

Old Steeple Community Church

United Church of Christ

656 Main Road, Aquebogue, NY 11931

2018 Annual Reports

Date of Meeting: January 27, 2019



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

Isaiah 60:1

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Combined minutes of Annual Meeting & Community Board January 21, 2018

The combined Annual Corporate Meeting and the monthly Community Board Meeting of Old Steeple Community Church was called to order by the Moderator, Donna Doroszka, in the Luce Fellowship Hall at 11:50 am. Those in attendance were: Janiece Rodriguez, Pastor Anton DeWet, Henza DeWet, Gerry Hegner, Kathy Stapon, Dr. John Andresen, Carol Lee, Liz Wines, Robert Hanulec, Donna Atkins, Raymond Atkins, Ann Priapi, David Wellen, Barbara Fein, Guy Fein, Rick Reeve, Amy Cosgrove, Tom Behr, Cheryl Behr, Jeannine Martin, Fay Young, Avery Young, Ginny Taylor, Jack Kratoville, Nancy Goodale, Edgar Goodale, Paulette Sherman, Jean Lapinski, Donna Doroszka and Rev. Janet Wright.

The meeting opened with a prayer led by Pastor Anton. The Call to this Corporate Meeting was read by Barbara Fein. The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on January 22, 2017, were printed in the monthly newsletter. As there were no additions or corrections, Barbara Fein made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Ann Priapi seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Tellers were nominated to collect the vote to be held for the new officers on the Council. The tellers are Raymond Atkins and Ann Priapi. The Moderator listed the nominees for the offices to be filled as follows:

Three seats on the Council:	Keith Young
	Richard Reeve
	Sandra Reeve
NY State Conference Delegate	Rev. Janet Wright
Suffolk Association Delegate	Liz Wines
LI Council of Churches Delegate	Guy Fein

Nominations were requested from the floor. As none were made, we will be voting on the persons listed above.

Annual Reports were emailed to the congregation. There were some hard copies available for persons without computers. While the tellers were counting the vote, the Moderator asked if any of those who reported wished to expand on their reports. Hearing none, the Moderator asked if anyone had any questions to ask about any of the reports. There were no questions at this time. Pastor Anton DeWet stood and expressed his appreciation for all the work and co-operation of the members of the congregation of Old Steeple Community Church. Richard Reeve made a motion to accept the printed Annual Reports. The motion was seconded by Donna Atkins and passed.

The tellers reported that 31 ballots were cast. Three ballots were not completed in the last three categories. The vote was considered unanimous. The Tellers were dismissed with our gratitude for their work.

New or Ongoing Business

- 1) Lenten Services with the UCC Churches will be:

Ash Wednesday, February 14, at 7 pm, at Old Steeple Community Church with Rev. Dr. Sean Murray preaching.

Maundy Thursday, March 29, at 7 pm, at First Congregational Church with Rev. Dr. Anton DeWet preaching.

Good Friday, March 30, at 7 pm, at Baiting Hollow Congregational Church with Rev. Stan Knavel preaching.

- 2) Annual Chicken Barbecue will be on Saturday, July 14. A volunteer is needed as a chairperson, or two as co-chairs. Please consider stepping up and supporting the church in this event.
- 3) The Annual Antique Fair will be on the weekend of August 25, 2018. Jean Lapinski will be away the first two weeks in August. She is looking for a volunteer to chair this event, or be a co-chair with her.
- 4) Our Sunday School is continuing with classes on the first and third Sundays of each month. There is a sign-up sheet in the classroom and volunteers are needed to keep our Sunday School going. Our grateful thanks go to all who have volunteered to teach a class.
- 5) Raymond Atkins reported that he has checked on the AED's in our church and the batteries are up to date as well as a supply of new pads for the paddles. He also stated that in his training he was told that our adult size paddles were not to be used on a child under one year of age.
- 6) Guy Fein requested that more men consider joining the choir.

Joys, Concerns and Gratitudes

Edgar Goodale mentioned the LICC (Long Island Council of Churches) is desperate for volunteers to work a few hours at the office in Riverhead. They also need financial support. There has been some upheaval within the organization when the longtime director retired and much needed grant monies were not applied for because of a lack in staffing. The Riverhead office will be moving to the Methodist Church due to the high rent at their current location. Guy Fein stated that as the delegate to that organization, he will report about ongoing progress.

Donna Doroszka shared that her grandson just had his 7th birthday.

Jack Kratoville celebrated his birthday today! He was presented with a birthday cake by his sister, Ginny Taylor. The entire group sang "Happy Birthday" to him.

We all expressed our joy and gratitude to Pastor Anton and his wife, Henza, for their leadership and with whom we share the hopes, dreams and visions of Old Steeple Community Church.

Ann Priapi extended her appreciation to the members of the Council for their work during this, our first year under new governance.

Jack Kratoville, by traditional custom set by Babe Young, thanked the choir for their musical leadership.

Rev. Janet Wright thanked all those who have answered the call to help feed the homeless through Maureen's Haven. Many members have supplied meals, hard boiled eggs for breakfast and financial support. A special thank you to Maura Daly who launders all the sheets and pillowcases of the guests of Maureen's Haven.

Guy Fein made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Rick Reeve and passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 12:15 pm.

The assembly gathered in a circle and the meeting closed with a prayer led by Rev. Janet Wright.

Old Steeple Community Church Annual Budget / Community Board Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2018

The Annual Budget / Community Board Meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM by Moderator Donna Doroszka. Edgar Goodale read the call and announced the purpose of the meeting, to present and vote on the 2019 budget. Donna appointed Jean Lapinski as Interim Clerk and Jack Kratoville and Kathy Stapon as tellers.

A question and answer period followed the presentation of the 2019 budget, after which a motion was made by Rev. Janet Wright and seconded by Robert Hanulec to accept the 2019 budget. It was explained that you must be a church member to vote.

While the votes were being tabulated, Donna summarized recent work by the Council ministries:

Building and Grounds — (1) The Council met on October 10th with Michael Gerard from Wireless Strategies to talk about adding Verizon Wireless as a cell provider. He answered questions from Council members and explained exactly what their plan was. Old Steeple contracts with Wireless Strategies for services, and they in turn negotiate contracts with cell providers. Because Wireless Strategies' contract with us is shorter than the contract required by Verizon, we must extend our Wireless Strategies contract to correspond to that required by Verizon. (2) We have purchased chairs from the First Congregational Church in Riverhead. Thanks to Edgar Goodale, Rick Reeve and Joe Doroszka for picking up the chairs from First Congregational and bringing them to Old Steeple; and for delivering the hutch donated by Jeannine Martin's friend to Carol Anne Vocelka. The chairs will need cleaning in the near future. (3) The Holiday Fair and Auction is scheduled for December 1st; baskets are needed for the auction by November 11, and volunteers are needed for the Saturday of the event.

Outreach — (1) Nonperishable food is being collected each week for the First Congregational Church. (2) Maureen's Haven will begin in November, and Rev. Janet will be contacting volunteers to cook. She expressed appreciation for the Riverhead Building Supply volunteers who serve the meal each first and third Monday. (3) The Blessing of the Animals service netted \$150 for Kent Animal Shelter.

Faith Formation — (1) Sunday School is now underway, under Janiece Rogriguez's direction. (2) The book discussion group will begin again on October 26th, focusing on Jennifer Valent's *Fireflies in December*. All are invited!

Worship — (1) This fall's Harvest Services are planned for November 4 at the Wines homestead and November 11 at the Doroszkas' home (unless another volunteer emerges!)

Welcoming — (1) Our new sign has been completed and installed, thanks to Keith Young, Allyn Young, Joe Doroszka, and Edgar Goodale and his Riverhead Building Supply crew.

By-Laws Revision – The Committee is making good progress and should complete their project in time for the January corporate meeting.

Nominating Committee – the Council is looking for volunteers to recommend candidates for two Council positions (including Clerk) and Association Delegates.

Following their tally, Jack Kratoville presented the budget vote results: 24 yes and 1 no. The 2019 budget was passed. A thank you luncheon sponsored by the Council will be held on October 28th. Donna thanked and dismissed the tellers.

The next Community Board meeting will be held on November 18th.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 AM, moved by Guy Fein and seconded by Gerry Hegner.

Respectfully submitted, Jean Lapinski

Minister's Report

How does one do justice to a year in the life of a congregation?

The church, as a faithful community, has as its charge the following;

- To serve those who seek a safe place of nurture in the midst of other believers.
- To teach and learn more about God's possibilities for God's Creation, which includes us but also the rest of Creation.
- To equip ourselves to fulfill our mission as a community committed to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.
- To seek out those who may not be part of the church and to offer them God's love by helping them live a life of dignity, with enough to eat and the safety of a place they could call home, and to speak on behalf of those who are left behind in society, those who are oppressed and those who suffer injustice.

One could probably say a lot more about the essence of the church, but these must be some of the very basic principles for a church to be a church.

How did we fare in 2017?

Serving is the basic charge Jesus gave his followers. The Christian path is the path of service. Every time we have rallied to support someone who is challenged by adversity, we have been "servants" in the likeness of Jesus. Every kind conversation, every visit, every phone call and card to assure someone that they are remembered, has been an act of service. My gratitude to all who have been so critical in this ministry to others. A special word of thanks to the Sunshine Committee for the work they often do anonymously.

Through regular worship services the Old Steeple Church offers the opportunity and invitation to all "to come and worship". Our worship service is open to all of God's people, "no matter who they are or where they have been on life's journey. Thank you for helping create that welcome here at OSC. We have shared the sacrament of communion and we offer the sacrament of baptism to those who request it.

We have "equipped" ourselves by learning from and listening to each other. Through our gatherings, whether it be our education program, our discussion group, confirmation, or through worship, we work at growing our knowledge and experience of God. All these things have been provided for in this year in some way. A special thanks to Janiece Rodriquez and Donna Doroszka and their many helpers, for our children's program on Sundays.

Finally, our focus as a church is both "inward", taking care of our own, and "outward" taking care of others whom we may never know or see again. This outreach ministry happens when we pool our resources, participate in second-mile giving opportunities through special offerings, and through hands-on service such as the work we do at Maureen's Haven. Our congregation has generously provided, through your giving, for those who need help. May we never lose our vision for our ministry to "those out there."

My thanks to the Bylaws Committee for a year of hard work rewriting the bylaws to provide a true and trusted path for us to follow.

Thanks to Keith Young and Edgar Goodale for seeing to the manufacture and installation of the new sign which is an unmistakable invitation to those who drive by.

We mourn the loss of members and other loved ones who passed away this year. Where we were asked, we participated in honoring their lives and offering our thanks to God for their journey with us. The ministry of comfort is one we all have taken quiet seriously. Thank you for your compassion.

We shared in the joy of Confirming new young members of the church. The challenge remains how to keep our younger members connected and active in the life of the church. This is the biggest challenge faced by congregations everywhere. For now, we hold onto the knowledge that they know the doors here at OSC are always open to them. If they need us we will be here for them.

Please accept my deepest gratitude for another year of joyful ministry with you. You are indeed a community of believers with whom I feel privileged to be on this journey. May we continue to grow our personal relationship with the Sacred as we cement our relationships as a community committed to being Christ's disciples.

A very blessed 2019 to you.



Moderator's Annual Report

Old Steeple Community Church has had another busy and rewarding year. This was my second year as your Moderator, and I want to thank you all for your patience and understanding. Thank you also to Rev. Anton DeWet and Henza for all of your support. It has been a pleasure working with you both.

I want to thank all of the members of the Church Council: Jean Lapinski, Financial Secretary; and Edgar Goodale, Treasurer – they were our finance team; Keith Young, our Welcoming Team; John Andresen and Sandy Reeve, our Worship Team; Donna Atkins, our Caring Ministries Team; Gail Yeager, our Outreach Team; and Rick Reeve, our Buildings and Grounds Team. I am on the Faith Formation Team. I want to say thank you to all of the extra people who helped the team leaders throughout the year. This was the second year working with the Church Council. We were working without a Clerk this past year, so thanks to Jean Lapinski, Gail Yeager and Amy Cosgrove for taking minutes during Council and Community Board meetings. We should also thank Laura VanHouten for keeping the books for us and her dad, Edgar Goodale. I think it went a little smoother this year because we knew more what to do, even though it is still relatively new to Old Steeple and every day is a learning day.

The By-Law Revision Team, made up of Donna Atkins, Jean Lapinski, Janet Wright, Rev. Anton and myself, worked hard to update our by-laws. I hope that everyone takes the time to read them through before the annual meeting. With the approval of the Church Council, we will be presenting them for a vote during the Annual Meeting.

Our fundraisers were very successful and profitable this year. Thank you to Edgar and his pit crew for the delicious chicken at our Chicken BBQ. Thanks also to everyone who cooked, prepared food, served, cleaned up and ate. Everyone has a job and we all do it well. We did not have the Antique Fair this year and we will decide later if we should try again. The Christmas Auction and Greens Sale was also a success. Many thanks go to Kate Dinizio, Jean Lapinski, Barbara Fein, Janet Wright and Jeannine Martin for their hard work coordinating and gathering baskets, gift certificates, and cookie bakers before the event even happened. It was a lot of work and we appreciate it. Also thank you to everyone who helped me in the kitchen.

I would like to thank Rev. Janet Wright for coordinating the Maureen's Haven Project, and the many hands that help. This is an important ministry to the homeless in our area to get a good hot meal and a warm place to stay during the colder months. There are volunteers that serve, make sandwiches for the next day's bagged lunches, and make up beds - but there are also volunteers that fulfill the requests for meats, vegetables and eggs for the dinners, soups, breakfasts and other specialties. A big thank you to everyone who participated in any way.

Our Outreach team was also very active. A huge thank you to Paulette Sherman (the true Super Woman) and her helper Fred for her expertise in these areas. She coordinated the collecting of food during the year, special UCC collections, and kept her eye out for local causes that she felt were important. It was Paulette and Fred that contributed the Veteran's interviews in the Steeple View. What a wonderful idea. Paulette has decided to take a well-deserved rest from all that she has done for Old Steeple Outreach. The Long Island Council of Churches has closed in Riverhead, so the food now goes to the Soup Kitchen and Bread and More. Any donations that cannot be used there are then given to the food pantry at St. John's Church. Thanks to Dave Wellen, aka. Joe Hampton, and his band for the 2nd annual benefit concert for the Scholarship Fund. We were able to give three deserving students scholarships. Liz Wines coordinated the Crop Walk. Thank you, Liz.

I have to mention the Sunshine Team. Jean Lapinski, Amy Cosgrove and Andrea Hanulec have done an exceptional job. It is very heartwarming when you receive a card. They do not only send get well cards - Joe and I have received cards of thanks and good wishes from them and appreciated every one of them. Nice job ladies!

The Sunday School has continued and we have classes the first and third Sunday of each month. We have between three to ten students each time. Unfortunately, Janiece Rodriguez was not able to continue teaching. I want to extend my thanks for all that she did. Thanks also to Janet Wright, Gerry Hegner, Carrie Grattan and Jenn Reeve for helping me.

There are so many other things that deserve recognition and thanks, like the early morning Farmer and Harvest Service hosts; Rev. Janet for organizing the Blessing of the Animals service; Easter morning at Indian Island; and Christmas Eve Candlelight service.

Thank you Gail Evans, our office administrator, for keeping me current, Guy Fein our organist/composer in residence, Bob and Lorraine Link our hardworking Sextons, and Joe Doroszka our ever-ready electrician. Thank you to all that have stepped up to help make Old Steeple Community Church a strong and viable entity in the community and in our hearts. A church is only a building, without its people and their time and talents we would be nothing.

Lovingly and Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Doroszka, Moderator

Clerk's Report

Membership as of January 1, 2018	167
New Members	0
Deaths / Transfers	3
Membership as of December 31, 2018	164

There were no member weddings or baptisms during 2018.

Funeral record for 2018:

- (1) The Funeral Service for **Avery E. Young** was held on June 19, 2018, at Old Steeple Community Church's sanctuary. Rev. Dr. Anton DeWet officiated. Avery, who died on June 13, 2018, was buried in the Aquebogue cemetery. (8/14/1931 – 6/13/2018)
- (2) The Funeral Service for **Ernest C. Olsen** was held on October 10, 2018, at Old Steeple Community Church's sanctuary. Rev. Dr. Anton DeWet officiated. Ernest, who died on October 5, 2018, was buried in the Calverton National Cemetery. (2/28/1927 – 10/5/2018)
- (3) The Funeral Service for **Robert Dillingham** was held on December 11, 2018, at the Old Steeple Community Church's sanctuary. Rev. Dr. Anton DeWet officiated. Robert, who died on December 7, 2018, was buried in the Aquebogue cemetery. (9/8/1917 – 12/7/2018)

Treasurer's Report

The financial health of Old Steeple Community Church remains very solid; however, we did not achieve any income growth in our investments due to the performance of stocks and bonds that was very severe in the last quarter of 2018. Our summary shows a decline of approximately \$275K. Of that amount \$62,500 was transferred to support the church both operationally and memorial expenditures. In the last month alone the portfolio decreased \$145K. Some of this paper loss has recovered nicely in the first two weeks of January 2019 in the amount of approximately \$35K.

During the year, we had some unexpected costs at the parsonage with the septic system and basement floor. We also replaced our sign in front of the church, new countertops in the kitchen, updated our website and purchased chairs for Luce Hall. As always, our congregation has stepped up with the pledges to the church to satisfy our budget lin. Below is a snapshot of our balances at year end in 2017 and 2018. I certainly hope 2019 will treat us better!

	<i>12/31/2017</i>	<i>12/31/2018</i>
Endowment/Memorial Fund	\$2,406,075	\$2,132,383
Checking	\$17,835	\$16,386
Total	\$2,423,910	\$2,148,769 (\$275,141)

Edgar Goodale, Treasurer

Nominating Report

Ballot of Officers

9 Person Council:

1 yr Donna Doroszka-Moderator

Edgar Goodale

Jean Lapinski

Donna Atkins

2 yrs Keith Young

Richard Reeve

Sandra Reeve

3yrs **Tom Behr** _____

Janet Wright-Clerk _____

Nominations Team

1 yr **Janet Wright** _____

2 yrs **Sandy Reeve** _____

3yrs **Bob Fraiser** _____

Auditor

Kathy Eberle _____

Suffolk Association Delegate

Liz Wines

Bob Fraiser _____

Note: You are only voting for the names in bold print.

Suffolk Association Delegate Report

The Fall Meeting of the Suffolk Association, UCC, was held on Saturday November 3rd from 8:30 am to 12 noon at the Patchogue Congregational Church. Several of the Association Churches were represented: Old Steeple, Baiting Hollow, Huntington, Mt. Sinai, Orient, Patchogue, and Riverhead.

We were greeted with a feast of light breakfast items as we registered for the meeting. The reception area was abuzz with joyful chatter. Old Steeple was represented by our Pastor, Rev. Dr. Anton DeWet; Rev. Janet Wright and myself, Liz Wines.

Following the meal, we gathered in the sanctuary for the worship service, led by our Moderator Rev. Dwight Wolter. The choir led in the service with a beautiful anthem and other music filled out the worship.

The business meeting began with the usual business items: approval of the agenda, approval of the minutes of the Spring Annual Meeting, and the Treasurer's report. The Association is solvent. There was a reminder that we passed a resolution at the spring meeting that an additional \$2.00 per person from each congregation will be assessed to support the New York Conference, UCC.

Our New York Conference Minister, Rev. Freeman Palmer, gave a report from the conference. Rev. Palmer gave out the 5 for 5 certificates and the OCWM certificate to the participating congregations. He will be leaving the New York Conference to assume the leadership of the Mid-Atlantic Conference as Conference Minister. We shall miss his guidance and leadership.

There were brief reports from the various churches. These reports are helpful to learn how our sister churches are doing. There was no basic program for this meeting. The meeting ended with questions, suggestions or concerns from the gathering.

Respectfully Submitted, Liz Wines

Worship Report

Our work mainly involved assisting Reverent Anton with the routine of Sunday worship. The service protocols were similar to those in past years, consisting of greeting, program dispersal, altar arrangements, ushering collection, and communion. In addition, with help from volunteers we had spring Farmer Services and Fall Harvest Services at various homes in the community.

This commitment was made easy and quite enjoyable with Rev. Anton's leadership. In his absence we were equally fortunate to have Rev. Janet fill in.

In conclusion, we feel the Sunday worship at Old Steeple to be not only spiritually rewarding but enjoyed socially by all who attended.

Respectfully submitted, Sandy Reeve and John Andresen

Caring Ministries Report

Thank you to the Sunshine committee for all your caring thoughts throughout the year. (See the Sunshine Committee Report on page 14).

Homebound contacts: Reverend Anton has been making contact and/or visiting members and friends who have been unable to attend Sunday worship.

Prayer List: I have been working with Gail and Rev. Anton to keep the prayer list up to date. Please notify Gail in the office if anyone is to be added or removed from the list.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: The Prayer Shawl group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. We have had anywhere from three to ten people in attendance. We distributed approximately 35 shawls, including baby blankets and lap blankets. Some of the shawls were delivered to Peconic Bay Medical for Nursing care patients. Preemie hats were also delivered to Stony Brook University Hospital. Prayer shawls are available for people who are mourning, sick, going through hard times, celebrations, births, and other happy occasions. If you are in need of this special ministry, please notify any member of the group. New members are always welcome.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Mae Atkins

Building & Grounds Report

Several projects were completed this year:

- The trees and hedges at the parsonage were trimmed and thinned.
- The cesspool problems that started in 2017 were fixed – an outlet pipe was broken.
- Anton and Henza have continued their gardens – making the parsonage look awesome.
- The counter top and sink was replaced in the kitchen of the Fellowship Hall (thanks, Edgar).
- There were 185 chairs purchased from the Riverhead Congregational Church for the Fellowship Hall.
- We also bought 10 tables for the Fellowship Hall.
- The rock garden had become out of control and was removed and will be replaced in the Spring.
- The new announcement sign took months of meetings with the Building Department, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Design Department. Thanks to Keith Young's persistence; and Edgar Goodale and Allyn Young's sign work; and Joe Doroszka for the electric work – the sign was erected in December.

Also:

We had two major fundraisers. July was our BBQ. Over 500 tickets were sold. Our profit was \$7,000+.

The Antique Fair was cancelled because there was no commitment from the organizer.

The Christmas Bazaar was a huge success, with a profit over \$6000.

Talks with Wireless Strategies are on-going. Verizon is interested on renting space.

We would like to thank everyone who works behind the scenes to keep Old Steeple moving forward.

Respectfully submitted, Rick Reeve and Robert Hanulec

Outreach Report

Our motto, "You can count on us", is shown below in our contributions and work we have done this year in our community, country and worldwide. Everyone at Old Steeple played a part in this mission of Outreach and we thank you for so cheerfully and generously partaking in all of our ambitious events.

The Long Island Council of Churches was always our main focus of food and money through the years, closed their doors at the Food Pantry in April. As a result, we have been giving our bounties of food, clothing and other donations to the Bread and More Soup Kitchen and St. John's Parish Social Ministry.

We were also able to give an end of the year donation to a few new agencies who have graciously thanked us.

Special thanks to Amy Cosgrove for helping in so many ways and to Fred Sherman who helped out in gathering the dried food and canned goods for local families.

OCS Member Donations to Outreach Year End Accounting

Souper Bowl collection	350 Cans
Go Green Veggies	400 Cans
Church World Service: Hygiene Kits	32 Kits
Church World Service: Blankets	\$542
Habitat for Humanity	\$500
Back to School Supplies	
Family Service League, Phillips Avenue School	
Riverhead Middle School	
Over 75 backpacks & 12 boxes of school supplies	
Blessing of the Animals: Kent Animal Shelter	\$150
Church World Service: Crop Walk	\$2,100
Halloween Treats for College Students	\$120
Bread & More Soup Kitchen	\$525
Butterfly Effect	\$100
Katy's Courage	\$100
Kait's Angels	\$100
Madonna Heights	\$100
East End Hospice (Camp Good Grief)	\$200
St. John's Parish Social Ministry	\$200 Gift Cards
	\$800 Clothing, toys
Angel Tree Collection	Books, games, clothing

Veteran's & Soldiers Stories

Thank you to all who thus far have shared their experiences in serving our country: Joe Doroszka, George Schoenberg, Fred Sherman, Matthew Atkins, Jim Suydam, Guy Fein and Jack Kratoville.

Paulette H. Sherman, Outreach

Sunshine Committee

It was another busy year for the Sunshine Committee. During 2018, more than 550 cards and e-mails were sent to Old Steeple's Members and Friends. Greetings were mailed to recognize weddings, births, an adoption, high school and college graduations, milestone birthdays, retirements, confirmations, a new home, and academic achievements. Welcome, thinking of you, Sunday School invitations, get well, sympathy, and thank you cards were sent, in addition to holiday cards for Valentine's Day, Easter, Memorial Day, Halloween, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Monthly cards went out to our homebound, ill, and grieving friends. Flowers were delivered to provide comfort, and gift cards were given to our graduates to celebrate their accomplishment, our college students to let them know we are thinking of them, and to our ministers to show our appreciation.

It is the committee's pleasure to serve our church by spreading sunshine. Please continue to share with us the names of those who could use a card or note by e-mailing Amy at acosgrove@optonline.net or Jean at jlpin224@yahoo.com.

Amy Cosgrove, Andrea Hanulec, Jean Lapinski

Maureen's Haven Report

The "season" of Maureen's Haven runs from November through March of the following year. There may be an additional month added, April, as the weather is often changeable in April (this has not yet been confirmed but I will keep the congregation informed). 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. There are many who volunteer to cook and bake for our guests.

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.

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.

The number of guests has dropped this year due to the Maureen's Haven staff finding lodging for many of the men who use the services of Maureen's Haven. They have also added a more robust health care portion of the services provided. Therefore, this year the count has been between 6 to 11, depending on the weather, routinely all male. We did have one change in January 2017 — New Year's Day. There were 27 guests, 18 men and 9 women. Each evening 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

Faith Formation encompasses developing practices in learning and education to expand our understanding of faith. Christian Education is for all ages.

Educating our children from an early age is very important. We want to peak their interest in the Christian faith while they are young so as they grow older they will want more. We offer Sunday School classes on the first and third Sunday of the months September through May. Class sizes range from three to ten students, with approximately ages 3 to 11 years. Volunteer teachers guide the students and we are very grateful for these volunteers. Special thanks to Liz Wines, Janiece Rodrigues, Loretta Suydam, Carrie Grattan, Janet Wright, Kathy Stapon, Jennifer Reeve and Gerry Hegner. If you have an interest in teaching or helping in the classroom please speak to me or Rev. DeWet.

Revs. DeWet and Wright led a confirmation class, which concluded with a Confirmation ceremony on May 6, 2018 for six confirmands. Congratulations to our Confirmands: Ashley Young, Julia Jackson, Karen Jackson, Kyrie Berkowitz, Island Chavez and Weston Chavez.

For the adults, there is a book discussion group that generally meets on Fridays at 10:30 am led by Rev. DeWet. There is no prior registration, so if this interests you please come. Those who are attending are finding it a great place to share their interest in the selected books.

Thank you for your patience, love and support.

Donna Doroszka

Welcoming Ministries

Below is a description of activities / projects that were worked on during 2018 as part of the Welcoming Ministries function of the Church:

- The new lighted LED lighted sign project has been completed with the Sign being installed in October 2018. A Variance for the sign was applied for and ultimately approved by the Town. The process of getting the sign approved appears to have been worth it as the feedback received about the sign has been almost entirely positive. Thanks to all involved with the Sign project including:
 - ▶ Edgar Goodale who donated much of the material and had RBS construct parts of the sign.
 - ▶ Otto Wittmeir, a good neighbor who supported the Church in the process.
 - ▶ Joe Doroszka who installed the electric and the timer.
 - ▶ Unique Lettering and Design
- The church website was overhauled, and the new site was implemented during 2019. Thanks to Jack Kratoville Jr. (the website designer) with whom we consulted with and he did most of technical work. Also, thanks to Gail for all of her work getting the new site up and running and learning the various aspects related to maintaining and updating the site. I will work with Gail to have a second person knowledgeable about web site maintenance.
- Other areas which will need to be given attention to by Welcoming Ministries during 2019:
 - ▶ Inviting and attracting visitors
 - ▶ Welcoming and invitation to coffee hour
 - ▶ Integrating new members so they feel connected and are willing to participate
 - ▶ Removal of old hanging sign, or possibly moving to a different location

Annual Meeting of the New York Conference

I know you are all anxious to know about the happenings at the New York State Conference of the United Church of Christ that was held in Syracuse, NY, from Thursday, June 7 through Saturday, June 9, 2018. The Theme of this year's conference was "Building Faithful Community Boldly, Living the Gospel".

The Thursday program was educational, part of the service provided by the State Conference. Rev. J. Mark Lawson led the sessions on the Apostle Paul and I learned many new things about Paul which I will be able to share with the congregation in the future. Perhaps the most entertaining, engaging and compelling time shared with other delegates was watching the film, "Black Panther" on Thursday evening. Following the movie we participated in a lively discussion about the many theological threads throughout. I would like to propose a gathering some evening in September or October to view this film together and share our thoughts.

There was some time on Friday morning to visit the many displays of organizations and mission groups that the Conference either supports or sponsors. There was an opportunity in the early afternoon to attend various committee meetings to learn about the UCC By-Law changes (Passed by the General Synod in 2017) or the NY State Conference Budget or the resolution that we will vote on at this conference. The opening of the Conference officially began with the first Plenary (session) with introduction of various officers and staff, approval of the agenda, remarks from the Moderator and a "State of the Conference" report from our Conference Minister, Rev. David Gaewski.

After a break for dinner, we reconvened for an opening worship service with lively music and a message/sermon about being courageous in these times of chaos, from Rev. Emily Heath, the Keynote Speaker. She was a dynamic speaker and has written two books.

Saturday was a full day of business and reports after we opened with prayer and music. We heard from our German partners who visit our Conference and we are invited to visit theirs. The Budget was presented, discussed and passed. Of note, each member of a church will pay an additional \$2.00 to support the NY Conference, a resolution that was passed by each Association throughout the state. The changes in the United Church of Christ by-laws were explained, discussed and passed. There

was only one resolution brought to the assembly. It concerned the April 18, 2018 video from the Theta Tau fraternity on the Syracuse campus. The resolution addressed the racist, anti-Semitic and homophobic words that pledges were required to repeat to the fraternity brothers. The resolution will be on file in the church office for you to see. We asked the Chancellor of Syracuse University though this resolution to 1) denounce the racist actions of Theta Tau fraternity, 2) take action to implement the demands for safety, inclusion and equality presented to the administration by the student body, 3) require mandatory diversity training for faculty and staff, 4) offer assistance to the Conference "New and Right Spirit Anti-Racism" facilitators to help engage in conversations on campus around racism and white privilege, and 5) that the administration work with the students and faculty from marginalized communities to conduct a University-wide "White Audit" for the purpose of identifying barriers to inclusivity across the campus. It was further decided that this conference would adopt and be an Anti Racism Conference.

There was a lunch break which was followed by reports, election and installation of officers, invitations to the Regional Youth Event and to the Annual State Conference May 17-18, 2019 in Poughkeepsie, NY.

The Conference ended with a communion worship service and the delegates left Syracuse late in the afternoon with memories, new friendships and information to share.

It is an experience that I believe everyone should have at least once. It is an opportunity to build relationships with persons from all over New York State, from Massena to Orient, from Buffalo to Albany and from villages and towns in-between. When you get to know someone from away, you have more understanding about how things work for them and that is a strength. After all, the word **COMMUNITY** holds **UNITY** within it. Each church in the United Church of Christ has a covenant with every other church within its framework. We do need to care for, support and love our neighbors.

I thank the congregation of Old Steeple Community Church for their support and giving me the opportunity to represent the caring and loving persons of this community who strive to live their lives faithfully.

Rev. Janet Wright

2019 Church Year Activities

January

- ◆ Annual Meeting and potluck luncheon January 27 (usually the 3rd Sunday, but this year the 3rd Sunday collides with MLK Day)
- ◆ The "Call" gets put in the bulletins the last three Sundays
- ◆ Contact Andrea to order palms for Palm Sunday
- ◆ What/when/where are Martin Luther Sunday events?
- ◆ Canned soup for Souper Bowl

February

- ◆ Souper Bowl Sunday the 3rd
- ◆ Canned soup for Souper Bowl – then Go Green canned veggies for LICC Food Pantry
- ◆ When/where are Ash Wednesday, Lentin, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday services?

March

- ◆ Ash Wednesday service on March 6
- ◆ One Great Hour of Sharing offering (OGHS – UCC)
- ◆ Newspaper ad inviting all to our Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday services
- ◆ Farmer's Services - get dates and locations
- ◆ Pastor does an Easter stewardship letter, and include the Easter offering envelope
- ◆ Go Green canned veggies for LICC Food Pantry

April

- ◆ Send out message/put in bulletins about bringing Easter flowers in memory of loved ones and getting names to Gail – deadline April 15
- ◆ Easter Sunday Community Sunrise Service April 21st – 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 1st Sunday
- ◆ Last Sunday for Sunday School is the 'Sunday School' Sunday before Memorial Day – this year it's May 19
- ◆ 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

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 July 7, 2019?
- ◆ The budget is coming up – begin thinking about budget concerns
- ◆ Covenant Share – NY Conference, UCC offering (none in 2019)
- ◆ 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 September 15th (the first "Sunday School Sunday after Labor Day) (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
- ◆ Scholarship Benefit Concert September 8

October

- ◆ Stewardship letter gets done by Moderator and emailed/snail-mailed
- ◆ Blessing of the Animals October 5th?
- ◆ 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
- ◆ CROP Walk
- ◆ Budget Vote
- ◆ Thank you/Stewardship Luncheon the Sunday after Budget Vote

November

- ◆ Suffolk Association Meeting usually 1st 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
- ◆ Prepare sanctuary for Advent and Christmas
- ◆ Annual Reports coming due
- ◆ Sunday School students perform for congregation on a Sunday in December?
- ◆ Christmas Fund offering
- ◆ Outreach – gift cards for LICC food pantry
- ◆ Outreach – "Angel Tree" donations

Continuing ...

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