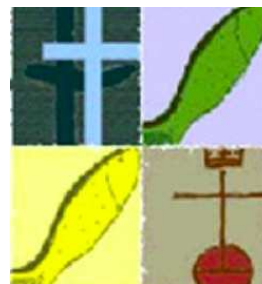


ANNUAL REPORT



1st Congregational United Church of Christ, Rapid City, South Dakota

Report for the Ministries of 2014

136th Annual Meeting

January 25, 2015

Rapid City's first Christian congregation continues to honor a long tradition of lay leadership. The annual meeting is one of the places where this leadership is exercised. The meeting is more than a series of votes. It is an opportunity for the congregation to actively engage in planning, shaping and leading the direction of the congregation. The annual meeting will be held following worship on Sunday, January 25, 2015. All members and friends are encouraged to attend.

The Year in Review

Indeed 2014 was a momentous year. As we completed the work authorized by our preliminary capital projects drive, we began to plan and prepare for a larger capital funds drive to be launched in 2015. Topping the list of major projects is a new roof and significant improvements to our heating system. In the midst of the planning, the ministries of the church continued with growth in many different areas. 2014 was also a year of many good byes. We gathered more often for funerals than had been the case for many years. Our faith calls us forward, but we also discover meaning in looking back at the year that has passed.

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Faith formation is a critical task of every community of faith

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The Woodchuck Society has become a year-round mission .

The Woodchuck Society celebrated the delivery of over 70 cords of wood in the fall and winter of 2013—14 and continued working despite cold weather.

The Committee planning the 144th Annual Meeting of the South Dakota Conference of the United Church of Christ, chaired by Administrative Colleague Julie Burton, began to recruit volunteers to participate in hosting the event.

The Department of Ministries served the meal at Cornerstone Rescue Mission on **January 31**.

The Year in Review

From page 1

January

We celebrated the many new uses of our recently-redecorated fellowship hall by celebrating Epiphany on **January 5** with worship that began in the sanctuary and continued in the fellowship hall with drama, special treats and more.

Children of the Sunday School sang for worship on **January 12**.

On **January 12**, we commissioned mission partners Chuck and Sybil Rounds, who left **January 15** for Vacation Bible School at our sister church in Los Guido Costa Rica.

Sheila Long began a new Women's Bible Study on "Twelve Women of the Bible," starting on **January 20**.

A new Kerygma Bible Study, "*God Calls Leaders*," began on **January 22**.

The J. Laiten Weed Honors Orchestra concert on **January 25** brought together exceptional high school musicians from across South Dakota and honored the rich educational traditions of the Yankton College Conservatory of Music.

The 135th Annual Meeting of the Congregation on **January 26** focused on mission for our congregation, for our community and for our world. Participants noticed the new screen and projector in the fellowship hall.

Volunteers from the church removed and cleaned flagstone from the church entryway in preparation for the new concrete and new doors.

The Library Committee had new shelves installed in the library and continued to develop our collection.

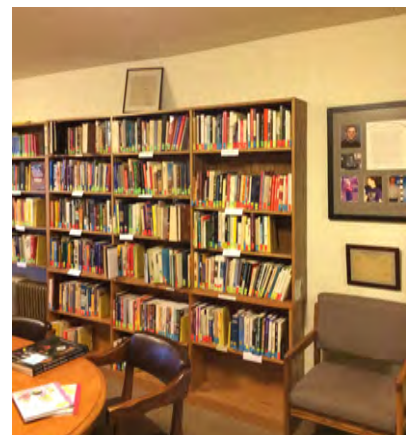
February

The Church Board and Departments met with their newly-elected members for orientation and regular business during the month. Each Department set its regular meeting dates for the remainder of the year.

The youth of our congregation joined with youth from around the United States to raise money and donations of non perishable food on Super Bowl Sunday, **February 2**.

We celebrated the baptism of Lily Rayne Hamann, daughter of Crystal and Travis Hamann on **Febru-**

Continued on p. 3



Our Church Library

Organized for Ministry

Our church constitution reflects a unique method of organizing our congregation for ministry. Instead of following traditional names and committees, our constitution organizes departments around the priorities of the congregation: worship, education, ministry, hospitality, building and stewardship. These six departments all send representatives to the church board, which coordinates the work of the departments and encourages grass roots mission and ministry.

The structure is designed to encourage and support new and emerging ministry projects and to coordinate with a minimum of meetings. Our members want to network and collaborate, but would rather have their time invested in accomplishing ministry than in attending meetings.

The departmental structure encourages teamwork in tackling big projects and support for all of the ministries of the members of our congregation.



Our cross proclaims our faith to the entire community.

From page 2

ary 16. Lay Minister Becky Fleming assisted with the baptism.

The Department of Hospitality hosted the annual Birthday Sunday celebration with special cakes, decorations and more on **February 16.**

We observed Church Vocations Sunday on **February 23.**

We dedicated the Charles Anthony Newton Lindley Theological Library in a special celebration on **February 23.**

March

Two special additional deliveries of firewood to the Cheyenne River Reservation were organized by the Woodchuck Society. The record-setting winter was offset with record wood deliveries by the “Chucks” and “Chicks.”

Pastor Ted participated in the community Ash Wednesday observance at Main Street Square on **March 5.**

The youth of the church served a Pancake Supper on Ash Wednesday, **March 5.** The supper was followed by an Ash Wednesday Worship.

The Lenten Adult Study focused on the Biblical invitation to look deeper into our faith on **March 9.**

The Sunday School’s Lenten Focus was on the Lord’s Prayer.

Continued on p. 4

The Women's Fellowship Spring Rummage Sale was held **March 14 and 15.**

Chuck and Sybil Rounds hosted a discussion of the feeding program at our sister Church in Los Guido, Costa Rica after worship on Sunday, **March 16.**

The Lenten Adult Study focused on faith that bears fruit on **March 16.**

We observed Placerville Sunday on **March 23.**

The Lenten Adult Study focused on passing on the faith fruit on **March 23.**

We received the One Great Hour of Sharing all church offering on **March 30.**

The Lenten Adult Study focused on expressing faith in action on **March 30.**

April

The Altar Guild offered Easter Lilies to decorate the church for Easter and to be taken home by sponsoring families.

April 6 was Bring a Friend to Church Sunday with special music, drama and a reception for members and guests. Ingrid Anderson, Rowan Evans, Oona Evans, Aparna Ayyangar, and Arjun Ayyangar provided special music for the reception.

The Lenten Adult Study focused on faith in the depths on **April 6.**

We held the groundbreaking for the Habitat for Humanity Apostles' Build on **Sunday, April 6.**

The Good Morning Circle Bridge Marathon Luncheon was held at the Elks Club on **April 12.**

The Lenten Adult Study focused on hope for generations to come on **April 13.**

The Altar Guild arranged for Easter Lilies for our sanctuary for the Easter season.

The Department of Worship offered special worship services every day during Holy Week:

- The Liturgy of the Palms on Sunday, **April 13.**
- The Liturgy of the Passion on Monday, **April 14.**
- Sittin' with the Blues on Tuesday, **April 15.**
- A Christian Wake on Wednesday, **April 16.**
- Maundy Thursday Communion on Thursday, **April 17.**
- Journey to the Cross on Friday, **April 18.**
- The Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday, **April 19.**

We joined with other area churches to host the Easter Sunrise Service at Main Street Square on **April 20.** Our Easter celebrations also included a breakfast at

our church and our Resurrection Celebration.

We debuted a new pew brochure for Easter on **April 20.**

Members of United Church Youth participated in the Rapid City Clean Up on **April 23.**

May

The first work day for our congregation at our new Habitat for Humanity build site was held on Thursday, **May 1.**

The Women's Fellowship held their Spring Luncheon on **May 3.**

Our congregation led worship for the spring meeting of the Black Hills Association, held at Placerville Camp on **May 4.**

Members of United Church Youth participated in Big Brothers, Big Sisters' Bowl for Kids' Sake fundraiser on **May 9.** Once again youth from our church won the prize for the youth group raising the most money for the event.

Our new front doors were installed, complete with our fish door handles.

The Church Board hired a new cleaning service to care for our building.

The Department of Education celebrated another successful year of teaching and learning with a thank you to all Church School Teachers on **May 18.** The celebration included an all church potluck lunch following worship.

Arjun and Aparna Ayyangar provided music for a special benefit concert on Sunday, **May 18** to raise funds for the Congo Initiative of Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ. The concert included a demonstration of Arjun's amazing memorization of national anthems from around the world.

Ward's Crew: a Habitat Success Story

Ward Cheney has been a part of every Habitat for Humanity project our church has undertaken. When we built a house as a congregation in celebration of our 125th anniversary, Ward was our project manager. When the Black Hills Association built a duplex, Ward was there nearly every day supervising crews. The hip roof on that house, unique among Black Hills Habitat homes, was Ward's idea. Ward served on the Habitat Board of Directors for many years.

With Ward and Dona Cheney as honorary chairs, our 2014 Habitat House was a big success. Simple buttons stating "I'm on Ward's Crew" were used to raise funds, recruit volunteers and promote the project in our congregation. We exceeded our fund-raising goal and Ward was present for the dedication.



From page 4

The Department of Ministries was able to make special gifts of \$1,000 each to Church Response and United Campus Ministries as a result of successful food coupon sales.

We celebrated the baptism of Wyatt Martin and a baptismal renewal for Layne Martin as well as a graduate recognition for Layne Martin on **May 25**.

Congregational Connections held at team meeting on **May 25**. Congregational Connections provides relationships and extended contact with members who are confined at home or nursing homes.

The Good Evening Circle prepared boxes for the Jared Box Project to lift the spirits of chronically ill children at Rapid City Regional Hospital.

The Department of Ministries served the meal at Cornerstone Rescue Mission on **May 30**.

June

A memorial service for our Choir Director, Karen Ross was held on **June 2**. Karen suffered a devastating cancer and the choir and congregation responded with prayers and support as we walked the journey of grief together.

Supplemental hymnals, "Sing Prayer and Praise!" were purchased for our congregation to use.

We hosted the South Dakota Conference of the United Church of Christ's annual meeting **June 6—8**. Our congregation organized and led dynamic worship featuring leaders from around the state. Our bell choir played for the Sunday worship and our vocal choir invited other singers from the conference to join in an anthem and responses.

The Costa Rican meal served at the close of the conference on **June 8** was a big success. The free will offering from the meal combined with the proceeds of the sale of stained glass items and crafts provided by the Tuesday craft group raised enough money to allow Pastor Dorotea to continue the feeding program three days a week for an entire year!

Our congregation participated in the Strengthen the Church all church offering on **June 8**.

Scott Schuft created a Bat House for our congregation's entry into the "Best Bat House" competition to raise funds for Placerville Camp.

July

We celebrated the baptisms of Coen Grauman and Wyatt Trana on **July 6**.

Vacation Bible School was held **July 14—18**, focusing on Stories of Moses. 51 children from age 3 through grade 5 participated in the program. An additional 10 middle and high school youth helped as guides for the younger children.

August

Volunteers from our congregation participated in Love Inc's annual Clothe-a-Kid project on **August 9 and 16**.

Continued on p. 6

Beckett Chamberlain was baptized on **August 12**.

The Women's Fellowship hosted a huge and successful rummage sale on **August 22 and 23**. Profit from the sale was \$7,236.22.

The Zona White scholarship committee announced that Zona White scholarships were awarded to Arjun Ayyangar and William Schilling. Soren Sasso received the Inabelle Willard Scholarship.

The Department of Ministries served the meal at Cornerstone Rescue Mission on **August 29**.

September

40 Days of Prayer for Children began on **September 7**.

We began an experiment with a private social network for our church called The Table Project. Our church's site had groups for Boards and Departments as well as mission groups.

The Department of Education initiated a new curriculum: SHINE in its fall programs. Sunday School kick-off was held **September 14**. We also held our annual blessing of the backpacks for children on that day. Following worship there was a Hot Dog potluck. Members of United Church Youth hosted a dessert table with homemade baked goodies and ice cream sundaes to support "Ward's Crew" and the Habitat for Humanity Home.

The choir experimented with singing in front of the congregation for September and October, returning to the choir loft for November and December.

The Department of Education initiated a new program of having all but the youngest children participate in worship on the first Sunday of each month so that Children and teachers can participate in communion.

The Department of Ministries served supper to students at SDSM&T in partnership with United Campus Ministries.

The Department of Education initiated a new "Stepping Stones" program for children in the church to encourage faith formation at home as well as at the church. Bibles were presented to preschoolers, first graders and fourth and fifth graders.

The Department of Hospitality designed welcome bags to be distributed to visitors.

Congregational Connections celebrated the completion of its first year of service on **September 28**. Volunteers were recognized and blessed in worship that day.

We heard from Pastor Dorotea that due to the generosity of our congregation, our sister Church in Costa Rica was able to offer meals 4 days a week. 629 meals were served at the church in September.

October

The Department of Stewardship and Budget began its fall drive for pledges to sup-



Arjun Ayyangar at the harp

port the ministries of our congregation in 2015. The congregation responded generously to the moments of mission shared by department members.

Ben and Dee Anderson and Ted Huffman were all presenters at the South Dakota Conference's Emerging Ministries Summit on **October 4**.

We participated in the Neighbors in Need all church offering on **October 5**.

October 19 was celebrated as Children's Sabbath with special prayers and songs.

The Department of Hospitality hosted a Bring a Friend Sunday and chili lunch on **October 19**.

Woodchucks delivered firewood to Mat Iron Hawk's home near the Frasier Church on **October 18**.

The Woodchuck Society delivered firewood to our Wanblee partners on **October 25**. Part of that occasion was the installation of the beautiful stained glass window designed and built by members of our stained glass group at the Wanblee Assembly of God church.

Peaceful Paths was the theme for the women's retreat planned and hosted by women of our congregation and held at

Taking Action for the Congo Initiative

There is no doubt about it. Arjun and Aparna Ayangar are exceptional youth with exceptional talent. They put their talent to work to raise special funds for mission on May 18.

Over the past decade approximately 6 million people have been killed in ongoing conflict and war for control of the Congo's vast mineral resources. A bulletin report of the ongoing problems in the Congo and a call for support for hospital, water, agriculture and education projects stirred Arjun and Aparna to action. "We read about the Congo Initiative in the church bulletin article. We were touched on reading that even though the living conditions in Congo were harsh, the people there prayed to God, praised Him, and felt blessed."

Arjun and Aparna arranged a concert of classical and popular music that thrilled the audience and raised \$1,130 for the Congo Initiative.

From page 6

Placerville Camp **October 24—25.**

A joyful crowd gathered at the Hunter family home at 1513 5th street on Sunday, **October 26**, for the dedication ceremony of our latest Habitat for Humanity home. Ward Cheney was an honored guest at the celebration. Even our mayor was wearing a "Ward's Crew" button that day.

The United Church Youth hosted a fall festival and a Halloween party for children on Wednesday, **October 29.**

The Mom's group held an initial meeting in October and discussed ways that moms with kids at home can network and support one another.

The Department of Ministries served a campus meal at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

The Woodchucks delivered firewood to the Bridger Church on **October 31.** Pastor Byron Buffalo hosted a lunch for the Woodchucks at the church.

The Department of Ministries served the meal at Cornerstone Rescue Mission on **October 31.**

November

As part of our All Saints recognition, our **November 2** worship featured a remembrance of church members who had died in the past year.

Our congregation began its participation in the United Church of Christ's "One Read" program with Rob Shindler's "Hot Dogs and Hamburgers." Over 40 copies of the book, including one on CDs, for those who have difficulty reading, were circulating in our congregation.

Members of United Church Youth participated in the Fall Youth Event at Placerville Camp **November 7—9.** Advisors Becky Fleming and Ryan Webster led our group exploring the theme: "Come Thirsty."

We participated in the Church World Service Blanket Sunday on **November 19.**

The 5th annual turkey taxi accompanied the firewood delivery to Pastor Norman Blue Coat's home on **November 22.** 64 turkeys were delivered for distribution to families on the Cheyenne River Reservation.

The Department of Hospitality hosted a movie and game day for children on **November 28** from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm.

December

The Annual Advent Fair was held on Sunday, **December 7**, with crafts and special treats for all ages.

The Altar Guild arranged for Christmas poinsettias for our worship space.

We collected gifts for residents of the Women's and Children's shelter. Maureen Dymock served as coordinator for the program.

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Children of the church led worship on December 14

Statistical Report

Membership beginning 2014 608
 Deaths 18
 Transfers out 0
 New members 2
 Membership end of 2014 592

Baptisms celebrated in 2014 5

Weddings celebrated in 2014 8

Funerals in 2014 18

Average Worship Attendance in
 2014 153

Members of United Church Youth sponsored a mitten tree for Love INC.

We hosted the Bells of the Hills Christmas Concert on **December 7**. Three ringers from our church handbell choir participated as members of Bells of the Hills: Michael Bossen, Becky Umenthum and Ryan Webster.

Children and youth of the church led Advent worship on Sunday, **December 14** with special music and the theme: "Jesus, the Light of the World."

We received the Christmas Fund Offering on Sunday, **December 21**.

On Christmas Eve, we celebrated with a Living Nativity service at 7 p.m. and a Candlelight Communion service at 11:30 p.m.

Moderator Gerry Boehrs

The Church Board meets on the third Tuesday of every month except July. Board members include the Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Past Moderator, Clerk of the Board, Ministers, Congregational Representatives and Department Chairpersons. The Board is the central governing body of the church, overseeing and coordinating operations and activities of the church. As such, the Board receives and reviews monthly reports from the Departments and from the ministers of the church, and from any task forces established by the Board for specific projects; and acts on all recommendations from any of these.

Some notable programs and activities overseen by the Board in 2014:

- Completion of Phase I Capital Projects
- Organizing and planning for Phase II Capital Projects
- Stewardship and budgeting programs and financial monitoring
- Hosting the South Dakota Conference Annual Meeting in June
- Establishing a Legacy Fund to be used for major building and equipment projects



Arjun and Aparna Ayyangar

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Pastoral Relations and Personnel Committee

Becky Umenthum,
Chair

The Pastoral Relations and Personnel Committee met as a standing committee of the Church Board. Members include Becky Umenthum, Chair; Eileen Rossow, Secretary; Gerry Boehrs; Mike Crutcher; Kevin Sandmeier; and Melanie Palm. We hosted a Listening Circle on Worship in the fall of 2014 which was well attended. Information from the Listening Circle was shared with the Department of Worship and the Church Board. We also made a recommendation to the Department of Stewardship and Budget for modest salary increases for each pastor.

From page 8

- Changing the cleaning service contractor for the church
- Providing orientation materials for new Department members
- Coordinating nominations for 2015 Department members

Separate reports are included in this Annual Report for some of the larger items listed above.

Clerk Eileen Rossow

The administrative part of our congregation is made up of Departments which are organized around the needs and responsibilities of the church. These include Worship, Education, Hospitality, Ministries, Stewardship and Budget and Building and Grounds. Each Department is made up of six members with the ability to form task forces and subcommittees as needed. Each Department is given authority to carry out its responsibilities with the collaboration and approval of the Church Board. The work of these Departments is coordinated by the Church Board and each Department has a voting representative on the Church Board along with members at large elected from the congregation. Additionally, the Church Board has the ability to form task forces as needed. This departmental structure allows the Church Board to coordinate tasks, develop policies, record the history and report to the congregation, as well as promote Teamwork.

Your Church Board has been very active and productive in 2014. Throughout the year the Board has conducted "Listening Circles" on a number of different topics in order to find out what the congregation thinks and provide insight into future decisions for the church. In January, the Board organized the preparation for the Annual Report and the Annual Meeting. The stained glass group was encouraged to continue to create works of art from the left over stained glass. Harold Miller crafted oak quilt hangars for the Fellowship Hall and Monty Bullock and Brent Long installed grounded outlets in both of our kitchens. An untold number of volunteers helped remove, carry and store the slate from the front entry.

February brought the preparation for the South Dakota Conference Annual Meeting to the forefront with Julie Burton as the coordinator. A Cleaning Task Force was formed to identify needs and proposals. New Board Members were welcomed to the Church Board. Our Fellowship Hall received a beautiful renovation. Additional renovations resulting from the Phase I portion of the Capital Funds Drive included a new west door, repairs and maintenance to the concrete outside the building including repair of drainage problems, repair and restriping of the parking lot, and combined and updated sound system in Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.

The Board was very busy in March with projects and upcoming events including Placerville Sunday on March 23rd and preparing for the South Dakota Conference Annual Meeting.

April events headed by the Board included the Habitat for Humanity Project ground breaking on April 6th, Bring a Friend to Church on April 6th, and setting up an All Church Clean-up Day prior to the State Conference. Holy Week offered special worship every day.

Continued on p. 10

May brought the addition of the beautiful new front doors. We also welcomed a new cleaning service for the church. The Habitat for Humanity home progressed with efforts from many of the congregation. The Church Board committed to the gift of \$7,000 to help build this new home. "Ward's Crew" buttons were offered to all who wanted to participate in this project. Leaders for Phase II of the Capital Funds Drive were appointed.

On June 6, 7, and 8 the Church Board helped UCC First Congregational Church host the 144th South Dakota Conference. Vacation Bible School was held July 14 – 18, the theme being "Stories of Moses". The Semi-annual Rumage Sale was held August 22 and 23 and raised over \$7,000. The Church Board thanks ALL of you who participated and contributed to all of these events.

September geared up with Church School Kick-off. Another program that the church has launched and the Church Board heartily encouraged is the website, "The Table Project", which provides a service for members to connect. All members were and are encouraged to sign up by going to www.rcfirstucc.tableproject.org.

October brought us the Women's Fall Retreat, themed "Peace-full Paths" on October 24 and 25. The Habitat House was dedicated on Sunday, October 26th. October 29th brought the Fall Festival/Halloween Party for the "little kids". The Department of Stewardship and Budget submitted a preliminary budget and launched the 2015 Pledge Drive. The Church Board also created an Access Task Force, which will be assessing the building and transportation needs of the congregation.

The Church Board approved the Craft Sale dates for the first three Sundays of November and then extended the dates through the Women's Christmas Tea on December 6th. The Department of Stewardship and Budget continued to promote the 2015 Pledge Drive. The Board also approved the designation of Sunday, January 25th, 2015 after services for the Church Annual Meeting.

As ever, December in the church was filled with activities, events, and celebrations of Advent and the Christmas Season. The Church Board was additionally consumed with discussions of 2015 Budgets, Capital Fund Drive Phase II Projects and Numbers, 2015 Pledge Drive Promotions, Nominations for the 2015 Departments, preparing Annual Reports for the Annual Meeting on January 25, 2015, and creation of the Legacy Fund for capital funds projects and repairs in the future.

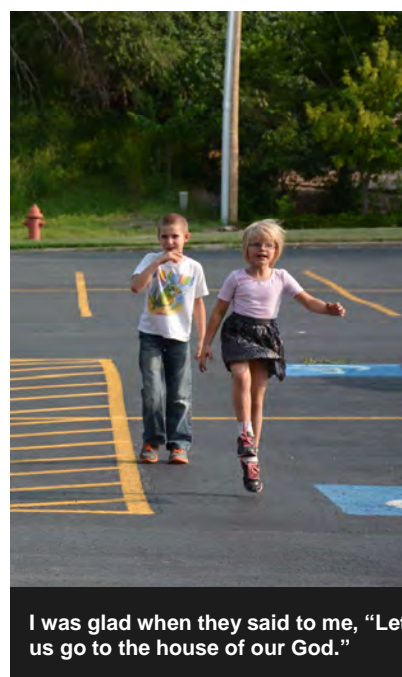
The Church Board has enjoyed an enthusiastic year of cooperation, accomplishment, and optimistic growth in 2014. Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed. The Teamwork REALLY does work!!

Congregational Representatives

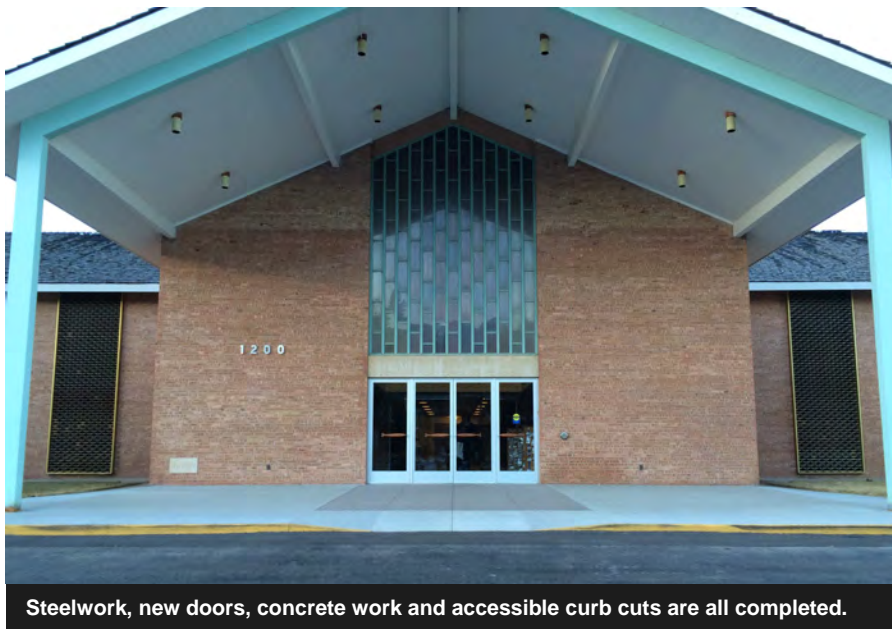
Carol Boyles
Cindy Ledford
Kevin Sandmeier

As your Congregational Representatives, we strive to faithfully serve as another avenue to communicate your thoughts and concerns by being an ear listening in behalf of the Church Board.

We also comprise part of the nominating team, along with the Moderator and Asst. Moderator, and appreciate your willingness in serving to sufficiently staff all the boards and departments.



I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of our God."



Steelwork, new doors, concrete work and accessible curb cuts are all completed.

Phase One Report

All Phase I Capital Improvements projects have been completed and all bills have been paid. Projects included were:

- Parking lot repair and resurfacing
- Sound system
- Fellowship Hall - painting and carpeting
- Sidewalk and drainage/ mudjacking
- Entryway metal column repairs
- Concrete work - sidewalk/ drainage and front entrance
- New front doors
- New front door handicap operator

Thanks to the Phase I Capital Improvements task force for all their hard work: Becky Umenthum, Chair, Tom Berry, Gerry Boehrs, Rob Burton, Randy Daughenbaugh, Robin Eddy, Randy Fisher, Ron Switzer, Denise Webster, and Harold Miller.

Capital Improvements

2014 saw the successful completion of all of the Phase I Capital Improvements projects and significant research and groundwork was done in preparation for Phase II of our capital improvements projects.

Phase II Overview

This program follows Phase I Capital Projects and features larger and/or less well defined projects than in Phase I. Phase I was initiated to address more urgent and simpler projects in a timely manner, and is complete. A final report for Phase I is included in this Annual Report.

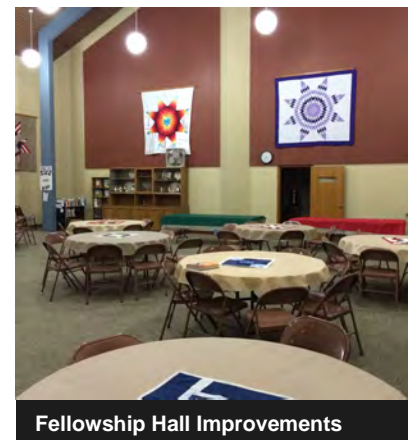
Due to the larger and more complex nature of Phase II projects, this program will extend over at least three years. The work for 2014 included organizing, identifying and defining projects to be included, and preparing the groundwork for fund raising.

The Church Board approved the organization for Phase II work, which is divided between an Operations part and a fund raising part. Rob Burton agreed to head the Operations side, and Lia Green agreed to lead fund raising activities.

The Operations part of the program is aimed at specifying the projects to be included and detailing and estimating costs for them, all to be complete during 2014. This has been the major focus of 2014 work, in order to support fund raising during 2015. Rob Burton has a separate report fully discussing this work. Final recommendations and costs will be presented for discussion and action at a special congregational meeting expected to be held in the second quarter of 2015.

Fund raising activities during 2014 were limited to planning and analysis, including considering various methods for fund raising and determining the specific plan appropriate for our situation and our congregation. Planning

Continued on p. 12



Fellowship Hall Improvements

Respecting the Architectural Integrity of our Building

Coming up with a plan to replace the 54-year-old flagstone in our church entryway caused considerable discussion. The flagstone, part of the original design of the building, lent a distinctive look to our entryway. However, making the entry accessible to those using wheelchairs and walkers as well as coming up with something that could be easily maintained mandated reworking the entryway. Colored concrete was chosen both for its appearance and low maintenance costs.

Similarly, the decision about what kind of roofing to use in our Phase II projects was worthy of careful consideration. While the wood shakes contribute to the overall beauty of the building, their flammability poses a significant risk to our building. The proposed composite shake product favored by the task force maintains the beauty of the wood shakes while providing fire resistance as well as increased resistance to hail damage.

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is on schedule, and fund raising will begin in earnest following approval of Phase II projects by the congregation. We expect fund raising to extend over at least three years.

Phase II Projects

During 2014 members of our congregation volunteered to help define the scope and potential costs for capital improvement projects deemed important to the continued use, preservation, and enhancement of our church facilities. The research focused on three main areas, specifically:

Heating/Cooling/Energy Conservation

Led by Dave Ledford with assistance from Thom Palm and Randy Daughenbaugh, the group researched the current status of our existing heating system, potential replacements and enhancements, and opportunities for energy conservation within the building.

An engineering study in 2012 concluded that major upgrades to the building's windows, walls, and roof insulation would not be cost effective given the long payback period required considering the building's usage pattern. For the most part, those findings were supported by the contractors who provided input on potential new systems for the building. Similarly, newer energy saving systems employing such technologies as solar or geothermal were considered, but eliminated, due to the high initial cost, long payback periods, and potential aesthetic impact.

With regard to the heating system, two boiler replacement packages were offered by local contractors, with a third expected in the spring following a complete inspection of the existing system. The inspection, which should help define the remaining service life of our original boiler, cannot be performed during the heating season. Boiler replacement quotes received to date ranged from \$120,000 to \$155,000.

Quotes were also solicited from three sources for air-conditioning the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. Unique to one offering was the proposal to install one large, slow-turning paddle blade fan in each room to de-stratify the air, increasing overall building energy efficiency. Quotes for the air conditioning system varied from approximately \$120,000 to \$140,000, with the fan system quoted at \$29,000.

Roof Replacement

Roof Replacement: The condition of the current roof and possible replacement options was researched by Robin Eddy with assistance from Tom Berry, Dave Cruz, Steve Hammond, and Jim Webster.

Several local sources were consulted, offering a variety of products including asphalt, composite shakes, and cedar shakes. After interviewing two sources, the group favored the composite shake product with its 50 year warranty and superior appearance as the next roofing material of choice. Installed cost for this product was quoted at approximately \$270,000, although some potential discounts may be available through the manufacturer.

Continued on p. 13

Special Projects

Special Projects: Becky Umenthum chaired this group, with assistance from Pandi and Monty Bollock, Sheila Long, and Ryan Webster. Suggested projects to be investigated included: additional bathrooms, elevator or lift to the choir loft, better access to our rear lawn area, parlor and parlor kitchen improvement, and possible outside storage.

Reports on the first two projects include remodeling and reuse of the former women's bathroom, located near the stairway to the basement and currently used for storage, and a lift system to allow handicap access to the choir loft.

The bathroom remodel would create a family-friendly handicap accessible bathroom at a cost of about \$8500, with our members completing much of the construction work.

The lift system, envisioned for the east coat closet off the main entry, might provide a cost effective method to provide choir loft access to those confined to wheel chairs or with limited physical mobility. Essentially a three foot by five foot pad enclosed by clear Plexiglas capable of lifting 750 pounds, the lift with its associated engineering and construction activities was estimated at \$35,000.

A cost estimate of \$5500 was received for a larger outside storage building to replace our current unit. Investigation on the remaining projects continues at this time.

2015 Timeline

We anticipate completion of the preparation for the Capital Funds Campaign during the first two months of 2015. A special meeting of the congregation will be held during March for the congregation to discuss and vote on the proposed campaign. If a capital funds drive is approved, a formal kickoff for the campaign will be held after Easter with a regular reports to the congregation being made during the spring and summer. A celebration event is anticipated for September. Campaign pledges are expected to be paid over a three-year time period.



Sunday school fall rally activities



Relationships cannot be forced, they must be allowed to grow.

Planning for Leadership Change

One of the results of long-term ministries is that leadership patterns and roles become fixed. Any long term plan for our congregation has to take into effect that the majority of our congregation's employees (including all of the ministers) are past the age of 60. While age itself isn't a determining factor in the leadership that a minister provides, we need to be aware that the time will come for a change in leaders in our congregation.

This is true in lay and volunteer positions as well as in the roles of our clergy. How do we encourage and nurture the emergence of new leaders while still making the best possible use of the gifts that our present leaders have to offer?

I hope that 2015 will provide opportunities for open conversation about leadership transitions in our congregation. I expect to be around for years to come, but I don't want that to inhibit change.

Senior Minister Ted Huffman

Recently Susan and I were interviewed by a freelance reporter doing an article on clergy couples. The interview was free-ranging and covered a lot of different topics. As the interview progressed, I realized how unique our situation was. It is extremely rare for clergy couples to serve the same congregation—to have done so for 37 years is even rarer. Similarly, it is rare for a congregation to be served by a clergy couple for 20 years. It isn't a bad thing being unique. In fact, it is a joy worth celebrating. A long-term pastorate, however, does present some challenges and among those challenges is the temptation to do things the way that they have been done before. So this year I am trying something a little different with my annual report. Rather than present a list of the tasks I have accomplished, I would like to share with you a bit of my journey of faith. As is true with each of us, there is much that is often "behind the scenes" that is a part of my life of faith. Along the way, I hope you can see the connections between our shared life as a community and my personal spiritual journey.

A Year of Grief

2014 was a year of significant grief in our congregation. The number of deaths in the congregation was much higher than typical. It seemed that we were constantly layering grief upon grief. Instead of having time to sort out and recover from one loss before facing the next one, we felt the sting and pain of loss again and again. As is often the case with seasons of grief, most of the ministry doesn't involve tasks that need to be accomplished, but rather a presence that pursues a continuing relationship in the midst of grief. As I provide care for those who are grieving, I need to be aware that I, too, am grieving. Never before have I had a year when so many of my close friends have died. I found that special attention to my own prayer and study was critical in providing the energy and focus to go from funeral to funeral. One of the things that Barbara Gunderson taught me as she approached the end of her life several years ago, was to use poetry as a way of ex-



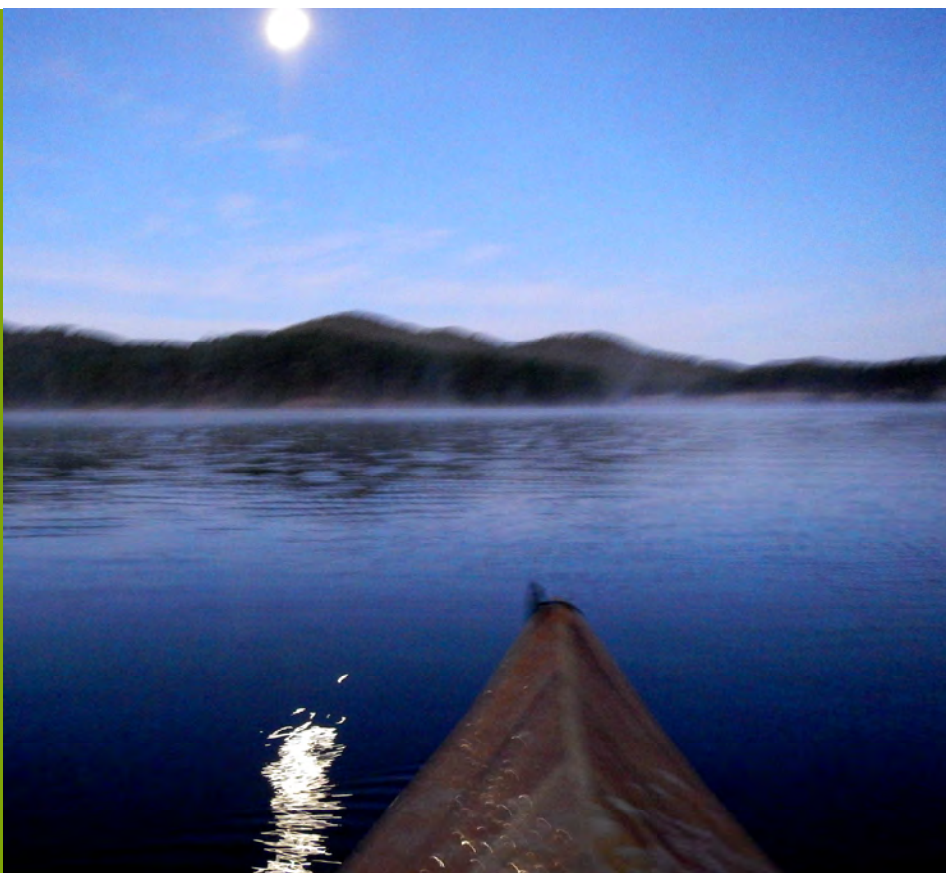
Rev. Dr. Ted E. Huffman

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A Sheriff's Chaplain

I have always believed that part of serving a particular congregation is serving the community in which we find ourselves. We do not exist in isolation from our neighbors who are not a part of our church. We are influenced by them and they by us. Hopefully we are able to share the light of Christ with others.

One of my outreach ministries is my work as a Pennington County Sheriff's Chaplain. Although my specific assignment at the PCSO is to focus on providing pastoral care to the employees of the Pennington County Jail, I find myself being a general resource to others within the Sheriff's Office. The past year has been one of building relationships and becoming known by others in the office. We chaplains have served meals, hosted gatherings, and provided counseling to individuals. In the year to come, the Corrections chaplains will be expanding our work to include coordination of religious activities at the jail. The work continues to be challenging and interesting and one of the ways I live my faith in our community.



Kayaking the full moon at Sheridan Lake

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pressing emotions and ideas that sometimes are held within and need to be brought to the surface. I have maintained a discipline of reading poetry each day and seeking poems that help me feel connected to others who have traveled the journey of grief.

Behind-the-Scenes Preparation

Sometimes the work of a pastor involves planting seeds that take a while to grow. Many of the things we do in the church require long term investment and a perspective that is beyond a single year. Laying the foundations for our capital projects process was certainly one where a lot of work and preparation had to take place behind the scenes. We have enjoyed exceptional leadership in this process. People with a keen eye for business and for the needs of the church have stepped up to research solutions to problems, engage engineering studies, shop for specific products and help make reasonable cost estimates. Still, there are additional tasks that have required my input, extra meetings that need my attention, and some very sensitive planning for the advance gifts phase of our capital campaign which will begin shortly. While I am confident that God will provide what we need for the next phase of our life together as a congregation, I know that God expects us to offer the best of our gifts to support the work of the church. I have tried to be careful, deliberate, prayerful and faithful as I have participated in the planning for the investments that we will be invited to make in the future of this congregation.

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Keeping Preaching Fresh

There have been a lot of changes in our worship since we began a fresh approach in September. It has been a challenge to develop liturgy that is engaging for children while at the same time provides the quiet and spiritual nurture that other members desire. Change can be unsettling and sometimes upsetting. Some of our experiments with new ways to do things have been more successful than others. A few of the things that we have tried have not worked out the way we intended. We keep trying and we keep listening to the responses of the congregation. In the midst of all of the changes, the call to proclaim the Gospel continues to be central to my life. I have worked hard to nurture my skills as a preacher. During the last part of the year I took a course on professional storytelling including wading through six significant textbooks of the course. There were many things in the class that I already knew. There were others that were new to me. I have been practicing my new skills and they have brought fresh energy to the preaching task.

I also nurture my preaching by participating in an ecumenical Bible Study with other pastors. Each week we study the texts and share our ideas about how those texts might be expressed in our preaching. Episcopal, Methodist and Lutheran pastors all have informed my understanding of the Bible. In addition, I meet weekly for a book study with UCC clergy. The relationships that develop through such groups help nurture my pastoral ministry as well as the ministry of worship.

Looking Forward

Each year of my ministry in this congregation has been a year of significant growth for me as a person and for the congregation. Together we have developed new programs, engaged in new ministries, discovered new mission and grown in faith. We also have celebrated and grieved and witnessed the power of the Holy Spirit together. It is impossible to say that one year is more significant than another. Still, I do have a sense of 2015 as being a year of great expectations. Our capital projects process will provide us with an opportunity to make significant investment in the future of the church. Like those church leaders who, in the late 1950's envisioned a new church building that would serve future generations, we are being given the opportunity to make gifts to future generations of the church. While we do not have the ability to predict the future, we do know that just as we inherited a church with a legacy of significant mission and service, so we have the opportunity to leave a strong statement of faith to those who will come after us.

Lent and Easter will soon be upon us. The past year has taught us how significant these spiritual disciplines are in facing the complex and sometimes difficult times that life gives. I am grateful for the journey we have shared over the past two decades and I am excited about the things that God has yet to reveal to us as we share this life of faith.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your pastor and teacher.

Another Way to Learn about your Pastor

One of my spiritual disciplines is blogging. I begin each day by writing an essay and publishing that essay on my personal web site. Over the years, that has amounted to a lot of words, so I maintain my own personal web site that is distinct from the church's web page.

I blog about a lot of different topics. Sometimes I respond to the news of the day. Sometimes I respond to the life of our congregation. Sometimes I explore new ideas and concepts. It seems that there is a fresh topic for me to explore each day. Some of those blogs eventually become sermons. Other times the ideas are entered into the blog and go nowhere else.

Writing is one of the ways that I continue to explore the connections between the life of the mind, the life of the spirit and the world in which I find myself.

You can find out more about me by going to my personal web site at www.revtedh.com. There you can access my daily blog, find out about my hobbies and learn a little bit more about who I am.



Summer paddle

Ordained to Preach and Teach

It is relatively rare for a congregation to have a fully ordained minister of education. Our congregation is unique in that all of our ordained ministers are also certified educators. In fact, in the United Church of Christ, we are the only congregation with three certified educators on staff. In addition, Rev. Mary Nelson Keithahn, a member of our congregation is another ordained certified educator.

In the traditions of our church, pastors are ordained to preach AND teach. Ordained ministers promise faithfulness in both tasks. The two ministries are considered to be equal and both essential to the health of the community.

While some see a distinction between faith formation and worship, we do not. All of the activities of the church are opportunities to teach and to learn and we all grow in faith when we share our faith in a wide variety of settings and through a wide variety of activities.



Preschoolers learning about faith together

Minister of Education Susan Huffman

2014: Busy, successful, sad, fun, hard, wonderful, challenging, hopeful, tearful, energetic, worshipful, eventful, healing, delightful, prayerful—and did I say BUSY?!

We only have to look as far as the number of deaths within our congregation to recognize that this has been a grief-filled year. But, of course, the number alone doesn't begin to describe the impact on our congregation. In March, there were four deaths of church members in nine days. In April, our choir director received a cancer diagnosis and died less than a month later. Many of those who died this year were beloved members who were deeply involved in congregational life—serving on departments, worshiping regularly and sharing their leadership skills. Their loss has been deeply felt by all of us—clergy and lay alike. The pastoral care for families and funeral planning has taken time and energy for all of our staff. But, beyond just the time involved, we acknowledge the holes in our life together and the grief that has been a part of this year's journey.

In the midst of the grief and the challenges, people have worked together to be the CHURCH. Time and time again, my phone calls for help have been answered with a "yes." When we had a funeral and Palm Sunday worship without access to our front doors, I worked with volunteers to help get people into the building. The Women's Fellowship kept busy serving funeral lunches. In the same season, the Woodchucks made two emergency deliveries of firewood to the Cheyenne River Reservation. Following the death of our choir director, musicians of all ages

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The educational ministry of the church has been thriving

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stepped up to fill our summer worship with music. Yes, it has been a challenging year, but we have worked together and stayed busy—busy being the Church.

A Thriving Ministry

The educational ministry of the church has been thriving. In the spring, the Sunday School classes focused on the Lord's Prayer, using *Praying with Jesus* as the resource material. Many of the children learned the Lord's Prayer during this time. I researched a variety of resources and the Department chose a new curriculum for use this fall, *Shine: Living in God's Light*. Teachers Pandi Bollock, Sharon Darrow, Lynn Grauman, Holly Perli, Laura Switzer and Becky Fleming have faithfully taught the Sunday morning classes during 2014. Musicians Leslie Brookes and Patti Rea shared their musical leadership. I am grateful for these leaders!

This year's Vacation Bible School was a great success! 51 kids from age 3-grade 5 attended—a record number! Ten middle school and high school youth helped with activities for the younger kids and a total of eighteen adults helped in some way. The nightly meals included the kids and their families, meaning that we served approximately 387 meals during the week! Wow! The focus this year was on the stories of Moses. The Department of Education picked the theme and I designed the program. When the children entered the sanctuary on July 14, they were greeted by a sign proclaiming "WELCOME TO EGYPT." Throughout the week, the children, youth helpers and adult leaders learned the stories of Moses through music, drama, art, games and more. All of the elements were coordinated to reinforce the stories, helping the participants to learn these foundational stories of our faith. It was a busy, energetic and successful time.

Stepping Stones

In September, the Department of Education instituted a new program called "Stepping Stones." This program is intended to strengthen church attendance and participation, as well as to draw positive connections between the child's experiences at home and their experiences at church. It has been fun for me to focus on

a particular age group and to make the Stepping Stones awards a meaningful part of our worship experience.

Youth

United Church Youth has had a good year. Nick Strampe and Ryan Webster served as youth group assistants during the 2013-2014 school year and are continuing in that role this year. These young men (both 24 years old) are great leaders and good role models for the youth. Nick's wife Courtney also joins in when her schedule allows. I plan the program, and Nick, Ryan, Courtney and Ted help with the activities. UCY activities during the winter and spring included *Souper Bowl of Caring*, serving the Ash Wednesday supper and helping with the Ash Wednesday worship service, participating in Rapid City Cleanup Day and raising money for the Big Brothers Big Sisters *Bowl for Kids' Sake*. Once again, UCY earned the *Bowl for Kids' Sake* prize as the best youth group fundraisers, earning a prize party at Flags and Wheels! The fall started off with UCY sponsoring "Cherry on Top," an ice-cream sundae and baked goods fundraiser which put us "over the top" on our Habitat for Humanity goal! Other fall activities have included packing backpacks for Love INC, care packages for college kids and treat bags for a Native American Christmas Party. Six youth and two adults attended the Fall Youth Event at Placerville camp. Games, art experiences and Destination Unknown excursions round out the busy and fun youth group activities.

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Children Worship

The Department of Education has been taking seriously the role of children in worship. In the spring of 2014, a commitment was made to worship education. During the 2014-2015 school year, children have been invited to remain in the sanctuary for the entire worship service on the First Sunday of each month. This allows children and teachers to receive communion with the congregation and gives children the opportunity to participate fully in worship.

We learn to worship by engaging in worship. That same commitment is maintained when the children and youth of the church lead the congregation in worship. Special occasions such as the Advent children's worship are carefully crafted and designed to have all of the elements of worship: call to worship, prayers, scripture, interpretation of scripture, offering and passing the peace.

We firmly believe that children should be seen and heard in worship and throughout the life of our congregation.

Adult Education

A variety of adult studies have been offered throughout the year. I taught the Kerygma class *God Calls Leaders*, a challenging study that we slowly made our way through. Ted taught the Lenten Study on *Going Deeper with Faith*. Kathleen leads a Bible Study/book study at Westhills Village and oversees the Church Chat discussion groups. Sheila Long has been leading a Women's Bible Study Group. Our most recent adult education program is participating in the UCC "One Read" program. Over 40 copies of *Hot Dogs and Hamburgers: Unlocking Life's Potential by Inspiring Literacy at Any Age* are circulating in our congregation, meaning many adults are taking part in this new form of adult education. I'm looking forward to exploring this method of sharing with other books.

Faith Formation in Many Church Activities

Many other activities have made this a busy year. In the spring, I worked on the "Bring a Friend Sunday." Our congregation has now held four "Bring a Friend" Sundays in the last two years and we are seeing the results with new people in our midst. I took part in the Holy Week worship services, coordinating the food and storytelling for the Wednesday night service. The SD Conference Annual Meeting filled our building with visitors from across the state and kept us all busy coordinating the many details. The fall has been busy with planning the Fall Festival/Halloween party, the Advent Festival and the youth-led Christmas worship.

It has been a busy year filled with powerful times of worship, rich celebrations of life and hope, energizing times of fellowship and deep exhaustion, as well. As I look ahead, I know the coming year will also be busy, challenging, and hopeful. I know there will be many opportunities for us to be the Church of Jesus Christ. It takes all of us to do this work. Thanks to all of our congregation for sharing in this community of faith.



We learn to worship by engaging in worship



Minister of Christian Nurture Kathleen Batchelder

As Minister of Christian Nurture, my call includes visitation, congregation connections, spiritual practice leadership, worship leadership, and community outreach. In 2014, my work in each of these areas has deepened.

Visitation

Visitation continues to be my most important area of ministry, and I treasure opportunities to visit our members in their homes, apartments, and group living facilities. Some visits are casual chats, some are visits after surgeries or illnesses, and others are varied requests for pastoral care. As 2014 was a year of the deaths of several members of our congregation, I was privileged to be with families in the midst of final journeys and memorial services.

Congregational Connections

Congregation Connections celebrated its first anniversary on September 28 with sixteen lay members of our congregation who have volunteered to call, write, and visit among our church family. Our CC team meets semi-annually to revise our lists of needs and to share ideas for enhancing our program of communicating care and concern for those who are not able to attend church on a regular basis. All church members and friends are encouraged to contact me or the church office with requests for calls and visits. The members of our Congregation Connections team are: Sharon Darrow; Rev. Jane Ireland; Rev. Mary Keithahn; Rev. Jill Kundtz; Chuck Lindly; Mary Mead; Eleanore Moe; Eileen Rossow; Sybil and Chuck Rounds; Kandee Snoozy; Doris Marie Strom; Laura Switzer; Jim Webster; Tish Wilkinson; and Alta Wade.

Other Groups

I also work with other groups, such as Church Chat, Dinner for Six or Eight, and the Fourth Tuesday Ladies Lunch Group, which deepen connections within our congregation. Church Chat is a group of about a dozen faithful participants who gather the first and third Tuesday of each month to discuss books and issues. Bonnie Edwards, Barb Knight, and Georgia O'Connor share the leadership for Church Chat.

Dinner for Six or Eight is a popular activity for small groups to meet for meals and fellowship. Pat Sutliff has been co-chairperson of Dinner for Six or Eight for several years, and her enthusiasm has helped this program grow and thrive. As Pat retires, Becky Fisher will begin working with me to continue the success of Dinner for Six or Eight. Another opportunity for table fellowship is the Fourth Tuesday Ladies Lunch Group, founded by Maureen Dymock. These ladies gather monthly for good lunches and carefree conversation.

Spiritual Practice

Our Spiritual Practice group has a solid base of eight members who gather weekly for quiet prayer, Lectio Divina (contemplative reading of the Scriptures), and study of a variety of spiritual disciplines. This year we have studied Richard Foster's Spiritual Classics and Barbara Brown Taylor's An Altar in the World. We took a "field trip" to St. Martin's Monastery where Sister Marmion Howe led us in Centering Prayer. Anyone interested in deeper spiritual practice is welcome to join our group each Tuesday, 1:15-2:15 p.m.

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Worship

Worship leadership has been my privilege when Ted and Susan have been on vacations in 2014. Also, Marrelyce Seaman and I lead informal worship with the ladies in the Pennington County Jail on the third Sunday afternoon of each month. Marrelyce is a compassionate and perceptive partner in this ministry. Also from our congregation, Melanie Palm leads yoga classes for the ladies at the jail each Friday afternoon.

Community Outreach

Community Outreach activities for me this year have been varied. One rewarding outing is our semi-monthly Bible and Book Study group at Westhills Village where we are wrapping up a season of studying Paul's letter to the Romans and Paul Jones's book The Church's Seven Deadly Secrets: Identity Theft from Within. I serve on the board for United Campus Ministry, and my specific contribution has been organizing programs with Ruth Ann Karlen and Lois Moore for the Thursday Forum. Within our SD UCC Conference, I am currently preparing to be moderator for the June 2015 meeting of the South Dakota UCC Conference and delegate to the UCC General Synod in Cleveland in June 2015.

I give thanks for our church family—specifically to those I have named and also to the entire congregation—for their dedication and willingness to serve. I am grateful to be part of our ever-deepening ministry, and I look forward to another year of seeking peace, love, and justice.

Church Departments

Our church is organized by the priorities of the congregation. There is a department for each priority: Worship, Education, Ministries, Hospitality, Building, and Stewardship.

The Department of Worship

By Laura Switzer, chair

The Department of Worship coordinates various aspects of worship in cooperation with the pastoral staff, music staff, usher teams, communion servers, and the Altar Guild. The Department members also are responsible for recruiting liturgists, greeters, and baptism representatives.

The Holy Week services were once again a rich and wonderful experience. Over 205 people attended the various mid-week events which included: the Liturgy of the Passion, an evening of Sittin' with the Blues, a Christian Wake, Maundy Thursday Communion, a Journey to the Cross, and the Great Vigil of Easter.

Karen Ross, who was hired as our new adult choir director in September of 2013, passed away on May 16, 2014. The loss of Karen's leadership and talent has been felt by all.

Department of Worship members and choir members formed a committee in June to begin searching for a new adult choir director. By September, no qualified candidates had applied for the position. Becky Umenthum agreed to serve as an interim director until a new director is hired. She has been an excellent leader during this time of transition.

Inspirational musical performances have been provided throughout the year by the adult choir, soloists, instrumentalists, our organist, Michael Ross, and the bell choir, directed by Michael Bossen.

Tish Wilkinson joined the Department in August to temporarily replace a member who could not complete her term.

The first Worship for All Ages service was held on September 7. The children participated in the entire worship service instead of leaving for classes part way through the service. These services continued to be held on the first Sunday of each month for the remainder of 2014.

The Department members who have reached their term limit and are moving on are Jane Ireland and Laura Switzer. Also leaving are Bertie Roberts, Alicia Sutliff-Benusis and Tish Wilkinson. We thank all those who are leaving for their service. Members who remain are Cam Miller, Kandee Snoozy, and Ryan Webster.



We are experiencing an increase in the number of infants and preschoolers

The Department of Education

By Sharon Darrow, chair

The Department of Education has the responsibility of general oversight of all educational activities for all ages.

Paid staff members, Susan Huffman and Kathleen Batchelder, have been responsible for the adult Bible studies, book study groups, Church Chat, confirmation classes, and camp opportunities. The department focus has been on Sunday school and youth activities.

Ash Wednesday pancake feed was a youth sponsored "family" night. Destination Unknown is a popular Wednesday night youth activity once each month.

Moses was the theme for Vacation Bible School this summer. We were pleased with the number of participants and many families joined the kids for supper before the activities. The last evening the children presented a program showcasing what they had learned.

Two new ideas were implemented this year:

1. Children stay in worship the first Sunday of the month to participate in communion with their family and also experience the entire worship service which they miss when leaving for the Sunday school class.
2. Each month a different age group of children – birth to grade 12 – is presented with a small "Stepping Stones" gift.

A refrigerator magnet calendar with Church School events for the year printed on it was mailed to each family with children.

To be consistent, the Sparks Bible was given to first and 4th graders. Pre-school students received a Bible story book appropriate for their age group.

The monies collected by the students will again this year be given to Placerville Camp.

The "Year End" and "Fall Kick-Off" activities were both fun activities for the students and based on the Bible stories learned in class and VBS. This year the curriculum, **Shine**, is lectionary based.

"Jesus is the Light" was the theme of the Advent Fair and youth led Christmas worship service.

Responsibility for the library is also under the Department of Education. Eleanore Moe and Ruth Ann Karlen are the volunteers working on the library project. A Children's Reading Club Corner has been added in the Fellowship Hall along with a display and check-out for adult books. Thanks to the generous monetary gift from the Good Morning Circle, new Christmas books were purchased for children.

Volunteers read to children during the coffee time. Book awards are given to children who read and turn in book logs each month. The awards are given during the Sunday School time.

Members who are moving on are Jenny Seals and Sharon Darrow. Members who remain on the department are Pandi Bollock, Dona Leavens, Lisa Lyons and Becky Fleming.

Department of Building, Equipment and Grounds

The Department of Building, Equipment and Grounds is a group that is more interested in getting the work done than in meetings and writing reports. Significant hours of faithful work were coordinated by the department in 2014. Volunteers took care of all of the outside yard work, including sprinkler system maintenance and lawn mowing. Minor repairs also were managed by volunteers. The electrical receptacles in the Kitchen and Fellowship Hall were replaced and ground fault interrupt receptacles were installed according to the electrical code.

Repairs were made to other items throughout the church, including painting the two small bathrooms, installation of new paper towel dispensers, repair of the portable lectern, reinstalling drape rods, replacing ceiling tile and re-gluing floor tile.

The Department of Ministries

By Robin Franson and Georgia O'Connor, co-chairs

The Department of Ministries members were very busy in 2014. Our busy workers were Kathleen Batchelder, Robin Franson, Barb Knight, Jill Kundtz, Michael and Georgia O'Connor, Pat Sutliff, and Pat Wheaton. Georgia and Robin served as Co-Chairs.

In 2014, we prepared, transported and served four hot meals at the Cornerstone Mission. We also served hot meals for United Campus Ministry for the students at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in February and September. These were prime opportunities to share good food, conversation and fellowship. Our committee kept the congregation informed with Mission Moments during church services to highlight the 5 special offerings our congregation so generously supports.

Department of Ministries members sold food coupons weekly after church services. We appreciate the steady support of so many people who purchased coupons from Family Thrift Center, Wal-Mart, Safeway and Sam's Club to benefit Church Response. These coupons had a value of \$86,250.00 and a profit of \$1,538.00. This allowed us to pay for the six meals mentioned above. In 2014 members of our also church donated 1041 lbs. of food valued at \$1,572.97.

The members of The Ministries Department sincerely thank church members who baked cookies, and assisted in meal preparation and service. Also thanks to Becky Umenthum who jumped in and sold coupons for us several times this year. These people made the work of the committee much easier. Georgia and Michael O'Connor and Robin Franson have completed their three year terms on this committee. Our upbeat, hard working committee members and our Pastor Advisor, Kathleen Batchelder, have made our work a pleasure. A big thank you from us to each of them!

2014 Ministries Committee Financials

Weekly Food Donations

Month	Pounds	Value
January	108	\$165.24
February	21	\$32.13
March	61	\$93.33
April	119	\$182.07
May	55	\$84.15
June	81	\$123.93
July	64	\$97.92
August	97	\$128.65
September	143	\$218.79
October	61	\$93.33
November	79	\$120.87
December	152	\$232.56

Meal Expense

Mission, January	\$275.00
SDSMT, February	\$200.00
Mission, May	\$250.00
Mission, August	\$250.00
SDSMT, September	\$100.00
Mission, October	\$200.00
2014 Total Meal Expense	\$1,275.00

Coupon Profit	Less Meal Exp. =	Real Profit
\$1,538.00	-\$1,275.00	\$263.00

Food Totals:	Pounds	Value
2014	1041	\$1,572.97

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Coupon Sales

Date	Sales	Profit
January		
1/6/2014	\$1,875.00	\$34.25
1/13/2014	\$1,450.00	\$29.00
1/21/2014	\$2,725.00	\$36.50
1/27/2014	\$1,425.00	\$28.50
Totals	\$7,475.00	\$128.25
February		
2/3/2014	\$1,325.00	\$24.00
2/10/2014	\$1,650.00	\$33.00
2/17/2014	\$450.00	\$9.00
2/24/2014	\$2,300.00	\$38.00
Totals	\$5,725.00	\$104.00
March		
3/3/2014	\$1,100.00	\$22.00
3/10/2014	\$2,450.00	\$44.00
3/17/2014	\$1,925.00	\$34.50
3/24/2014	\$1,250.00	\$21.50
3/31/2014	\$1,600.00	\$26.00
Totals	\$8,325.00	\$148.00
April		
4/6/2014	\$900.00	\$18.00
4/13/2014	\$1,300.00	\$21.00
4/20/2014	\$1,600.00	\$30.00
4/27/2014	\$3,600.00	\$64.00
Totals	\$7,400.00	\$133.00
May		
5/5/2014	Church Response Closed	
5/12/2014	\$1,075.00	\$27.50
5/19/2014	\$125.00	\$2.50
5/26/2014	\$1,750.00	\$31.75
Totals	\$2,950.00	\$61.75
June		
6/2/2014	\$1,250.00	\$20.75
6/9/2014	Church Response Closed	
6/16/2014	\$2,175.00	\$41.50
6/23/2014	\$2,600.00	\$43.00
6/30/2014	\$1,675.00	\$28.00
Totals	\$7,700.00	\$133.25

Dept. of Ministries

Date	Sales	Profit
July		
7/7/2014	\$1,700.00	\$26.75
7/14/2014	\$1,800.00	\$33.00
7/21/2014	\$1,350.00	\$22.00
7/28/2014	\$1,750.00	\$31.00
Totals	\$6,600.00	\$112.75
August		
8/4/2014	\$1,550.00	\$27.00
8/11/2014	\$2,700.00	\$47.00
8/18/2014	\$1,100.00	\$18.00
8/25/2014	\$2,100.00	\$39.00
Totals	\$7,450.00	\$131.00
September		
9/1/2014	\$1,525.00	\$25.50
9/8/2014	\$1,800.00	\$30.50
9/15/2014	\$1,700.00	\$29.00
9/22/2014	\$2,300.00	\$36.00
9/29/2014	\$1,975.00	\$36.50
Totals	\$9,300.00	\$157.50
October		
10/6/2014	\$2,225.00	\$43.25
10/13/2014	\$1,325.00	\$23.50
10/20/2014	\$2,250.00	\$42.00
10/27/2014	\$950.00	\$18.00
Totals	\$6,750.00	\$126.75
November		
11/2/2014	\$1,375.00	\$23.00
11/9/2014	\$1,275.00	\$24.50
11/16/2014	\$1,700.00	\$32.00
11/23/2014	\$2,200.00	\$41.00
11/30/2014	\$500.00	\$8.75
Totals	\$7,050.00	\$129.25
December		
12/7/2014	\$2,550.00	\$48.00
12/14/2014	\$3,375.00	\$60.50
12/21/2014	\$2,600.00	\$48.50
12/28/2014	\$1,000.00	\$15.50
Totals	\$9,525.00	\$172.50

Coupon Total	Value	Profit
2014	\$86,250.00	\$1,538.00

Donations:	
SDSMT Ministries	\$1,000.00
Church Response	\$1,000.00
Total:	\$2,000.00

The Department of Hospitality

By Kyle Grauman, chair

It was yet another fantastic year for those of us with the privilege of serving on our church's Department of Hospitality. 2014 had many events that we as a congregation have come to enjoy and look forward to as well as some that were newly introduced.

Our year started in January by hosting the annual meeting (our chief duty, of course, is providing caramel rolls for the famished attendees).

In February, we had the All-Church Birthday Party where each month has a special table and cake decorated by volunteers from the congregation. Additionally, Congregational Connections sent Valentines out to those unable to attend church. March was highlighted by our Saint Patrick's Day celebration which featured a smorgasbord of festive treats.

In order to help "Widen our Welcome" the Bring-a-Friend task force was created in 2013. The Bring-a-Friend Task Force was officially merged with the Department of Hospitality in 2014. The task force's main focus was on "Bring-a-Friend Sundays" where church members are encouraged to bring friends, family, acquaintances or complete strangers to church in order to experience the grace and love of Christ. The first Bring-a-Friend Sunday of 2014 was in April. Following worship, the congregation and its visitors were treated to a wonderful mini-concert in the fellowship hall.

May brought the annual Muffins for Moms and in June we had our Donuts for Dads celebration. Both events have led to great fellowship. In addition to Donuts for Dads, June also featured the UCC Conference. The Department helped in several different ways as our church played host to the annual assembly.

October saw the launch of the new "Welcome Bags". These bags are decorated by the church's youth group and contain all sorts of great information about our church and the opportunities it provides (as well as some other goodies). The year's second Bring-a-Friend Sunday was held in October. This event featured a chili feed where 17 different types of chili were shared and enjoyed!

For the month of November, the Department of Hospitality hosted a new event. We held a holiday themed activity day on November 28th (also known as black Friday to you avid shoppers). At this event we had several children and parents come and enjoy games, movies, sing-a-longs, music, pizza and snacks.

Our members for the year of 2014: Ben and Dee Anderson, Velma Speck, Jenny Kozel, Willy Grigg, Patsy Valandra, Kyle Grauman, Brad and Heather Heinert, Reva Ortega and Kathleen Batchelder.

The Altar Guild

The Altar Guild had its inception when thirty interested women met at the home of Mrs. C. G. Osterhof in February 1945. They drew up a constitution and by-laws for the Guild and the purpose of the group remains the same today. The Guild has the responsibility of providing decorations for the Altar each Sunday.

Each week members arrange the flowers and candles and special seasonal decorations. Through the years, candle holders, candles, urns, and permanent plants at the base of the cross have been purchased by the Guild. Members also care for the plants in the chancel. They receive no funds through the budget process. Their income comes from flower sales, weddings, and some donations and memorials.

The Guild provides wedding assistance and sends cards to members who need encouragement or are celebrating a special occasion. The Altar Guild is part of the Department of Worship.

The ten guild members meet the second Thursday of each month from 10:00 am to 11:00 am except June, July, and December. Business is conducted followed by an informational program. Anyone interested in joining this group please contact Kandy Snoozy, Sharon Darrow, Jeanette Hill, or any of the members.

Altar Guild Financial Report

Jeannette Hill, Treasurer

2014 Beginning Balance
\$1,411.84

Income:

Sale of Easter Lilies 538.00

Wedding Income 150.00

Sale of Poinsettias 390.00

Total Income \$1,078.00

\$2,489.84

Expenses:

Planters \$ 385.82

Liquid Candles 71.50

Baptismal Font 120.00

WAVI Donation 50.00

Easter Lilies 477.67

Material for front pots 78.30

Memorial Altar Flowers

47.70

Scrapbook supplies 18.96

Poinsettias 346.36

Total Expenses \$1,596.31

(\$1,596.31)

Ending balance \$893.53



Placerville Camp

Women's Fellowship

By Sue Maynard, secretary

Women's Fellowship hosted a retreat at Placerville this year with the cost of \$55.00 per person. Scholarships were available; none were requested. People statewide were invited.

We served two funerals in October and cleaned the kitchen on Sept. 29. A check for \$1,000 was given to Church Response. We approved and donated \$1,500 for a new lawn mower.

In September, we contributed to Meals on Wheels and \$3,000 to Placerville. We had kitchen clean up on Sept. 29. The first 3 Sundays in November were used for the crafters to sell the items they had created; monies from this sale will be used to enhance capital outlay projects. Sales of hand made cards continue and the monies from this activity help to fund the Costa Rican feeding program. We served two funerals in September.

A rummage sale was held on August 22 and 23. \$8,182.22 was deposited as rummage sale proceeds. In August, we donated \$750.00 to Sybil and Chuck Rounds for the Costa Rican feeding program. We contributed \$750.00 to Placerville from the proceeds of the June 9 craft sale. The Spring Luncheon was served to 44 people on May 3. Tickets were \$10.00. An all church cleaning day was held on May 19 and Women's Fellowship contributed \$100.00 to HIKE, a hearing program from Job's Daughters.

On May 1, we hired Linda Erickson as our new cleaning service provider. The hospitality committee had no funding for this year so Women's Fellowship voted to fund projects as deemed appropriate.

On June 6, 7, and 8 Women's Fellowship provided cookies, fruit, cheeses, crackers for the church conference. Women's Fellowship purchased a hand vacuum to use in cleaning jobs.

In April, we served three funerals. We also contributed \$300.00 to Wider Church Ministries and \$500.00 to Cornerstone Mission. We also deposited \$7,044.95 from the March rummage sale. Women's Fellowship contributed \$125.00 to the group hosting "Bring A Friend To Church Sunday".

Continued on p. 26

Items funded by Women's Fellowship included: Wider Church Ministries (300.00), Church Pledge (3,000.00), Costa Rica (2,000.00), Cornerstone (500.00), Senior Meals (1,000.00), Church Pantry (1,000.00), Placerville (3,000.00), Church Response (1,000.00), Hospice House (500.00), Spring Luncheon (100.00), Rummage Sale Ads (70.00), Carpet cleaning, (130.00), Retreat Supplies (50.00), Blanket Sunday (200.00), Christmas Tea, (50.00), State Women's Fellowship (25.00), and miscellaneous, (1,000.00) for a total of \$15,725.00

Women's Fellowship paid \$950.00 to Bill Warvi for new library shelves.

Women's Fellowship Financial Report

By Peggy Eckholm, Treasurer

2014 Beginning Balance \$ 9,406.66

Income:

Rummage Sales	\$15,254.17
Receptions	2,500.00
Spring Luncheon	440.00
Craft Sales	2,766.50
Women's Retreat	1,535.00
Miscellaneous	125.00

Total Income \$22,620.67 \$32,081.22

Expenses:

Cornerstone	\$ 500.00
Costa Rica	3,208.00
Senior Meals	1,000.00
Church Pledge	3,000.00
Pantry	1,000.00
Placerville	4,208.00
Spring Luncheon	376.64
Church Response	1,000.00
Hospice House	500.00
Rummage Sale Beg. Cash	2,094.00
Rummages Sale Ads	119.90
Receptions	517.92
Retreat Supplies	89.98
Blanket Sunday	200.00
Wider Church Ministries	300.00
Women's Retreat	1,685.00
1 st Congregational - Phase 2	1,710.50
Miscellaneous	705.48

Total Expenses \$22,215.42

Ending balance \$ 9,865.80

Good Morning Circle

By Eleanore Moe, Recording Secretary

Membership: 26 members

Meetings: Seven monthly meetings were held during the year in addition to the Christmas tea. (No March meeting because of funerals.)

Activities included:

- Sunday morning coffees
- Semi-annual rummage sales
- Served at funerals, weddings
- Sponsored a Global Ministries student
- Donated to our sister church in Los Guido
- Donated to our church library
- Donated to Blanket Sunday
- Donated to Kids Kozy
- Donated to the Third World Woman Scholarship at SDSM&T
- Helped with kitchen and church cleanup
- Helped with the Spring Luncheon
- Sponsored the Christmas gifts for the Women's Shelters
- Sent Christmas cookies to shut-ins
- Enjoyed fellowship and inspiring programs

Good Morning Circle Treasurer

Dorothy Davis, Treasurer

2014 Beginning Balance
\$1,743.85

Income:

Pledges	\$ 414.81
Least Coin	11.61
Blessings	35.21
Bridge Pads	15.00
Cook books	35.00
Bridge Marathon	450.00
Bridge Marathon	263.61
Total Income	\$ 1,225.25

\$2,969.09

Expenses:

Postage	\$ 208.30
Bridge Marathon	220.80
Bridge Prizes	116.56
Donations:	
OCWM	223.00
Blanket Sunday	100.00
Costa Rica	400.00
Library	200.00
Total Expenses	\$1,465.66

Ending balance \$1,500.43

Good Evening Circle

By Cindy Ledford, Secretary

Good Evening Circle meets monthly on the 3rd Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. except for December and the summer. We enjoyed a potluck in September and hosted the Christmas Tea. Our fundraisers include offering cinnamon rolls during coffee hour biannually and selling dishcloths throughout the year. Twice during this year, we filled Jared Boxes with toys and love for pediatrics at Regional Hospital and enjoyed making fleece blankets for Cases for Kids, Love INC.

We assisted with the dedication of the church library and provided help during the State UCC Conference in June. Members supported the biannual rummage sales, helped with several funeral luncheons, kitchen and sanctuary cleaning, spring luncheon, and weddings. Donations have been made to: Feeding SD, Church Response, Cornerstone Mission, Meals on Wheels, Black Hills Children's Home, HIKE, WAVI, Blanket Sunday, and the Costa Rica Fund.

Good Evening Circle Treasurer

2013 Beginning Balance 483.22

Income:

Pledges	\$102.00
Dishcloth Sales	255.00
Cinnamon Roll Sales	445.28
Donation	5.00
Least Coin Collected	12.83

Total Income 800.11 800.11

1,303.33

Disbursements:

Dawn Erk (cinnamon roll expenses)	98.24
Southland Trade Co. (dishcloths)	142.56
Pandi Bollock (quilt fabric)	48.45
Sybil Rounds (Costa Rica food program)	50.00
FCC Blanket Sunday	50.00
B.H. Children's Home Society	50.00
Cornerstone Rescue Mission	50.00
WAVI	50.00
Feeding South Dakota	50.00
Church Response	50.00
Meals on Wheels	50.00
HIKE	50.00
Women's Fellowship (least coin)	25.00
U.S. Postmaster (stamps)	9.80

Total Disbursements 774.05 774.05

Balance on Hand 529.28

Department of Stewardship and Budget

Denise Webster, Treasurer

Invested Funds

UBS Money Market Account:

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2014	15,417.03
Proceeds from sale of donated stock	4,953.04
Dividend Income	0.31
Net gain on sale of stock	26.40
Fee	(95.00)
Transfer to checking	(20,301.78)
Ending Balance, December 31, 2014	-

Pioneer Bank & Trust - Certificate of Deposit

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2014	43,626.07
Interest Earned	503.86
Ending Balance, December 31, 2014	44,129.93
Purchased 9/17/13, matures 3/17/17	
1.15% interest	

Pioneer Bank & Trust - Certificate of Deposit

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2014	40,000.00
Purchase	-
Interest paid out quarterly	-
Ending Balance, December 31, 2014	40,000.00
Purchased 2/28/12, matures 8/28/15	
1.4% interest	

Pioneer Bank & Trust - Certificate of Deposit

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2014	25,000.00
Purchase	-
Interest paid out quarterly	-
Ending Balance, December 31, 2014	25,000.00
Purchased 2/28/14, matures 2/28/15	
.4% interest	

Invested Funds

The primary responsibility of the Department of Stewardship and Budget is to oversee the use of the general funds of the congregation to make sure that the church is operated within the budget voted by the congregation each year.

The Department of Stewardship and Budget has responsibility for the operating funds of the congregation. Among those funds are several designated funds. These funds are all reported on the balance sheet on page 33 of this report.

These designated funds have specific purposes, including a \$50,000 contingency fund, a memorial fund and the Legacy Fund.

The Department of Stewardship and Budget has a policy of not investing funds in the stock market. When gifts of stock are received, they are sold.

Some funds, however, are kept for reserve purposes and are not immediately needed for the day-to-day operation of the church. These funds are invested in Certificates of Deposit at area banks.

The Legacy Fund

In previous years, the church has maintained a Repairs and Maintenance Fund, dedicated for large expenditures for our building and as a reserve for unforeseen maintenance needs.

In 2014 the Department of Stewardship and Budget with the approval of the Church Board re-named the fund the "Legacy Fund" and amended the church policy manual to create a fund where members who want to make a lasting gift to the on-going legacy of our building can make their donations by direct gift or by including the legacy fund in their estate. In addition to income from those gifts, the Department also has the ability to set aside additional funds for major maintenance and building improvements. This fund will allow the church to plan for capital expenditures in the future.

For more information on the Legacy Fund, contact any member of the Department of Stewardship and Budget.

Restricted Funds

Contingency Fund:

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2014	50,000.00
No transactions	0.00
Ending Balance, December 31, 2014	50,000.00

Repairs & Maintenance Fund, Renamed to Legacy Fund:

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2014	28,416.26
Disbursements:	
Knight Security	-1,590.28
Transfer to Capital Improvement Fund	-1,700.19
Ending Balance, December 31, 2014	25,125.79

Air Conditioning Fund:

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2014	15,928.88
No Transactions	0.00
Ending Balance, December 31, 2014	15,928.88

Sabbatical Fund:

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2014	2,000.00
Transfer from general fund	999.96
Ending Balance, December 31, 2014	2,999.96

Organ Fund:

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2014	13.79
Organ maintenance	-13.79
Ending Balance, December 31, 2014	0.00

Piano Fund:

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2014	107.18
Piano Tuning Maintenance	-107.18
Ending Balance, December 31, 2014	0.00

Department of Ministries Funds:

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2014	4,513.83
We Care Food Certificate Sales	87,300.00
Disbursements:	
Cornerstone Mission Meals	-800.00
United Campus Ministry Meals	-200.00
United Campus Ministry Donation	-1,000.00
Church Response Donation	-1,000.00
We Care Food Certificate Purchases	-85,990.50
Ending Balance, December 31, 2014	2,823.33

Continued on p. 30

Restricted Funds

From page 29

Special Offerings Fund:

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2014	0.00
Member donations for unbudgeted benevolences	13,700.57
Costa Rica Donations	8,956.53
Habitat for Humanities Donations	9,616.63
Unbudgeted Benevolence Disbursements:	
Breakthrough, Inc.	-545.00
Church Response	-341.00
Love, Inc.	-2,020.00
Congo	-1,130.00
Habitat for Humanities	-9,616.63
One Great Hour of Sharing	-2,812.11
Blanket Sunday	-1,822.00
Strengthen the Church	-1,147.46
Cornerstone Mission	-200.00
Neighbors In Need	-1,653.00
Christmas Fund	-1,830.00
Placerville Camp	-225.00
Costa Rica Sister Church	-8,927.53
Ending Balance, December 31, 2014	4.00

Memorial Fund Balance:

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2014	23,030.32
Donations (Memorials):	
Leroy Johnson	200.00
Dick James	500.00
David Seaman	1,705.00
Sharyl Crutcher	1,855.00
Dorothy Ankrum	100.00
Joan Ebert	715.00
Dick Wade	2,570.00
Karen Ross	200.00
Marjorie Rabe	910.00
Harry Putnam	1,050.00
Dick Cheney	75.00
Anonymous	242.45
Disbursements:	
Fellowship Hall projector & screen	-837.88
Table & supplies	-83.34
Paschel Candle	-139.95
Framing for nursery	-362.58
Grill	-422.94
Sound System	-917.54
Songbooks	-2,024.50
Bell choir music & supplies	-177.50
Ending Balance, December 31, 2014	28,186.54

Continued on p. 31

Restricted Funds

From page 30

Boiler Fund; Changed to Capital Improvements Fund, Phase I:

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2014	39,077.01
Donation	2,300.00
Transfer from Legacy Fund	1,700.19
Disbursements:	
Painting	-5,840.00
Concrete	-18,735.56
Asphalt Repair	-1,573.52
New Glass Front Doors	-16,222.00
Repair Outside Steel Columns	-706.12
Ending Balance, December 31, 2014	<u>0.00</u>

Capital Improvements Fund, Phase II:

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2014	0.00
Donations	4,210.50
Ending Balance, December 31, 2014	<u>4,210.50</u>

Unbudgeted Benevolences

The following disbursements were paid through the church during 2014. These disbursements are direct pass-through monies from the members' contributions (special offerings).

Disbursements in 2014:

Habitat for Humanity	9,616.63
Church Response	341.00
Cornerstone Mission	200.00
Love, Inc.	2,020.00
Breakthrough, Inc.	545.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	2,812.11
Blanket Sunday	1,822.00
Strengthen the Church	1,147.46
Congo	1,130.00
Neighbors in Need	1,653.00
Christmas Fund	1,830.00
Placerville Camp	225.00
Costa Rica Sister Church	8,927.53
	<u>32,269.73</u>



Ketel Thorstenson, LLP

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ACCOUNTANT'S COMPILATION REPORT

To the Board of Trustees
First Congregational Church
Rapid City, South Dakota

We have compiled the accompanying statement of financial position of FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH as of December 31, 2014, and the accompanying supplementary schedules of treasurers' reports (selected budget to actual information) for the month of June and the year-to-date January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014, and the year-to-date for the prior year, which is presented only for supplementary analysis purposes. We have not audited or reviewed the accompanying financial statement and supplementary schedules and, accordingly, do not express an opinion or provide any assurance about whether the financial statement and supplementary schedules are in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement and supplementary schedules in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and for designing, implementing, and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement and supplementary schedules.

Our responsibility is to conduct the compilation in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The objective of a compilation is to assist management in presenting the financial information in the form of financial statements and supplementary schedules without undertaking to obtain or provide any assurance that there are no material modifications that should be made to the financial statements and supplementary schedules. During our compilation, we did become aware of departures from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America that are described in the following paragraphs.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that fixed assets be depreciated over their estimated useful lives. Management has informed us that the Organization has not computed depreciation on fixed assets. The effects of this departure from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America on financial position, results of operations, and cash flows have not been determined.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require the Organization to report information regarding its financial position according to three classes of net assets: unrestricted net assets, temporarily restricted net assets, and permanently restricted net assets. The Organization has not reported its financial position according to the three classes of net assets. The effects of this departure from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America on financial position, results of operations, and cash flows have not been determined.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that unconditional promises to give be recorded in the period pledged. The Organization records pledge revenue when cash is received rather than when earned or promised, unless the pledge is received in advance of the period of intended use. In such cases, the pledge revenue is shown as prepaid pledges, rather than revenue. The effects of this departure from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America on financial position, results of operations, and cash flows have not been determined.

Management has elected to omit substantially all of the disclosures required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. If the omitted disclosures and the statements of changes in net assets and cash flows were included in the financial statements, they might influence the user's conclusions about the Organization's financial position, results of operations, and cash flows. Accordingly, the financial statements are not designed for those who are not informed about such matters.

We are not independent with respect to FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

Ketel Thorstenson, LLP

KETEL THORSTENSON, LLP
Certified Public Accountants

January 3, 2015

First Congregational United Church of Christ - Rapid City SD
Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2014

Wednesday, January 07, 2015

Page 1 of 1

Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance
Assets		
1.10000	Checking Account	51,939.37
1.10300	Certificates of Deposit	109,129.93
1.10500	Food Certificates	2,500.00
	Total Cash & Investments	\$163,569.30
1.15100	Eagle Scout Structure	10,066.13
1.15200	Piano	34,000.00
1.15300	Organ Addition	194,934.00
1.15400	Building	556,487.89
1.15500	Building Improvements	115,340.83
1.15600	Land	38,532.55
	Total Land, Building & Equip.	\$949,361.40
	Total Assets	\$1,112,930.70
Liabilities		
2.21000	Scholarship Payable	2,000.00
2.22000	Prepaid Pledges	10,300.00
2.25000	Payroll Taxes Payable	1,638.66
	Total Liabilities	\$13,938.66
Fund Balance		
3.39000	Unrestricted Fund Balance	20,351.64
3.39002	Building Fund Balance	949,361.40
3.39003	Contingency Fund	50,000.00
3.39004	Memorial Fund Balance	28,186.54
3.39006	Legacy Fund	25,125.79
3.39007	Air Conditioning Fund Bal.	15,928.88
3.39008	Sabbatical Fund Balance	2,999.96
3.39015	Special Offerings Restricted Fund	4.00
3.39016	Dept. of Ministries Fund Bal.	2,823.33
3.39111	Capital Improvement II Fund Balance	4,210.50
	Total Fund Balance	\$1,098,992.04
	Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$1,112,930.70

First Congregational United Church of Christ - Rapid City SD
Treasurer's Report as of December 2014 for General Fund

Wednesday, January 07, 2015

Account Name Period Activity YTD Balance Previous YTD Monthly Budget % of Budget Month Budget YTD % of Budget YTD Over/Under YTD+(-) Annual Budget Annual Budget Remaining

Income										
Endowment Income	0.00	9,490.93	0.00	790.00	0	9,491.00	100	(0.07)	9,491.00	0.07
Loose Offerings	484.75	3,365.37	3,519.13	288.00	168	3,500.00	96	(134.63)	3,500.00	134.63
Non-pledge Donations	5,745.00	54,530.45	44,036.57	3,500.00	164	42,000.00	130	12,530.45	42,000.00	(12,530.45)
Pledges	16,686.96	224,483.81	233,496.31	18,161.00	92	217,965.00	103	6,518.81	217,965.00	(6,518.81)
Total Pledges & Gifts	\$22,916.71	\$291,870.56	\$281,052.01	\$22,739.00	101	\$272,956.00	107	\$18,914.56	\$272,956.00	(\$18,914.56)
Minister of Christian Nurture Inc.	0.00	0.00	0.00							
Miscellaneous Income	30.00	30.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0	30.00	0.00	(30.00)
Rent Income	30.00	10,242.00	10,922.00	913.00	3	11,000.00	93	(758.00)	11,000.00	758.00
Wedding/Funeral Income	300.00	1,800.00	125.00	12.00	2,500	100.00	1,800	1,700.00	100.00	(1,700.00)
Total Other Income	\$360.00	\$12,072.00	\$11,047.00	\$925.00	39	\$11,100.00	109	\$972.00	\$11,100.00	(\$972.00)
Gain (Loss) on Sale of Invest.	0.00	(18.16)	31.65	0.00	0	0.00	0	(18.16)	0.00	18.16
Interest/Dividend Income	126.16	1,208.96	1,578.49	137.00	92	1,600.00	76	(391.04)	1,600.00	391.04
Total Investment Income	\$126.16	\$1,190.80	\$1,610.14	\$137.00	92	\$1,600.00	74	(\$409.20)	\$1,600.00	\$409.20
Total Income										
	\$23,402.87	\$305,133.36	\$293,709.15	\$23,801.00	98	\$285,656.00	107	\$19,477.36	\$285,656.00	(\$19,477.36)
Expenses										
Senior Pastor Annuity	2,277.14	9,108.56	9,147.06	760.00	300	9,109.00	100	(0.44)	9,109.00	0.44
Senior Pastor Dis. Ins.	243.98	975.92	980.05	85.00	287	976.00	100	(0.08)	976.00	0.08
Senior Pastor SS Offset	0.00	0.00	0.00							
Sr Pastor Health Ins.	4,508.25	17,540.25	17,376.00	1,450.00	311	17,400.00	101	140.25	17,400.00	(140.25)
Sr Pastor Salary/Hsg	5,421.75	65,061.00	65,061.00	5,419.00	100	65,061.00	100	0.00	65,061.00	0.00
Total Senior Minister Salary	\$12,451.12	\$92,685.73	\$92,564.11	\$7,714.00	161	\$92,546.00	100	\$139.73	\$92,546.00	(\$139.73)
CE Minister Dis. Ins.	130.08	520.30	534.26	47.00	277	520.00	100	0.30	520.00	(0.30)
CE Minister Pension	1,214.01	4,856.04	4,986.55	401.00	303	4,856.00	100	0.04	4,856.00	(0.04)
CE Minister Salary/Hsg	2,890.50	34,686.00	34,686.00	2,885.00	100	34,686.00	100	0.00	34,686.00	0.00
Total CE Minister Salary	\$4,234.59	\$40,062.34	\$40,206.81	\$3,333.00	127	\$40,062.00	100	\$0.34	\$40,062.00	(\$0.34)
Bell Choir Dir. Salary	200.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	150.00	133	1,800.00	100	0.00	1,800.00	0.00
Bookkeeping Services	333.90	4,324.80	3,927.30	338.00	99	4,100.00	105	224.80	4,100.00	(224.80)
Choir Director Salary	500.00	4,400.00	5,000.00	538.00	93	6,500.00	68	(2,100.00)	6,500.00	2,100.00
Nursery Supervisor	180.00	993.00	508.50	38.00	474	500.00	199	493.00	500.00	(493.00)
Organist Salary	733.33	8,699.96	7,899.96	662.00	111	7,900.00	110	799.96	7,900.00	(799.96)

First Congregational United Church of Christ - Rapid City SD
Treasurer's Report as of December 2014 for General Fund

Wednesday, January 07, 2015

Page 2 of 3

Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Previous YTD	Monthly Budget	% of Budget Month	Budget YTD	% of Budget YTD	Over/Under YTD+(-)	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Secretary Benefits	0.00	0.00	0.00							
Secretary Salary	1,677.00	14,678.83	14,000.04	1,163.00	144	14,000.00	105	678.83	14,000.00	(678.83)
Substitute Organist	0.00	300.00	0.00	25.00	0	300.00	100	0.00	300.00	0.00
Substitute Pastor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Substitute Secretary	0.00	0.00	1,473.57	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Lay Staff Expense	\$3,624.23	\$35,196.59	\$34,609.37	\$2,914.00	124	\$35,100.00	100	\$96.59	\$35,100.00	(\$96.59)
CN Minister Pension	592.17	2,368.68	2,518.24	202.00	293	2,369.00	100	(0.32)	2,369.00	0.32
CN Minister Salary	1,409.92	16,919.04	16,919.04	1,409.00	100	16,919.00	100	0.04	16,919.00	(0.04)
Payroll Taxes	237.94	2,220.66	2,410.07	193.00	123	2,272.00	98	(51.34)	2,272.00	51.34
Total Salaries Expense	\$22,549.97	\$189,453.04	\$189,227.64	\$15,765.00	143	\$189,268.00	100	\$185.04	\$189,268.00	(\$185.04)
Baptism Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	0	25.00	0	(25.00)	25.00	25.00
Communion Supplies	0.00	75.63	185.25	12.00	0	100.00	76	(24.37)	100.00	24.37
New Music: Adult Choir	0.00	520.63	563.21	44.00	0	550.00	95	(29.37)	550.00	29.37
New Music: Bell Choir	0.00	329.74	313.08	19.00	0	250.00	132	79.74	250.00	(79.74)
New Music: Youth Choir	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.00	0	100.00	0	(100.00)	100.00	100.00
Organ Music	0.00	0.00	97.00	19.00	0	250.00	0	(250.00)	250.00	250.00
Piano / Organ Maint.	0.00	154.03	0.00	104.00	0	1,292.00	12	(1,137.97)	1,292.00	1,137.97
Soloist & Special Music	0.00	700.00	555.00	44.00	0	550.00	127	150.00	550.00	(150.00)
Total Worship Expense	\$0.00	\$1,780.03	\$1,713.54	\$257.00	0	\$3,117.00	57	(\$1,336.97)	\$3,117.00	\$1,336.97
Adult Education	203.30	757.05	343.77	37.00	549	400.00	189	357.05	400.00	(357.05)
CE Curriculum	468.73	3,502.27	1,095.49	88.00	533	1,100.00	318	2,402.27	1,100.00	(2,402.27)
Resources Expense										
CE Library	0.00	0.00	248.76	19.00	0	250.00	0	(250.00)	250.00	250.00
CE Program Expenses	238.83	1,203.49	3,414.85	325.00	73	3,900.00	31	(2,696.51)	3,900.00	2,696.51
CE Training	0.00	70.49	38.15	12.00	0	100.00	70	(29.51)	100.00	29.51
CE Travel	0.00	0.00	0.00							
CE Youth Conferences	0.00	400.00	0.00							
Graduation	0.00	0.00	245.76	19.00	0	250.00	0	(250.00)	250.00	250.00
Retreats and Special Events	157.45	752.71	0.00							
Total Christian Ed. Expense	\$1,068.31	\$6,686.01	\$5,386.78	\$500.00	214	\$6,000.00	111	\$686.01	\$6,000.00	(\$686.01)
Black Hills Assoc. Dues	0.00	1,192.00	1,172.00	96.00	0	1,196.00	100	(4.00)	1,196.00	4.00
Dept. of Hospitality	0.00	143.51	462.64							
Minister Prof. Exp.	0.00	321.83	585.75	50.00	0	600.00	54	(278.17)	600.00	278.17
Sr. Pastor Sabbatical	83.33	999.96	1,000.00	87.00	96	1,000.00	100	(0.04)	1,000.00	0.04

First Congregational United Church of Christ - Rapid City SD
Treasurer's Report as of December 2014 for General Fund

Wednesday, January 07, 2015

Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Previous YTD	Monthly Budget	% of Budget Month	Budget YTD	% of Budget YTD	Over/Under YTD+(-)	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Total Ministry Expense	\$83.33	\$2,657.30	\$3,220.39	\$233.00	36	\$2,796.00	95	(\$138.70)	\$2,796.00	\$138.70
Advertising	0.00	0.00	10.00							
Office Equip. Maint.	348.60	6,291.49	7,455.37	625.00	56	7,500.00	84	(1,208.51)	7,500.00	1,208.51
Postage	69.02	2,014.54	2,274.11	212.00	33	2,500.00	81	(485.46)	2,500.00	485.46
Supplies	465.87	4,345.35	5,263.22	462.00	101	5,500.00	79	(1,154.65)	5,500.00	1,154.65
Wedding/Funeral	100.00	1,450.00	49.93	12.00	833	100.00	1,450	1,350.00	100.00	(1,350.00)
Total Office Expense	\$983.49	\$14,101.38	\$15,052.63	\$1,311.00	75	\$15,600.00	90	(\$1,498.62)	\$15,600.00	\$1,498.62
BHPL - Electricity	910.16	9,437.46	9,011.16	750.00	121	9,000.00	105	437.46	9,000.00	(437.46)
Communications	229.61	3,447.72	3,395.32	288.00	80	3,500.00	99	(52.28)	3,500.00	52.28
MDU - Heat	2,065.11	12,245.21	10,096.74	837.00	247	10,000.00	122	2,245.21	10,000.00	(2,245.21)
Water and Garbage	64.09	4,230.30	4,880.06	412.00	16	4,900.00	86	(669.70)	4,900.00	669.70
Total Utilities Expense	\$3,268.97	\$29,360.69	\$27,383.28	\$2,287.00	143	\$27,400.00	107	\$1,960.69	\$27,400.00	(\$1,960.69)
Building Maintenance	1,247.75	11,960.02	23,576.47	1,212.00	103	14,500.00	82	(2,539.98)	14,500.00	2,539.98
Church Van Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00							
Grounds Maintenance	981.83	4,157.12	3,316.80	288.00	341	3,500.00	119	657.12	3,500.00	(657.12)
Insurance	3,196.50	13,834.75	13,000.75	1,087.00	294	13,000.00	106	834.75	13,000.00	(834.75)
Total Grounds/Build Expense	\$5,426.08	\$29,951.89	\$39,894.02	\$2,587.00	210	\$31,000.00	97	(\$1,048.11)	\$31,000.00	\$1,048.11
Costa Rica Sister Church	500.00	500.00	500.00	38.00	1,316	500.00	100	0.00	500.00	0.00
CUE Seminary Support	108.33	1,299.96	1,299.96	112.00	97	1,300.00	100	(0.04)	1,300.00	0.04
OCWM Basic Support	1,710.42	20,525.04	20,525.04	1,715.00	100	20,525.00	100	0.04	20,525.00	(0.04)
UC Ministries	145.83	1,749.96	1,749.96	144.00	101	1,750.00	100	(0.04)	1,750.00	0.04
Undesig. Contingency	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.00	0	100.00	0	(100.00)	100.00	100.00
Total Benevolences	\$2,464.58	\$24,074.96	\$24,074.96	\$2,021.00	122	\$24,175.00	100	(\$100.04)	\$24,175.00	\$100.04
Total Expenses	\$35,844.73	\$298,065.30	\$305,953.24	\$24,961.00	144	\$299,356.00	100	(\$1,290.70)	\$299,356.00	\$1,290.70
Difference	(\$12,441.86)	\$7,068.06	(\$12,244.09)	(\$1,160.00)		(\$13,700.00)			(\$13,700.00)	

If the accounts in the subtotals have changed or if ledger and subsidiary account attributes have changed, Previous YTD totals may not represent a valid comparison.

Proposed Budget for 2015

	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2014 Budget	2015 Proposed Budget
Revenue					
Pledges	227,040	233,496	224,484	208,765	237,349
Anticipated Additional Pledges				9,200	
Nonpledge Income	40,687	44,037	54,530	42,000	48,785
Loose Offerings	3,551	3,519	3,365	3,500	3,500
Total Pledges & Gifts	271,278	281,052	282,379	263,465	289,634
Rent Income	11,177	10,922	10,242	11,000	12,000
Wedding/Funeral Income	300	125	1,800	100	1,000
Miscellaneous Income			30		
Total Other Income	11,477	11,047	12,072	11,100	13,000
Interest/Dividend Income	2,269	1,578	1,209	1,600	1,000
Gain (Loss) on Investments	-644	32	-18		
Total Investment Income	1,625	1,610	1,191	1,600	1,000
Endowment Gift	8,194		9,491	9,491	
Reserve from Prior Years				13,284	11,400
Total Revenues	292,574	293,709	305,133	298,940	315,034
Expenses					
Senior Pastor Salary/Housing	63,961	65,061	65,061	65,061	65,500
Senior Pastor Annuity	8,955	9,147	9,109	9,109	9,170
Senior Pastor Disability	959	980	976	976	983
Senior Pastor Health Ins.	17,363	17,376	17,540	17,400	18,033
Total Senior Minister	91,238	92,564	92,686	92,546	93,686
Minister of Educ Salary/Housing	30,957	34,686	34,686	34,686	35,727
Minister of Educ Annuity	4,334	4,987	4,856	4,856	5,002
Minister of Educ Disability	464	534	520	520	536
Total CE Minister	35,755	40,207	40,062	40,062	41,264
Secretary Salary	13,198	14,000	14,679	14,000	15,266
Substitute Secretary	341	1,474	0		0
Treasurer/Bookkeeping Services	3,083	3,927	4,325	4,100	4,500
Choir Director	5,651	5,000	4,400	6,000	6,240
Bell Choir Director	1,685	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,872
Organist	7,455	7,900	8,700	7,900	9,464
Substitute Organist			300	300	400
Nursery Supervisor	397	508	993	500	1,000
Total Lay Staff Expense	31,810	34,609	35,197	34,600	38,742
Minister of Christian Nurture Salary	15,175	16,919	16,919	16,919	17,596
Minister of Christian Nurture Pension	<u>1,328</u>	<u>2,518</u>	<u>2,369</u>	<u>2,369</u>	<u>2,463</u>
Total Minister of Christian Nurture	16,503	19,437	19,288	19,288	20,059
Payroll Taxes	<u>2,244</u>	<u>2,410</u>	<u>2,220</u>	<u>2,272</u>	<u>2,512</u>
Total Salaries Expense	177,550	189,227	189,453	188,768	196,263
New Music: Adult Choir	557	563	520	550	550
New Music: Youth Choir			0	100	100
New Music: Bell Choir	300	313	330	250	250
Piano Maintenance			154	1,292	0
Organ Maintenance			0		500

	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2014 Budget	2015 Proposed Budget
Organ Music	62	97	0	250	200
Communion supplies	71	185	76	100	100
Baptism Supplies	49		0	25	40
Soloists & Special Music	<u>20</u>	<u>555</u>	<u>700</u>	<u>550</u>	<u>550</u>
Total Worship Expenses	1,059	1,713	1,780	3,117	2,290
CE Training		38	70		
CE Curriculum Resources	1,249	1,095	3,502		
CE Youth Conferences	300		400		
CE Program Expenses	2,845	3,415	1,204		
CE Library		249	0		
Graduation	58	246	0		
Retreats & Special Events	285		753		
Adult Education	<u>696</u>	<u>344</u>	<u>757</u>		
Total Christian Education	5,433	5,387	6,686	6,000	6,887
Black Hills Association	1,172	1,172	1,192	1,196	1,192
Minister Professional Expenses	339	586	322	600	600
Sabbatical	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Total Minister Expenses	2,511	2,758	2,514	2,796	2,792
Wedding/Funeral Expense	200	50	1,450	100	1,000
Department of Hospitality		463	143		500
Supplies	5,085	5,263	4,345	5,500	5,665
Office Equipment Maint	5,502	7,455	6,291	7,500	6,500
Advertising		10	0		0
Postage	<u>2,511</u>	<u>2,274</u>	<u>2,015</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>2,000</u>
Total Office Expense	13,298	15,052	14,101	15,600	15,665
MDU, Heat	7,960	10,097	12,245	10,000	12,612
BHPL, Electricity	7,686	9,011	9,438	9,000	10,287
Water, Garbage	4,846	4,880	4,230	4,900	5,047
Stormwater Drainage Assessment			0		575
Communications	<u>2,848</u>	<u>3,395</u>	<u>3,448</u>	<u>3,500</u>	<u>3,551</u>
Total Utilities	23,340	27,383	29,361	27,400	32,074
Grounds Maintenance	1,051	3,317	4,157	3,500	4,200
Janitor					7,950
Insurance Deductible Buildup					800
Building Maintenance	14,528	23,576	11,960	14,500	6,550
Insurance	<u>12,001</u>	<u>13,001</u>	<u>13,835</u>	<u>13,000</u>	<u>13,236</u>
Total Building/Grounds	27,580	39,894	29,952	31,000	32,736
Contingency				100	1,000
OCWM Basic Support	18,713	20,525	20,525	20,525	21,141
United Campus Ministries	1,718	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,803
Seminary Support	1,288	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,339
Costa Rica Sister Church	100	500	500	500	500
Placerville Camp			<u>0</u>		<u>500</u>
Total Benevolences	21,819	24,538	24,218	24,175	26,282
Total Expenses	272,590	305,952	298,065	298,856	314,989
Revenue Over (Short) Expenses	19,984	-12,243	7,068	84	45

Nominations

Moderator: Gerry Boehrs
Assistant Moderator: Sheila Long
Past Moderator: Becky Umenthum
Clerk: Eileen Rossow

Church Board Congregational Representatives:

Until January 2016: Kevin Sandmeier
Until January 2017: Cindy Ledford
Until January 2018: Sue Maynard

Department of Worship:

Until January 2016: Kandee Snoozy, Cam Miller
Until January 2017: Ryan Webster, Susan Kelts
Until January 2018: Scott Schuft, Coleen Schuft

Department of Education:

Until January 2016: Pandi Bollock, Dona Leavens
Until January 2017: Lisa Lyons, Becky Fleming
Until January 2018: Patti Rea, Rev. Jeri Behringer

Department of Ministries:

Until January 2016: Rev. Jill Kuntz, Pat Sutliff
Until January 2017: Barb Knight, Pat Wheaton
Until January 2018: Steve Bareis, Patsy Valandra

Department of Hospitality:

Until January 2016: Brad & Heather Heinert, Reva Ortega
Until January 2017: Ben & Dee Anderson, Jenny Kozel-Grigg,
Willy Grigg & Velma Speck
Until January 2018: Jeanne Berry, Dawn Erk

Department of Building, Equipment & Grounds:

Until January 2016: Randy Fisher, Thom Palm
Until January 2017: Brent Long, Monty Bollock
Until January 2018: Dave Ledford, Harold Miller

Department of Stewardship & Budget:

Until January 2016: Rob Burton, Todd Eddy
Until January 2017: Tim Mitchell, Jay Davis
Until January 2018: Kyle Grauman, Mark Ortega

Some department positions are shared by 2 or 3 persons.

Thanks for Faithful Service

Completing terms of service include the following church leaders:

Carol Boyles, Church Board Congregational Representative.

Laura Switzer, **Rev. Jane Ireland**, **Bertie Roberts**, **Alicia Sutliff-Benusis** and **Tish Wilkinson**, Department of Worship.

Sharon Darrow and **Jenny Seals**, Department of Education.

Michael O'Connor, **Georgia O'Connor** and **Robin Franson**, Department of Ministries.

Kyle Grauman and **Patsy Valandra**, Department of Hospitality.

Evan Gallentine and **Shawn Burke**, Department of Building, Equipment and Grounds.

Dave Ledford and **Tom Berry**, Department of Stewardship and Budget.



The 1st Congregational Trust challenges the members and friends of 1st Congregational United Church of Christ to consider the Power of One. One person has the ability to make a lasting contribution to the ministries of the church. The trust uses earnings from donated funds for its work, preserving the principal amounts. A gift to the trust keeps on producing results year after year.

1% of an estate provides a legacy for any family or member of the congregation. Of course the Trust Board recommends that members consult their own tax consultants, investment advisors and legal counsel before making any decisions about charitable contributions.

The Power of One is already being demonstrated each year through scholarships to high school students of our congregation.

For more information about how you can be part of the Power of One, speak to any member of the Trust Board.

1st Congregational Trust

The First Congregational Charitable Trust, Inc. is an independent corporation dedicated to the management of invested funds on behalf of the congregation. Its mission is to solicit and manage financial gifts provided for use in charitable and educational projects beyond the regular operating budget of the church. The funds of the Trust are invested with the United Church Foundation and Edward Jones.

In 2014, the Trust received two contributions: \$141,977 from the Dorothy Ankrum Estate and \$500 from Dr. Reuben Bareis for a total of \$142,477. We are most appreciative of this generosity.

Since The Power of One Scholarship Program was initiated, thirteen of our high school seniors have been awarded a total of \$10,750 for their continuing education.

Over the life of the Trust, 109 Change of Career Grants totaling \$65,420 have been awarded.

The Trust also manages three designated scholarship funds: The Zona White Fund, The Inabelle Willard Fund, and The Humke Fund.

To sustain the work of the Trust we have established The Power of One Estate Plan that encourages our congregation to remember the Trust with 1% of their estates. Donations are welcome now, or later, as appropriate. To those who have already done so, we extend our heartfelt gratitude.

Members of the Trust Board are: Jack Bossen, Arnett Dennis, Lia Green, Ted Huffman (ex-officio), Pat Lebrun, Ed McLaughlin, Harold Miller, and Shirley Sackman.

Trust Fund Values

December 31, 2013	\$477,050.72
December 31, 2014	641,047.98

Contributions:	
Dorothy Ankrum Trust	\$141,977.18
Reuben Bareis	500.00
Other	<u>100.00</u>
Total Gifts	142,577.18

Scholarships:	
Power of One (4)	\$2,000.00
Inabelle Willard (1)	1,000.00
Zona White (2)	<u>3,000.00</u>
Total	6,000.00

Dividend and Interest Income	\$10,612.71	
Realized Capital Gains	<u>10,258.09</u>	
Total Earnings from Cost	20,670.80	4.37%

Gains in 2014		
Dividend and Interest Income	\$10,612.71	
Realized Capital Gains	6,591.55	
Unrealized Capital Gains	<u>10,325.58</u>	
Total Gains in 2014	27,529.84	5.53%

Photographs from 2014



Agenda
136th Annual Meeting
First Congregational United Church of Christ
January 25, 2015

Call to Order

Invocation

Presentation and Discussion of Annual Reports

Presentation and Discussion of the Proposed Budget

Presentation and Discussion of Capital Projects Process

Election of Officers and Department Members

Other Business

Installation of Officers and Department Members

Closing Prayer

Rapid City's First Church

With our congregation, first is more than just a word in our name. We were the first Christian congregation organized in our city and we have served our community as a place of worship and mission from our earliest days.

History in our Buildings

Our current church building is one of several church buildings designed by Harold Spitznagel and has served our congregation for more than half a century. Our previous church home celebrated its centennial in 2014 and is now home to Faith Temple Church of God in Christ at 715 Kansas City Street.

A Heritage of Service

Mission in our community and around the world has been a part of our congregation from our earliest days. Through partnerships with Church Response, The Cornerstone Rescue Mission, Habitat for Humanity, Love INC, United Campus Ministries and other organizations we continue to serve.

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

Contact Us

Here is how to find out more about our congregation:

**First Congregational
United Church of Christ**
1200 Clark Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

(605) 342-5787

uccoffice@rushmore.com

Visit us on the web at
www.rcfirstucc.com

**First Congregational
United Church of Christ**
1200 Clark Street
Rapid City, SD 57701