men in the church will help breakdown cartons, haul heavy items to the dumpster or shed, take boxes of things to the Pick-of-the-Litter in Falmouth or to Dorothy's in Bourne, and help with minor repairs. Thanks to you all.

We will soon be starting a color coded system of marking clothing and other items in the shop. Each month will have a different color. All items will be easily identified as to how long it has been "on the floor" so that we can keep stock moving out of the shop if not sold. This will help make room for new stock and make inventory more appealing for customers who notice when something has been on the shelf or rack for many months.

The Thrift Shop has a new sign outside. The idea to replicate, on a smaller scale, the sign in front of the church was Nancy Callaghan's idea. She drew up the plans to scale for it. David O'Hara then went to work to make it. By being similar to the church sign it makes a connection between the church and the shop. On the sign it states that the Thrift Shop is a mission of the North Falmouth Congregational Church. This can leave no doubt in the minds of people as to what we are all about. Many people never knew that we were doing work for the church.

This year we have earned more than \$43,000 which goes to the church. Remember, this is all from donated goods and numerous volunteer hours. There were 2879.75 volunteer hours worked in 2014. The shop was open 559 hours which means that 5.2 hours were worked for every hour the Thrift Shop was open. This does not include shopping for Thrift Shop supplies, trips to the dump and swap shops, maintenance of building and grounds, scheduling volunteers each month, writing the newsletter each month, and a myriad of other things that are done to keep the shop open.

In the 2013 Thrift Shop Annual Report two of our volunteers were unintentionally left out of the list of volunteers. Those left out were Liz Cahoon and Maddie Woodruff. Both volunteers gave hours of their time to the Thrift Shop and should have been included in the 2013 report.

Respectfully submitted,
The Thrift Shop Committee and Volunteers

Adrienne Latimer*
Eleanor Scavotto
Joyce Bock*
Marie Syverson
Adrienne Ovian
Florence Fosgate
Kristin Fraser
Mona Coombs
April Merriam
Frank Pinack

Laura Murphy
Myrna O'Hara
Camilla Nevius
Geordine Roderick
Liz Cahoon
Nancy Callahan*
Carolee Packard
Ginny Nielsen
Lynn Young
Pam Fernsebner

Cynthia Page
Jackie Bernhardt
Marcia McLaughlin**
Rin Morway
Doris Pinack
Jean Sawyer
Martha Rosewell
Sally Eldridge
Sue Long* +
Toby Ryan

* Denotes Member of Committee

**Denotes Chairperson

+ Denotes Scheduler

Thrift Shop Annual Report 2015

The Thrift Shop continues to be a mission of the church. With the hard work and innovative ideas of some of the volunteers, our mission is a success. We are constantly working on ways to make the shop more efficient by putting up racks, shelves, bookcases, etc. This eliminates bins and boxes on the floor, making it easier for shoppers to see merchandise and for volunteers to keep things tidy.

During 2015 we started a "quality control" system. By using colored "barbs" or stickers on each item to be sold, we are able to determine how long the merchandise has been out for sale. In this way, the merchandise is overturned and the shop has space for new merchandise.

The stairs in the Men's Area of the shop have been reconfigured. By eliminating the turn, it makes use of them easier for customers and volunteers alike. Plans are being made for this area to be the first room to be painted and changed for better use of the space.

A donation of shelves for the storage shed has made organization in there easier. Storage shelves for the bathroom have made finding things in that room easier.

Adrienne Latimer found a company, Recycle That, who will pay us to recycle some of the items that are usually given to the Salvation Army. A bin for this is provided by the company. Payment is determined on an amount per pound, then a check is sent to us quarterly. Just another way for the Thrift Shop to make more money for the church. This bin is for Thrift Shop use only.

Often there are items that have greater value than what we would be able to charge by selling it in the Thrift Shop. To solve this problem, it will be sold on eBay. Clothing that does not sell goes to the Salvation Army, while other items get recycled by donating them to Pick-of-the Litter at the Falmouth dump or Dorothy's at the Bourne dump.

We continue to be grateful to the members of the Building and Grounds committee who are always willing to help with maintaining the Thrift Shop property. In the Spring, Bill Martin and Marsha Martin went to the nursery with our list to pick up shrubs for the garden on the side of the Thrift Shop. They were able to get what we wanted. Bill planted them, spread mulch, and faithfully watered and maintained the new garden throughout the summer and Fall. Many thanks for all the hours of hard work to make the shop garden look good. This reflects on the shop and the church.

Thanks go out to Don and Carolee Packard, Tim Sawyer, Bill Martin, Scott Taylor, and Eleanore Scavotto for all their efforts on getting our recycled items to the town dumps. The items in these boxes are used by residents who need them.

Three General Meetings were held during 2015 as determined by the Shop By-laws. These meetings are a chance for volunteers to get together socially and also to present ideas on how to improve the shop. If there are issues which have to be voted on, this is where it gets done. At the May meeting the top three volunteers with the most volunteer hours are recognized.

The total volunteer hours in 2015 were 2,930.5. The IRS calculates a volunteer hour to be worth \$23.07. If this figure is used for this year it means that this year volunteers at the Thrift Shop gave \$67,606.64 worth of their time to support the shop and the church. The total amount that the Thrift Shop made for 2015 was \$40,839.81. Fantastic when you consider it comes from donated goods and free man hours!

The following are the volunteers who are responsible for making our mission a success:

Adrienne Latimer*	Lynn Young	Cynthia Paige
Liz Cahoon	Sue Long*	Jean Sawyer
Kristin Fraser	Camilla Nevius	Myrna O'Hara
Rin Morway	Geordine Roderick	Doris Pinhack
Adrienne Ovian	Marcia McLaughlin*	Joyce Bock*
Florence Fosgate	Susan Rowitz	Nancy Callahan*
Laura Murphy	Carolee Packard	Eleanore Scavotto
Sally Eldridge	Ginny Nielsen	Joyce Kenneally
April Merriam	Marie Syverson	Pam Fernsebner
Frank Pinhack	Toby Ryan	

* Denotes member of the Thrift Shop Committee

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia McLaughlin
Chair, Thrift Shop Committee

Thrift Shop Annual Report 2016

The Thrift Shop is successful because of volunteers who give of their time and energy to this project. It is a mission of the church. All work hard for this mission, providing financially for the church.

The "quality control" system that began last year has proved to be worth all the work involved in getting it to work. It is easy for a volunteer to look at any item for sale in the shop and know when it was put out for sale. Another policy that has been implemented is "No Price, No Sale." In other words, if there isn't a price tag on an item it is not for sale.

The Men's Area was the first to be painted in 2016. It was quite a job to take all the hardware for shelves off the wall in preparation. It was such a boost in moral when Ken Evans, Wint Frame, Rich Latimer, Ray Rowitz, and John Woodley showed up to help volunteers Joyce Bock, Nancy Callahan, Adrienne Latimer, and April Merriam with the painting. Thanks to all who were able to fit this into their busy schedule. Thanks to Bill Martin and Ray Rowitz who built shelves to fit into the "library corner" in that room. The room looked so good when it was finished that it inspired more projects.

The next project that was undertaken was converting the book pantry into a Baby Boutique. Joyce Bock, Nancy Callahan, and April Merriam were able to paint the walls, put up racks for hanging baby clothes and convert some of the drawers into more useful space. It is now a bright cheerful space that invites shoppers to enter. Previously, baby items were hard to find in the Kid's Area.

Along with the Baby Boutique project, the same volunteers painted the closet in the Sorting Room. Just the new coat of white paint made it much easier to see in there. It has been reorganized with shelves and drawers for storage. This makes it easier to locate supplies when needed.

The "Recycle That" company that Adrienne Latimer contacted has put a bin here for us to use. The Thrift Shop receives a quarterly check averaging \$40.00. A great way to get money from items we gave away to the Salvation Army.

Three General Meetings were held as required in our By-Laws. This is a time for volunteers to get together socially and for business to be conducted. At our May meeting the top three volunteers that logged the most hours are recognized.

We are grateful to the members of the Building and Grounds Committee who help to maintain our building, gardens, and lawn. Also, thanks to Bill Martin, David O'Hara, Don Packard, Tim Sawyer, and Scott Taylor who continue to take cartons to the dump and donations to Dorothy's.

The Thrift Shop is always in need of more volunteers. Be sure to give some thought to joining this group who do so much for the church. We have lost some of our volunteers to illness and moving out

of the area. Some of our volunteers spend part of the winter in warmer climates. We can accommodate your schedule.

Thanks to Nancy Callahan who keeps track of volunteer hours, we again have some outstanding figures regarding all the hours worked at the Thrift Shop. Total volunteer hours in 2016 that were logged in were 3,284.25. Calculating the latest monetary value per hour to be \$23.56, this works out to be worth \$77,376.93 in wages if such were paid to volunteers. The shop was open 587 hours, it took 5.6 hours of work for every hour that it was open. There are a large quantity of hours worked ordering supplies, calculating monthly hours, scheduling, working on a new handbook for volunteers, and other behind-the-scenes time that are not included in this total.

The total amount of money that the Thrift Shop made in 2016 was \$44,014.08. All from donated goods and free volunteer hours. An example of dedication to North Falmouth Congregational Church.

The following volunteers are the ones to be thanked for working so hard:

Adrienne Latimer*	Marcia McLaughlin*	Joyce Bock*
Liz Cahoon	Susan Rowitz	Nancy Callahan*
Laura Murphy	Camilla Nevius	Doris Pinhack
Sally Eldridge	Ginny Nielsen	Joyce Kenneally*
Adrienne Ovia	Marie Syverson	Pam Fernsebner
Frank Pinhack	Toby Lee Ryan	Eleanore Scavotto
Lynn Young	Carolee Packard	Kristin Fraser
Sue Long*	Jean Sawyer	Rin Morway
April Merriam	Myrna O'Hara	
Geordine Roderick	Cynthia Paige	

*Denotes member of the Thrift Shop Committee.

We all were saddened by the passing of one of our volunteers, Mona Coombs.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia McLaughlin,

Chair, Thrift Shop Committee

Thrift Shop Annual Report 2017

It has been another successful year at the Thrift Shop. Another source of income was added at the beginning of the year. The Committee met with a representative from Recycle That to get information on working with him to sell clothing, household goods, books, etc. for money. Last year we began using this company, selling books, shoes, purses, CDs and DVDs to them. This has been a successful venture, adding to the Thrift Shop income.

In March a renovation project of the sorting room, bathroom, and small hallway outside these rooms was undertaken. Bill Martin, Wint Frame, Joyce Bock and Nancy Callahan did a great job on that project. New flooring in the bathroom was installed by John Scavotto. David O'Hara installed a new counter top and also coordinated the project, including getting a plumber to remove the old toilet and install a new one.

A Facebook page was set up and is updated weekly. This is a great source of advertisement for the Thrift Shop. The photos are a good way for prospective customers and our regulars to see what is in the shop.

A Handbook for the Thrift Shop was distributed to each volunteer. This has been an ongoing project for three years. Joyce Bock had the idea to make a handbook so that all information pertaining to Policies & Procedures, By-Laws, etc. would be available in one place for volunteers. Previous to this, volunteers were given a handful of papers with this information when they joined our ranks. Now it is easy to find answers to questions that arise.

The "Quality Control" method adopted last year to keep our inventory updated has proven to be a success. It enables volunteers to easily cull out merchandise that has been available for four months, but not sold. Customers are glad to see that items are no longer displayed for months on end. Thereby making room for new merchandise.

Additional hours that the shop is open have given many shoppers time to try our shop. Daytime hours are extended an additional hour and Thursday Night is changed to an earlier opening and closing.

There were two opportunities for us to further serve the community. We were able to give a foreign exchange student from Nigeria clothing. She is attending Falmouth High School. Also, clothing was given to a family that has relocated from Puerto Rico to Falmouth after Hurricane Maria.

Many thanks to all who help doing many jobs at the Thrift Shop such as taking boxes to "Dorothy's", tending gardens around the shop, breaking down cartons & disposing of them, etc. The list is endless.

The total volunteer hours for 2017 were 3,247.75. In 2016 the IRS calculated a volunteer hour to be worth \$24.14. Which means volunteers at the Thrift Shop gave \$78,400.69 worth of their time.

These are actual hours working in the shop. This does not include countless hours done scheduling, shopping, banking, delivering items to other charities, writing reports, writing memos to volunteers, making a handbook, and composing articles for The Sandpiper and church announcements.

Total sales for this year were \$43,987.81. Income from Recycle That was \$564.24 making a grand total of \$44, 552.05. that was made for the church. This is amazing since it comes from donated goods and free man hours!

The following are the volunteers who are responsible for making our mission a success:

Adrienne Latimer	Ginny Nielsen	Marie Syverson
Adrienne Ovia	Jean Sawyer	Myrna O'Hara
April Merriam	Joyce Bock*	Nancy Callahan*
Camilla Nevius.	Joyce Kennelly*	Pam Fernsebner
Carolee Packard	Laura Murphy	Rin Morway
Cynthia Paige	Liz Cahoon	Sally Eldridge
Eleanore Scavotto	Lynn Young	Sue Long*
Geordine Roderick	Marcia McLaughlin*	Toby Ryan

*Denotes member of the Thrift Shop Committee

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia McLaughlin
Chair, Thrift Shop Committee

Thrift Shop Annual Report 2018

The Thrift Shop continues to be a vibrant and busy operation in the heart of our community. In addition to serving our community in many ways, the shop is a primary income source for the church. The following numbers illustrate its importance:

Open 3 days a week for a total of 14.5 hours per week and staffed by 24 volunteers.

An additional 4 hours per week are spent neatening and organizing the shop.

Untold hours are spent scheduling, buying supplies, record keeping and planning meetings and special events.

Total hours worked by volunteers is 3071.25

Total value of those hours (using the IRS \$24.69/hr value) is \$75,829.17

Total income generated by the Thrift Shop in 2018 is \$47,638.02

We remember fondly two people of importance to the Thrift Shop who passed away in 2018. Betty Upton was the last of the original founders. Liz Cahoon was a faithful volunteer often in the shop for two shifts per week.

The addition of credit card sales has been a major project this year. Starting in February we experimented with the process. By summer it was clear that we could not rely on the church for internet access and a DSL line was installed. An iPad was purchased to accommodate the SQUARE system for using credit cards. Beginning October 1 we advertised that we would accept credit cards. We are watching this closely to evaluate the benefits.

The Thrift Shop is in need of central air conditioning. Years of installing window air conditioners have damaged the sills. The units themselves are old and inefficient. Last summer one failed leaving uncomfortable conditions in the shop. Thanks to Ray Rowitz, we have 3 quotes for installation of central air conditioning. The cost is estimated to be as high as \$8000. Discussion of how to finance this project was held at the November 8 meeting of the Finance Committee.

Other items of note:

In January we offered free yarn to anyone knitting blanket strips for the knit-a-thon sponsored by A Great Yarn in Chatham. All the blankets go to needy people through HAC on Cape Cod.

In March we welcomed 2 new volunteers: Betsy Woodley and Barbara Bosselman

In May we held a Dollar Sale in conjunction with the spring yard sale. It was deemed a success.

In July we obtained a Founder's Plaque that now hangs at the front desk. We also made a donation of women's clothing to Gosnold.

In August we held another Dollar Sale and yarn and fabric sale on the front lawn. Again a success.

In September at our General Meeting we voted on a bylaw change from 3 to 2 meetings per year. We also recognized all of our volunteers and a \$100 donation to the Falmouth Service Center was made in their honor. Special recognition was given to Marcia McLaughlin for her tireless efforts as chairperson of the committee.

In October we offered free baby clothes during a two week period. This was very well received, helped clear out our inventory and hopefully increased awareness of our "Baby Boutique."

As always, the thrift shop could use additional volunteers. In addition to working during regular open hours, there are many jobs that can be done outside of that time. Some possible tasks are: maintaining our Facebook page, taking teacups to Flower Angels in Hyannis, taking extra baby clothes to First Congregational Church in Falmouth, selling special items on E-bay, helping to maintain the cellar, making runs to Dorothy's at the Bourne dump. If you have any interest in volunteering please speak to any committee member.*

The following are the volunteers who are responsible for making our mission a success:

Adrienne Latimer	Eleanore Scavotto	Marcia McLaughlin
Adrienne Ovian	Geordine Roderick	Marie Syverson
April Merriam*	Ginny Nielsen	Myrna O'Hara
Barbara Bosselman	Jean Sawyer	Pam Fernsebner
Betsy Woodley	Joyce Bock*	Rin Morway*
Camilla Nevius	Joyce Kenneally*	Sally Eldridge
Carolee Packard	Laura Murphy	Sue Long*
Cynthia Paige	Lynn Young	Toby Ryan

And a few good men:

Ray Rowitz	Bill Martin
Tim Sawyer	Scott Taylor
Dave O'Hara	Bob Young

Thank you to one and all.
Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Bock
Chair, Thrift Shop Committee

2019 Year End Thrift Shop Report

The Thrift Shop continues to be a vibrant and busy operation in the heart of our community. In addition to serving our community in many ways, the shop is a primary income source for the church. The following numbers illustrate its importance:

Open 3 days a week for a total of 12 hours per week and staffed by 23 volunteers.
An additional 4 hours per week are spent neatening and organizing the shop.
Untold hours are spent scheduling, buying supplies, record keeping and planning meetings and special events.

Total hours worked by volunteers is 2860.75
Total value of those hours (using the IRS \$24.69/hr value) is \$70,631.92
Total income generated by the Thrift Shop in 2018 is \$46,590.30

Recruiting new volunteers is an ongoing concern. Although we welcomed Linda Thomas and Mary Carman, we still have difficulty staffing some days during the month. This led in part to the decision to close on Thursday nights. We also lose people seasonally which also contributes to the problem.

We have been working steadily to improve the signs in the store. Thank you to Rin Morway for standardizing a design on her computer.

By far the biggest improvement this year was the installation of central air conditioning in the thrift shop. This seemed like nothing more than a dream when the year began, but thanks to the generosity of anonymous donors, the system was ready to go by the time warm weather began. There is no doubt that the air conditioning has made the store more comfortable for volunteers and customers alike.

Other items of note:

In January we offered free yarn to anyone knitting blanket strips for the knit-a-thon sponsored by A Great Yarn in Chatham. All the blankets go to needy people through HAC on Cape Cod. In 2019, 219 blankets were donated and HAC ran out. The need is great. The 2020 goal is to knit 250 blankets.

Also in January, we donated several large dolls to the Bourne Food Pantry where they give birthday gifts to their clients.

In February we donated teacups and saucers to the Flower Angels. They fill them with flowers and distribute them to people who need a little cheer.

In May we held a Dollar Sale in conjunction with the spring yard sale. It was deemed a success.

In June we held our Annual Meeting and Marcia McLaughlin was voted onto the committee. We also recognized all of our volunteers and a \$100 donation to the Bourne Food Pantry was made in their honor.

In July Myrna O'Hara brought old silver and pewter which does not sell well to a recycler in New Hampshire. She returned with a check for \$219.27.

In August Toby Ryan donated a lovely painting of the Thrift Shop which now hangs at the front desk.

In September we held another Dollar Sale and yarn and fabric sale on the front lawn. Again a success.

In October we held our second meeting of the year. Linda Thomas was voted onto the committee beginning in November, and Lynn Young was voted on starting in March 2020 in anticipation of a vacancy.

In November the thrift shop supported efforts in 2 schools. The Whitman Middle School in Fairhaven received yarn and crochet hooks for an after school program. The Bellevue Elementary School in Richmond, VA received scarfs, hats and mittens for children of very limited means.

As always, the thrift shop could use additional volunteers. In addition to working during regular open hours, there are many jobs that can be done outside of that time. Some possible tasks are: maintaining our Facebook page, taking teacups to Flower Angels in Hyannis, taking extra baby clothes to First Congregational Church in Falmouth, selling special items on E-bay, helping to maintain the cellar, making runs to Dorothy's at the Bourne dump. If you have any interest in volunteering please speak to any committee member.*

The following are the volunteers who are responsible for making our mission a success:

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

And a few good men:

Ray Rowitz	Tim Sawyer	Bob Young
Bill Martin	Dave O'Hara	

Thank you to one and all.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Bock

Chair, Thrift Shop Committee

Thrift Shop Annual Report 2020

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. Lots 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 its 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, basic 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	Eleanore Scavotto	Linda Thomas*
Adrienne Ovia	Geordine Roderick	Lynn Young*
Barbara Bosselman	Ginny Nielsen	Pam Fernsebner
Betsy Woodley	Jean Sawyer	Rin Morway
Beverly Blaine	Joyce Bock*	Roberta Markham
Camilla Nevius	Joyce Kenneally*	Sue Long*
Carolee Packard	Laura Murphy	Toby Ryan

* denotes committee member

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

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

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

Thrift Shop Annual Report 2021

The COVID pandemic continues to challenge us.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Adrienne Latimer
Adrienne Ovian
Betsy Woodley
Camilla Nevius
Carolee Packard
Eleanore Scavotto
Ginny Nielsen
Jean Sawyer

Joyce Bock
Geordine Broderick
Joyce Kenneally*
Laura Murphy
Linda Thomas*
Lynn Young*
Marie Syverson
Marcia McLaughlin*

Marsha Martin
Mary Carman
Myrna O'Hara
Rin Morway
Sue Long*
Mike Ryan
Toby Lee Ryan

*denotes committee member

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

Dave O'Hara
Mike Ryan
Bob Young
Bill Martin

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Long
Chair, Thrift Shop Committee

Thrift Shop Annual Report 2022

This end of year report is being written, as the COVID cases in and around our church community are rising again. In spite of the continued effects of COVID, our loyal volunteers have remained dedicated to the success of the Thrift Shop.

- In February, we held a very successful material and yarn sale in the Covenant Room. This included take-out soups and chili.
- March is the month we clear out winter items with our semi-annual \$1 sale. Items under \$5 sell for \$1, and \$5 and up are half price.
- In April, we held our general meeting with all volunteers. We voted to raise the prices slightly on some clothing.
- An outdoor sale was held in May during the church's plant sale.
- Another \$1 sale in September was held to clear out summer clothes.
- In October, we held the last outdoor sale of the year. The Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas items donated to the shop were brought to the church for the holiday fair.
- November was our second general meeting. The men who help us throughout the year were invited to attend for refreshments. Updated Volunteer Handbooks were distributed and it was voted to strongly recommend, but not require, the wearing of masks in the shop. We also discussed our hope to sell the more expensive donations online, where we have the potential to realize a higher profit from a more diverse clientele.

A new Square system was donated to the shop. We no longer have to remember to charge the batteries on the iPad and card reader. It is constantly connected. And we will no longer lose credit sales because the card reader isn't synced. The system has a secure locked till that opens only when a sale is made. It keeps track of every credit, debit, and cash sales, making income reports easier.

The Thrift Shop's purpose is to serve our community with affordable items. Our outreach sometimes involves donating to those in need. Giving them our newly created gift certificates allows shopping to be done without embarrassment. These certificates are also available to anyone who wants to purchase them for gift giving.

Our volunteers' hard work has resulted in the shop donating almost \$38,500 to the church this year. We were open for sales 444 hours. The total time spent in the shop selling, sorting, pricing, culling, organizing, etc. was 2,060 hours.

For many years, Laura Murphy has spent her time getting appraisals and working with her team to price jewelry that has been donated to the shop. This time is not added to the Thrift Shop hours. We accept the donations, give them to Laura for preparation and she brings the jewelry back to us to sell.

There are also many more hours the volunteers work that are not tracked. They represent jobs that are required to keep our shop organized and running efficiently. And we can always use more help. More people means less work for everyone.

Please contact me, or any volunteer, if you think you would be able to give us some of your time. And don't think this is just women's work. Mike Ryan is a volunteer, working as a cashier.

The Thrift Shop Team is:

Adrienne Ovian
Betsey Woodley
Camilla Nevius
Carolee Packard
Eleanore Scavotto
Ginny Nielsen
Jean Sawyer

Joyce Bock*
Geordine Broderick
Joyce Kenneally
Laura Murphy
Lindsay O'Neil
Linda Thomas*
Lynn Young*

Marcia McLaughlin*
Marsha Martin
Mary Carman
Myrna O'Hara
Sue Long*
Mike Ryan
Toby Lee Ryan

*denotes committee member

I would like to thank the following people:

- The men who are not volunteers, but are always there to help with our extra projects and events: Bill Martin, Bob Young, Dave O'Hara, Chris Polloni
- Bob Young for coming in one or two times a week to offer his help
- Rin Morway for creating our signs
- Dennis Fox, who attends to our many maintenance needs

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Long
Thrift shop Chair

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
Carolee Packard
Denise Sullivan

Geordine Broderick
Joyce Bock*
Leslie Bennett

Lynn Young*
Betsy Woodley
Carolyn Reynolds

Donna Cooper
Ginny Nielsen
Joyce Kenneally*
Lindsay O'Neil
Marcia McLaughlin*
Bob Young

Deb Shemo
Eleanore Scavotto
Jean Sawyer
Laura Murphy
Linda Thomas
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