

ANNUAL REPORT



REPORT FOR THE MINISTRIES OF 2015
1st Congregational United Church of Christ
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The Year in Review

2015 was a year of amazing generosity, commitment to mission and ministry, innovation in worship, growth in our educational programs and renewed focus for our congregation. We began the year by authorizing the largest capital funds drive in the history of the congregation, outlining six major building projects estimated to cost \$631,637. We ended the year with the first project, the replacement of the roof, completed and pledges secured to complete all six projects over the next four years.

We did not, however, back off of our mission and ministry to pursue our capital improvements. Our operating budget reflected a growing commitment to the work of the church and our Departments and Board were busy with the work of ministering to our community.

“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here,” is far more than a slogan. It is a way of life that is reflected in our worship, education, ministry and hospitality programs throughout our church life.

January

We celebrated with an all-church Epiphany celebration on **January 7**.

A joyful and dedicated group of volunteers gathered to place Christmas decorations in storage and prepare for the Epiphany season on **January 10**.

We commissioned Chuck and Sybil Rounds as our missionaries to Costa Rica on **January 11**.

Our Congregation began our participation in the United Church of Christ one read program. Copies of “Hot Dogs & Hamburgers: Unlocking Life’s Potential by Inspiring Literacy at any Age” were made available for members to read.

Annual Reports were available in print form as well as electronic version on **January 18**.

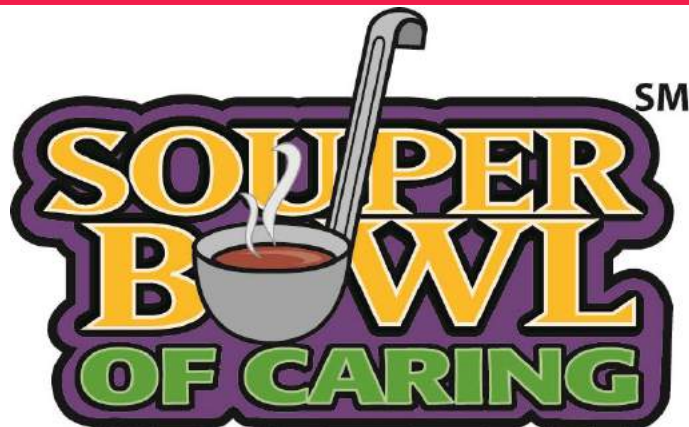
Ben Anderson began a new blog on disability ministries on the South Dakota Conference website.

Church Crafters donated over \$1,100 to the Capital Funds project from the proceeds of their craft sale.

Dinners for Six or Eight kicked off another year with their annual sign up for fellowship events.

United Church Youth headed out for a destination unknown adventure on **January 21**.

Vacation Bible School was held at our sister church in Los Guido, Costa Rica **January 19– 23** with a paseo on **January 24**.



The 136th Annual Meeting of the Congregation was held on **January 25**.

A Celebration of Motherhood lunch and baby shower was held for Alicia Sutliff-Benusis, Jenna Cruz, Jenny Diedrich, Salim Golden and Lisa Trana on **January 25**.

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

February

We renewed our covenant with Break Through Inc. to extend disability education and ministries on **February 1**.

United Church Youth sponsored the Souper Bowl of Caring on **February 1**.

The Church Board and Departments began their year meeting with newly elected members.

A Feasibility Study was held to determine the breadth and pace of the proposed Capital Funds Drive.

Revs. Ted and Susan Huffman attended “Congregations Alive 2: Weaving Us Together in Faith” in Denver **February 4–8**.

The children of the church school made Valentines for shut-ins on **February 8**.

The Department of Ministries served dinner to students at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology on **February 9**.

United Church Youth burned the palms from the previous year to make ashes for Ash Wednesday on **February 11**.

Church Chat discussed “The Elephant Whisperer: My Life with the Herd in African Wild” by Lawrence Anthony.

The Department of Hospitality hosted an All Church Birthday Party on Sunday, **February 15**.

United Church Youth hosted the Ash Wednesday

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pancake supper on **February 18**. Worship with the imposition of ashes followed the supper.

Members of our congregation participated in literacy tutor training on **February 19 and 21**.

Monty Bollock shared his personal journey towards literacy at an adult forum on **February 22** as part of our congregation's participation in the UCC one read.

A new Kerygma Study, "Hosanna: A Spiritual Journey through Holy Week" began on **February 25**.

March

Church Chat discussed Orhan Pamuk's book, "Snow."

Pastor Ted preached a sermon series on the Psalms during Lent.

The Department of Worship offered contemplative communion at 8 p.m. on Wednesdays and 8:30 a.m. on Sundays during Lent.

Congregational Connections added a new program of outreach to those who are experiencing grief. Appropriate reading materials are delivered to those who are grieving by the grieving committee. Members of the committee are Alta Wade, Ruth Ann Karlen, Joyce Tripp, Mike Crutcher and Kandee Snoozy.

United Church Youth decorated Empty Bowls for Feeding South Dakota on **March 11**.

The Women's Fellowship Spring Rummage Sale was held **March 13 and 14**.

The Department of Hospitality hosted a "Bring a Friend to Church" event on **March 15** with live Celtic music in the fellowship hall following worship.

We participated in One Great Hour of Sharing all church

mission offering on **March 15**.

A new outdoor sign was installed to replace the aging sign on the corner of the church property in time for our Holy Week activities.

The Rescue Stained Glass Group made beautiful decorative crosses to adorn our fellowship hall during Holy Week. They also offered stained glass crosses for sale to support the Capital Funds drive.

March 29 was Palm Sunday with the parade of palms, special music and more.

We celebrated the liturgy of the passion on **March 30**, with a dramatic reading of the events of the end of Jesus life.

The Holy Week "Sittin' With the Blues concert was **March 31**, featuring Jami Lynn and friends.

April

A Christian Wake service with a full meal was offered to all ages on **April 1**.

Our Maundy Thursday service featured a choral cantata, "If They Could Speak, a Journey through Holy Week" on **April 2**.

Good Friday was **April 3**. We observed with two services: a special "Faces of the Journey" service for children and youth in the morning, followed by a Journey to the Cross service at noon.

The Great Vigil of Easter was held **April 4** with a service of light, a service of the word, a service of baptism and a service of Holy Communion.

Our Easter celebration began with a Sunrise service at 6 a.m. at Main Street Square on **April 5**. Our celebration continued with an Easter Breakfast and our Resurrection Celebration: a special time of family worship, special music and celebration.

The Good Morning Circle sponsored its 42nd annual bridge marathon at the Elks Club on **April 18**.

United Church Youth participated in the Rapid City Clean-up on **April 22**.

The Women's Fellowship hosted its annual Spring Luncheon on **April 25**.

May

The Woodchuck Society resumed regular splitting parties after a short winter break during May.

We began a new partnership with The Well, a small seeker's congregation who began meeting in our building on



May 3.

There was a special meeting of the Congregation on **May 3** that authorized a capital funds drive with a goal of \$631,637. Six major projects were authorized:

- Installation of a new fireproof roof.
- Installation of modern air handlers in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.
- Replacement of the boiler.
- Installing a vertical access lift to the choir loft.
- Remodeling a former bathroom to provide a family assist bathroom.
- Installing air conditioning for the sanctuary and fellowship hall.

It was announced at the meeting that the advance gifts phase of the drive had secured pledges of more than 50% of the goal.

The Good Morning Circle served cinnamon rolls for the special meeting on **May 3** with donations going to support Cornerstone Women and Children's Home.

The Department of Hospitality offered *Muffins for Moms* on May 10.

The Church School year ended with a potluck lunch on **May 17.**

We honored six high school graduates during worship on **May 24.** Recognized were: Adam Grigg, Anna Hughes, Adam Koehn, Hadlee Kronmiller, Kevin Long and Johnathan Nickel.

We participated in the Strengthen the Church all-church offering on Pentecost Sunday, **May 24.**

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

Ted and Susan Huffman hosted a "Messing About With Boats" event for the congregation at Sheridan Lake on **May 31.** A variety of hand made canoes and kayaks were available for paddling.

June

We welcomed Dr. Stephen Branch as our new Choir Director. He began work for our congregation on **June 1.**

We hosted a visiting youth group from Boulder, Colorado on **June 2.**

The annual meeting of the South Dakota Conference of the United Church of Christ was held in Sioux Falls **June 5-7.**



The gathering featured a visit from United Church of Christ General Minister and President Geoffrey Black and the election of Rev. Gordon Rankin as our new Conference Minister. Our Minister of Christian Nurture, Rev. Kathleen Batchelder served as moderator.

We bid farewell to our Interim Choir Director Becky Umenthum with a cake and reception on **June 14.** We thanked her for her service to our church.

Women's Camp at Placerville was held **June 15—18.**

Shining Stars was **June 15-18** at Placerville Camp.

Vacation Bible School was held **June 15-19** with five days of learning, crafts, games, dinners, songs and special programs. This year's theme was "Stories Jesus Told."

Placerville Seekers Camp was **June 21-26.**

Grand Camp was held at Placerville **June 26-28.**

Our congregation was once again recognized as a 5 for 5 congregation by UCC General Minister and president Geoffrey Black.

July

Placerville Faith Explorers was held **July 5-10.**

Crossroads Camp at Placerville was **July 12-18.**

Placerville Family Camp was **July 19-25.**

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

August

A new distribution system for ***The Call*** Newsletter was initiated. Shut in members and those who choose to receive ***The Call*** by mail now receive

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their copies via 1st class mail. Others can access the newsletter on the Church Website. There is also an option to subscribe to an electronic and mobile-enabled version of ***The Call***.

We hosted a visiting youth group from Sharon, Massachusetts on **August 7**.

Our congregation's support of Love, INC's Clothe-a-Kid program provided for 22 children to shop for new school clothes on **August 8 and 15**.

Women's Fellowship Summer Rummage Sale was held **August 14-15**.

The Woodchuck Society hosted a visiting youth group from Minnesota for a splitting party on **August 19**.

First Congregational Trust announced that Zona White music scholarships of \$1,500 each were awarded to Jessica Bachman, Sara Hight, Daniel Iverson and Stacie Soderstrom. The Inabelle Willard Scholarship of \$1,000 was awarded to Anna Hughes of our congregation. Anna shared her musical talent with the congregation by providing special music for worship on **August 30**.

September

Our Adult Choir resumed rehearsals on **September 2**.

We began 40 Days of Prayer for Children on **September 6**.

The Bell Choir began its season with a rehearsal on **September 9**.

We hosted a visiting group from Elon University overnight on **September 11**.

We hosted the Front Porch Coalition's Suicide Survivors Remembrance Day on **September 12**.

Church School Kickoff Sunday was **September 13**. The

celebration included the annual blessing of the backpacks as well as a potluck with the Department of Education furnishing hot dogs and trimmings. Regular classes began on **September 20**.

Rev. Gordon Rankin was installed as the Conference Minister of the South Dakota Conference of the United Church of Christ in a special worship service held at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Pierre on **September 26**.

October

We celebrated Worldwide Communion Sunday on **October 4**. As a part of our celebration, we participated in the annual Neighbors in Need all church offering.

A special brunch and program initiated the kick off of the UCC Construction Company Capital Funds Drive on **October 4**.

The Department of Education kicked off a new program of family nights on the first Wednesday of each month on **October 7**.

Our choir director, Dr. Stephen Branch, began a new series of adult discussions on music, culture and the church on **October 11**.

The Women's Retreat at Placerville Camp was held **October 16 and 17**.

We celebrated Children's Sabbath and the completion of 40 Days of Prayer for Children on **October 18**.

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

October 31 was a Woodchuck Delivery day. Firewood was delivered to the area of the Frazier Church.

November

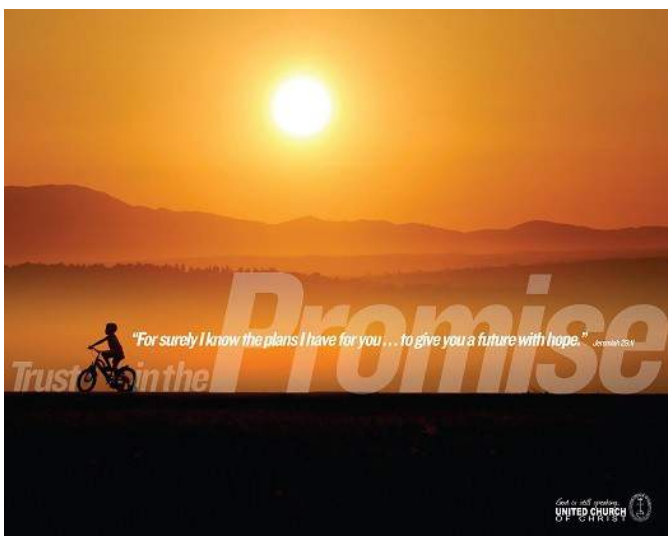
A Family First night, "Giving Thanks/Living Thanks" was held **November 4** with 37 people attending.

The Fall Youth Event at Placerville Camp was held **November 13—15**.

The Woodchucks delivered wood to Wanblee on **November 14**.

The Department of Stewardship and Budget held the annual drive for pledges to support the general fund of the church during November.

The Woodchucks delivered firewood to Eagle Butte on **November 21**. The delivery also included the annual Turkey Taxi with a record number of turkeys donated by our congregation.



We participated in the annual community Thanksgiving Worship service on **November 24**.

A Christmas decorating party was held at the church on **November 28**.

December

On **December 2** there was a Family First night: “God Comes to Us.”

The Women’s Fellowship Christmas Tea was held Saturday, **December 5**.

A special evening with hors d’oeuvres, a jazz concert and desserts was held to celebrate the successful completion of the UCC Construction Company capital funds drive on **December 5**.

Our annual Advent Fair was a St. Nicholas Festival on **December 6**.

The Drawing for the Quilt Raffle to support the Capital Funds Drive was held on **December 6**.

We hosted the Christmas Concert for Bells of the Hills on **December 6**.

Our Bell Choir and Adult Choir held a special musical celebration of Advent on **December 13**.

The children of the church school led us in worship on **December 20**.

We held two Christmas Eve services on **December 24**, with large attendances. The 11:30 service set an attendance record for our late service.

The Woodchucks delivered much-needed firewood to Manderson and Kyle on **December 30**.

Statistical Report

Membership beginning of 2015.....	592
Deaths	8
Transfers out	1
New members	0
Membership end of 2015	584
Baptisms celebrated in 2015.....	16
Weddings celebrated in 2015.....	4
Funderals in 2015.....	11
Average Worship attendance in 2015.....	154

Moderator Gerry Boehrs

The Church Board meets monthly in regular sessions, with special meetings as required. Board members include the Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk of the Board, Department Chairpersons, Congregational Representatives, Past Moderator and Ministers. The meetings are open to anyone in the congregation who wishes to observe. The Board is the central governing body of the church, overseeing and coordinating church operations and activities. Church Departments, Ministers, Task Forces and Committees submit reports and recommendations to the Board for review, discussion and action.

Phase II Capital Projects was a primary responsibility throughout the year. A special Congregational Meeting was held in May to review and approve Phase II plans. The work was divided into two parts: Operations and Fund Raising, chaired by Rob Burton and Lia Green, respectively; their activity reports are included elsewhere in this Annual Report. These volunteers and their fellow committee members worked diligently to plan and execute projects and raise needed funds. Fund raising was successful, and project execution began with installation of new roof shingles and fascia for the church. Roof work is the most urgent and costly of Phase II projects, and was completed under budget. Kudos to all the people who worked hard this year, and will continue to work until all projects are completed over the coming years.

The Board also approved changes in Rev. Kathleen Batchelder's responsibilities and work schedule, at her request. She is now largely focused on Congregational Connections and other activities involved in visitation and ministering to the congregation.

Financially, we have asked the congregation to support two major fund raising activities and two regular operating budgets over the past two years. The people of the church have responded fully to this challenge, and we are in sound financial condition as we begin 2016. Stewardship and Budget folks have done a nice job coordinating and communicating all of this.

The Nominating Committee has worked hard to recruit an excellent group of nominees for congregational approval. The Church Departments are the lifeblood of the church, and strong Department members are essential for our work.

You will find a thorough report of Board activities authored by the Clerk of the Board, and reports from every Church Department elsewhere in this Annual Report.

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Clerk Eileen Rossow

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

Your Church Board has been very busy in 2015. In January the Board organized the preparation for the Annual Report and the Annual Meeting. The Capital Funds Drive Committee began the intricate process of raising pledges for the capital projects totaling \$637,500. Becky Umentum generously agreed to continue as interim choir director through spring while a search was being launched for a new choir director.

February brought a new Habitat for Humanity build to be completed by local churches. The board agreed to a contribution of \$7,000, plus 6 working days, plus lunches for 6 working days to be contributed by the church and the congregation for this project. New Board Members were welcomed to the Church Board and Ted Huffman presented an orientation and an explanation that the church board has a fiduciary responsibility to the congregation, which includes a duty of loyalty and a duty of care.

The Board was very busy in March with Capital Fund Drive Pledges. The Board was heartened to approve the hiring of an excellent new choir director, Stephen Branch. The Board also approved the replacement of some aging computer equipment for the staff.

April events included the installation of a new church sign. The Phase II Capital Projects Fund Drive was moving forward with requests of pledges from all board members. The Board approved the agreement to allow The Well Church the use of the Fireside Room for Sunday afternoon services from May through August.

May brought the unanimous approval of the Phase II Capital Projects Fund Drive at a special meeting on the 3rd. Ted

Huffman introduced the Fund Drive "Dream Team" of Lia Green, Pat Lebrun and Barb Knight. On May 10th the congregation welcomed our new Choir Director, Stephen Branch.

Vacation Bible School was held June 15 – 19, the theme being "Stories Jesus Told". The Semi-annual Rummage Sale was held August 14 and 15 and raised over \$5,800. The Church Board thanks ALL of you who participated and contributed to these events.

September geared up with Church School Kick-off. The BIG project that was launched in September, was the replacement of the church roof. The Board also approved an increase in rental fees for non-member weddings from \$550 to \$1,000.

October brought us the Women's Fall Retreat at Placerville Camp on October 16 and 17. The Department of Stewardship and Budget submitted a preliminary budget and provided a calendar for the 2016 Pledge Drive. The roof replacement was completed.

The Department of Stewardship and Budget launched the 2016 Pledge Drive. They also were heartened to report that the Capital Funds Pledge Drive had raised enough funds so that the new roof bill could be paid in its entirety without having to borrow any funds. The Department of Hospitality worked on a new project to provide transportation for those who can't get to church.

As ever, December in the church was filled with activities, events, and celebrations of Advent and the Christmas Season. The Church Board was additionally consumed with discussions of 2016 Budgets, Capital Fund Drive Phase II Pledges, 2016 Pledge Drive Promotions, Nominations for the 2016 Departments, and preparing Annual Reports for the Annual Meeting on January 31, 2016.

The Church Board has enjoyed an enthusiastic year of cooperation, accomplishment, and optimistic growth in 2015. Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed. The Teamwork REALLY does work!!



Congregational Representatives

Cindy Ledford

Sue Maynard

Kevin Sandmeier

At the end of every calendar year, the team of Congregational Representatives goes into high gear to recruit new candidates to fill nominations for assistant moderator, clerk, and all the departments that make up your church board. One of our jobs is to inform those asked what each department does and what their responsibilities would be. Along with Gerry Boehrs and Sheila Long, we put careful thought into finding the right fit to fill these open positions. We want to say Thank You to all the members who said yes when asked to make this commitment. We also want to say Thank You to all the members who are finishing their terms of service.

Finally, please remember us if you have any thoughts or concerns about anything church related. Feel free to share them with us and we will make sure they are passed on to the church board.

Pastoral Relations and Personnel

The Pastoral Relations and Personnel Committee is a standing committee of the Church Board, with members appointed by the Moderator for a term of one year. Consecutive appointments are allowed. The Past Moderator has recently been the Chairperson of the committee. Because Past Moderator Becky Umenthum moved away mid-2015, Moderator Gerry Boehrs assumed the Chairperson's role for the remainder of the year. Other members included Assistant Moderator Sheila Long, Clerk Eileen Rossow and Congregational Representative Kevin Sandmeier.

When Rev. Kathleen Batchelder expressed her desire to reduce her work schedule and range of responsibilities, the Committee met with her and, separately, with Pastor Ted Huffman to discuss the matter in detail, resulting in an arrangement agreeable with all parties. The Church Board approved the Committee's recommendation and Rev. Kathleen's new role was effective in the fall of 2015. She is now focused largely on ministering to the congregation, including Congregational Connections.

The Committee met with Stewardship and Budget regarding staff compensation for 2016.

The Committee also discussed in a general way the need to begin planning for staff retirements in coming years because, as Pastor Ted pointed out in last year's annual report, most of the staff, including ministers, are past the age of 60. While this is not yet an urgent need, it is prudent to lay out a planning process to assure smooth transitions when the time comes. This is likely to be a focus of the Committee for 2016 and beyond.





Phase II Capital Projects

Progress Report on Implementation Activities

Rob Burton, chair.

At a special meeting held on Sunday, May 5th, 2015, our congregation voted to authorize a capital fund drive in the amount of \$631, 637 for six major projects to repair and improve our church home. Those projects include:

1. Roof repairs - Replace the existing cedar shingles with composite shake shingles and underlayment that carries a lifetime warranty, Class A fire rating, and utilizes LEED Certified Green building materials. The cost of this project was estimated at \$269,837.
2. Air Handler/De-stratification Fans - Installation of large diameter high-volume low-velocity fans, one in the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall, to attain better thermal mixing of the air in each room. This will increase our comfort and energy efficiency in these areas at an estimated cost of \$26,000.
3. Boiler Replacement - Installation of an energy efficient gas-fired boiler to replace the original boiler in our heating system at an estimated cost of \$153,400.

4. Choir Loft Vertical Access Lift - Installation of an electrically powered enclosed lifting station placed in the east cloak room to provide better access to the choir loft for those challenged by the stairs. The cost of this project is estimated at \$35,000.

5. Family Assist Bathroom - Remodel a former bathroom currently used for storage into a family friendly bathroom with greater privacy and capacity at an estimated cost of \$8,500.

6. Air Conditioning - Add cooling capability to the current system that provides heat and air flow to the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall at a cost of \$138,300.

A five-year timeframe was selected for fund raising and project completion. Given the poor condition of the existing cedar shingles, the decision was made to tackle the roof during 2015. By December the roof replacement project was completed, thankfully with few undetected deterioration issues hidden by the old shingles. As an added improvement, the painted wooden fascia boards were clad in maintenance-free steel sheeting as part of the roofing project. The additional cost of this upgrade was approved by the Board in order to reduce future repair costs and to enhance the appearance of our building. A special thanks goes out to Harold Miller and Dave Ledford for their guidance and dedicated service during the roof construction period.

Looking ahead, the remaining five projects will be undertaken as funding is received from our membership, assuming our aging boiler continues to function and pass its annual inspection.

UCC Construction Company Capital Funds Drive Report

Lia Green, Chair

The foundation for the UCC Construction Company Capital Funds Drive was laid by the advance gifts group chaired by Ron Switzer. Several church members including Ron Switzer, Bob Ehrke, Jim Wosepka, and Rob Burton made advance visits as part of the feasibility study and follow up. The Capital Funds group was able to launch the public campaign with a brunch following worship on Sunday, October 4. Approximately 57% of the campaign goal had been secured through the advance gifts portion of the campaign.

The leadership team of the UCC Construction Company was an experienced group. Lia Green, Barb Knight, Pat Lebrun and Kenny Putnam had previously led the successful Pipefitters Capital

Campaign for our organ in 2006. From the beginning the group dedicated itself to not only raising funds, but also creating meaningful and fun events for the congregation. Much of the design of the campaign was based on the successful organ fund campaign.

The public campaign ran from October 4 through December 5, when a celebration evening was held with hors d'oeuvres, a Jim Szana jazz concert, and desserts.

As of the end of 2015, pledges and commitments for our campaign stand at \$601,480.88, which is 95% of our goal. The remaining funds will be secured through a combination of unpledged donations as well as individual contacts and presentation of campaign materials to new members over the year to come.

All of the costs of the campaign were paid from designated gifts. The total cost of fund raising events was \$2,713.04. In addition, there were in-kind donations of advertising, wine and chocolates.



The Capital Funds Committee wishes to express its deep thanks to the members and friends of our congregation for their generous support of this campaign. Together we are building the future of our congregation.



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Senior Minister Rev. Ted Huffman



One might think that after so many years as a pastor of a congregation I might have come to the end of the surprises, but as I look back on the year that has passed, it has been an amazing year.

We started the year with a clear sense that we wanted to tackle a big capital funds drive to catch up with several major projects for our church building. I am always wary of putting too much focus on the building, because I don't want our institutional needs to get in the way of our mission and outreach, but I also know that investing in infrastructure is one way to insure that the mission continues. Most of what we were considering were projects with lifespans of 50 or more years. As the groups working on the various projects began to report, it was clear that we were talking about finding long-term solutions that would result in reducing overall operating costs for our building. By the time of our special congregational meeting in May we had boiled down the list of possible projects to six major projects. The total of \$631,637 was a bit daunting, but I went into the meeting confident that the groups had done their homework well and we were ready for a decision. Still, I was surprised at the unanimous decision. It is relatively rare for a congregation to undertake such a major project with no dissent.

Equally amazing was the speed and ease with which commitments came into the church. It was clear that the projects that were authorized by the congregation will be supported by the congregation. When we first spoke to Lia Green about chairing the capital funds drive, we agreed that we would secure at least half of the funds before kicking off the general drive. It turned out that we had nearly 60% five months later when we held our kickoff event. Then, just two months after that, the new roof had been installed without the need for any borrowing and we

had commitments for all of our projects with full funding for everything except part of the cost of air conditioning.

If the capital funds drive were all we accomplished, it would have been an amazing year. But that is only part of the story.

Who would have thought, when I began serving as pastor of this congregation, that we'd see a "baby boom" big enough to have seven births to families in our congregation? I'm not sure I could have imagined 9 baptisms in the last six weeks of the year, and then starting the next year with baptisms on the first two Sundays. It has been an amazing time.

When I had the first conversation with George Zeise about the Community Christian Church of Los Guido back in 1995, I doubt that I would have understood that we would be able to partner with that congregation to feed 30 to 50 children three days a week year round. Now, with two years of the program fully funded by our congregation, it seems like a normal way of doing business. It amazes me!

Life never is all about celebrations and good times, and we've seen our share of grief in the past year as well. Any mature congregation has to know how to say good-bye as well as how to welcome new members and friends. I often comment to my colleagues that after 20 years, I only do funerals for my friends



any more. That isn't quite true, as we open our doors to serve the wider community, but the depth of grief that we experience is part of our everyday story in this congregation. What is amazing about this is the on-going support of one another upon which we have learned to rely. I make one phone call to arrange ushers and funeral lunches. Volunteers appear to help get the building ready for funerals and to clean up after the services. More importantly, I know that I can depend on the congregation to provide meals, love and on-going support to those who grieve. The expansion of the Congregational Connections group to have a Grief Committee has greatly enhanced our ministry this year. I am so grateful for the support of these dedicated volunteers. They are amazing!

We knew that the time would come for Kathleen to refocus her ministries and cut back on the number of hours serving the church to provide more time for her family. As we began the fall, the shift from one-half time to one-quarter time seemed to be pretty severe. However, in practice, the essential ministries she oversees such as Congregational Connections, hospital visits, jail ministry, spiritual practices, Westhills study and the like are all continuing well under her leadership. By decreasing the amount of time she was investing in meetings, we were able to maintain the ministries of our congregation without cutting back. Amazing!

There is a depth that comes through repetition in spiritual disciplines and that depth has been especially evident in congregational worship this year. Although our trip through year "B" of the lectionary involved texts that we have heard before, we continued to discover new ways to explore the Bible in worship. The transition from Becky Umenthum to Steven Branch as choir director went remarkably smoothly due to the grace and leadership of both dedicated musicians. We experimented with opening worship with praise songs for a while then returned to our usual opening. The desire for more songs from the Sing! Prayer and Praise Songbook brought new ways to incorporate music into our worship. We also continued to develop new liturgies for communion throughout the year. I have been pushed to invest more time and energy in preparation for preaching this year and that investment has been rewarded with an increase in enthusiasm and energy for the preaching task. I have been amazed at how much I have enjoyed my study groups and conversations with staff as we plan worship for our congregation.

I had less time for the Woodchuck Society in 2015 than has been the case some years, but the work continued. There were sever-

al new members stepping up to assist with cutting and splitting and the deliveries were simply amazing. We ended the year with emergency deliveries to Kyle and Manderson. We delivered to clusters of homes with groups of children that were virtually without heat. Our delivery was just in time to prevent major problems. We aren't solving all of the problems of our neighbors, but we are making a difference and we are deepening relationships that enable us to reach beyond our comfort zone to deliver good news to people with genuine need. I frequently brag about the Woodchuck Society. A major mission project without any meetings, without any budget, content to make do with what we have and turn it into an avenue of service, without a need to ask for more is really amazing.

As I read the report of the nominating committee for the year to come, the depth of leadership in our congregation energizes me. There are new names on the list, new leaders emerging. Comparing that list to lists in the annual reports of previous years, the amount of change is impressive and amazing.

Each year that we continue this journey as pastor and parish, we are entering new territory. 2016 will be our 138th year as a congregation in Rapid City. That is longer than any other congregation in our town. No one has more experience with ministry in this place than we. We will also add one more year to the longest pastorate in the history of the congregation. The time has passed so quickly that it has been amazing.

Under our new roof, exploring new avenues of mission and ministry, 2016 promises to be a monumental year in the story of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Rapid City. May we be open to new callings of the Holy Spirit as we travel this year together.



12 1st Congregational United Church of Christ

Minister of Education Rev. Susan Huffman

In August of 2015, Ted and I reached the 20-year mark of service as your pastors. In Biblical terms, 40 years is a “perfectly good and very long time.” 20 represents an abridged time—a good period of time, but not “perfectly good,” as 40 would be. Biblical terminology aside, twenty years as your pastors is, indeed, “a very long time”—longer than we expected to stay. The perspective of two decades provides certain insights into our congregation’s life as we have shared ups and downs over the years.

Twenty years have brought changes. Twenty years ago, I wasn’t doing email. I didn’t have a cell phone and I couldn’t have imagined text-messaging or Facebook. Now those methods of communication are tools I use every day to stay connected with members of our congregation. Twenty years ago, our congregation was more formal. Today we are more casual, both in attire and in manner. That, of course, reflects our society as a whole. That change has made us more open to others; our congregation is more diverse than it was twenty years ago.

At the same time, I see remarkable consistency and dedication to who we are as a church in this place. We are not a group of people who have wafted about, following every new trend. Our congregation appreciates tradition. We find great joy in singing the hymns of our faith and in worshiping together. We have continually been strong supporters of mission. Some mission projects, such as selling food coupons and supporting our sister church in Costa Rica, have been going on with little change for more than twenty years. Day in and day out, we care for one another as a community. Our seminary professor Ross Snyder wrote, “A congregation is a group of people who believe in each other and in something together.” Indeed, we believe in each other and together, we strive to follow God’s way.



Many people who filled leadership positions twenty years ago continue to faithfully serve our congregation. It gives me great joy to see young leaders who were raised in this church, such as Lynn Grauman, Alicia Sutliff-Benusis and Ryan Webster assuming leadership responsibilities. But, of course, there have been many changes, too. We are aware of the deaths in our midst, but there is also more “coming and going” in church life than there used to be. For example, this year, Becky Umenthum, our interim choir director and past moderator, moved out of state. Becky filled important leadership roles and we miss her. But new people have stepped up and assumed leadership positions. Stephen Branch came on board as our new choir director. Julie needed to be out of the office more when her mother died; Laura picked up more responsibilities. As people come and go and as life changes, I am grateful for all the time and leadership given to our church and for the adaptability of our congregation.

Trying to learn ways to adapt to the changing culture, Ted and I attended the Congregations Alive Conference in Denver in February, 2015. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, professor of Christian Education and Faith Formation at Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta, was the keynote speaker. Dr. Nishioka focused on young adults, age 19-35, with special emphasis on “the nones” (those who report no religion when surveyed). His insights into that age group were both helpful and hopeful.

Here at First Church, we are fortunate to have a vital youth and young adult ministry. In the spring, youth and young adults gathered together to paint “Empty Bowls” at Pottery 2 Paint. Other highlights included a session on literacy led by Monty Bollock and participation in the Rapid City cleanup in April. Destination Unknown continued to be a popular event for UCY members.





This fall, one of our destinations was The Gyro Hub, where we engaged in a fascinating and educational conversation with Orhan Guzelcaliskan, a Muslim from Turkey. Compared to twenty years ago, our world perspective is expanding. In working with youth and young adults, I try to provide resources for living in the years ahead, knowing that the world in which they live and practice their faith will continue to change.

As the current group of youth moves through the program, we are presented with a bit of a challenge. This particular group includes a smaller number of kids. A few years ago, that small group caused consternation when people looked at Sunday School. Now our Sunday School numbers are up, but the small numbers in middle-school/high school are presenting challenges for youth ministry. That is a reflection of lower numbers of adults in their 40s in our congregation. Fortunately, we have a good number of adults in their twenties and thirties who are involved and the number of young children is good.

Recognizing the strong numbers in our preschool and younger elementary classes, I have worked with the Department of Education to create programs and events to enhance our ministry with families. In May, we held a family day--a "Mess-About" with boats at Sheridan Lake. This fall, we started the "Family First" nights--dinner and activities on the first Wednesday of each month. Attendance at Family First nights has run between 30 and 40. These family events have been fun for all who have attended. I hope that, with continuing effort to promote the events and encourage families to take part, the attendance will continue to grow.

Along with creating more family events, I have also worked on ways to include children more fully in the worship life of our

church. "Faith caught as much as it is taught." Worship is an important part of Faith Formation. On Good Friday, I held a special service designed for children and families. Using pictures from *Faces of the Journey*, we walked through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Other worship experiences for children include participation in the Lord's Supper, including taking the elements of communion to the children and caregivers in the nursery. I also have had the opportunity this year to involve children in learning about baptism as their siblings and, on some occasions, themselves were baptized.

Vacation Bible School is another way we reach young families. I believe that we have always provided fun, educational and meaningful Bible School programs. But, in the last few years, the Department of Education has really taken the job of deciding what it is that we want our children to learn seriously. Once that focus has been established, I have worked with the department members to design a program to teach that, rather than just looking at what is available for purchase. This year, we had a great team working on "Stories Jesus Told." The stories, games, crafts and music complemented one another, so that in each center the children heard the message of the parable. A special note of appreciation goes to Lindsay Wathen who designed the crafts that really drove home the points of the stories each day—a project each day that was longer-lasting than the paper crafts we have often used.

As I look at my 2016 calendar, which is still largely blank, I know that by this time next year, it will be filled with events, worship notes, funerals and baptisms. It will be filled with loss and new life, with sorrow and joy. Beyond that, I know that the next few years will bring more changes in our life together. I am grateful for the years of serving this congregation. I find great joy in "equipping the saints" for the ministry of the church. I survey 2016 with hope for the path ahead as together we gather for worship, meet for learning and live out our faith.



14 1st Congregational United Church of Christ

Minister of Christian Nurture Rev. Kathleen Batchelder

As we come to the end of 2015 (another wonderful and busy year at First Congregational UCC), we pause to reflect on our work, our changes, and our challenges.

As Minister of Christian Nurture, my most important work is visitation. I am privileged to visit church members and friends in their homes, at the hospital, in retirement facilities, and at the hospice house.

In addition to visitation, I coordinate our Congregation Connection Team which has now been active more than two years. We met as a team in March and in October to review our goals, our lists of members needing visits, and our team's work. Members of the CC Team in 2015 were: Sharon Darrow; Jane Ireland; Mary Keithahn; Chuck Lindly; Mary Mead (retired from CC Team in December); Eleanore Moe; Eileen Rossow; Sybil and Chuck Rounds; Kande Snoozy; Doris Marie Strom; Laura Switzer; Jim Webster; Tish Wilkinson; and Rev. Jill Kundtz. The Grief Committee is another team of dedicated people who visit and support congregational members whose spouse dies. Alta Wade, Joyce Tripp, Ruth Ann Karlen, Kande Snoozy, and Michael Crutcher currently serve on this committee.

In June, I served as Moderator of the South Dakota Conference meeting in Sioux Falls. Summer and fall of 2015 were seasons of momentous events in our family. Our congregation wrapped Michael and me in their tender love as we celebrated our son Jack's wedding in May, my mother's death in June, and our first grandchild's birth in September. God's love becomes manifest in a congregation's tender care for one another, and I am grateful for each one in our church family.

During the summer, it became clear that it is time to reduce my time at the church. So, in August, I met with the Pastoral Relations Committee and requested a change from half-time to quarter-time ministry. At the September meeting of our church board, it was approved that at quarter-time, I will be engaged in pastoral visitation and Congregation Connections, in jail ministry, and in campus ministries. I also still lead the Westhills Village Bible and Book Study group and the Spiritual Practice group each Tuesday at our church.

As I review the 2015 calendar, I recall with joy—officiating at weddings; participating in baptisms; facilitating Thursday Forum for United Campus Ministry; being a member of the United Campus Ministry board; and helping Lynn Grauman lead our fall Women's Retreat "Walking in the Light." As I look into the calendar of 2016, I anticipate another year of ministry and church membership among our First Congregational UCC family.



The Department of Worship Cam Miller, chair

The Department of Worship coordinates many aspects of our church worship experience; pastoral staff, music, ushers, communion, altar guild, baptism & new member representatives, lay readers & greeters.

This year we are proud to welcome Stephen Branch as our new choir director. He has been a wonderful asset to our music experience. We enjoyed his solos during the service and at the Women's Christmas Tea. It has been a delight to hear all the choir soloists, organ music, instrumentalists and bell choir throughout the year. To make it easier for the members to sing along with the choir, ribbon hymnal markers were provided by the Worship Committee.

The Well church has been holding services in our Fireside room Sunday afternoons for most of the year. We are glad to host them.

Junior ushers have begun assisting the Second-Sunday team of adult ushers. The Junior ushers are the youth that will be confirmed this Spring. Welcome aboard.

The Christmas Eve offering was in the form of a free-will offering container located in the narthex. The offering was donated to the Mission Meals and Church Response this year.

The children were invited to stay with their families in the sanctuary the first Sunday of each month again this year. We enjoy

having the children with us for the Sacrament of Communion. They are also getting pretty good at reciting the Lord's Prayer.

The Department members who have reached their term limit are Cam Miller and Kandee Snoozy. Thanks for your input over the years. Members remaining are Ryan Webster, Colleen Schuft, Scott Schuft & Susan Kelts.

The Department of Education Becky Fleming, chair

The Department of Education continues to have the responsibility of general oversight of all educational activities for all ages, church wide. We continue to greatly appreciate the work that paid staff members, Susan Huffman, Kathleen Batchelder, Ted Huffman, Julie Burton, Laura Switzer, and recently, Stephen



Branch put into the work and educational components of our church wide programs. While these paid staff continue to be extremely important in the process of education, our department recognizes that what makes the education possible church wide are the multitude of volunteers that work in a variety of ways to help teach, inspire, and encourage our members of all ages.

This Department continues to seek out ways to encourage participation in our church life. Sunday School continues with no changes this year. We elected to utilize the Winter Quarter of the SHINE curriculum, so that our children could learn the Christmas story in Sunday School this year. We have elected to continue having children remain in church the first Sunday of each month, allowing the children to participate in communion with their family units and to learn the rituals and processes of our church. We also continue to adjust the "Stepping Stones Program" to meet the needs of our church. It continues to be a struggle to draw our families consistently into the life of our church on Sunday mornings. There has been a slight adjustment made to the acolytes, allowing our children to remain in Sunday School without interruption, as the flame has been taken out at the end of the service by older youth who will be working on



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confirmation later this year.

During Holy Week, a child friendly service was held on Good Friday to help them understand the process that occurs within that week. It was a small group for this first year, but very meaningful to the families who attended.

Vacation Bible School was focused this year on the "Stories Jesus Told". Curriculum was not purchased this year, and stories, activities, and crafts were gathered and created by church members, saving significant money. VBS was a success, but not as well attended as other years as baseball was still in session. There were many volunteers who helped make this a success. Families could once again eat at the church prior to VBS beginning each night and this helps with the success of the program.

For the past several years, there have been occasional Family nights on Wednesdays. This year, we have added a Wednesday Night Family night each month to offer a different time to draw families into our church family, offer parents time to participate in faith based activities with their children and other families.

The Advent Fair this year was titled the Saint Nicholas Festival and focused on crafts related to the generous anonymous giving of Nicholas, the bishop of Myra in Turkey. It included making lunch bags for people in need.

The library continues to flourish under the stewardship of Eleanor Moe, Ruth Ann Karlen, and Sharon Darrow. This department has the ultimate responsibility for the library and funds for the library come from the Department of Education Budget.

Moving on this year from the Department are Dona Leavens and Pandi Bollock. The remaining Department members are Lisa Lyons, Patti Rea, and Becky Fleming. Jeri Behringer was on this department, but has been working with Custer church and elected to withdraw from this Department at this time.

The Department of Ministries Barb Knight and Pat Wheaton, co-chairs

The Department of Ministries members were very busy in 2015. Our workers were Steve Bareis, Kathleen Batchelder, Ted Huffman, Barb Knight, Jill Kundtz, Pat Sutliff, Patsy Parkin-Valandra, and Pat Wheaton.

In 2015, we prepared, transported and served four hot meals at the Cornerstone Mission. We also served hot meals for United Campus Ministry for the students at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in February and November. These were prime opportunities to share good food, conversation and fellowship. Each time, we averaged over 100 clients at the Mission and 75 students at the School of Mines. The members of the Ministries Department sincerely thank church members who baked cookies, assisted in meal preparation on Thursday mornings and served at the dinners. These people made the work much easier.

Our group kept the congregation informed with Mission Moments during church services to highlight the four special UCC offerings our congregation so generously supports.

Department of Ministries members sold grocery cards weekly after church services. We appreciate the steady support of so many people who purchased cards from Family Thrift Center, Wal-Mart, Safeway and Sam's Club to benefit Church Response. These coupons had a value of \$82,075.00 and a profit to our church of \$1,479.50. This allowed us to pay for the six meals mentioned above. We spent \$1,042.79 to purchase groceries for the dinners, and church members donated the rest of the food we provided to the mission and school.

In 2015 members of our church donated 931 lbs. of food valued at \$1,422.93. They also contributed coffee supplies and pillows to Cornerstone Mission and Christmas decorations to Church Response. We appreciated additions to our budget by a \$50 grant from Walmart and \$245 from the Christmas Eve offerings.

Jill Kundtz and Pat Sutliff have completed their three-year terms in Ministries. Our enthusiastic department members and our Pastor Advisors, Kathleen Batchelder and later, Ted Huffman, have made our work a pleasure. A big thank you from us to each of them!



The Department of Hospitality Jenny Kozel and Ben Anderson, co-chairs

The Hospitality Department was quite active in 2015 in providing warm hospitality for the congregation and visitors. We have "Welcome" bags with the new logo "We Are the Church" for new visitors that have information about our church inside. We feel that it is important for visitors to see what our church provides. We had our annual "All Birthday Month" celebration in February 2015. The congregation participated in providing the monthly themes and cakes. It was a good fellowship event and we will continue this celebration. We had an "Irish Music" for St. Patrick's Day that was well received and hopefully we will have more music in 2016. We began to do the "Farmer's Market Table" where all the receipts would go to the Costa Rica meal program for children. We will continue with this into 2016. We had a bring a friend Sunday and Chili feed with a sport team theme in the fellowship hall where the congregation had the opportunity to provide their different "chili" dishes.

We have discussed transportation issues for the congregation members who may not always have a means to come to church. We will start implementing that program in February. We gave out gift bags to the children after the Christmas program with fruit and stocking stuffer toys.

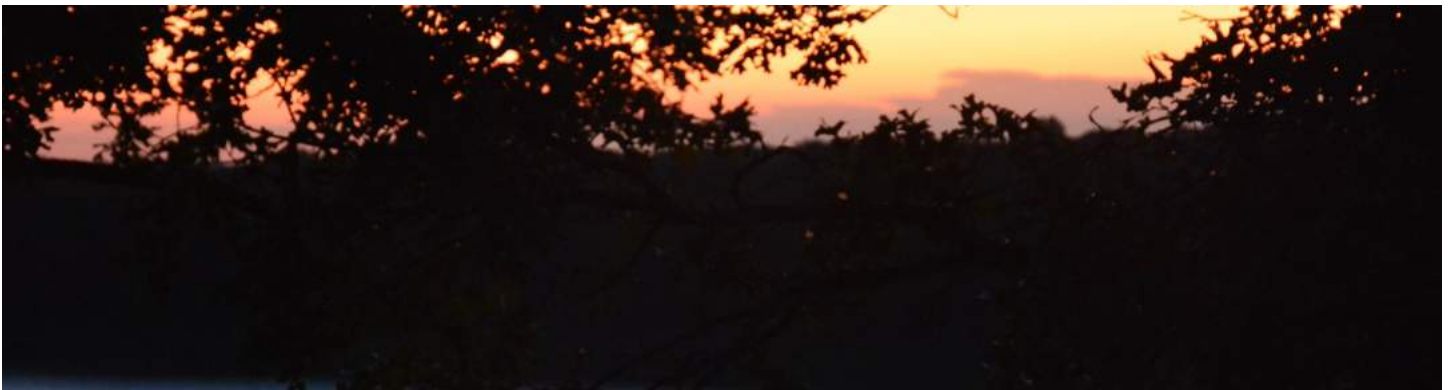
I want to thank the committee members, especially those that have served 3 years. Pastor Kathleen needed to leave the Hospitality Department to work with other needed areas within the church. We thank her for her guidance and input into our department. We welcome Pastor Ted to our department.

Thank you to our Hospitality members: Heather Heinert, Brad Heinert, Dawn Erk, Jeanne Berry, Reva Ortega, Velma Speck, Dee Anderson, Ted E. Huffman, Ben D. Anderson - co-chair, Jenny Kozel - co-chair.



The Department of Building, Equipment and Grounds Harold Miller, chair

The Department of Building and Equipment and Grounds is responsible for the upkeep of the church building and grounds. The Building and Grounds members and volunteers mowed and fertilized the lawns, maintained the sprinkler system and trimmed up the trees and shrubs. This year three large plate glass windows were replaced; two in the parlor and one in the preschool class room in addition to painting two preschool classrooms. Window washing, oiling and maintaining the boiler and air-handling motors and filters were monthly tasks. Having motors and water pumps repaired as needed were on-going maintenance jobs. The summer and fall projects included; painting the outside window trim and front columns, shampooing hallways and class rooms, screens repaired and replaced, eight outside windows were replaced, curb painting and the fall leaves mulched up. Late fall was busy over-seeing the NEW ROOF / fascia install projects and servicing the lawn tractors in preparation for the new year.



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Women's Fellowship Sue Maynard, secretary

Women's Fellowship Board meets on the first Wednesday of each month @ 11:30. The Board includes Laura Boyd, President, Peggy Eckholm, treasurer, and Sue Maynard secretary and Cindy Ledford. Anyone else who is interested is invited to attend. The Women's Fellowship is in charge of the two yearly rummage sales and welcomes all who wish to help. Our budget allows our monies to go to the following places: Wider Church Ministries (child sponsorship), a pledge to our own church, money to help the Costa Rican feeding program, the Cornerstone, Senior Meals, our church pantry, Placerville, Church Response, Hospice House, the Spring Luncheon, carpet cleaning, supplies for our retreat, Blanket Sunday, the Christmas Tea, our library and the Quilts of

Hope for supplies. This year we also chose to help a seminary student from Tech in keeping up with her education. We also contributed to getting a new lawn mower for the church. We purchased two dozen forks and two dozen teaspoons for the kitchen as we were running short. We donated to an outreach fund for community use and needs; this donation is handled by Susan and Ted to be used as they see fit. We clean the sanctuary twice a year as well as the kitchen. Volunteer help is always needed and welcomed. We also made a donation to the Capital funds drive for First Congregational Church. We ordered a new coffee pot for the church. Women's Fellowship Board also helps with the funeral luncheons. This year we also had a craft sale in an attempt to raise additional funds for the capital outlay program.

Peggy Eckholm, treasurer

2015 Beginning Balance	\$9,865.80
Income:	
Rummage Sales	12,643.59
Receptions	1,820.00
Spring Luncheon	700.00
Craft Sales	2,036.50
Women's Retreat	1,095.00
Misc.	<u>25.00</u>
Total Income	\$18,320.09
Expenses:	
Cornerstone	500.00
Costa Rica	2,000.00
Senior Meals	1,000.00
Church Pledge	3,000.00
Pantry	750.00
Placerville	3,000.00
Spring Luncheon	647.50
Church Response	1,000.00
Hospice House	500.00
Rummage Sale Beg. Cash	2,094.00
Rummage Sale Ads	129.90
Receptions	476.74
Blanket Sunday	200.00
Wider Church Ministries	300.00
Women's Retreat	1,150.00
Craft Sale Beg. Cash	200.00
Lawn Mower	1,500.00
Christmas Tea	50.00
Misc.	<u>800.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$19,298.14
Ending Balance	\$8,887.75

Good Morning Circle Jan Gustin, secretary

The Good Morning Circle met each Wednesday, with the exception of the summer months and December, with an average of 16 ladies in attendance. Laura Boyd faithfully continues as our President, Dorothy Davis as Treasurer and Jan Gustin, Secretary. Many of our members actively served each other in providing transportation, refreshments and programs.

Throughout the year we have become more knowledgeable about our own church library thru the hard work and support of Eleanore Moe. She enlightened all of us on Francie Crosby, author of over 2,000 hymns! On another occasion, Ruth Ann Karlen and Eleanore addressed various aging medical conditions, with information gleaned from books that are available in our church's library. In February, each of us was transported to Tanzania, when Ruth Ann shared photos and mementos of her recent photographic safari to Africa.

At different meetings, thoughtful, interesting book presentations were presented by Maureen Dymock, Lorraine Slocum and Sybil Rounds. Laura Boyd helped us all to better understand the purpose of the Least Coin, celebrating its 50th Anniversary! Jan Rathbun, a great-grandniece of Joseph Ward, founder of Yankton College, came to our meeting in May to share personal family stories. She also used several books as reference in her

fascinating history, including a book by Joseph Ward's niece, DAUGHTERS OF DAKOTA.

Throughout 2015, many members of the Good Morning Circle were able to donate their time and talents in cleaning the kitchen and sanctuary, sorting, pricing and working at both the March and August Women's Fellowship Rummage Sales, the New Mom Celebration, prayer chain, serving Sunday coffee and operating the dishwasher, participating in the annual Women's Retreat at Placerville and serving funeral lunches. We also supported the purchasing of clothing and toys for the children at the Cornerstone Rescue Mission. And, it was with great joy as we joined in the 90th birthday celebration of our own member, Eunice Johnson!

We offered direct financial support in purchasing new books for the Church Library, the Pastor's Emergency Fund, Blanket Sunday and to the Woodchuck Society.

Sadly, long time member Mimi Comley died on August 19, 2015. We rejoice in our memories of the many years she served our church and once again, are asked to be thankful for this wonderful group of ladies, who ARE the Good Morning Circle.....gathering together in the good times and the bad, to laugh and to share, to be there for each other and for our church and its missions.

Dorothy Davis, treasurer

Beginning Balance:	\$1,500.43
Income	
Pledges	415.00
Blessings	67.97
Least Coin	25.67
Bridge Marathon	400.00
Bridge Pads	85.00
Cook Books	35.00
Donation	<u>100.00</u>
Total Income	\$1,128.64

Expenses	
Least coin	11.61
Library	248.10
Bridge Prizes	50.00
Bridge Table Decorations	51.00
Bridge Luncheon	227.27
Global Ministries	233.00
Costa Rica	200.00
Blanket Sunday	100.00
Wood Chucks	200.00
Total Expenses	\$1,320.98
Ending Balance	\$1,308.09

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Good Evening Circle Cindy Ledford, secretary

The ladies meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. except during the summer and December. We also did not meet in February due to Ash Wednesday activities. There have been several visitors this year which we were very happy to see. Officers serving in 2015 were Chairperson, Laura Smith; Vice Chairperson, Carol Boyles; Treasurer and Courtesy, Bernie Lambert; Secretary, Cindy Ledford; Devotions, Laura Switzer; and Mary Mead, Bereavement. We sell dishcloths as a money raiser during the year and especially at the rummage sales which are a big sale item.

Our cinnamon roll free-will offering was used to help support the new Cornerstone Rescue Mission Women's/Children Center, which is dear to our hearts. The Circle greatly appreciates the

congregations generosity to this project. Deb Berg, volunteer coordinator from CRM, visited our group and informed us of many ways we could contribute to the Center and to the other entities of the Mission. Ben Anderson also shared with us during one of our meetings his life journey and what he has accomplished.

We continue to work at the semi-annual rummage sales; help with the Christmas Tea; host coffee hours during the year; participate in cleaning of the kitchen and sanctuary; help with funeral luncheons and the women's luncheon. Organizations we lovingly support annually are Feeding SD, Church Response, Cornerstone Mission, Meals on Wheels, Black Hills Children's Home, HIKE, WAVI, Blanket Sunday, and the Costa Rica Fund. Making fleece blankets allows for great fellowship as well as supporting another organization dear to our hearts, Love INC.

Bernie Lambert, treasurer

Beginning Balance	529.28
Income:	
Pledges	115.00
Dishcloth Sales	162.00
Cinnamon Roll Income	190.00
Least Coin Collected	<u>16.00</u>
Total Income	483.00

Disbursements:	
Christmas Tea Supplies	36.88
Laura Switzer -Food	50.00
Cinnamon Roll Expense	49.48
Cornerstone Women's & Children's Home	126.52
Feeding South Dakota	25.00
Southland Trade - Dishcloths	156.96
Blanket Sunday	50.00
B.H. Children's Home Soc.	50.00
Cornerstone Rescue Mission	50.00
WAVI	50.00
Feeding South Dakota	50.00
Church Response	50.00
Meals on Wheels	50.00
HIKE	50.00
Women's Fellowship - Costa Rica	<u>50.00</u>
Total Disbursements	869.84
balance on hand	\$142.44

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild had its inception when thirty interested women met at the home of Mrs. C. G. Osterhof in February 1945. They drew up a constitution and by-laws for the Guild and the purpose of the group remains the same today. The Guild has the responsibility of providing decorations for the Altar each Sunday. Each week members arrange the flowers and candles and special seasonal decorations. Through the years, candle holders, candles, urns, and permanent plants at the base of the cross have been purchased by the Guild. Members also care for the plants in the chancel. They receive no funds through the budget process. Their income comes from flower sales, weddings, and some donations and memorials. The Guild provides wedding assistance and sends cards to members who need encouragement or are celebrating a special occasion. The Altar Guild is part of the Department of Worship. The ten guild members meet the second Thursday of each month from 10:00 am to 11:00 am except June, July, and December. Business is conducted followed by an informational program. Anyone interested in join-

ing this group please contact Kandy Snoozy, Sharon Darrow, Jeannette Hill, or any of the members.

Balance on hand January 1, 2015		893.53
Income:		
Sale of Easter lilies	450.00	
Two weddings	250.00	
Donations	600.00	
Sale of poinsettias	360.00	
Total Income:		1,660.00
Expenditures		
Jolly Lane—Easter Lilies	401.94	
Jolly Lane— Poinsettias	333.33	
Total Expenditures:		735.27
Balance on Hand December 31, 2015		1,818.26

Jeannette Hill, treasurer

1st Congregational Trust

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

In 2015, the Trust made a gift of \$30,000 to the First Congregational Capital Fund Drive. These funds represented the first payment of a five-year pledge of \$150,000 for the maintenance of the physical plant of our church.

In 2015, one student was provided a scholarship for college. Since the Power of One Scholarship Program was initiated fourteen of our high school seniors have been awarded a total of \$11,750 for their education.

The Trust also manages two designated scholarship funds. The Zona White Fund and the Inabelle Willard Fund. In 2015, three scholarships were awarded from the Zona White Fund and one scholarship from the Inabelle Willard Fund.

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

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

Trust Fund Values

December 31, 2014	\$641,047.98	
December 31, 2015	\$555,732.25	
Contributions Other	\$100.00	
Disbursements:		
1st Congregational Capital Fund Drive	(\$30,000.00)	-4.68%
Scholarships:		
Power of One (1)	\$1,000.00	
Inabelle Willard (1)	\$1,000.00	
Zona White (3)	\$4,500.00	
Total Scholarships	\$6,500.00	
Dividend and Interest Income:	\$12,689.13	
Realized Capital Gains:	<u>\$12,194.27</u>	
Total Gains:	<u>\$24,883.40</u>	3.88%
Gains in 2015:		
Dividend and Interest Income:	\$12,689.13	
Realized Capital Gains:	\$12,194.27	
Unrealized Capital Losses:	<u>(\$42,999.55)</u>	
Total Return	<u>(\$18,116.15)</u>	-2.83%

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Nominations

Moderator: Sheila Long
Assistant Moderator: Rob Burton
Past Moderator: Gerry Boehrs
Clerk: Dona Leavens

Church Board Congregational Representatives:

Until January 2017: Cindy Ledford
Until January 2018: Sue Maynard
Until January 2019: **Carol Boyles**

Department of Worship:

Until January 2017: Ryan Webster, Susan Kelts
Until January 2018: Scott Schuft, Colleen Schuft
Until January 2019: **Robin Franson, Bonnie Edwards**

Department of Education:

Until January 2017: Lisa Lyons, Becky Fleming
Until January 2018: Patti Rea, **Lynn Grauman**
Until January 2019: **Terry Brouillette, Jaclyn Mann**

Department of Ministries:

Until January 2017: Barb Knight, Pat Wheaton
Until January 2018: Steve Bareis, Patsy Valandra
Until January 2019: **Jeff VanCuren, Jeannette Hill**

Department of Hospitality:

Until January 2017: Ben & Dee Anderson, Jenny Kozel, Willy Grigg & Velma Speck
Until January 2018: Jeanne Berry, Dawn Erk
Until January 2019: **Cam Miller, Neil & Melissa Emerson**

Department of Building, Equipment & Grounds:

Until January 2017: Brent Long, Monty Bollock
Until January 2018: Dave Ledford, Harold Miller
Until January 2019: **Tom Berry, Michael Myers**

Department of Stewardship & Budget

Until January 2017: Tim Mitchell, Jay Davis
Until January 2018: Kyle Grauman, Mark Ortega
Until January 2019: **Jan Gustin, Andy Knight**

Names in regular type are continuing terms to which they have already been elected. **Names in bold** designate candidates for election at this annual meeting. Some department positions are shared by two or three persons.

Thanks for your service

Completing terms of service include the following church leaders:

Gerry Boehrs, moderator
Sheila Long, assistant moderator
Becky Umenthum, past moderator
Eileen Rossow, clerk
Kevin Sandmeier, Congregational Representative
Kandee Snoozy, Department of Worship
Cam Miller, Department of Worship
Pandi Bollock, Department of Education
Dona Leavens, Department of Education
Rev. Jill Kundtz, Department of Ministries
Pat Sutliff, Department of Ministries
Brad Heinert, Department of Hospitality
Heather Heinert, Department of Hospitality
Reva Ortega, Department of Hospitality
Randy Fisher, Department of Building, Equipment and Grounds
Thom Palm, Department of Building, Equipment and Grounds
Rob Burton, Department of Stewardship and Budget
Todd Eddy, Department of Stewardship and Budget

The Nominating Committee is made up of the Moderator, the Assistant Moderator, and the three Congregational Representatives. This year's committee consisted of Gerry Boehrs, Sheila Long, Kevin Sandmeier, Cindy Ledford and Sue Maynard.

Special thanks go out to those completing their terms of service as well as continuing thanks to those beginning and continuing their service in their respective positions.

Department of Stewardship & Budget—Denise Webster, treasurer
Invested Funds

Pioneer Bank & Trust - Certificate of Deposit	
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2015	44,129.93
Interest Earned	
Ending Balance, December 31, 2015	<u>44,129.93</u>
Purchased 9/17/13, matures 3/17/17 1.15% interest	

Pioneer Bank & Trust - Certificate of Deposit	
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2015	40,000.00
Matured and Cashed In	(40,000.00)
Interest paid out quarterly	-
Ending Balance, December 31, 2015	<u>-</u>

Pioneer Bank & Trust - Certificate of Deposit	
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2015	25,000.00
Purchase	-
Interest paid out quarterly	-
Ending Balance, December 31, 2015	<u>25,000.00</u>
Purchased 2/28/15, matures 2/28/16 .35% interest	

Restricted Funds

Contingency Fund:	
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2015	50,000.00
No transactions	-
Ending Balance, December 31, 2015	<u>50,000.00</u>

Legacy Fund:	
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2015	25,125.79
Insurance Deductible Build-Up	800.04
Donation	8,473.94
Apple Online Store - computer	(2,408.31)
Ending Balance, December 31, 2015	<u>31,991.46</u>

Air Conditioning Fund:	
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2015	15,928.88
No Transactions	-
Ending Balance, December 31, 2015	<u>15,928.88</u>

Sabbatical Fund:	
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2015	2,999.96
Transfer from general fund	999.96
Ending Balance, December 31, 2015	<u>3,999.92</u>

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Department of Ministries Funds:

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2015	2,823.33
Donation	245.00
We Care Food Certificate Sales	84,825.00
Increase in food certificate inventory	1,500.00
Disbursements:	
Mission Meals	(650.00)
We Care Food Certificate Purchases	(82,584.00)
Ending Balance, December 31, 2015	<u>6,159.33</u>

Special Offerings Fund:

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2015	4.00
Member donations for unbudgeted benevolences	14,477.87
Costa Rica Donations	5,786.17
Unbudgeted Benevolence Disbursements:	
Altar Guild	(120.00)
Breakthrough, Inc.	(1,205.00)
Church Response	(543.60)
Cornerstone Mission	(200.00)
Love, Inc.	(1,340.00)
Nepal Earthquake Disaster	(350.00)
Women's Fellowship	(100.00)
One Great Hour of Sharing	(2,072.73)
Blanket Sunday	(1,928.00)
Strengthen the Church	(1,646.00)
Neighbors In Need	(1,851.54)
Christmas Fund	(2,350.00)
Placerville Camp	(500.00)
Expectant Mothers	(100.00)
Zona White Scholarship	(100.00)
Woodchucks & Turkey Taxi	(75.00)
Costa Rica Sister Church	(5,786.17)
Ending Balance, December 31, 2015	<u>-</u>

Memorial Fund Balance:

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2015	28,186.54
Donations (Memorials):	
Ed Dull	35.00
Jim Cooper	120.00
Mavis Stradinger	50.00
Bill Dittmer	200.00
Mimi Comley	610.00
Kinzeler	100.00
Melvin Pietz	325.00
Disbursements:	
Music	(6.75)
Paschal Candle	(107.65)
Signage	(7,651.20)
Lawn Mower	(2,217.95)
Projector	(1,049.00)
Ending Balance, December 31, 2015	<u>18,593.99</u>

Capital Improvements Fund, Phase II:	
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2015	4,210.50
Donations	219,054.43
Disbursements:	
Catered Two Productions - concert desserts	(957.65)
Jim Szana - Fundraising Concert	(600.00)
Wire fee	(90.00)
Aramark - Rise & Shine Breakfast Buffet	(1,155.39)
Weather-Tite Exteriors - Roof Labor	(108,351.16)
Enviroshake, Inc. - Roof materials	(123,750.50)
Ending Balance, December 31, 2015	(11,639.77)

Balance Sheet

First Congregational United Church of Christ - Rapid City SD
Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2015
 (Disclosures and Cash Flow Statements are Omitted)

Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance
Assets		
1.10000	Checking Account	67,942.14
1.10300	Certificates of Deposit	69,639.62
1.10500	Food Certificates	4,000.00
1.14100	Donated Common Stock	4,908.00
	Total Cash & Investments	\$146,489.76
1.15100	Eagle Scout Structure	10,066.13
1.15200	Piano	34,000.00
1.15300	Organ Addition	194,934.00
1.15400	Building	556,487.89
1.15500	Building Improvements	347,532.49
1.15600	Land	38,532.55
	Total Land, Building & Equip.	\$1,181,553.06
	Total Assets	\$1,328,042.82
Liabilities		
2.21000	Scholarship Payable	4,000.00
2.22000	Prepaid Pledges	4,350.00
2.25000	Payroll Taxes Payable	1,355.10
	Total Liabilities	\$9,705.10
Fund Balance		
3.39000	Unrestricted Fund Balance	21,750.85
3.39002	Building Fund Balance	1,181,553.06
3.39003	Contingency Fund	50,000.00
3.39004	Memorial Fund Balance	18,593.99
3.39006	Legacy Fund	31,991.46
3.39007	Air Conditioning Fund Bal.	15,928.88
3.39008	Sabbatical Fund Balance	3,999.92
3.39016	Dept. of Ministries Fund Bal.	6,159.33
3.39111	Capital Improvement II Fund Balance	(11,639.77)
	Total Fund Balance	\$1,318,337.72
	Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$1,328,042.82

No Assurance is provided on this financial statement.

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First Congregational United Church of Christ - Rapid City SD Treasurer's Report as of December 2015 for General Fund

Disclosures and Cash Flow Statements are Omitted

Account Name	Period Activity	Previous YTD	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	% of Budget Month	Budget YTD	% of Budget YTD	Over/Under YTD+(-)	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Income										
Loose Offerings	479.83	3365.37	288.00	3,349.57	167	3,500.00	96	(150.43)	3,500.00	150.43
Non-pledge Donations	3,860.20	54530.45	3,840.00	52,474.71	101	46,135.00	114	6,339.71	46,135.00	(6,339.71)
Pledges	24,374.09	224483.81	20,000.00	236,010.11	122	240,000.00	98	(3,989.89)	240,000.00	3989.89
Total Pledges & Gifts	\$28,714.12	\$282,379.63	\$24,128.00	\$291,834.39	119	\$289,635.00	101	\$2,199.39	\$289,635.00	(\$2,199.39)
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	30	0.00	38.95	0	0.00	0	38.95	0.00	(38.95)
Rent Income	10.00	10242	1,000.00	11,249.00	1	12,000.00	94	(751.00)	12,000.00	751
Wedding/Funeral Income	0.00	1800	87.00	1,275.00	0	1,000.00	128	275.00	1,000.00	(275.00)
Total Other Income	\$10.00	\$12,072.00	\$1,087.00	\$12,562.95	1	\$13,000.00	97	(\$437.05)	\$13,000.00	\$437.05
Gain (Loss) on Sale of Invest.	0.00	(18.16)		(366.85)						
Interest/Dividend Income	127.62	1208.96	87.00	1,022.66	147	1,000.00	102	22.66	1,000.00	(22.66)
Total Investment Income	\$127.62	\$1,190.80	\$87.00	\$655.81	147	\$1,000.00	66	(\$344.19)	\$1,000.00	\$344.19
Total Income	\$28,851.74	\$295,642.43	\$25,302.00	\$305,053.15	114	\$303,635.00	100	\$1,418.15	\$303,635.00	(\$1,418.15)
Expenses										
Senior Pastor Annuity	2,292.50	9108.56	766.00	9,185.36	299	9,170.00	100	15.36	9,170.00	(15.36)
Senior Pastor Dis. Ins.	245.63	975.92	81.00	974.79	303	983.00	99	(8.21)	983.00	8.21
Sr Pastor Health Ins.	4,722.00	17540.25	1,500.00	18,256.13	315	18,033.00	101	223.13	18,033.00	(223.13)
Sr Pastor Salary/Hsg	5,458.33	65061	5,462.00	65,499.96	100	65,500.00	100	(0.04)	65,500.00	0.04
Total Senior Minister Salary	\$12,718.46	\$92,685.73	\$7,809.00	\$93,916.24	163	\$93,686.00	100	\$230.24	\$93,686.00	(\$230.24)
CE Minister Dis. Ins.	133.98	520.3	41.00	539.82	327	536.00	101	3.82	536.00	(3.82)
CE Minister Pension	1,250.45	4856.04	415.00	5,038.24	301	5,002.00	101	36.24	5,002.00	(36.24)
CE Minister Salary/Hsg	2,977.26	34686	2,980.00	35,727.12	100	35,727.00	100	0.12	35,727.00	(0.12)
Total CE Minister Salary	\$4,361.69	\$40,062.34	\$3,436.00	\$41,305.18	127	\$41,265.00	100	\$40.18	\$41,265.00	(\$40.18)
Bell Choir Dir. Salary	208.00	1800	156.00	1,872.00	133	1,872.00	100	0.00	1,872.00	0
Bookkeeping Services	371.00	4324.8	375.00	4,462.60	99	4,500.00	99	(37.40)	4,500.00	37.4
Choir Director Salary	520.00	4400	520.00	6,240.00	100	6,240.00	100	0.00	6,240.00	0
Nursery Supervisor	175.00	993	87.00	845.00	201	1,000.00	85	(155.00)	1,000.00	155
Organist Salary	788.67	8699.96	785.00	9,464.04	100	9,464.00	100	0.04	9,464.00	(0.04)
Secretary Salary	1,487.20	14678.83	1,274.00	16,568.76	117	15,266.00	109	1,302.76	15,266.00	(1,302.76)
Substitute Organist	0.00	300	37.00	300.00	0	400.00	75	(100.00)	400.00	100
Total Lay Staff Expense	\$3,549.87	\$35,196.59	\$3,234.00	\$39,752.40	110	\$38,742.00	103	\$1,010.40	\$38,742.00	(\$1,010.40)
CN Minister Pension	0.00	2368.68	208.00	1,871.27	0	2,463.00	76	(591.73)	2,463.00	591.73
CN Minister Salary	1,000.00	16919.04	1,470.00	15,730.64	68	17,596.00	89	(1,865.36)	17,596.00	1865.36
Payroll Taxes	229.82	2220.66	213.00	2,612.24	108	2,512.00	104	100.24	2,512.00	(100.24)
Total Salaries Expense	\$21,859.84	\$189,453.04	\$16,370.00	\$195,187.97	134	\$196,264.00	99	(\$1,076.03)	\$196,264.00	\$1,076.03

No assurance is provided on this financial statement.

First Congregational United Church of Christ - Rapid City SD
Treasurer's Report as of December 2015 for General Fund

Account Name	Period Activity	Previous YTD	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	% of Budget Month	Budget YTD	% of Budget YTD	Over/Under YTD(+/-)	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Baptism Supplies	0.00	0	7.00	70.06	0	40.00	175	30.06	40.00	(30.06)
New Music: Adult Choir	0.00	520.63	44.00	195.00	0	550.00	35	(355.00)	550.00	355
New Music: Bell Choir	0.00	329.74	19.00	258.35	0	250.00	103	8.35	250.00	(8.35)
Organ Music	0.00	0	13.00	100.00	0	200.00	50	(100.00)	200.00	100
Soloist & Special Music	0.00	700	44.00	450.00	0	550.00	82	(100.00)	550.00	100
Total Worship Expense	\$0.00	\$1,550.37	\$127.00	\$1,073.41	0	\$1,590.00	68	(\$516.59)	\$1,590.00	\$516.59
Adult Education	35.70	757.05	67.00	970.32	53	837.00	116	133.32	837.00	(133.32)
CE Curriculum Resources Expense	404.36	3502.27	288.00	3,128.65	140	3,500.00	89	(371.35)	3,500.00	371.35
CE Library	0.00	0	0	205.99	0	0	0	0	0	0
CE Program Expenses	299.31	1203.49	100.00	1,123.33	299	1,200.00	94	(76.67)	1,200.00	76.67
CE Training	0.00	70.49	12.00	68.27	0	100.00	68	(31.73)	100.00	31.73
CE Youth Conferences	0.00	400	38.00	685.00	0	500.00	137	185.00	500.00	(185.00)
Graduation	0.00	0	0.00	67.98	0	0.00	0	67.98	0.00	(67.98)
Retreats and Special Events	348.04	752.71	57.00	881.09	611	750.00	117	131.09	750.00	(131.09)
Total Christian Ed. Expense	\$1,087.41	\$6,686.01	\$562.00	\$7,130.63	193	\$6,887.00	104	\$243.63	\$6,887.00	(\$243.63)
Black Hills Assoc. Dues	0.00	1192	103.00	1,162.00	0	1,192.00	97	(30.00)	1,192.00	30
Dept. of Hospitality	79.09	143.51	38.00	173.63	208	500.00	35	(326.37)	500.00	326.37
Minister Prof. Exp.	0.00	321.83	50.00	788.86	0	600.00	131	188.86	600.00	(188.86)
St. Pastor Sabbatical	83.33	999.96	87.00	999.96	96	1,000.00	100	(0.04)	1,000.00	0.04
Total Ministry Expense	\$162.42	\$2,657.30	\$278.00	\$3,124.45	58	\$3,292.00	95	(\$167.55)	\$3,292.00	\$167.55
Office Equip. Maint.	435.33	6291.49	538.00	6,052.23	81	6,500.00	93	(447.77)	6,500.00	447.77
Postage	214.92	2014.54	163.00	1,816.74	132	2,000.00	91	(183.26)	2,000.00	183.26
Supplies	471.63	4345.35	473.00	4,365.30	100	5,665.00	77	(1,299.70)	5,665.00	1299.7
Wedding/Funeral	0.00	1450	87.00	1,156.79	0	1,000.00	116	156.79	1,000.00	(156.79)
Total Office Expense	\$1,121.88	\$14,101.38	\$1,261.00	\$13,391.06	89	\$15,165.00	88	(\$1,773.94)	\$15,165.00	\$1,773.94
BHPL - Electricity	802.08	9437.46	860.00	8,627.29	93	10,287.00	84	(1,659.71)	10,287.00	1659.71
Communications	239.71	3447.72	295.00	3,250.82	81	3,551.00	92	(300.18)	3,551.00	300.18
MDU - Heat	1,335.23	12245.21	1,051.00	9,693.08	127	12,612.00	77	(2,918.92)	12,612.00	2918.92
Stormwater Drainage Assessment	0.00	0	47.00	575.47	0	575.00	100	0.47	575.00	(0.47)
Water and Garbage	256.70	4230.3	416.00	4,769.11	62	5,047.00	94	(277.89)	5,047.00	277.89
Total Utilities Expense	\$2,633.72	\$29,360.69	\$2,669.00	\$26,915.77	99	\$32,072.00	84	(\$5,156.23)	\$32,072.00	\$5,156.23
Building Maintenance	142.52	11960.02	544.00	4,392.89	26	6,550.00	67	(2,157.11)	6,550.00	2157.11
Grounds Maintenance	1,181.34	4157.12	350.00	3,831.96	338	4,200.00	91	(368.04)	4,200.00	368.04
Insurance	4,066.75	13834.75	1,103.00	13,901.25	369	13,236.00	105	665.25	13,236.00	(665.25)
Insurance Deductible Buildup	66.67	0	63.00	800.04	106	800.00	100	0.04	800.00	(0.04)
Janitor	1,404.50	0	657.00	8,215.00	214	7,950.00	103	265.00	7,950.00	(265.00)
Total Grounds/Build Expense	\$6,861.78	\$29,951.89	\$2,717.00	\$31,141.14	253	\$32,736.00	95	(\$1,594.86)	\$32,736.00	\$1,594.86

No assurance is provided on this financial statement.

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First Congregational United Church of Christ - Rapid City SD Treasurer's Report as of December 2015 for General Fund

Disclosures and Cash Flow Statements are Omitted

Account Name	Period Activity	Previous YTD	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	% of Budget Month	Budget YTD	% of Budget YTD	Over/Under YTD+(-)	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Costa Rica Sister Church	500.00	500	38.00	500.00	1,316	500.00	100	0.00	500.00	0
CUE Seminary Support	111.62	1299.96	107.00	1,339.00	104	1,339.00	100	0.00	1,339.00	0
OCWM Basic Support	1,761.75	20525.04	1,759.00	21,141.00	100	21,141.00	100	0.00	21,141.00	0
Placerville Camp Operations	41.67	0	38.00	500.04	110	500.00	100	0.04	500.00	(0.04)
UC Ministries	150.25	1749.96	153.00	1,803.00	98	1,803.00	100	0.00	1,803.00	0
Undesig. Contingency	0.00	0	87.00	406.47	0	1,000.00	41	(593.53)	1,000.00	593.53
Total Benevolences	\$2,565.29	\$24,074.96	\$2,182.00	\$25,689.51	118	\$26,283.00	98	(\$593.49)	\$26,283.00	\$593.49
Total Expenses	\$36,292.34	\$297,835.64	\$26,166.00	\$303,653.94	139	\$314,289.00	97	(\$10,635.06)	\$314,289.00	\$10,635.06
Difference	(\$7,440.60)	(\$2,193.21)	(\$864.00)	\$1,399.21		(\$10,654.00)			(\$10,654.00)	

No assurance is provided on this financial statement.

First Congregational United Church of Christ - Rapid City SD
Treasurer's Report as of December 2015 for General Fund

(Disclosures and Cash Flow Statement are Omitted)

Account Name	Period Activity	Previous YTD	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	% of Budget Month	Budget YTD	% of Budget YTD	Over/Under YTD+(c)	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Income										
Total Pledges & Gifts	\$28,714.12	\$282,379.63	\$24,128.00	\$291,834.39	119	\$289,635.00	101	\$2,199.39	\$289,635.00	(\$2,199.39)
Total Other Income	\$10.00	\$12,072.00	\$1,087.00	\$12,562.95	1	\$13,000.00	97	(\$437.05)	\$13,000.00	\$437.05
Total Investment Income	\$127.62	\$1,190.80	\$87.00	\$655.81	147	\$1,000.00	66	(\$344.19)	\$1,000.00	\$344.19
Total Income	\$28,851.74	\$295,642.43	\$25,302.00	\$305,053.15	114	\$303,635.00	100	\$1,418.15	\$303,635.00	(\$1,418.15)
Expenses										
Total Senior Minister Salary	\$12,718.46	\$92,685.73	\$7,809.00	\$93,916.24	163	\$93,686.00	100	\$230.24	\$93,686.00	(\$230.24)
Total CE Minister Salary	\$4,361.69	\$40,062.34	\$3,436.00	\$41,305.18	127	\$41,265.00	100	\$40.18	\$41,265.00	(\$40.18)
Total Lay Staff Expense	\$3,549.87	\$35,196.59	\$3,234.00	\$39,752.40	110	\$38,742.00	103	\$1,010.40	\$38,742.00	(\$1,010.40)
Total Salaries Expense	\$21,859.84	\$189,453.04	\$16,370.00	\$195,187.97	134	\$196,264.00	99	(\$1,076.03)	\$196,264.00	\$1,076.03
Total Worship Expense	\$0.00	\$1,550.37	\$127.00	\$1,073.41	0	\$1,590.00	68	(\$516.59)	\$1,590.00	\$516.59
Total Christian Ed. Expense	\$1,087.41	\$6,686.01	\$562.00	\$7,130.63	193	\$6,887.00	104	\$243.63	\$6,887.00	(\$243.63)
Total Ministry Expense	\$162.42	\$2,657.30	\$278.00	\$3,124.45	58	\$3,292.00	95	(\$167.55)	\$3,292.00	\$167.55
Total Office Expense	\$1,121.88	\$14,101.38	\$1,261.00	\$13,391.06	89	\$15,165.00	88	(\$1,773.94)	\$15,165.00	\$1,773.94
Total Utilities Expense	\$2,633.72	\$29,360.69	\$2,669.00	\$26,915.77	99	\$32,072.00	84	(\$5,156.23)	\$32,072.00	\$5,156.23
Total Grounds/Build Expense	\$6,861.78	\$29,951.89	\$2,717.00	\$31,141.14	253	\$32,736.00	95	(\$1,594.86)	\$32,736.00	\$1,594.86
Total Benevolences	\$2,565.29	\$24,074.96	\$2,182.00	\$25,689.51	118	\$26,283.00	98	(\$593.49)	\$26,283.00	\$593.49
Total Expenses	\$36,292.34	\$297,835.64	\$26,166.00	\$303,653.94	139	\$314,289.00	97	(\$10,635.06)	\$314,289.00	\$10,635.06
Difference	(\$7,440.60)	(\$2,193.21)	(\$864.00)	\$1,399.21		(\$10,654.00)			(\$10,654.00)	

No assurance is provided on this financial statement.

30 1st Congregational United Church of Christ

	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2015 Budget	2016 Proposed Budget
Revenue					
Pledges	233,496	224,484	236,010	237,349	233,253
Nonpledge Income	44,037	54,530	52,475	48,785	60,200
Loose Offerings	3,519	3,365	3,349	3,500	3,500
Total Pledges & Gifts	281,052	282,379	291,834	289,634	296,953
Rent Income	10,922	10,242	11,249	12,000	12,000
Wedding/Funeral Income	125	1,800	1,275	1,000	1,000
Miscellaneous Income		30	39		
Total Other Income	11,047	12,072	12,563	13,000	13,000
Interest/Dividend Income	1,578	1,209	1,023	1,000	350
Gain (Loss) on Investments	32	-18	-367		
Total Investment Income	1,610	1,191	656	1,000	350
Endowment Gift		9,491	0		
Reserve from Prior Years			0	11,400	2,600
Total Revenues	293,709	305,133	305,053	315,034	312,903
Expenses					
Senior Pastor Salary/Housing	65,061	65,061	65,500	65,500	66,000
Senior Pastor Annuity	9,147	9,109	9,185	9,170	9,240
Senior Pastor Disability	980	976	975	983	990
Senior Pastor Health Ins.	17,376	17,540	18,256	18,033	14,520
Total Senior Minister	92,564	92,686	93,916	93,686	90,750
Minister of Educ Salary/Housing	34,686	34,686	35,727	35,727	36,750
Minister of Educ Annuity	4,987	4,856	5,038	5,002	5,145
Minister of Educ Disability	534	520	540	536	551
Total CE Minister	40,207	40,062	41,305	41,264	42,446
Secretary Salary	14,000	14,679	16,569	15,266	15,500
Substitute Secretary	1,474	0		0	
Treasurer/Bookkeeping Services	3,927	4,325	4,463	4,500	5,000
Choir Director	5,000	4,400	6,240	6,240	6,500
Bell Choir Director	1,800	1,800	1,872	1,872	1,930
Organist	7,900	8,700	9,464	9,464	9,750
Substitute Organist		300	300	400	400
Nursery Supervisor	508	993	845	1,000	850
Total Lay Staff Expense	34,609	35,197	39,753	38,742	39,930
Minister of Christian Nurture Salary	16,919	16,919	15,731	17,596	12,000
Minister of Christian Nurture Pension	2,518	2,369	1,871	2,463	0
Total Minister of Christian Nurture	19,437	19,288	17,602	20,059	12,000
Payroll Taxes	2,410	2,220	2,612	2,512	2,577
Total Salaries Expense	189,227	189,453	195,188	196,263	187,703
New Music: Adult Choir	563	520	195	550	550
New Music: Youth Choir		0	0	100	0
New Music: Bell Choir	313	330	258	250	250
Piano Maintenance		154	0	0	0
Organ Maintenance		0	0	500	500
Organ Music	97	0	100	200	200
Communion supplies	185	76	0	100	100

	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2015 Budget	2016 Proposed Budget
Baptism Supplies		0	70	40	40
Soloists & Special Music	555	700	450	550	550
Total Worship Expenses	1,713	1,780	1,073	2,290	2,190
CE Training	38	70	68		
CE Curriculum Resources	1,095	3,502	3,129		
CE Youth Conferences		400	685		
CE Program Expenses	3,415	1,204	1,123		
CE Library	249	0	206		
Graduation	246	0	68		
Retreats & Special Events		753	881		
Adult Education	344	757	970		
Total Christian Education	5,387	6,686	7,130	6,887	7,750
Black Hills Association	1,172	1,192	1,162	1,192	1,162
Minister Professional Expenses	586	322	789	600	600
Department of Hospitality	463	143	174	500	500
Sabbatical	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	2,000
Total Minister Expenses	3,221	2,657	3,125	3,292	4,262
Wedding/Funeral Expense	50	1,450	1,157	1,000	1,000
Supplies	5,263	4,345	4,365	5,665	4,500
Office Equipment Maint	7,455	6,291	6,052	6,500	6,000
Advertising	10	0	0	0	0
Postage	2,274	2,015	1,817	2,000	1,850
Total Office Expense	15,052	14,101	13,391	15,165	13,350
MDU, Heat	10,097	12,245	9,693	12,612	12,990
BHPL, Electricity	9,011	9,438	8,627	10,287	10,596
Water, Garbage	4,880	4,230	4,769	5,047	5,198
Stormwater Drainage Assessment		0	576	575	576
Communications	3,395	3,448	3,251	3,551	3,400
Total Utilities	27,383	29,361	26,916	32,074	32,760
Grounds Maintenance	3,317	4,157	3,832	4,200	4,200
Janitor			8,215	7,950	7,950
Insurance Deductible Buildup			800	800	800
Building Maintenance	23,576	11,960	4,393	6,550	4,500
Insurance	13,001	13,835	13,901	13,236	14,000
Total Building/Grounds	39,894	29,952	31,141	32,736	31,450
Contingency			407	1,000	1,000
OCWM Basic Support	20,525	20,525	21,141	21,141	21,500
United Campus Ministries	1,750	1,750	1,803	1,803	1,803
Seminary Support	1,300	1,300	1,339	1,339	1,339
Costa Rica Sister Church	500	500	500	500	7,200
Placerville Camp		0	500	500	600
Total Benevolences	24,075	24,075	25,690	26,283	33,442
Total Expenses	305,952	298,065	303,654	314,989	312,907
Revenue Over (Short) Expenses	-12,243	7,068	1,399	45	-4

**Agenda
137th Annual Meeting
First Congregational United Church of Christ**

January 31, 2016

Call to Order

Invocation

Presentation and Discussion of Annual Reports

Presentation and Discussion of the Proposed Budget

Election of Officers and Department Members

Election of Directors for Pilgrim Congregational Charitable Trust

Other Business

Installation of Officers and Department Members

Closing Prayer