

# FIRST CHURCH IN IPSWICH

**United Church of Christ**

*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

One Meetinghouse Green  
Ipswich, Massachusetts, 01938  
Tel: 978-356-2211  
E-mail: [firstuccipswich@gmail.com](mailto:firstuccipswich@gmail.com)



## **2019 Annual Report**

**“Keeping Faith Alive 385 Years”**

[www.FirstChurchIpswich.org](http://www.FirstChurchIpswich.org)

# FIRST CHURCH IN IPSWICH

ONE MEETINGHOUSE GREEN  
IPSWICH, MA 01938

## WARRANT

January 6, 2020

The Annual Business Meeting of First Church in Ipswich, of Ipswich, Massachusetts, will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2020, at 11:15 a.m., in Fellowship Hall, to act on the following articles:

- Article I. To hear and act on the reports of the Church Officers and Committees.
- Article II. To hear the report of the Nominating Committee, and to elect Church Officers and Committees for the ensuing year.
- Article III. To vote on the proposed budget.
- Article IV. To act on any other business that may legally be brought before the meeting.

Janice Colter, Clerk Pro - Tem  
First Church in Ipswich

## First Church in Ipswich Clergy 2019 Annual Report

*But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed, I will make good. I will say, "Deliverance belongs to You, holy God." -- Jonah 2:9*

It is an honor to look back across the 2019 year and give thanks for all the things that happened in the church. It has been a year of faithful witness and generosity. Indeed God has brought goodness and kindness to us.

The year began with a beautiful Martin Luther King worship service, and a lively youth retreat to New Hampshire.

Lent brought a special study of prisons. We found ways to visit, and write to, prisoners who are in the First Church family and prisoners who had asked for support as they studied for college degrees. We joined with Americans Who Tell the Truth in their summer programs, keeping our voice clear about prisoners and US culture, and how much needs to change, and how much our religion calls us to this, through the voice of Christ.

Easter season was beautiful, with a Maundy Thursday supper, three Good Friday services, a brilliant Easter Sunrise vigil, and a massive family Easter celebration. I am incredibly grateful to Tom Lenhart and Christine Hribar for helping with preaching and leading them.

The summer was lively, with several special guests and leaders, including Harvey Cox, Jason Wertz, Tom Lenhart and Mark Allman.

In the fall, Gillian Bemis gave us her portrait of Jenny Slew, and we were able to celebrate Jenny's freedom, outspokenness, and courage, with the leadership of Diane Young, even as we hung the portrait in the narthex of the church.

Our Novembering in the sanctuary brought solace and gladness to people across the community, and for me especially it meant a great deal to put in the new pictures of our beloved church members who had died.

At Christmas we centered around stories of the themes of hope, peace, joy, love, and incarnation, as we came to church across many ages to join our hearts in prayer.

I have loved singing with the choir, and feel more than ever that Joanne McMahon is talented beyond measure. Just the chance to sing every Thursday and Sunday with such faithful servants of God is a blessing to me.

It is a great gift for me to work with the fine staff of First Church. Carmen keeps everything running brilliantly, Christine develops beautiful ways for children and families to find their faith, Lucas leads the youth so strongly, Farah keeps the church spotless, Warren helps in myriad ways as the sexton, Hind keeps the smallest children together in the nursery, and Alex's leadership with the children's theater and music is splendid, Joanne McMahon is one of the most brilliant artists I have ever known, and Jim Moon coordinates the plant management so professionally.

Also it is a great gift for me to minister to the fine congregation of members and friends of First Church. The teams of leaders, of all ages, and the willingness to serve, is so abundant, so generous, so capable, so faithful. Indeed, I am the luckiest minister in the world.

Sincerely, Rebecca

**CLERK'S REPORT  
2019 ANNUAL MEETING**

The Annual Meeting of First Church in Ipswich was held on January 27, 2019. Moderator Bette Bailey called the meeting to order in Fellowship Hall at 11:25 AM. Rev. Rebecca Pugh opened the meeting with a prayer and the Clerk read the report from the 2018 meeting. The following is a summary of that meeting.

**Article 1: To hear and act on the reports of the Church Officers and Committees.**

Each committee report was presented by a representative and discussed before a vote was taken. The motions carried and reports were accepted as written in the Annual Report. Amy Pigeon, on behalf of the Trustees, presented an “Unsung Hero” award to Heidi Bratt for all that she contributes to the Church.

**Article 2: To hear the report of the Nominating Committee and to elect Church Officers for the ensuing year.**

Peg Coughlan read the nominations as listed on the Church Organizational chart. A motion was made and seconded to accept the nominations for 2019. The motion carried and the new officers and committees were duly elected.

**Article 3: To vote on the proposed budget.**

The 2019 budget was presented by Finance Committee Chair Malcolm Green. A motion was made and seconded to accept the budget as presented. The motion carried and the budget was accepted as presented in the Annual Report.

**Article 4: Any other business that could legally be brought before the meeting.**

There was none.

**Nominations for the Nominating Committee:**

Lynn Lenhart

Eunice Ellis

Beth Viehmann

Rev. Rebecca Pugh read the names of members and friends who died in 2018 followed by the singing of the hymn *For All the Saints* and a closing prayer. The Moderator adjourned the meeting at 12:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Betsy Wagner, Clerk

## First Church Ipswich – Funerals, Weddings, Baptisms and New members in 2019

Funerals	Date
<i>*Ralph Boyd Sr.</i>	2018
Maureen J. (Sheppard) Rice	1/12/2019
<i>*Robert Alan Pigeon</i>	1/22/2019
Jim Baker	2/16/2019
Jeanne Parker	2/28/2019
Patricia Marie (Grzybinski) Gordon	4/6/2019
Vera Blake	7/23/2019
Betsy Wagner	9/21/2019
Timothy Perrault	10/17/2019

*\*funerals that were not here at First Church*

Weddings	Date
Meaghan Flaherty and Collin Lawton	3/16/2019
Eleanor Mitchell and Mitchell Johnson	8/3/2019
Natalie Keagul and Emanuel Ifeanyichukwu Ezema	8/29/2019

Baptism	Date
Kaden Harrell	1/27/2019
John Howard Smith	3/17/2019
Paige Menchini	8/25/2019

New members	Date
Kaden Harrell	1/27/2019
Sophia Stasiuk	8/11/2019
Tatum Galuski	8/11/2019
James Teele	8/11/2019
Noreen Murphy	8/11/2019
William and Kelly Whitmore	9/8/2019
Ingrid Cyros	12/15/2019
Shannon T. Devoe	12/15/2019
Beth Knets	12/29/2019

## **First Church in Ipswich Diaconate 2019 Annual Report**

In the true meaning of the word “Deacon”, the First Church Diaconate embraced the challenge to “serve” our Church Community. We had a wonderful year of Ministry, Fellowship, Leadership and Worship.

This year there was great focus on visiting those in need and bringing Communion to those who were unable to attend our worship service. The Committee was dedicated to meeting those in need wherever they were in their spiritual journey. The Women’s Guild was again an invaluable partner in this as they wrote letters, cards, and notes, and made calls to arrange home visits and prayed for those in our Church community.

The Diaconate worked closely with Rebecca and other clergy members to organize, evaluate, participate in and lead worship, lifting up the spiritual life of our Church. We made some minor changes to the order of our service, mindful of the fact that change in and of itself sometimes presents challenges. We encouraged feedback regarding these changes and modified accordingly. We had another successful summer of worship in our Meeting house, our Easter, Advent, and Christmas Services were well attended, and our Church is vibrant and growing.

Early in the year the committee made a commitment to reach out to people who had not previously participated in Worship service, to act as liturgists, encouraging them to become more involved. Chris Dorman took the lead and has done a tremendous job recruiting participants. Along with the many “veteran” liturgists there were many “first time” liturgists who brought their voices and leadership to our services. Many of these first-time liturgists have already agreed to lead again.

The Committee also decided to have a “Deacon of the Week” during Church services to welcome new and current members as well as visitors.

The Hospitality team is an amazing gift our Church provides for members and friends to break bread with one another, welcome visitors, talk, support, laugh, cry and share. This would not be possible without the incredible work done by Barta Hathaway and Leslie McCormack. Barta and Leslie spend a great deal of time, effort and energy on pulling together nine amazing teams that rotate throughout the year, except for the summer months. We are always looking to increase the number of teams and/or members on teams, “as many hands make light work.”

As the new year begins, we say farewell to our chair, Mary Lou, who has ably served her terms on the Diaconate. We will miss her welcoming leadership and her kind smile. She has paved a smooth road for us to continue to lead the church in worship, in partnership with Rebecca.

Respectfully submitted, Ana Babson, Mary Lou Bates, Peg Coughlan, Chris Dorman, Mike Eldredge, Liz Krafchuk, Tom Lenhart and Ernie Pigeon

## Trustees 2019 Annual Report

2019 was a relatively quiet year for the trustees. Most of our energies were focused on tackling smaller maintenance projects for our building facilities.

The following projects were completed:

- Added hearing impaired capabilities to the sound system.
- Rebuilt kitchen sink and dishwasher faucets.
- Installed two new Toilets in downstairs rest rooms.
- Repaired two faucets in downstairs rest rooms.
- Repaired tile floor around Narthex doorway to the garth.
- Repaired rubber roof over the church office.

Once again a special thank you goes out to our Project Manager Jim Moon for his hard work and dedication in managing the Church building infrastructure.

Respectfully submitted,  
Malcolm Green  
Chairman Board of Trustees

with Janet Craft, Jim Moon, Susan Warner, Dennis Quinn, Ron Sawyer,  
Tom Kinnare, Jay Parent, Lesley McCormack Barta Hathaway, Steve Walsh

## **Board of Education Annual Report 2019**

The First Church in Ipswich Board of Education had a wonderful year in 2019. Reverend Rebecca, Reverend Christine, Lucas Callahan and Hind Alazzawi all played important roles in the life and vitality of our church.

Current board members include Jim Mahoney, Beth Viehman, Lainie Brown, Isaac Garcia-Dale and Stacey Keene-Blagg. Our members are fantastic and the care and love that they bring to our meetings is inspiring. Our board continues to run three subcommittees which are 1) church school and families 2) middle school/high school and 3) adult education.

Stacey and Kate, together with Chris Blagg, taught an OWL series to 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders, which received rave reviews from the youth.

Lynn Lenhart and Alex Edwards led our youth in a wonderful and pew packed Christmas Pageant. The number of children present during the Children's Sermon on any given Sunday demonstrates that our youth education program is alive and well.

Lainie Brown continues to serve as a liaison between our board and the finance committee so that we can better understand the needs and expectations of that board. The budget information that Lainie has acquired and shared with our board has been very informative and helpful.

Another coordination effort has been with Barta Hathaway and Hospitality. The board, youth and other volunteers have all stepped up to assist any given hospitality team with washing silverware and dishes in an effort to reduce the amount of solid waste that is generated during coffee hour.

On January 31 to Feb 2, 2020 middle school and high school students will have a retreat to Jackson, NH for winter fun, community service and fellowship. The group will stay at the Jackson UCC church. In addition to Reverend Rebecca and Lucas Callahan, Chris Dorman and Noreen Murphy have graciously offered to volunteer as well.

For spring 2020, the board has decided to run First Church, Last Supper to educate our youth about the sacrament of communion, and a Little OWL class to offer spiritual grounding for an understanding of our bodies and our lives for the children grades 1-3.

Our pre-K room is staffed by Hind Alazzawi and the K-2 room is staffed by Christine, helped by Paige and Beth. Volunteers staff and assist our remaining church school classrooms. Rev. Christine has received volunteer assistance in the K-1 classroom from Stacey Keene Blagg, Paige Menchini, and Beth Knets. In the 2-3 Class, Judy Eldredge helped in the Winter and Spring of 2019 and Barbara Mahoney continues to teach with assistance from Kalapi Johnson. Beth Viehmann, with assistance from Beylen Curtis, leads the teaching of our 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Lucas teaches the older Middle School and High School class. I have visited these rooms on several occasions on Sunday mornings and I am always impressed by how well these classes are run. Seeing several smiling and happy young children is also a blessing.

Lucas has also led our youth, including a project to commemorate the youth who have died in shootings in schools in the United States, which was installed during November in the land beneath the church. Lucas has offered a wonderful new youth group on Saturday nights, which includes supper, spiritual growth, community service, and prayers. Lucas' report is enclosed as well.

Christine's vision, positive attitude and ideas have helped our board and church immensely. Her passion and enthusiasm is apparent in our monthly meetings and when she is teaching. When I visit her classroom on Sunday mornings, I see many happy and blessed children. The Board of Education is very grateful the life she brings to our church. Her report is enclosed here.

Hind's ministry with the children's program is a vibrant and lively offering to the littlest citizens and leaders of the church. We are so lucky to have her stability and presence in the nursery: she offers love and welcome every Sunday.

The Adult Education Programs include a weekly Bible Study led by Rev. Rebecca, a weekly cooking group to prepare plant-based foods and share them in community led by Beth Viehmann, a prison ministry program led by Isaac Garcia-Dale, a book group led by Lynn Armstrong, two programs on grieving: one with photographs and journaling led by Ingrid Cyros, and one with community prayers led by Diane Young, and a walking meditation group during Advent, led by Rev. Rebecca.

Finally, as well all know, our church is led by Reverend Rebecca. Her kindness and dedication to our education programs are vital to the life of our church. On behalf of the Board of Education, our members are all grateful for all of Rebecca's, Christine's, Lucas's and Hind's efforts to help educate our members. We are also very grateful for the amazing gifts of time, effort and money that our volunteers provide.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill McDavitt

Chair, First Church in Ipswich, Board of Education

January 11, 2020

## Faith Formation Report 2019

2019 proved a huge year for faith formation. With appreciation to our tremendous Board of Ed and skilled volunteer pool our classes are growing. So often, I hear from parents that its their kids who want them to go to church—often convincing their parents to bring them even if their parents have other ideas.

Bill captured much of our work in his report (above), but I wanted to be sure to record a few happenings:

- The church offered it's first "Pop-up Ash Wednesday Service" geared particularly towards children and families. Including our youngest congregants in this beginning of Lent allowed the children to step more deeply into this season of preparation for Easter.
- Our Maundy Thursday supper and service drew crowds. Ray Morley of the Ipswich Inn provided food and in the midst of our supper we adjourned for a service and communion together before returning to our seats. It was well appreciated and well attended.
- In September our teaching teams were ready to go. Barbara Mahoney offered a tremendous lesson in basic sewing skills and a sewing service project alongside delving into the scripture. Beth Viehman and Beylen Curtis brought wisdom and tenderness to their leadership of the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade, who collectively stay for Rebecca's sermon and then adjourn to discuss. My Pre-K through First class has bubbled to fifteen students throughout the Fall. We use the Godly Play curriculum to tell the big stories of the scripture and of the seasons, to let the children connect to our stories, to God, and to the liturgical year.
- Stacey and Chris Keane Blagg and Katherine Desilva led a ten week Our Whole Lives program providing comprehensive sexuality education to Middle and High Schoolers before church this Fall. The final feedback was so wonderfully positive and Stacey and Katherine are beginning a new class for younger children in 2020. God honors our bodies. Providing a space within the church to discuss and learn about sexuality provides a valuable foundation for our children and youth.

- In December, the Board of Ed offered an Advent Festival with plant based whole foods provided by Veggie Table. With a worship service, a gift room, craft tables and dinner, it was wonderful.
- Finally, the pageant was a sight to behold—incorporating song, dance and scripture, it was an amazing gift to this community and thanksgiving to God.

The children and youth programs are growing—it's a tremendous time to serve and celebrate God together.

With so many thanks to the Board of Ed and Rev. Rebecca,  
Rev. Christine Hribar

## **First Church Youth Group Annual Report 2019**

This year, lots of exiting things happened for the Youth Group. Lucas started this summer during the Staten Island trip. We set up a new space for the Youth Group and we researched and put together a memorial for those lost in school shootings from Sandy Hook to present day.

At Staten Island, the youth group helped by volunteering at the Project Hospitality. This included helping people shop for food items, unloading trucks with new food shipments, and helping to prepare the meal that they serve at lunch. This is and was one of the most popular retreats that we do, and everyone was eager to help. Towards the end of the trip, the group opted to go into the city where we split into groups and explored. When the group returned the church they performed and led the worship service. Our chaperones on the trip were Lucas, Mary Lou Bates, Noreen Murphy, and Rev. Rebecca.

Later in the Summer, the Youth Group cleaned and painted the space that has been named “The Pit” for youth group meetings and games. This required a good amount of work that many of the youth provided. A few different groups helped with the task. Some were looking for fun things like pool tables and air hockey tables, while others helped to paint and place carpets on the floor.

The largest project of the year was the memorial. The memorial was Mark Allman’s idea: that we consider reflecting on and mourning the loss of people who have died to school shootings. There were many steps that we had to go through in order to be approved for this. We originally planned to use Gatorboard or poster board, but when the Youth met with the Select Board, they asked us to find a more eco friendly option. Bob O’Connell had the idea to use wooden shingles. Pat Kriksceonaitis helped us figure out how to fasten the shingles to the stakes. After a few planning meetings, the youth decided that it would be nice to research a personal fact for each of the victims. The memorial was a success and by request we were able to leave it up for two weeks. Now the 180 memorial signs are in storage near the Pit, waiting for the ground to thaw and the town of Lawrence Schools to pick them up so they can display them in the spring for their own next steps. A special thanks to Rebecca for keeping the signs up and repairing any of the broken ones. We are glad to send the signs on loan for schools to use.

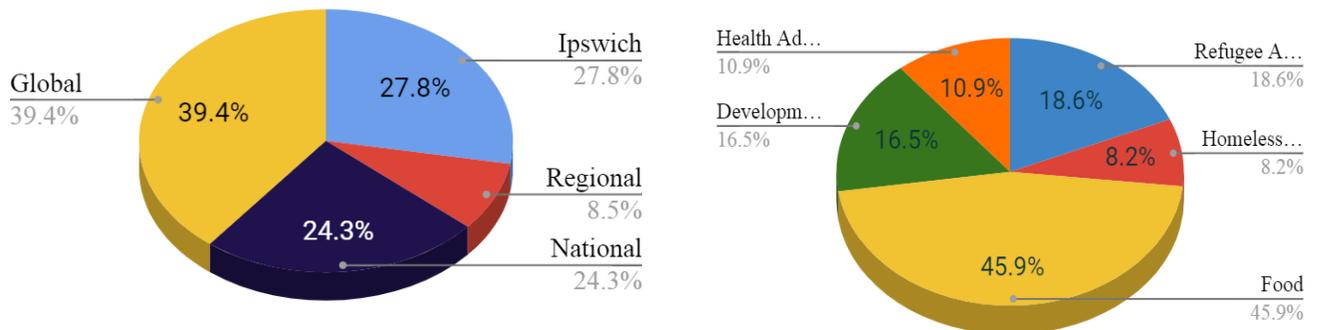
Respectfully submitted,  
Lucas Callahan

## First Church Missions Committee Annual Report 2019

In 2019 the Missions Committee of First Church donated a total of \$7,652 to 13 different organizations and people in need of financial support. We hosted the Veterans Day Breakfast, providing a meal, companionship and appreciation to approximately 110 Ipswich and Rowley veterans. We donated 31 Thanksgiving Food Baskets to the Open Door of Ipswich, filled with nutritious ingredients by our youth. We collected gifts on behalf of First Church Caring for local families and a community in Macheros Mexico at Christmas time who were in need of support during the holidays. We prepared and served a meal to local families at the Ipswich Dinner Bell. All of these acts of giving were possible due to the generous donations of time, money and talent from our congregation and community at large.

Throughout the year we were mindful of the wishes and priorities of our congregants and balancing our support of different types of organizations. We took care to support organizations globally, nationally, regionally, and in Ipswich. We also worked to ensure that our donations supported different types of work being provided by organizations, such as homelessness, refugees, health advocacy, food and development. We are very proud to serve on the Missions Committee and are grateful for the opportunities given to us by the First Church of Ipswich.

### Balance of contributions



## **Music Committee Report 2019**

It was another musical year at First Church!

We are blessed to have so many talented members and friends contribute to our various music programs throughout the year. Through the leadership of Joanne McMahon, each Sunday brings a unique musical offering that lifts the spiritual experience of the congregation. These offerings are varied, including but not limited to teenage violinists and pianists, young Jonas performing solos, reliable and talented Lucas on the violin and amazing vocal pieces, father and son piano teams, the women's trio group, Steve on bass solos, Ernie on guitar, and so many more. In addition, each week "the most loyal choir ever" provides an essential spiritual component to the Sunday worship. During the holiday seasons, we are fortunate to have special music with brass and soloists.

Ernie and Amy Pigeon and crew continue the musical ministry of the Along the Way Coffeehouse. The Coffeehouse has brought in funds for the general budget, increased the visibility of the church in the community and contributed greatly to the arts culture of the town.

Our annual fundraiser was a Spaghetti Supper which brought in funds to support out programming. Thanks to Ray Morley's culinary talents and generosity, and music provided by Joanne, Lucas and the choir, it was great night. This spring we are planning an Irish themed supper around St. Patrick's Day.

We thank you all on behalf of First Church and look forward to another great year of music in 2020!

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Welling  
First Church Music Committee

## **Altar Committee 2019 Annual Report**

The Altar Committee finds donors for the flowers on the altar each Sunday.

We then let Gordon Florist know whom to bill and what color or type of flower is requested. Gordon's faithfully delivers the flowers each week. The two bouquets cost about thirty-eight dollars and the donor can take them home after the service, or donate them to shut-ins. If you would like to be a donor please contact any member of the committee. Gordon's always creates beautiful arrangements which may pay tribute, give thanks or be a memorial. Altar flowers can be, and are, more than mere ornaments. They are an expression of our love for God as well as a means of glorifying God's name in all the earth. We therefore thank you for your willingness to serve God in this meaningful way.

We would be remiss not to mention Carmen in the church office who keeps track of and posts the names and memorials in the weekly bulletin. Carmen also organizes the donations of Easter lilies and Christmas poinsettias and cyclamen. This was the first year that the Altar Committee was responsible for ordering the palms for Palm Sunday and the daffodils to flower the cross on Easter.

Members of the Altar Committee and some other dedicated members of the church have the privilege of decorating for Advent and Christmas. We worked for two hours decorating the Sanctuary, the Narthex, the Parlor, the entry doors and the Fellowship Hall with lights, wreaths, trees and the Yule log. It took us only forty-five minutes to take it all down. Next November we will need to redo the candle arrangements that grace the windowsills in the Sanctuary.

On behalf of the 2019 Altar Committee: Saesha Parent, Donna Gordon, Margaret Newsome, Connie Price, Barb Carlson and Beth Viehmann,

I respectfully submit this report.  
Nancy Mackinney, Chairperson

## **Historical Committee 2019**

The Church bylaws state that “the work of this committee is to foster an intelligent interest in the history of this Church and to collect and preserve articles connected with its history.” Our responsibilities include cataloging and documenting such items, researching and implementing the latest in preservation techniques, offering lectures and talks highlighting different aspects of our long church history, researching and responding to questions received from the public, updating displays of artifacts and art, and collaborating with other historically minded individuals and groups both inside and outside our church body to enhance both our collection and our understanding of the church’s place in history.

In February, new members Judy Eldredge and Julie Stone joined return members Susie Green (Chairperson), Hubie (Buddy) Gaspar, Diane Young, Jason Wertz and Jim Lahar (Emeritus). Accomplishments for the year included:

- The committee cleaned out the History room and cataloged what is there.
- The filing system logic was reviewed with all committee members.
- The committee cleaned out the Meetinghouse basement History storage area and cataloged what is stored there.
- Labels were updated on displayed artwork in the Narthex.
- With Trustee approval, the Steeple clock parts originally installed in 1762 in the church’s fourth edifice were loaned under contract to the Narragansett Historical Society in Templeton Mass where it has been fully reconstructed and is now on display in a suitable space.

- Space was cleared out under the Fellowship Hall stage and a lock provided to allow all Auction materials to be stored there going forward (thus no longer stored in the History room).
- Two requests for historical genealogical information were handled.
- A display stand was constructed to hold a church lantern, currently on display on the History table in the Narthex along with a pew “writing arm” from the fourth edifice (1749-1846).
- In November, Diane Young gave a talk on Jennie Slew, an Ipswich native who was kidnapped into slavery, and who successfully sued for her freedom in 1765. A portrait of Jennie, painted by local artist Jillian Bemis, was put on display in the Narthex.
- Talks were initiated with the Archivist of the Ipswich library on the best ways for preserving our artifacts.
- Gordon Harris presented the church with a copy of a eulogy of George Washington, as given by Rev. Frisbee (First Church Pastor 1776-1806).

Respectfully submitted,

Susie Green (Chairperson), Judy Eldredge, Hubie Gaspar, Diane Young,  
Julie Stone, Jason Wertz and Jim Lahar, Emeritus

## Memorials Committee Annual Report 2019

**History and Background:** Memorials are gifts given in memory of friends or family. The gift may be in the form of money or an object. For ages, when people want to remember events and people in their lives, they have created objects and programs to help to keep those memories alive. Jesus told the disciples, “Do this in remembrance of me,” and so one aspect of Communion is a memorial.

**Committee Functions:** It is Memorials responsibility in conjunction with the Trustees, to accept, acknowledge, and recommend the care of and/or disposition of all memorial gifts to the church, and money earned therefrom.

### 2019 Activities:

The Memorials Committee met on a regular basis in 2019.

We spent a total of \$3833.43 on the following items:

- ✚ Hearing assist equipment for the sanctuary sound system;
- ✚ A special sound system speaker for the Choir;
- ✚ Classroom furniture for grades one to three Sunday school;
- ✚ New dishes for Church coffee hour.

**2019 Gifts** were made in memory of:

Jeanne Parker, James Baker, Neill Baker, Pat Gordon, Margaret Bowen  
Brandon Blanken, Ken Spellman, Lou Anne Maker, Vera Blake, Betsy Wagner

We are very grateful for all the improvements that we have been able to make, thanks to your generosity in the name of loved ones.

Respectfully,

Malcolm Green, Chair; Jan Colter, Mike Eldridge, Pat Kriksceonaitis

## Scholarship Committee Report 2019

In 1985, First Church in Ipswich received a gift from the late Marian Whitney to establish a scholarship fund in memory of Ralph and Maude Whipple. Ralph Whipple was the principal of Manning High School and Ipswich High School for 33 years.

The income was to be used to give scholarship aid to students who are members of First Church and attending a 4 years liberal arts college.

The scholarship recipients in 2019 were Sarah Brown, Reed Dolan and Hayden Weatherall.

Janice Colter  
Eunice Ellis  
Betsy Wagner

## Delegate Report

As Delegates to the Northeast Association and the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ, we represented First Church in Ipswich at the following events in 2019:

January 27	Installation - Rev. Joe Amico	<i>Tabernacle Church, Salem</i>
February 10	Installation - Rev. Debra Adams	<i>Trinitarian Congregational Church, No. Andover</i>
March 12	Ecclesiastical Council – Andrew Harris	<i>South Church, Andover</i>
March 31	Installation of Rev. Seth Robinson	<i>First Congregational Church of Billerica</i>
May 5	Installation of Rev. Judy Proctor	<i>First Church in Wenham</i>
October 22	375 <sup>th</sup> Celebration, Traci Blackmon	<i>First Church in Wenham</i>
November 10	Ordination Andrew Harris	<i>South Church, Andover</i>
November 17	Northeast Association Fall Gathering	<i>First Congregational Church in Winchester</i>

Janice Colter, Steve Walsh, Tom Lenhart Delegates

## **Women's Guild 2019 Annual Report**

All women of the First Church family are members of the Women's Guild and are invited to attend the meetings that are held on the third Tuesday of the month at noon in the parlor. Each meeting consists of a potluck luncheon usually followed by a program. No meetings are held in July or August. Women, please join us if you are able. It is always a delight to welcome new faces around the table.

During 2019 the Women's Guild continued its sponsorship of a child in Guatemala. The Guild also contributed to Ipswich Caring and provided a basket for the church auction. The Guild members wrote notes and sent cards to shut-ins. Some of the women attended the spring and fall meetings of the Essex Women's Fellowship. Since the December meeting was cancelled due to weather, the Christmas gift swap, always a favorite meeting, will be held in January 2020.

Each woman who attends the Guild luncheons contributes to its success. The potluck luncheons are always a feast and loving friendships are formed. Special thanks are given to Donna Gordon for supplying beautiful table settings each month.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ginny Visser, Donna Gordon, Sue Baker

## **Report on Hospitality 2019-20**

The Hospitality group serves refreshments after church service each week from September to June. Easter once again will be a “pot luck”.

The biggest change is that we are using and reusing our dishes and dishwasher with the help of youth group GREEN TEAMS and it's working pretty well. Just last week Lucas has offered to take charge of the Green Teams. We are using a LOT less trash and also composting. The hospitality teams are getting used to it and even chipping in a bit when needed. Malcolm Green and the Memorials Committee ordered Corelle luncheon sized plates, which are lighter and easier for some of our youngest and oldest members to use. Many hands make light work! I am always amazed and thankful for the bounty of food and great attitudes of the team members!! I think it is a great time to catch your breath and chat with old friends and new.

Leslie McCormack is working with me again to stock the pantry. We also periodically clean out things that get left or dropped off in the kitchen and pantry. Farah does a great job of cleaning and with the new larger refrigerator, a gift from Ray Morley, we are in pretty good shape. Donations go to buying coffee and sometimes random needs like juice, sugar, etc. A spreadsheet is in progress from September to June and can be available if needed.

We have 9 teams that rotate (list attached) and try to keep our teams at 3-4 people to spread the cost and obligations. Teams serve approximately 4 - 5 times during the year. (schedule attached) We are very happy that we have had about 6 new people join different teams and although we are still at 9 teams, each team now has an extra person or two. Anyone is always welcome to randomly offer an item to the weekly table.

When I assumed responsibilities for the hospitality group there were 13 teams and I would love to see that number again eventually to share the task. If you know of anyone interested it's a great way to serve and get to know the church community. The truth is that our kitchen teams have a great time catching up and sharing stories while we putter in the kitchen.

Many thanks to all of those who serve on this committee!

Respectfully,  
Barta Hathaway

## **Board of Finance Annual Report 2019**

For 2019, the First Church income just about balanced the expenses.

The 2019 actual expenses were \$211,256 and actual expenditures were approximately the same. Income and expenses were just about balanced.

The First Church makes approximately half of its income from use of building. The offertory, including pledged, unpledged and loose plate make up another significant portion of our annual budget. However, if it weren't for the other fund-raising activities, such as the Annual Auction, and Coffee House activities, we would have had to draw from the reserves.

For 2019, we have a proposed budget of \$216,261. Currently, our projected income based on use of building, pledges, unpledged expected unpledged and loose plate is approximately \$205,000. There is a significant gap between our income and expense. The Finance Committee will be asking the congregation to help fill this gap and considering creative ways, including fund raisers. Please plan to attend these fund-raisers, it's a great way to help the church financially and a fun fellowship activity.

Respectfully submitted.

Ralph Milroy

The Nominating Committee Report (officers and committee leaders for next year)  
And the Finance Committee Reports will be available on Carmen's desk in paper copy. Please ask if you would like a copy.

They are not posted here for privacy reasons.

