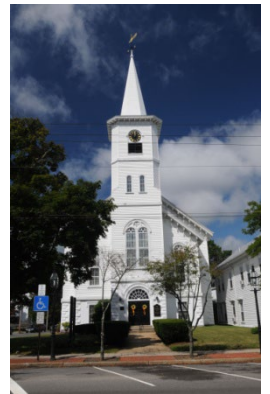


Central Square Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
71 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324
cscucc.org

CSCC UCC
2022
Annual
Report

February 12

2023



These reports complete are pending approval of the Annual Meeting on February 12, 2023. Upon approval, with any edits, a final copy will be published for the record.

Annual Meeting

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Central Square Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Bridgewater, MA 02324
Annual Meeting, February 13, 2022
Via Zoom

Moderator Anne Malmquist called the meeting to order at 11:08am. She first reviewed the rules and etiquettes of Zoom.

Rev. Beth Stotts opened the meeting with a prayer.

Diane Sheibley verified that a quorum was present.

Rev. Beth expressed her thanks and appreciation for all that we did in 2021, especially during a pandemic. She was filled with gratitude that we get to do this together.

Anne remarked that she felt 2020 was filled with worry and concern, but the 2021 annual report was full of hope.

Bill O'Neil noted that the food pantry has installed new shelving to better serve the community, and thanked Jack Melcher, and Steve and Connie Chandler.

Anne thanked Barbara Morey for all of her determination, diligence, and patience for all the work on the Historical Church Building Committee and the building restoration project. It finally seems to be moving forward, although it will be slow going. Some work has been started on the steeple with a grant from the Daughters of the American Revolution. As soon as the deed restriction is done, we can start the big work. There are ceiling repairs being done in the sanctuary that will be starting this week, although they're not part of the restoration project.

Anne gave shoutout to Terry Reynolds and Krissy Cannizzo for the Heifer project this year, and they are still planning to have a Living Gift Market, likely in the spring.

Rev. Beth noted that on March 2, we will be going back to in-person worship. Rich Sullivan has done a tremendous job on repairing and repainting the pews, the heaters, and the walls.

Anne noted that there has been glorious music from Julia. She has brought in phenomenal musicians over the past year. There is much to celebrate in our music.

Jae Stotts thanked everyone for being a part of a bigger thing this year, and Anne thanked Jae for the work he's done and jumping right in to get it done.

John Schuller gave a big shoutout to Paul Holmes for all his video ministry, including providing video disks to all the guest performers throughout the year of their performances. Rev. Beth noted that people from all over our conference are tuning in to our worship, thanks to Paul and Julia. She is very thankful for our worship team, and that we've been able to help so many other congregations worship online. Several others present at the meeting (including some that live out of state) praised the online ministry.

Gordon Brailsford offered his thanks for the food pantry, and the work that Jack Melcher and Bill O'Neil do.

Anne noted that it is truly one of the gifts that we give to our community.

Dave Sheibley thanked everyone for keeping up with their pledges and some going above and beyond. He also noted that he was thankful that the stock market was doing well. The investments stayed where they were after having to take out \$40,000 last year for expenses. Anne thanked Dave for all of his efforts as Treasurer.

Rev. Beth motioned to accept the annual report as presented, and Gail Wershing seconded. It was approved unanimously.

Rev. Beth closed the meeting in prayer at 11:45am.

Report of the Minister

Friends in Christ,

In preparation for this year's Annual Meeting, I thought it would be cool to create a slide show of pictures from our congregation's life over the past year. It was really enlightening to see a pictographic view of who we are and all we do. Our meaningful worship, book studies, events, and all the people who make things happen. It also showed me what our church has been through.

A year ago, because of a spike in Covid cases in our area, we were worshipping virtually again after having only a couple of months back in person. Throughout the pandemic, we have faced many challenges and changes. Despite these difficulties, I am proud to say that our church has remained strong and rooted in service and in our faith. We have used challenges to create new ways of doing things and have continued to provide spiritual guidance and support to our congregation and the greater Bridgewater community.

In looking through the pictures from the past year, I noted several highlights I want to bring to your attention.

- Our relationship with the Bridgewater Senior Center has afforded us opportunities to create a Grief "Letting Go" ceremony during Lent, and a Día de los Muertos meditation in the fall.
- We marched in the 4th of July Parade, we served Walking Tacos at AutumnFest, and we decorated our front lawn for Bridgewater's first annual Winterfest.
- Our Minister of Music, Julia Scott Carey invited dozens of fabulous musicians of all kinds to play during worship, we started a Junior Choir, our Chime Choir played for the first time in several years, and our Senior Choir continued to offer up beautiful musical reflections in worship.
- The Bridgewater Food Pantry saw a huge increase in need and patrons, and thanks to the donations of many generous community members, the needs are continuing to be met.
- We confirmed youth, welcomed new members, and celebrated milestones.
- We made crafts, shared food, held book studies, and even had a Grinch movie night.
- We were honored by the work of Boy Scout Nic Cannizzo who created a donation center at the Church St. entrance of the building.
- We had folks who were innovative in creating fundraisers for the church like the 40 for 40K campaign and the new Central Closet Thrift Shop.
- Thanks to the talents and dedication of Paul Holmes, our online reach has gone farther and farther than ever before. We even had one worship service this year where we had over 300 people view across all of our digital platforms!
- This year we fed the hungry, clothed the naked, gave drink to the thirsty, invited in the stranger, and took care of each other.

As we look towards the future, I am optimistic that we will continue to grow and thrive. I am confident that, with the ongoing support and participation of each one of us, we will continue to serve the Bridgewater community faithfully.

Thank you for your dedication to the Central Square Congregational Church, UCC.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Elizabeth Stotts

Report of the Minister of Music

We have had a terrific year in our church's music program. It has been wonderful to hold our services in person after such a long period of being unable to be physically together due to the pandemic. As we have witnessed our church's many programs and ministries come back to life, and have seen more and more familiar faces re-entering our pews, we have felt a deep sense of spiritual and musical fulfillment. Even as we rebuild our in-person offerings, we are blessed to be able to continue our online presence as well, through the wonders of technology and the work of our amazing videographer, Paul Holmes.

One of the highlights this year has been the formation of our new Junior Choir, which has performed once a month in our worship services this fall. The children are enthusiastic and joyful in their singing, and the congregation loves hearing them.

Our adult choir has also been very busy, performing every week. We have performed a lot of beautiful and moving anthems this year. Our numbers were affected by the pandemic and by some choir members moving away. We would love to expand our choir, so if anyone has any interest in singing with us (even if you don't have a background in choral music), please let me know!

We have also continued having regular appearances from guest artists, both vocalists and instrumentalists. Everyone who has performed in our church has been delighted to be part of our community for a day, and their voices have added a lot to our worship services. We've had some truly special performances from some of Boston's finest professional musicians.

Thank you so much to everyone who has shared their musical gifts with our church!! We are so very blessed to have so much talent in our community.

Respectfully, Julia Scott Carey

Report of the Church Moderator

CHURCH: n. The body of people who make the God of Jesus visible in the world
v. To make the God of Jesus visible in the world

Looking back at this past year, things have started to feel more “normal.” The choir is singing. Kids Church is going strong. Breakfast is back. Things aren’t exactly as they were, and that is okay. We took this time of jubilee to figure out what is important and how best to invest our resources.

For me, that has meant looking at our church governance with a fantastic group of church members to consider ways to streamline and simplify our church polity. We started by researching what others are doing and evaluating different governance models to discern which might work best for us. We have, as of this writing, a good working draft that we hope to present for revision and tweaking in the coming weeks. We are hoping to bring a final version for a vote very soon.

As we continue to strive to make the God of Jesus visible in the world, we are adapting to the changing world. We are welcoming remote members, sharing our pronouns, and feeding the bellies and souls of those that need nourishment.

I continue to be honored and humbled to be your church moderator. I am grateful, every day, to be a part of this church community and I am excited about what our future will bring.

With God's grace,
Anne Malmquist
Church Moderator

Report of the Church Treasurer

Fiscal year 2022 saw the negative financial effects of the pandemic finally begin to recede. Plate offerings resumed with the return of in-person worship. Giving remained strong, coming in at only 3% below budget. The Church Fair beat expectations by almost 20% and other, smaller fundraisers contributed as well. However, the Golf Tournament did not return, leaving a large hole in our fundraising goal. On the expense side, operating costs increased once the building was being used more often. Although budget amounts were increased for electricity and heating fuel, prices increased even more than expected. The Repairs and Maintenance amount was well over budget because of the steeple louver replacement and the ceiling repair in the sanctuary. The ceiling repair was about 80% covered by insurance and the steeple louvers were partially paid for with a grant; the balances were paid with funds from the Capital Campaign/Building account. The fiscal year ended on June 30, 2022 with a net loss of \$63,812 vs a budgeted loss of \$42,135. \$41,000 was transferred from investments and \$15,800 from the Capital Campaign account to help cover expenses. Financial reports for the second half of calendar year 2022 (first half of fiscal year 2023) are available on the church website.

Financial documents included:

Operating Budget vs Actual FY2022

Pass Through Fund Report FY 2022

Cash Balances as of June 30, 2022

Respectfully submitted,
David Sheibley
Church Treasurer

Central Square Congregational Church UCC Operating Budget vs. Actual Report July 2021 through June 2022

	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Income			
4000* · Pledges / Offerings			
4010 · Regular Pledges	124,953	138,000	91%
4015 · Unpledged Offerings	13,628	4,500	303%
4030 · Plate Offering	1,042	1,000	104%
Total 4000* · Pledges / Offerings	139,623	143,500	97%
4200* · Special Collections			
4235 · MACUCC Fellowship Dues	3,124	0	
Total 4200* · Special Collections	3,124	0	
4300* · Fundraisers/Events Revenue			
4312 · Golf Tournament	0	7,200	0%
4320 · Church Fair	8,327	7,000	119%
4370 · Misc Fundraisers	3,463	5,000	69%
Total 4300* · Fundraisers/Events Revenue	11,790	19,200	61%
4400* · Facility Usage Income			
4410 · Non Profit Bldg Use	3,936	1,800	219%
4430 · Private Bldg Use		850	0%
Total 4400* · Facility Usage Income	3,936	2,650	149%
4600* · Miscellaneous Income			
4601 · Bank Interest	67	0	
4603 · Amazon Smile	313	0	
4607 · Misc Donations	1,000	0	
Total 4600* · Miscellaneous Income	1,380	0	
Total Income	159,854	165,350	97%

Central Square Congregational Church UCC Operating Budget vs. Actual Report July 2021 through June 2022

	Actual	Budget	% Budget
6600* · Church Building Costs			
6615 · Building Supplies	892	2,000	45%
6620 · Fire Alarm Monitoring Service	552	600	92%
6640 · Property & Liability Insurance	13,110	9,300	141%
6650 · Repairs & Maintenance	16,141	5,000	323%
6670* · Utilities			
6672 · Gas & Electric	5,800	5,500	105%
6673 · Fuel Oil	7,764	6,500	119%
6674 · Water & Sewer	357	900	40%
Total 6670* · Utilities	13,921	12,900	108%
Total 6600* · Church Building Costs	44,617	29,800	150%
6850* · Operating Committees			
6860 · Christian Education	0	750	0%
6865 · Church Growth	533	1,000	53%
6875 · Deacons - Budget	1,457	1,000	146%
6910 · Music (Materials/Substitutes)	684	600	114%
6950 · Stewardship	0	350	0%
7155* · Outreach Committee Reserve	3,677	4,339	85%
Total 6850* · Operating Committees	6,352	8,039	79%
7050 · Misc Expenses			
7150* · MACUCC Fellowship Dues	2,700	2,700	100%
7154* · Pilgrim Assn Fellowship Dues	215	200	108%
Total Expense	223,666	207,485	108%
Net Income (Loss)	(63,812)	(42,135)	151%
Transfer from Investments	41,000	42,135	
Transfer from Capital Campaign account	15,800		
Adjusted Net Income (Loss)	(7,012)		

Central Square Congregational Church UCC Operating Budget vs. Actual Report July 2021 through June 2022

Expense	Actual	Budget	% Budget
6000* · Senior Minister Expenses			
6005 · Payroll	37,458	37,614	100%
6010 · FICA Stipend	5,313	5,325	100%
6020 · Pension Fund	9,460	9,746	97%
6048 · Housing Allowance	32,000	32,000	100%
6050 · Professional Expenses	2,068	2,000	103%
6065 · Health & Dental Ins	23,807	22,451	106%
6075 · Life & Disability Ins	1,014	1,044	97%
Total 6000* · Senior Minister Expenses	111,119	110,180	101%
6200* · Support Staff Expenses			
6215 · Pulpit Supply	1,050	250	420%
6218 · Sabbatical Budget (see 1103.30)	1,080	1,080	100%
6220 · Office Coordinator	14,850	16,550	90%
6245 · Minister of Music	15,914	15,914	100%
6250 · Sexton/Custodian	10,670	9,000	119%
6255 · Sup. Staff Holiday	114	0	100%
6257 · Sup. Staff Vacation	300	0	100%
6257 · Video Evangelism	0	1,000	0%
6260 · Sup. Staff FICA	3,201	3,172	101%
6270 · Workers' Comp Ins	1,138	1,200	95%
9000 · Payroll Expenses	0	100	0%
Total 6200* · Support Staff Expenses	48,317	48,266	100%
6400* · Office Expenses			
6410 · Bank Service Charges			
6412 · Vanco Fees	431		
6414 · BCU Fees	0		
6415 · PayPal/Venmo Fees	390		
6417 · Credit/Charge Card Fees	39		
6410 · Bank Service Charges - Other	17		
Total 6410 · Bank Service Charges	877	300	292%
6440 · Internet & Computer Related Exp	2,930	2,100	140%
6490 · Office Supplies	511	400	128%
6510 · Payroll & Treasurer Supplies	730	950	77%
6520 · Postage & eDelivery	775	900	86%
6525 · Printing & Reproduction	2,149	2,150	100%
6555 · Telephone	2,374	1,500	158%
Total 6400* · Office Expenses	10,346	8,300	125%

Central Square Congregational Church UCC Pass Through Fund Report July 2021 through June 2022

7400* · Other Income	
4070 · Music	500
4085 · Altar/Flowers	60
7480 · Capital Campaign	1,200
7596 · Ministers Discretionary Income	5,072
Total 7400* · Other Income	<u>6,832</u>
7410* · Direct Pass Thru Income	
7415 · Designated Outreach & Missions	
7420 · One Great Hour Sharing MA	233
7425 · Strengthen The Church MA	45
7430 · Neighbors In Need MA	75
7435 · Christmas Fund MA	40
7440 · Blanket Fund CWS	406
7445 · Heifer Project HPI	2,614
Total 7415 · Designated Outreach & Missions	<u>3,413</u>
7475 · Staff Gifts	2,840
Total 7410* · Direct Pass Thru Income	<u>6,253</u>
Total Non-budgeted Income	<u>13,086</u>
8010* · Other Expenses	
6970 · Flowers/Altar	60
8505 · Memorials	384
Total 8010* · Other Expenses	<u>444</u>
8400* · Direct Pass Thru Expense	
8410 · Designated Outreach/Missions	
8415 · One Great Hour of Sharing MA	233
8420 · Strengthen The Church MA	45
8425 · Neighbors in Need MA	75
8430 · Christmas Fund MA	40
8435 · Blanket Fund CWS	406
8440 · Heifer Project HPI	2,614
8460 · Mainspring House	100
Total 8410 · Designated Outreach/Missions	<u>3,513</u>
8475 · Staff Gifts	2,840
Total 8400* · Direct Pass Thru Expense	<u>6,353</u>
8500* · Non Budget Accounts	
8512 · Food Pantry Transactions	8,331
8517 · Sabbatical expenses	2,000
8520 · Ministers Discretionary Usage	4,350
8550 · Outreach Committee Transactions	5,308
Total 8500* · Non Budget Accounts	<u>19,989</u>
Total Non-budgeted Expenses	<u>26,786</u>

Central Square Congregational Church UCC Bank Account Cash Balances As of June 30, 2022

1100.00 · Cash	
1103 · BCU 95 Money Market	
1103.01 · Youth Group MM	1,772
1103.02 · Memorials MM	6,599
1103.03 · Music (Anderson)	3,987
1103.12 · Altar & Flowers MM	141
1103.13 · Memorials (Wood)	1,495
1103.15 · Deacons Fund	1,617
1103.16 · Women's Retreat MM	468
1103.19 · Mission Youth MM	3,728
1103.30 · Sr Pastor Sabbatical Reserve	4,445
1103.36 · Flowers	362
1103.46 · Memorials Woods Grant	5,000
1103 · BCU 95 Money Market - Other	775
Total 1103 · BCU 95 Money Market	30,390
1104 · BCU 91 Operating Account	2,229
1106 · BCU 90 Ministers DA	1,098
1107 · BCU 00 Svgs for Outreach	
1107.01 · Food Pantry Outreach	27,818
1107.02 · General Outreach	1,914
Total 1107 · BCU 00 Svgs for Outreach	29,732
1109 · BCU 92 Cap Imp/Mortgage Acct	1,204
Total 1100.00 · Cash	64,653
Vanguard Investments	
1500 · Endowments investment fund	
Balance, 6/30/21	241,515
Withdrawals	(40,000)
Gain (Loss)	(28,697)
Balance 6/30/22	172,818
1510 · Parsonage investment fund	
Balance, 6/30/21	93,072
Withdrawals	(1,000)
Gain (Loss)	(12,985)
Balance 6/30/22	79,087
Total investments	251,904

Report of the Office Manager

Coming on board in July of 2022 was very exciting and I'm so happy to be here with you all. Diane Sheibley and Reverend Beth were so helpful in helping me get settled in and learn the ways of the Church Office. I quickly began with getting all the contracts settled for the coming year's building rentals, establishing good communication with all the different groups, and making sure they all had keys and their meetings were scheduled in the calendars, physical and digital.

I have taken on the creating of bulletins for Sunday services, and I am the friendly face that greets everyone when they walk through the door, here to help with whatever you need (including some fun assortment of candy when you come through the door!). I help out people dropping off donations, and direct visitors where to go when they arrive. I answer the phones and do my best to make sure the callers get to whom they need, as well as the assistance they request, and many other administrative tasks. As your Congregational Assistant, I help with whatever the church's groups and areas need daily, whether it be taking calls from food pantry clients who need delivery, to making signs for our new thrift shop, or making sure our office equipment works properly and honestly, whatever anyone needs, I am here to support.

I really appreciate you all being so welcoming to me and my family. It is an honor and pleasure to work here.

Membership as of December 31, 2022	139
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Total new members	3
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LOSS OF MEMBERS

Death	1
Transferred out	1
Resigned/withdrew	1
Removed by Deacons	0

Other statistics

Baptisms	1
Confirmations	0
Weddings	2
Funerals	2

Respectfully submitted by Jenne Foronjy

Report of the Board of Deacons

New Blessings in 2022:

As the pandemic passes we have incorporated new normals into our worship practices and we've grown as a community. Options for participating in worship have become the new normal! We are back in person for worship services but we're also broadcasting online, so everyone can join in worshipping together; in person or remotely. As a result, our congregation is growing in numbers and also geographically!

The offering is being collected as people leave the sanctuary instead of passing the plates, and now we also have more electronic giving options. So, people have more opportunity to support our ministries.

Our Pastoral Care Team, lead by Bev Mitchell and Carol Chaffee, is awesome! We are so blessed to have a group of faithful people caring for members of our congregation.

We have a small diaconate but a lot of deacon responsibilities, so we're very fortunate and thankful for the small groups and individuals who have volunteered to take on some specific tasks.

More people are participating in worship. Deacons are participating in worship regularly, we now have a signup list for people who would like to read scripture in worship, and volunteers are lighting the candles.

Looking forward to 2023's Blessings.

We will have a new junior deacon, Savanah Wells. She is a very faithful young woman and we can't wait to have her aboard.

We have found new ways to be the church these past couple years and we pray that in 2023 our church family will continue to be defined by how well we show up, each with our own gifts, to serve God and each other.

Faithfully,

Deb Sorgman & Jae Walden-Stotts

Report of the Board of Christian Outreach and Food Pantry

We were able to continue our usual programs, including monetary donations to our "5 for 5" collections as well as Bridgewater's Operation Santa, Father Bill's/Mainspring House, Minister's Discretionary Account, Church World Service's Blanket Sunday, Heifer International and World Service Disaster Relief Funds. We were also able to monetarily support "The Way Up," a program that was brought to our attention by Mindi Shave and Patti Langevin, a program that is designed to intervene in the lives of youths to steer them away from gang involvement and unstable family relationships.

We continued our "Warmth in Cold Places" distribution of winter clothing at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Taunton. We were able to supplement our members' donation by purchasing about \$800 worth of clothing and accepting additional donations from Nic Cannizzo's Eagle Scout project (more on that later). We distributed the clothing just before Christmas. We were also able to contribute the leftover clothing to Rob Basler's L Street Ministry in Brockton and to our new Thrift Shop.

As far as the Food Pantry is concerned, we had our annual Thanksgiving meal distribution with over 100 families signing up, by far the most families than we have had in the past. We were able to continue allowing patrons to come downstairs and pick up their own selection of perishable goods, fresh produce when

available, and frozen meats. We have also been able to provide “to go” orders primarily from seniors unable to come to the pantry, but could fill out order forms at the Senior Center which we were able to provide. Hats off to Steve Chandler for being able to deliver the bulk of those orders. Once again, we have received monetary and food donations from local businesses, banks, foundations, the Bridgewater school system and local residents. Thanks in particular to the local Badgers football teams, Cumberland Farms, Aldi in Raynham, Roche Brothers, Stop and Shop, and the Hanson Farm. We also purchased thousands of dollars in gift cards from Market Basket and Roche Brothers, which we distributed to the Food Pantry patrons. The Greater Boston Food Bank also gives us thousands of dollars in gift cards to Stop and Shop each year.

We were also blessed to have Nic Cannizzo select us for his Eagle Scout project, which consisted of remodeling the Church Street entrance with shelving and storage bins for food, paperwork, and Warmth in Cold Places clothing donations. Part of Nic’s donations also included canned goods for the pantry as well as the clothing mentioned earlier.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill O’Neil for Christian Outreach

Food Pantry Annual Report:

Number of clients served:

1004 households

1317 Adults

537 Children

377 Seniors

7549 bags distributed

Donations received \$25,418.27

Expenses \$40,898.536

Food Pantry operating account reduced by \$15,480.25 in 2022

The number of patrons utilizing the pantry has increased by 62% over the previous year.

Number of bags distributed increased by 101% over the previous year.

In November, we distributed Thanksgiving baskets to 105 families.

Early in 2022 we added a significant amount of steel shelving to allow for increased storage space and to alleviate the need to have a large number of boxes stored in the fellowship hall.

In the fall a Bridgewater resident donated a large upright freezer, which has helped as we have had to stock far more frozen products to keep up with the increase in the number of patrons we serve.

We continue to receive donations large and small from the residents and businesses of Bridgewater, and sometimes other towns as well.

The pantry staff, which includes Bill O’Neil, Pat Conn, John Shalginewicz, and Steve and Connie Chandler, have done yeoman’s work this year to keep the pantry operating at a peak level. You can’t begin to imagine the time and effort these folks put in, week in and week out (and not just on Thursdays when the pantry is open). They deserve significant recognition for their efforts! If you happen to see them in your travels, please thank them for what they do for the church, food pantry and community.

Last, I would like to recognize the contributions of our church Administrators during the year. Jenne Foronjy has done an admirable job of assisting the pantry since she came on board in late June. Always a smile on her face and always willing to do whatever tasks need to be done to assist the pantry in its operations. Deborah Lancaster also did an incredible job of supporting the pantry during the first 6 months of the year, well organized and attentive to the needs of the pantry. She was proactive and made sure things got done without having to be asked. I feel proud and fortunate to have had her on my team!

Respectfully submitted, Jack Melcher

Report of the Director Christian Education

While still battling the pandemic, the Heifer project that traditionally takes place in January looked a little different in 2022. Krissy Cannizzo and Terry Reynolds got very creative – they recorded “Sunday School in your own home” video lessons about Heifer, and created take-home kits that went along with them. Families were encouraged to pick up their packets at the church, and some were delivered. The Living Gift Market, a favorite of the children and adults alike, was postponed due to the pandemic, but was held in April, on Palm Sunday. As a result of the market, and the children saving money in their banks and asking friends and relatives to help sponsor animals, here is what the CSCC youth community was able to provide to Heifer:

6 Trio of Rabbits	\$360
8 Beehives	\$240
2 Water Buffalos	\$500
1 Lamb	\$120
1 Llama	\$150
2 Flocks of Hope	\$120
1 Goat	\$120
1 Heifer	\$500
5 Flocks of Chicks	\$100
	=====
	\$2,210

When Fall came around, we felt we were finally coming back to a bit of pre-pandemic normalcy, being able to meet in person regularly. The name “Sunday School” was changed to “Kids Church”. And instead of seeking teachers for the year’s curriculum, the structure was changed to four individual quarters, each with its own set of teachers and curriculum themes. The quarters were: the Spark Bible Program “Activate Your Faith”, introducing children to bible stories; Advent, which was a curriculum around the book “The Heart That Grew Three Sizes, Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch”; the Heifer project; and a Lent study.

For 2022, we experienced the first two quarters of our program, and they went very well. The children especially liked how the lessons from the Grinch story tied in with the lessons from the bible. There was an adult book study on the book as well, and several themed activities for all ages.

In the Fall, we also instituted the “Coins for Kids Church” program, where the congregation was encouraged to bring in their spare change on the first Sunday of each month, and donate it to the Kids Church program for supplies and activities.

Report of the Board of Trustees

During this third year of Covid-19 pandemic your Board of Trustees has met primarily in-person meeting when possible, using email to confer on some issues.

For the Trustees, 2022 was also a year of doing lots of little things to keep your church home up and running. We heartily thank our Sexton, Rich Sullivan, for his continued work repainting doors and other items around the building, and keeping our reopened building clean, as well.

My special thanks to Gordon Brailsford who continued to meet with contractors as needed to repair ceilings, roof and other essential items in our building. Gordon has also continued to be Trustees' liaison to the Historical Church Building committee pursuing and obtaining community CPC funds. This has been a long process with many a meeting. Thanks also to John Sharland who continues to assist handling the AED and building temperature sensing devices and other issues as they arise. Retirement is a busy time for these gents who handle some many weekday things someone employed full-time would find difficult.

The Trustees as a group do have prayerful concerns regarding our on-going budget. Many thanks to our treasurer for his work paying our bills, depositing church income and communicating with our board whenever there are concerns.

The one bright spot through the pandemic has been the community contributions to the Bridgewater Food Pantry resident in our building, and the hard work by those volunteers who make this work surely a valuable asset for those in need during these times. They could use more space as the need is great. The trustees appreciate the kindness of the Food Pantry in contributing funds to help keep our electric bill paid! For the Board, Ed Buckland, Trustee Chair.

Report of the Church Fair Committee

EVENTS

Friday, Nov. 4, 2022 : 6:30pm-8:30pm

Saturday, Nov. 5, 2022 : 9:00am – 1:00pm

Turkey Dinner Takeout: Sunday, November 13

Christmas on the Common event: December 4

The 2022 fair was finally able to put the pandemic behind it, but there are some pandemic changes that have become part of the permanent plan.

- We were able to hold pie night once again, on the Friday night.
- We wanted to be able to hold attic treasures and the harvest table outside once again, weather-permitting, and the week preceding the fair we were able to confirm that we would, in fact, be doing that. Because of this, attic treasures and harvest table were not parts of the Friday night pie night event.
- Our lunch service was comprised of soups (donated in crockpots by volunteers) and walking tacos.

The 2022 fair included: a baked goods table; a candy table; raffle baskets; soups and walking tacos for lunch; church crafters; jewelry table; attic treasures; and the harvest table. Because attic treasures and the harvest table were outside, the crafters were able to take up a generous amount of room in the fellowship hall. It was not quite as much as last year, since we once again were going to have tables for people to sit down and eat pie (Friday night) or lunch (Saturday), but a sizable amount of room.

In lieu of a sit-down turkey supper, we had a turkey dinner takeout event, where people could pre-order turkey dinners-for-two. It was catered by Boston Tavern Middleboro, and was held on the weekend following the fair (11/13).

Volunteers made cookies, pies, and candy for the fair; made craft items; donated or procured gift baskets and gift items; worked selling raffle tickets and food. There was a volunteer or two who coordinated each of the special tables and the lunch service. We were an approved community service opportunity for Bridgewater-Raynham High School students, and had several students working various shifts (most all day).

The turkey dinner takeout price was \$40 per dinner-for-two. We had 70 takeout meals purchased. An anonymous angel stepped up once again and paid the Boston Tavern bill, so the church was able to keep every dollar it took in from those who ordered dinners.

Thank you to all who helped as none of this would be possible without the many volunteers who donate their time, talent, and financial support. **The Friday/Saturday fair plus the turkey takeout brought in \$8,210.**

Crafters and the jewelry table also sold items during the Bridgewater Business Association's Christmas on the Common, held December 4. The BBA did not utilize the fellowship hall for vendors as they have in recent years, so our folks could use the entire space. The crafters took in, on this day alone, an additional \$794, and the jewelry table took in \$295, **bringing the total brought in by the "fair" to \$9,299.** It was budgeted at \$7,500.

The 2022 Fair Team: Denise Molinari, Carla Jackson, Diane Sheibley, David Hanson, Co-Chairs

Report of the Board of Stewardship

Stewardship's 40 for 40k project was quite a success. It will continue as a guideline on tithing for new members and for anyone who would like to increase their tithes during the year. Stewardship will be working on launching some new fundraising ideas during 2023 with the goal of eliminating the rest of the deficit. Submitted by Kathleen Mosher, Chairperson

Report of the Women's Guild and Fellowship

We were able to meet throughout 2022 with a few minor disruptions and changes due to Covid. We are a group of women who meet October through May for various programs, missions, and fellowship. Our January meeting was cancelled due to the weather and many members not feeling well. In February we had a Zoom meeting with Dr. Kathleen Laquale about "What Does Healthy Eating Look Like?". Our March meeting was an Ash Wednesday Lenten Service with Rev. Beth Stotts. In April we had a wonderful slide show of National Parks put on by Beth and Rob Basler. May was our annual banquet to end our year at the Fireside

Grill. Our next year started with an October Potluck Supper and also a celebration of our 100th Anniversary with old pictures, stories, and a cake. In November we had Mel Lambert of Sunshine Farm Sanctuary give a meaningful talk about her animal therapy for foster children. In December, we enjoyed a Christmas/Communion Service with Rev. Beth Stotts.

We had Spring and Fall Rummage Sales and also sold items on-line to raise money for our many donations throughout the year. Our members also contribute to "The Angel Fund" each month so we can give to those that need some help. We gave to Teen Challenge, Health Imperatives, Operation Santa, Salvation Army, Dress-A-Girl, L-Street Mission, Heifer Project, Horizons for Homeless Children, Ukraine Relief Fund (through Church World Service and World Central Kitchen), and the church's general fund and Minister's Discretionary Fund. We also gave money or products to others in need of assistance including bath towels to the sober houses in town and clothing and necessities to Wandering Heart Project in town. We filled around 14 boxes with much needed items for our troops overseas and sent them off. We also send many cards out to lift others' spirits.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane O'Connell and Barbara Morey, Co-Presidents

Report of the History and Memorials Committee

Tulips, daffodils, and Easter lilies were placed on the altar to beautify the sanctuary for the Easter morning service and were given with love by church members in memory of their family member who had passed away. Some flowers were given to honor a friend or a loved one who was ill.

On Christmas the altar was decorated with poinsettias also given in memory of a loved one. A list of the memorial persons named is printed in the service pamphlet on both Sundays. All flowers may be brought home by the person who ordered them. The remaining flowers are delivered to shut ins.

The Memorial Committee may use this money raised to purchase needed items for the church. The item must be voted on and when approved a small memorial plate is placed on the item naming the person it was given in memory of. All church members are encouraged to inform a member on the Memorials Committee of a suggested needed item for the church.

Barbara Morey, Rachel Lawson, and Terry Reynolds

Report of the Historical Church Building Committee

It is a long and tedious process awaiting the Deed Restriction to go through its many steps and stations and required signatures before coming back to us at CSCC for our approval and our signatures. The start of the renovations on the church awaits the completion of the deed restriction before beginning the work. It was estimated to take as long as 8 months to complete the Deed Restriction. We are now in month six.

Remain hopeful and optimistic. The work will begin, and the church will look beautiful. The project began as an exciting idea to clean up the exterior of the church prior to our 200th Anniversary celebration. Our project just exploded, and we moved ahead to do it all. I now feel that work will begin on Phase 1 which is the steeple this year.

I will continue to attend the monthly meetings of the Community Preservation Committee and keep the Cabinet informed of proceedings.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara I. Morey

Report of the Director of Video Evangelism

To Our Friends at Central Square Congregational Church
January 26, 2023

Dear Friends,

We send you Greetings and Gratitude as we celebrate another successful year for CSCC, and a continued partnership with BTV. Paul Holmes and I always feel welcomed and appreciate the wonderful programming recorded and provided by the Central Square Community.

We have received continued positive feedback from our viewers, who enjoy the professional and welcoming presentation of Sunday services, on YouTube, Facebook, and Channel 9. Please know that your positive messages and music reach an appreciative audience, including many who are homebound or have relocated to new homes, and are still able to remain connected to their religious community.

We are privileged to work with Julia Scott Carey and her tremendous lineup of professional performers, and with the support of our board of directors, we have been able to purchase and install state of the art audio equipment in 2022, allowing us to present wonderful concerts for our community channel. We are honored to partner with Rev Beth on weekly and special programming, which has offered a much needed resource of information for folks who have been in need with a religious connection during these trying times. Specifically, between YouTube and Facebook Live, Sunday Services average 200 viewing devices, meaning the total viewers is probably in the neighborhood of 500-1,000 minimum, on a weekly basis. This number continues to grow annually. Although we cannot get specific viewing numbers on the TV side, we are told by Comcast that the consumer base is roughly 30,000.

Paul and I are always grateful for the opportunity to bring the Good News to Bridgewater and beyond. We look forward to additional projects, partnership, and fellowship.

We wish you all the best for your annual celebration, and look forward to the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Jeff Fowler
Station Manager
BTV Access Corp

Paul Holmes
Director of Video Evangelism
CSCCUCC/BTV Access Corp

Report of the Sexton

As the year 2022 evolved so did the activity level within our church. Gradually, by following CDC guidelines regarding the lifting of Covid restrictions, the various Boards and Committees of the Church leadership team began reconvening their periodic meetings within the church building. We also experienced an increase to normal in the on-premises meeting activity of the numerous outside support groups that utilize our building. By mid-year the activity level was pretty much back to normal. The result of this was my daily maintenance work was also back to normal.

Given the age of the Church, 160 years old, the building is still structurally sound. Internal and external repair work was done to the church steeple in 2022. There are a few badly needed cosmetic repairs to the outside of the building. Discussions around those efforts and the associated cost continue.

I would like to acknowledge a few people here for their much-appreciated help to me during the past year. The Board of Trustees, in particular Gordon Brailsford, for support whenever I required it. Gordon is always there to lend a hand. I am sure that is no surprise to anyone who knows him. Jenne Foronjy, our Congregational Receptionist, for her admin support and keeping the office candy dish full. David and Diane Sheibley for taking the recyclable trash to the transfer station. Steve Chandler for stepping up and taking on some handyman projects around the church. Rev Beth for noticing when I needed words of encouragement and support and providing both. Last of all to everyone who I neglected to mention here.

Peace

Rich Sullivan, Sexton

Report of the Central Closet Thrift Shop

The thrift shop idea was first mentioned on June 27th, at a crafter's meeting. Once the seed was dropped, three of us just looked around the room under the stairs and said it would be small, but could be really cute. It was the size of a walk in closet, and our merchandise would be pulled from the over flow of our closets, thus the name. The tables found a new home, rummage sale holds were added to our October sale, and warmth in cold places merchandise was moved to its new location. The room was just about empty at this point.

Connie Chandler, Jane O'Connell, Lynn Pietras, and Gail Wright, attended the cabinet meeting in August. We were pleasantly surprised at the enthusiastic approval all members showed and we were given the right to go ahead. Our next step was to obtain a business permit. This was easily done at town hall.

People started to volunteer to help us make this a reality. We originally thought a little paint, and washing a few windows would do, Thankfully Steve Chandler stepped up and became our project manager. Moldings were added, sanding was needed, new lighting was installed. Troy Hubble found two painters from outside the

church to volunteer to paint the room once all the prep work was done. Steve then added new shelving, and the room was ready.

Steve was able to find wheels for the rolling racks. This has doubled our space. We pull them out during store hours and tuck them away when we are closed. We've cleaned out cabinet storage space that was being wasted, and made another place to store merchandise for sale. This has sparked others to clean out other areas in the church as well. It's taken us longer than we thought it would, more work than we thought it would be, but it's been a fun project.

Thanks to Jenne Foronjy for her office help and Diane Sheibley for all her marketing. We also want to thank everyone that has donated merchandise, we wouldn't be able to be successful without it.

Thanks to all,

Connie Chandler, Jane O'Connell, Lynn Pietras, and Gail Wright