

# Old Steeple Community Church

United Church of Christ

656 Main Road, Aquebogue, NY 11931

## 2017 Annual Reports

Date of Meeting: January 21, 2018



*"Arise, shine; for your light has come ..."*

Isaiah 60:1



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## **Annual Meeting Old Steeple Community Church January 22, 2017**

Following Worship, the Annual Meeting was called to order by Moderator Janet Wright at 11:00 a.m. Janet welcomed the group and thanked everyone for coming, followed by the reading of scripture for the meeting: *"And do not follow the customs of the present age, but be transformed by the entire renewal of your minds, so that you may learn by experience what God's will is – that will which is good and beautiful and perfect."* – Romans 12:2, The New Testament in Modern Speech translation, Electronic Edition, copyright 2005. Pastor Anton led us in prayer.

**Present:** Walter & Betty Stewart, Jack Kratoville, Ginny Taylor, Ann Priapi, Gail Evans & Dave Wellen, Donna Doroszka, George Schoenberg, John Andresen, Guy & Barbara Fein, Rev. Anton & Henza, Liz Wines, Donna & Ray Atkins, Garret Moore, Edgar & Nancy Goodale, Andrea & Robert Hanulec, Jeannine Martin, Gail Yeager, Kathy Stapon, Maria Heagy, Jackie Wolfson, Keith Young, Fay & Avery Young, Paula Corwin, Tom Behr, Amy Cosgrove and Janet Wright.

Moderator Janet Wright appointed Robert & Andrea Hanulec as Tellers. The 2016 Annual Reports were distributed. A motion was made by Donna Doroszka, seconded by Guy Fein, to accept the Minutes from the January 31, 2016 Annual Meeting/Community Board Meeting as printed. All in favor. The Annual Reports were quickly reviewed by those in attendance. With no questions or comments, a motion was made by Fay Young, seconded by Donna Atkins, to accept the 2016 Annual Reports. All in favor.

**New Business:** A proposal was made by the Nominating Committee (Fay Young, Janet Wright and Jean Lapinski): "We move that the Congregation adopt a 9-person Council form of governance, that would replace the four Elected Boards: Trustees, Deacons, Christian Education, and Christian Action; and that the Congregation set aside the By-Laws of the Old Steeple Community Church, UCC, for the upcoming year during the By-Laws rewrite." A Motion was made by Janet Wright, seconded by Ray Atkins, to accept the 9-person Council form of governance. All in favor.

The Nominating Committee proposed a slate of members for the 9-person Council of Old Steeple Community Church: John Andresen, Donna Atkins, Barbara Fein, Gail Yeager, Keith Young, Donna Doroszka (Moderator), Janet Wright (Clerk), Edgar Goodale (Treasurer), and Jean Lapinski (Financial Secretary). In addition, the Committee proposed that Maura Daly be Auditor for the upcoming year. With no further nominations from the floor, a motion was made by Fay Young, seconded by Guy Fein, to vote on the proposed slate. After voting, the ballots were collected and tallied by the Tellers: 28 yes votes and 0 no votes. Moderator Janet Wright thanked and dismissed the Tellers.

The next Annual Meeting will be held on January 21, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Cosgrove, Clerk

## Corporate & Community Board Minutes – October 22, 2017

The monthly meeting of the Community Board of Old Steeple Church was called to order by the Moderator, Donna Doroszka, in the church sanctuary at 11 am. There were 22 members in attendance: Dr. John Andresen, Amy Cosgrove, Pastor Anton DeWet, Henza DeWet, Donna Doroszka, Barbara Fein, Guy Fein, Robert Hanulec, Maria Heagy, Jack Kratoville, Garrett Moore, Ann Priapi, Janice Rodrigues, Jim Suydam, Loretta Suydam, Ginny Taylor, Carol Ann Vocellke, Liz Wines, Rev. Janet Wright, Gail Yeager, Avery Young, and Fay Young.

Pastor Anton opened the meeting with a prayer. The Moderator appointed two tellers: Amy Cosgrove and Robert Hanulec.

The budget for 2018 was presented. There were a few questions concerning the expense of \$3500 for a Web Design and if this was a one-time expense or would this be a yearly maintenance as well. It is a one-time expense and is in the range of a professional website set-up. There was also a question about the possibility of having solar power to lower the expenses on the church. These ideas were accepted and will be discussed further in the future. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ann Priapi to approve the budget. The motion was seconded by Robert Hanulec and the tellers distributed voting papers.

### Reports

*Building and Grounds* - No report

#### *Outreach*

— Paulette Sherman suggested that the blankets purchased be supplied to the "Madonna Heights" program, which houses women leaving abusive relationships. She also asked for direction on where to offer our Christmas Gift Card as there has been no queries from the congregation for any member for help at this time. Paulette would like to know where the money should be given. Two possibilities were suggested, (1) Katie's Courage and (2) donation to the school system for a Chatting Bench, where students who are being bullied can go to sit and talk it out with a teacher or counselor.

— The Scholarship Committee is seeking interested volunteers for the 2018 year. Please consider this opportunity.

— LICC food and supply donations continue.

— The church has been approached by the Parker Jewish Institute looking for space to rent for their Adult Day Care Center. They are interested in renting one day a week for about 2-3 hours in mid-day. There was a brief discussion about conflict with the Nursery School and should they be charged rent. This request will be tabled until a later meeting so the Council may gather more information on this topic.

— The Sunshine committee continues to send out cards to comfort and spread joy throughout our congregation. If you know of someone who would benefit from a cheery note, please contact either Amy Cosgrove (631-722-4739) or Jean Lapinski (631-722-4171). They will be sending out cards to Veterans and could use your help in identifying our veterans and finding their addresses. They do their best to send these cards to the correct addresses but have some difficulty at times. They have also experienced trouble in gathering the names and addresses of our college students so they will receive their "Halloween Treats". If you are contacted for a student's address, please respond. The committee will be grateful.

#### *Faith Formation*

— Sunday School is moving forward with children in the two age groups: 1 - 4 year olds and 5 - 10 year olds. The classes are offered on the first and third Sundays of each month. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED.** Please consider signing up to teach a class. Materials and helpful suggestions are available and the experience of sharing your faith with the children is priceless!

— Confirmation Classes continue. There are currently nine young persons involved. **\*\*A note:** only one absence from these classes is permissible.

— The book discussion group meets on Fridays at 11:00 am. They are currently reading "The Zealot".

— The theatrical production of "Class of Life" will be on Saturday, November 11. The doors open at 6 pm for dessert and coffee and the production will begin promptly at 7 pm. This is an excellent

opportunity to share an evening together as a family and discover what values are developed in the home. This is a requirement for those in the confirmation class, so consider joining them to think about your own values. The program is entertaining and comical with music and other props. Tickets may be purchased by calling 631-722-4486 and leave a message.

#### *Worship*

— Readers are needed to assist in the worship service. The Call to Worship and the Scripture Readings would be the responsibility of the Reader. If you would like to be a part of the service, please call Dr. John Andresen (516-647-8447) or the church office (631-722-3070) and leave a message.

— In preparation for our annual Christmas Eve service, a sanctuary decorating team and clean-up crew is necessary. A day will be set for this event. Watch for this opportunity to being a part of the Christmas celebration.

#### *Welcoming Ministries*

— The Council is currently investigating several possible replacements for our front sign. More information will be available when the options are more clearly understood.

— It was suggested that this Council team begin a sign-up for greeters each Sunday. The greeter would arrive by 9:45 am and welcome arrivals and hand out bulletins. Consider being a part of the support of the church in this position.

#### *Christmas Bazaar*

— Our Annual Christmas Bazaar will be on December 2, 2017. There is a sign-up board for basket donations or call Jean Lapinski for more information on this topic. Jeannine Martin will be the cookie chairperson, Ginny Taylor the seller of knives, and Donna Doroszka will provide a delicious luncheon. If you could help out in any of these areas, please contact the chairperson of the area you wish to help. Many hands make light work! Besides, it is fun!

#### **Budget Vote Results**

The voting results for the approval of the Budget were: 24 Yes, and 0 No. The budget passed unanimously.

The Moderator dismissed the tellers with the appreciation of the congregation.

**The Stewardship Luncheon** will be next Sunday, October 29, following the Worship Service.

#### **Joys and Concerns**

Paulette Sherman requested more volunteers to sew labels on the blankets to be distributed. She also has noticed that there appears to be only two persons who fulfill the duties of Deacon. She suggested that perhaps there could be other persons to assist in this capacity.

#### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Barbara Fein to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Guy Fein and passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Wright, Clerk

## Ministers Report

January 1, 2017 was my first official day here at OSC. Our house was still filled with half opened, unopened and empty boxes. Our beloved dog, Jock, had been put down the previous evening. It was a tough start for us and we secretly wondered where we would go from that point forward.

Most of us have been in that place when your life is turned upside down.

How surprised we were to feel the warmth of a congregation as we got to know you. People who cared, who gave so much of themselves, who had such deep roots here in this community and the church.

Now, after the first 12 months I look back on this time with a deep sense of gratitude.

We are so happy to share this part of our lives with you. You have made a place for us in your midst. We have worshipped together, worked together, laughed together, and yes, we have cried together too.

Highlights have been the process of working with a group of very able leaders in shaping a new leadership style and structure that will serve our church well. The Council is beginning to find its way through the uncertainty that comes with unfamiliarity. This coming year new bylaws will begin to be put together. We are on our way and we are doing well.

Our children have at least two Sundays of Adventure Time with teachers committed to help them find their place here in this sacred community.

Our confirmand class is coming along and soon we will be introducing our confirmands to the congregation in a service of recognition and celebration. I thank my colleague, Rev. Janet Wright, for the many ways she supports my ministry in the church, especially when it comes to the confirmation class.

Our fund raisers have been very successful. Important cooperation between us strengthens our bonds when we work together for a common cause. We have excelled in this.

Air-conditioning has brought comfort and we experienced a sense of intimacy when we worshipped in Luce Hall during the summer.

We have had losses to contend with and we have tried our best to be a comfort to those who mourn. It has been a team effort with members and clergy reaching out and embracing those who suffered loss and those who continue to grieve.

We have also celebrated baptisms and weddings as people pledged their love and support to one another and to their children.

I share my personal thanks for the work our staff and all the volunteers do to make this church so special.

We are a community of believers, journeying through life, learning from one another and always striving to apply what we learn to better use so that our lives will add to the moral capital of our society and the world.

We do so in the name of our loving God. May this same God guide us in our paths as we continue into this New Year, always believing that, together, we can do so much more to "let God's kingdom come, on earth, as it is in heaven.

With love and respect,  
Anton DeWet

## Moderator's Annual Report

Again, we had a busy and eventful year. Rev. Dr. Anton DeWet and his lovely wife Henza joined our congregation. It has been a pleasure working with them and getting to know them better.

Because it was difficult for the nominating committee to fill all of the positions as designated by our by-laws we switched our form of governance to a nine-person council with me as your Moderator (a position that was totally new to me). Thank you for your patience while I got used to this new position. The Council members are designated to lead one of the main missions of our church. These titled missions are: Buildings and Grounds, Caring Ministries, Outreach, Faith formation, Worship, Welcoming Ministries, Finance (Financial Secretary and Treasurer), Clerk and Moderator. Each of these leaders should gather their own volunteers to help them complete their mission. In addition to these duties they should be available to support and assist at all of our fundraisers and other church events. We will be revising the by-laws this coming year. Thank you to all of the members of the council: Janet Wright clerk and Faith Formation, John Andresen and Barbara Fein worship, Donna Atkins Caring Ministries, Gail Yeager Outreach, Keith Young Welcoming Ministries and Edgar Goodale Treasurer and Jean Lapinski Financial Secretary. I would like to add an additional thank you to Laura VanHouten, she has been acting as our deputy treasurer.

Our Fund-Raising events were successful in two ways. They were an opportunity for family and friends of Old Steeple to get to know each other outside of the sanctuary walls. This form of fellowship is very important for all of us. Our three major events were also successful fundraisers. I want to thank everyone who participated for their hard work and dedication and a big thank you to everyone who took on the leadership of these events. We will be looking for someone to chair the Chicken BBQ in 2018, we will also be exploring new ways to expand the Antique Fair and have another successful Christmas Auction. Please think about how you can help in the coming year.

I want to thank Rev. Janet Wright who has been coordinating Maureen's haven. This is an important ministry to the homeless in our area to get a good meal and a warm place to stay during the colder months. Not only is there a group of volunteers that serve, and make sandwiches and breakfast, there are also volunteers that fulfill the requests for dinner, breakfast and bagged lunch items on the first and third Monday evenings from November through March. It is a rewarding program. A big thank you to everyone who participated in any way.

Our Outreach team was very active this year. Thank you to Paulette Sherman (she is a true wonder woman), Liz Wines who coordinated the Crop Walk, our Sunshine team Amy Cosgrove and Jean Lapinski and also the Scholarship team, Paulette, Jean and Ann Priapi. I also want to thank everyone else who helped during the year in any way. Thank you also to Dave Wellen for the benefit concert. We earned enough money to be able to offer three scholarships this coming year.

We have started Sunday School classes on the first and third Sunday of each month with a small group of volunteers and students lead by Rev. Janet Wright. There is also a confirmation group being led by Rev. DeWet and Rev. Wright. Many thanks to you and your band of volunteers. If you would like to help them in this area please speak to Rev. DeWet or Rev. Wright.

There were other events that took place this year. Dr. Rev. Anton DeWet's ecclesiastical council and installation service was held on June 11, 2017. It was followed by a covered dish dinner in our fellowship hall. We held 7:00 am Farmer Services and Harvest Services at family homes. This is a way for people who can't get to church for one reason or another to be able to participate in worship a few times a year. In October, we had the Blessing of the Animals led by Rev. Wright and aided by Rev. DeWet and Rev. Lebron of the Riverhead Methodist Church. On November 11, 2017 "The Class of Life", a theatrical production was performed. Thank you to Rev. Wright for coordinating this. (continued next page)

Thank you to Gail Evans our Office Administrator; our faithful clerk, Rev. Janet Wright; Guy Fein our organist/composer in residence; Bob and Lorraine Link our hardworking Sextons; the Buildings and Grounds team, Rick Reeve and Robert Hanulec; and of course, Rev. DeWet and Henza our faithful

leaders. A church is only a building, without its people and their time and talents we would be nothing. Thank you to all who stepped up to help make Old Steeple Community Church a strong and viable entity in the community and in our hearts.

Respectfully Submitted  
Donna Doroszka, Moderator

## Clerk's Report

Membership as of January 1, 2017	168
New Members	1
Deaths/Transfers	2
Membership as of December 31, 2017	167

### Baptism Record for 2017

- (1) Jeffery and Jamie Young had their son, **Jesse Ryan Young**, baptized on April 9, 2017 at Old Steeple Community Church by Rev. Dr. Anton DeWet. Jesse's date of birth is November 27, 2016.
- (2) Jessica de Vera-Wells and C. P. de Vera had their son, **Warner Dhel de Vera**, baptized on April 23, 2017 at Old Steeple Community Church by Rev. Dr. Anton DeWet. Warner's date of birth is April 5, 2017. Jessica Wells is a member of Old Steeple Church.

### Wedding Record for 2017

- (1) **Lisa Reeve** married **Juan Alvarado** on July 7, 2017 in the Old Steeple Community Church sanctuary. Rev. Dr. Anton DeWet officiated the ceremony. Lisa's father, George Reeve, is a member of the church, but Lisa is not.

### New Members for 2017

- (1) **Robert Fraser** was accepted into the Old Steeple Community Church family during the worship service on June 25, 2017.

### Funeral Record for 2017

- (1) The Funeral Service for **Donald Edwin Lee** was held on April 22, 2017, in Old Steeple Community Church's sanctuary. Rev. Dr. Anton DeWet officiated. Don, who died on April 4, 2017, was buried at Calverton, National Cemetery. (01/07/1928 - 04/04/2017)
- (2) The Funeral Service for **Shirley A. (Jones) Reeve** was held on October 16, 2017, in Old Steeple Community Church's sanctuary. Rev. Dr. Anton DeWet officiated. Shirley died on October 10, 2017 and was buried in the Aquebogue Cemetery. (08/07/1951 - 10/10/2017)
- (3) The Funeral Service for **Lloyd W. Corwin, Jr.** was held on December 16, 2017 in Old Steeple Community Church's sanctuary. Rev. Dr. Anton DeWet officiated. Lloyd died on December 12, 2017 and was buried in the Aquebogue Cemetery. (03/19/1934 - 12/12/2017)

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Janet Wright

## Treasurer's Report

The financial health of Old Steeple improved once again due to a strong return on our investments. We continued to support our ministry and outreach to our local and wider missions. We also did significant improvements to our facility's such as AC in both the parsonage and Luce Hall, New computer for our office and a better sound system in the sanctuary. All of these cost over 30K that was unbudgeted for 2017. Our pledges were strong as we continue towards our path in becoming self-sustaining in our giving and not relying on our endowment fund for operations. We transferred 80,000 from the Endowment to fund operations and unbudgeted improvements. Below is a snap shot as of December 31st of our balances. During the year we combined the Memorial fund and the Endowment fund to obtain better returns. We keep an internal breakdown of both of those balances.

	January 1st 2017	December 31st 2017	
Endowment - Includes Memorial	2,253,528	2,406,075	+ 152,547
Checking	23,426	17,835	- 5,591
Total	\$2,276,954	\$2,423,910	+ \$146,956

Edgar Goodale, Treasurer

## Ballot of Officers/Nominating Committee

### **9 Person Council:**

Donna Doroszka

Moderator

Edgar Goodale

John Andresen

Jean Lapinski

Donna Atkins

Gail Yeager

**Keith Young**

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**Richard Reeve**

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**Sandra Reeve**

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**NYS Conference Delegate**

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**Suffolk Association Delegate**

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**LI Council of Churches Delegate**

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## **Suffolk Association Delegate Reports**

*April 2017:*

The Suffolk Association Spring meeting was held on April 29, 2017 at the Middle Island UCC. Attending from Old Steeple were Pastor Anton DeWet, delegate Liz Wines, and Janet Wright who is the Association Moderator. Eight churches from the Association were represented.

The meeting was opened with a worship service led by the Middle Island Pastor, Rev. Robert Ruis, the business meeting followed with reports from the committees and the different churches. Orient will be having their 300th Anniversary this summer with many events planned to which we are invited; and the other pastors and churches are invited to the Installation of Pastor DeWet at Old Steeple in June. The Patchogue church was approved for a grant of \$3000 to support their concert series. Certificates were given to churches who participated in OCWM and 5 for 5 – for which Old Steeple received both. Seven pastors have served 235 years collectively in ministry!

The program for the morning was Sanctuary Churches. The speaker Dr. Richard Koubeck, who is from Long Island Jobs for Justice, shared information about the immigrants on Long Island and how churches can help them as a refuge and safe place in this time of uncertainty. The meeting was then adjourned and a light lunch was served.

*November 2017:*

The Suffolk association Fall meeting was held on Saturday November 4 at the mount Sinai Congregational church. Pastor Anton DeWet, Janet Wright and Elizabeth Wines were the delegates from Old Steeple.

The meeting was opened with a worship service led by Rev. Dr. Ron Wood and followed by the business meeting. There was a discussion on whether a \$2.00 per capita should be collected from each association and sent to the New York conference, but it was tabled until the spring meeting.

The program speaker was Rev Ryan Henderson, the Associate Conference Youth minister. He talked about ways churches can nourish the youth in their congregations. There are several youth events which young people can attend.

Following the program there was an Ecclesiastical Council for Pastor Mary Larson of Mt Sinai Church. She is a part time chaplain at St. Charles Hospital and part time at Mt. Sinai. She delivered a shortened version of her thesis describing her faith journey to her installation and answered questions from the congregation. The meeting was ended at 12 noon. The next meeting will be at Orient in the spring.

Respectfully submitted, Liz Wines

## **Worship Report**

The Worship Committee, consisting of John Andresen and Barbara Fein, have been functioning well. We have frequently called on other members of the congregation to assist in greeting, taking the collection and serving Communion, and have met with a positive response. We feel that it is important to greet everyone and to introduce ourselves and welcome newcomers, and we have tried to do just that every Sunday.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Fein, John Andresen

## **Caring Ministries Report**

*Sunshine* – Please see the Sunshine Committee Report on page 16. A very big thank you to the Sunshine Committee for the cards, phone calls, gifts, etc. Keep up the good work.

*Homebound Contacts* – Reverend Anton has been making contact and/or visiting members and friends who are unable to attend Sunday worship services.

*Prayer List* – I have been working with Gail to keep the prayer list up to date. Please notify Gail in the office if anyone is to be added or taken off the list so we can keep it current.

*Prayer Shawl Ministry* – The Prayer Shawl group continues to meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month. There has been an average of 6-8 members attending. We distributed approximately 50 shawls, baby blankets and or lap blankets this year. If you know of anyone in need of this special ministry, please notify a member of the group. Remember prayer shawls are given for happy occasions as well.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Mae Atkins

## **Buildings & Grounds Report**

The Buildings and Grounds Team have had a very busy and productive year.

*Parsonage:* Rev Anton DeWet and Henza moved into the parsonage in January. There were repairs and updates that were taken care of before and after the move. Thank you, Anton and Henza for making the parsonage look like a real home. The shutters and door really pop and the gardens were looking good until the snow covered them up. Whole house air conditioning was installed.

*Church:* Routine repairs and updates were taken care of. The trees behind the playground and across the street were trimmed and one tree was taken down. AT&T has completed their work and the cell service is up and running. The Nursery school was moved forward and a wall was constructed and the storage area has also moved. Many thanks to Jim Suydam for painting the wall and the hallway down stairs. We installed air conditioning in the fellowship hall.

Upcoming projects include updating the fire security system to include carbon monoxide detectors and a new panel by Lighthouse security at the church. There will be repairs to the garage floor and a fence in the back yard at the parsonage.

The team would like to thank everyone else that has helped to make our church and grounds look nice and inviting. Thank you to Joe Doroszka for his electrical skills. We really do appreciate all that you do.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rick Reeve, Robert Hanulec  
Donna Doroszka, Council Rep.

## Outreach Report

This was an amazing year! The Outreach services grew to meet the needs of so many locally, nationally and globally.

The Long Island Council of Churches Food Pantry benefited in generous donations from our congregation all year. Weekly collection of non-perishable goods as well as special occasions: "Souper Bowl" (January), "Go Green" (February), "Back to School Supplies" (September), Thanksgiving and Christmas gift cards, monetary donation, toys, books, blankets and clothing were given. The "One for One" project where everyone brings in one food item every Sunday, will continue to help fill the needs of our community.

In December, we were able to give monetary checks to the following agencies: Maureen's Haven "Old Steeple" blankets, Madonna Heights (\$50) also "Old Steeple Blankets", Kait's Angels (\$50), and Katy's Courage (\$50).

Habitat for Humanity of Suffolk received a donation in June towards their wonderful achievement of providing new homes in our county.

Nationally, we were able to help many during the hurricane seasons in Florida and Texas. Privately and collectively, we were able to show we wanted to help them in their time of crisis. Church members are encouraged to contribute individually to Church World Service or another agency of their choice.

Globally, our commitments to Church World Service Blanket Project UCC during the month of May, "One Great Hour of Sharing", "Neighbors in Need" in October and the first Sunday of every month commitment to the UCC "Our Churches Wider Mission". We had seven hearty church members participate in October for the C.R.O.P. Walk in Riverhead to support local pantries and a donation to the local soup kitchen.

Our united generosity supports our motto "You Can Count On Us". Thank you!

Paulette H. Sherman, Outreach Coordinator

### OSC Member Donations to Outreach Year End Accounting

Our Churches Wider Mission	\$3,226	Habitat for Humanity (Suffolk)	\$680
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 519	CWS CROP Walk	
Strengthen the Church	\$ 144	CWS Blankets	\$678
Neighbors in Need	\$ 290	LICC Pantry Gift Cards	\$575
Christmas Fund (Veterans)	\$ 260	Disaster Relief	\$935
Maureen's Haven	\$ 284	LICC Pantry Christmas Check	\$425

## **Sunshine Committee Report**

2017 was a busy time for the Sunshine Committee. During the year, more than 500 cards and e-mails were sent to Old Steeple's Members and Friends. Celebration greetings went out to recognize baptisms, births, church memberships, high school and college graduations, milestone birthdays, and weddings. In addition, get well, hello, sympathy, thank you, thinking of you, and welcome messages were mailed, as well as holiday cards for Easter, Halloween, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Flowers were delivered to provide comfort, and gift cards were given to our ministers to show our appreciation, our graduates to celebrate their accomplishments, and our college students to let them know we are thinking of them.

The committee is honored to serve our church by spreading sunshine. Please continue to share with us the names of those who could use a card or note: e-mail Amy at [acosgrove@optonline.net](mailto:acosgrove@optonline.net) or Jean at [jlapin224@yahoo.com](mailto:jlapin224@yahoo.com).

Amy Cosgrove, Andrea Hanulec, Jean Lapinski  
Sunshine Committee

## **Maureen's Haven Report**

The "season" of Maureen's Haven runs from November through March of the following year. This ministry is to care for homeless persons in our area and the responsibility of Old Steeple Community Church is the evening of the first and third Monday of each month and the Tuesday morning that follows the Monday evening.

This is my second year in the Coordinator's position and the routine is becoming more comfortable. There is a list of volunteer bakers and cooks from the congregation and the community that supply the hot meals for the evening and the 3-dozen hard boiled eggs for the breakfast the next day. I am so grateful for the support.

The lack of space to store the mattresses, blankets and sheet sets for the guests has caused our church to seek a partner in this ministry. Old Steeple Community Church gives a donation to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church to "rent" their space for the season and we are grateful for their welcomed assistance.

We supply a full hot meal on Monday evenings that varies but always includes meat, side dishes, vegetable and dessert — coffee and tea, of course. The volunteer servers also make the sandwiches for the bag lunches given to each guest as they leave in the morning. We have been joined by the Peconic Community School children who supply some sandwiches as well. This is a new and lovely partnership.

Our sincere appreciation goes to Maura Daly who launders all the sheets and pillowcases, and will also launder any blankets that are inadvertently mixed in with the sheets. When this enormous pile of laundry is done, Maura matches the sheet sets back up and packs them in plastic bags that are distributed to the guests. This is a huge job that Maura does without complaint twice a month.

There are between 14 and 24 guests, depending on the weather, all male. Maureen's Haven supplies a staff member who stays the night with the guests.

I am forever grateful to the volunteers from Riverhead Building Supply (The Kappenberg family — Brian, Tracy and Brooke, Brian Kappenberg's mother and father, Nancy Lauben, Victoria Pace and Valerie Paladino) and Jonathan Contreras, for without their faithful service the job would be overwhelming.

It is only through the generosity of members and friends of Old Steeple Community Church that this ministry continues to serve the less fortunate in our community. The gifts of money to purchase the supplies necessary to maintain this project, the gifts of prepared foods, the gifts of toiletries and other personal items given demonstrates the compassion and concern for those around us who are in need. This caring for one another is an important part of our Christian faith. Thank you to one and all.

It is an honor and privilege to serve as the Coordinator of this valuable ministry. I thank you all for this experience.

Janet Wright, Coordinator - Maureen's Haven

## Spiritual Formation Report

Beginning in February, Old Steeple Community Church moved from governance by a Board with many committees to a Unicameral governance — a Council with six areas of ministries. One of these areas is Faith Formation, which encompasses developing practices in learning and education to expand our understanding of faith.

Christian Education for all ages is included in this ministry. Under the guidance and encouragement of Pastor Anton DeWet, we have started to offer Sunday School on the first and third Sundays of each month. Two teachers will lead the children with various bible instruction and activities. We have two groups of children (ages 1-4, and 5- 11). The attendance has been between 3 - 5 on any given Sunday. Volunteer teachers guide the students.

We are grateful for these volunteers who give of their time in this ministry: Liz Wines, Janiece Rodrigues, Loretta Suydam, Donna Doroszka Kerrie Grattan, Kathy Stapon, Donna Czajkowski, and Janet Wright. We would like to see more people volunteer in the future.

Pastor Anton and Rev. Wright are leading the Confirmation Class. We hope the class will be prepared to be confirmed during the Easter Service in April. The class began with nine members, but there may be some adjustments as the class continues.

For the adults, a book discussion group was created that generally meets on Fridays at 10:30 am led by Pastor Anton. The group completed one book, "The Zealot", and is now discussing "Jerusalem, One City, Three Faiths". There have been between 6 and 9 persons in this class. Those who attend are finding it to be a great place to discuss both the book and current outlooks on faith and religion.

An event for families and friends was a presentation called "The Class of Life", presented by Paul D. Failla. It was a fun filled evening of entertainment and humor. Important life and family values were presented in an amusing fashion and there were many hearty laughs. Though the attendance was lower than expected, I believe the evening was a success.

This has been an engaging first year with this format and I have enjoyed serving as the team leader in this area.

Rev. Janet Wright

## Welcoming Ministries Report

Below is a description of activities / projects that were set into motion during 2017 as part of the Welcoming Ministries function of the Church:

- Several small hand painted signs were obtained from Wedel Signs to help direct people as they enter the Church from the doors near Luce Hall. The signs were put in the appropriate place on the outside walls and are a great addition to the entry ways. Thanks to Lisa Drozd at Wedel signs for donating these and also thanks to Gail and Rev. Anton for obtaining and installing the signs.
- Research was done relating to obtaining a new roadside sign for the Church. This would replace the old sign which desperately needs to be updated/replaced. This is the sign that identifies the Church and also allows for messages to be posted and easily changed. The Council agreed the sign would have the following characteristics:
  - Double sided / lighted LED box allowing for 4 rows of text/letters; electric hookup will be required (existing sign has no lighting)
  - PVC carved sign at top identifying "Old Steeple Community Church"
  - PVC carved sign at bottom identifying church as "United Church of Christ"
  - Two sets of new letters will be purchased (one set for each side).
  - Similar in size to existing sign but will be much more visible and weatherproof due to lighted box feature

Thanks to Edgar Goodale for having Riverhead Building Supply do some of the sign work and for potentially donating some of the materials (posts, covers, etc.).

Sign work is in progress and we hope to have the sign ready to install by the time the ground thaws.

The proposed sign is not a budgeted item and funding for the related costs will need to be determined (possibly Memorial Fund or other "special funding").

- A proposal was made to remove the existing sandblasted hanging sign on the front lawn and possibly retiring it altogether (or maybe hanging on the side of building). This is due concerns that the sign might not be visible enough for those driving by to read. The fate of this sign is still to be determined.
- There were preliminary discussions on overhauling the Web Site. Additional research and discussions will be held during January 2018 and we will move forward with this project. The web site is a budgeted item and it appears that the budget amount will be sufficient to cover the costs.
- Other areas which will need to be given attention to by Welcoming Ministries during 2018:
  - Inviting and attracting visitors
  - Welcoming and invitation to coffee hour
  - Church brochure
  - Integrating new members so they feel connected and are willing to participate

Respectfully, Keith Young

## Annual Meeting of the NY Conference Report

I begin with my sincere gratitude to Old Steeple Community Church for giving me the opportunity to attend the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ. There is a wealth of information available to each attendee about the work of the Church. It is also a time of fellowship with other members of our covenant. Thank you one and all.

The theme of this year's conference is "Leading Off The Map". The scripture used to highlight this Leadership theme is Genesis 12: 1, "And the Lord said to Abram . . . . Go to the land I will show you".

On Wednesday, May 24, I was able to attend the pre-conference Minister's Retreat which was led by Rev. Jim Herrington. We met from 1 - 4 pm and returned after dinner and shared another session from 7 - 8:30 pm. During these sessions, Rev. Herrington built upon the historic journey of Lewis and Clark who were charged with finding a water route from the major Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean. Logically, these two men believed that if they followed the Missouri River to its headwaters the Pacific Ocean would be there. They were mapping the Western Frontier and following along routine ways of travel, namely following the river. To their surprise and disappointment, when they came to the headwaters in the current state of Idaho, all they could see was the majestic Rocky Mountains rising to the sky before them. They could not use the accepted plan of travel, they had to be adaptive and think of a new way to proceed. This is an example of thinking adaptively in a leadership role rather than thinking along the usual accepted operational way of leading. Rev. Herrington suggested reading "Canoeing the Mountains" by Tod Bolsinger. He also spoke about developing emotional maturity, which we can all benefit from. The evening ended with Vespers and I returned to my room for a good night's rest.

Thursday morning, May 25, began with a quick breakfast before the next session with Rev. Herrington. I learned about five adaptive leadership practices which are:

1. Boundary Crossing (as crossing over to learn about other faith practices)
2. Discerning God's initiatives
3. Treating your neighbor as a subject, not an object
4. Developing missional communities
5. Holistic engagement

These practices encourage new ways of "mapping" the unknown territory of the new mission field. The fourth session concerned generating and sustaining creative tension. Creative tension is generated by developing a clear, shared and compelling narrative of the current reality in a church and hold that up alongside a clear, shared and compelling narrative of a hopeful future. The final session was concerning caring for oneself while using adaptive leadership. This self-care is important and some of the ways we care for ourselves is by healthy eating, getting appropriate rest, some exercise and absolutely having some play time. We also need to have someone we trust who we can be honest and vulnerable with, sharing inner most thoughts and having honest feedback. All these practices will gain persons the mature adaptive leadership necessary to be a good leader. This retreat was informative, provocative and encouraging.

After lunch I was able to register and the business of the conference began with welcoming guests, announcements, affirmation of the Mission and Vision Statements, By-Law revisions and a State of the Conference report by Rev. David Gaewski.

Time for dinner and a break. The evening Keynote Speaker was Rev. Herrington who shared more stories to illustrate how to "Lead off the Map". The sharing of these stories expanded on the outline and facts given during the previous two day sessions. The evening closed with a Worship service and a reception for the speaker. It was a long and fruitful day.

Friday, May 26, began with a delightful breakfast and the opening of the business meeting the

covered Greetings from our partners in Germany, Financial reports, Treasurer's report, Budget presentation, a resolution to establish a conference per capita fee (\$2.00), annual reports, recognition of new Open and Affirming churches, election and installations of officers and ending with an invitation to the 2018 Conference in Syracuse. We completed all business in record time and so the attendees were able to leave much earlier than the suggested close of the conference at 3:30 pm.

It is an honor to represent Old Steeple Community Church at State Conference. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet persons from around the state

and share experiences of different churches. One may discover how other churches are doing mission work, what is working and what has been disappointing and build relationships. It is an awesome experience that I wish more of the congregation would venture to take.

Again, thank you Old Steeple Community Church for sending me to State Conference.

Janet Wright, Delegate

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### *Continuing Church Year Activities*

- ◆ Community Board (all members) meeting after Worship every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday
- ◆ Children's Sunday School 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays from September through June
- ◆ OCWM – UCC offering every 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month

# 2018 Church Year Activities

## January

- ◆ Annual Meeting and potluck luncheon the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – January 21
- ◆ Ecumenical/MLK service here on the 21<sup>st</sup> at 4 pm
- ◆ The "Call" gets put in the bulletins the first three Sundays
- ◆ Christian Unity Service held at Old Steeple January 14<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm
- ◆ Contact Andrea to order palms for Palm Sunday
- ◆ What/when/where are Martin Luther Sunday events?
- ◆ Canned soup for Souper Bowl

## February

- ◆ Ash Wednesday service on February 14th
- ◆ The 260<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization of this church is March 26 – begin preparations for that celebration – get something in the newspapers and on news sites
- ◆ Canned soup for Souper Bowl

## March

- ◆ One Great Hour of Sharing offering (OGHS – UCC)
- ◆ Advertise in paper for Palm Sunday/Easter Services
- ◆ Farmer's Services - get dates and locations
- ◆ Send out message/put in bulletins about bringing Easter flowers in memory of loved ones and getting names to Gail
- ◆ Pastor does an Easter stewardship letter, and include the Easter offering envelope
- ◆ Community Easter Sunrise Service at Indian Island 7 am
- ◆ March 26<sup>th</sup> is the 260<sup>th</sup> anniversary – we will celebrate March 18<sup>th</sup> (because the 25<sup>th</sup> is Palm Sunday)
- ◆ Go Green canned veggies for LICC Food Pantry
- ◆ Newspaper ad inviting all to our Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday services

## April

- ◆ Easter Sunday Community Sunrise Service April 1<sup>st</sup> – Gail advertises for this
- ◆ Teacher Recognition Sunday set by Outreach
- ◆ Registration for NY Conference annual meeting
- ◆ Suffolk Association meeting
- ◆ Farmer's Services - get dates and locations
- ◆ Church World Service Kit collection

## May

- ◆ Suffolk Association meeting 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday
- ◆ Last Sunday for Sunday School is the 'Sunday School' Sunday before Memorial Day
- ◆ Mother's Day/Blanket Sunday – Church World Service (CWS)
- ◆ Set date for BBQ organization meeting
- ◆ Order annual paper goods supply
- ◆ Send out email to get names of graduates
- ◆ May 20<sup>th</sup> is last day of Sunday School – have hot dogs

## June

- ◆ Confirmation (students for next year)
- ◆ Habitat for Humanity of Suffolk offering on Father's Day
- ◆ The budget is coming up – begin thinking about budget concerns
- ◆ Strengthen the Church offering (UCC)

## **July**

- ◆ BBQ is *usually* the first Sunday after July 4<sup>th</sup> – this year it is July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- ◆ The budget is coming up – begin thinking about budget concerns
- ◆ Covenant Share – NY Conference, UCC offering (none in 2019)
- ◆ Set a date for Antique Fair planning meeting
- ◆ Back to School supplies for LICC Food Pantry

## **August**

- ◆ Advertise in newspapers and on news sites when Sunday School begins
- ◆ Back to School supplies for LICC Food Pantry

## **September**

- ◆ Sunday School begins the first Sunday after Labor Day – September 16<sup>th</sup> (and runs through June)
- ◆ Budget preparation
- ◆ Get CROP Walk date and walkers and advertise in papers and etc.
- ◆ Farmer's Services - get dates and locations – advertise in papers
- ◆ Order stationery, envelopes, inserts for Stewardship Budget in October
- ◆ Blankets for local shelters as special mission – sewing on labels

## **October**

- ◆ Stewardship letter gets done by Moderator and emailed/snail-mailed
- ◆ Blessing of the Animals
- ◆ Get fall clean-up date – Gail do a flyer to email out
- ◆ Halloween Gift Cards for college students – need names
- ◆ when does Maureen's Haven begin (weather dependent)
- ◆ Farmers Services
- ◆ Prepare sanctuary for Advent and Christmas
- ◆ CROP Walk
- ◆ Budget Vote
- ◆ Thank you/Stewardship Luncheon the Sunday after Budget Vote
- ◆ Neighbors in Need (NIN) offering – (UCC)

## **November**

- ◆ Suffolk Association Meeting usually 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday
- ◆ LICC Migrant Dinner
- ◆ Community Thanksgiving service
- ◆ send out information about Christmas Bazaar
- ◆ Community Choir
- ◆ Send out Christmas stewardship written by Pastor and include Christmas envelope
- ◆ need candles for Christmas Eve?
- ◆ notice about Christmas Wreaths & Flowers
- ◆ Outreach – gift cards for LICC food pantry
- ◆ Maureen's Haven volunteers

## **December**

- ◆ Christmas Bazaar
- ◆ Annual Reports coming due
- ◆ Sunday School students perform for congregation on a Sunday in December
- ◆ Christmas Fund offering
- ◆ Sunday School students sing for the congregation?
- ◆ Outreach – gift cards for LICC food pantry
- ◆ Outreach – "Angel Tree" donations