

# Annual Report 2017

*And suddenly you know: It's time to start something new  
and trust the magic of beginnings.*

Meister Eckhart



**BARRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**We believe.**

*We strive.*

**We welcome.**

*We trust.*

**We serve.**

*We are the Barre Congregational Church,  
United Church of Christ.*



**It is our understanding that the purpose of the church is:**

- To proclaim, teach and follow the gospel of Jesus Christ;
- To be an agent of reconciliation among people, breaking down barriers that separate and alienate, bringing healing where there is hurt, forgiveness where there is anger and working to make all persons friends of God through Christ;
- To be an instrument of the love of Christ in the world, working for justice and righteousness for all persons;
- To strengthen one another in faith, to build one another up in love, making the most of our individual talents.

**Therefore, the Barre Congregational Church makes it our aim to do the following:**

- To provide the occasion for regular and special services of worship in which participants can express praise and thanksgiving to God; in which participants are intellectually, emotionally and spiritually challenged; and in which all persons might be offered both the promises of God and the demands of discipleship;
- To provide an educational ministry to children, youth and adults so that each person might continually grow in understanding of what it means to be a Christian;
- To provide motivation, training and experiences which shall enable each of us to measure our own commitment, to identify our own personal ministry in the world and equip us to pursue that ministry with the highest devotion and to the limits of our abilities.
- To be involved in evangelism, outreach and mission in both the local and global community with the intent of helping to establish a more caring world. To be aware of the needs of our members and the community and to serve those needs using the talents and resources of our church.

Mission Statement

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



2017 BARRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT

2017 Annual Meeting Minutes . . . . . 3  
2017 Ministries . . . . . 5  
Administration . . . . . 6  
Reports:  
    Pastor . . . . . 7  
    Church Council . . . . . 8  
    Worship & Music . . . . . 9  
    Faith Formation. . . . . 10  
    Liturgical Arts . . . . . 11  
    Deacons. . . . . 11  
    Mission & Outreach. . . . . 12  
    Scouts. . . . . 13  
    Parish Nurse. . . . . 14  
    Women’s Fellowship . . . . . 14  
2017 Finance Highlights. . . . . 15  
Finance Report . . . . . 16  
2017 Financial Report. . . . . 18  
2017 Budget Performance &  
    2018 Budget . . . . . 20

*Table of Contents*

## BARRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING - January 24, 2017

The Annual Meeting of the Barre Congregational Church was called to order by Moderator Nancy Pope. Rev. David offered a prayer of invocation. A quorum of members (50) was verified to be in attendance by the Clerk of the Church.

The minutes of the 2016 meeting held on January 24, 2016 were accepted on a motion by Tony Campos, seconded by Jan Aldrich, and passed by voice vote of the membership in attendance.

Rev. David recognized and thanked the staff members present for their efforts on behalf of the church this year. In addition to staff members Nancy Fowler, Eric Giles, Hollie Friot, Kathy Adams and Neil Upham, Rev David also recognized members for their volunteering contributions to the main office. Mary Ann Johnson was also recognized for her contributions as the parish nurse for the church. A thank you was also extending to Andy Ruehl who has assisted with snow removal this winter.

Reports from various committees were heard and discussed by the congregation.

No motion was made to approve the selection of church officers for 2016 because all current Council officers have at least one more year to serve on the Council. Nancy Pope will continue as Church Moderator; Hollie Friot as Vice-Moderator; Ernie Wheeler as Clerk of the Church; and Jim West, Treasurer.

Jim West presented the Finance Ministry's summary report on the 2016 budget and the proposed 2017 budget for the church. He reported that the church's budget for the year ended with a deficit of \$1,559.81. The church received \$142,444.63 in pledges out of the \$145,689.92 expected. The year ending balance in the operating checkbook was at \$22,005.95.

The restricted fund balance for end of the year was \$632,303.86. This amount included a recent gift of \$570,000 from the estates of Maurice and Jean Jones. This bequeath is to be used in support of projects and services for the church's elderly. A separate line item will be added to future budget reports to track the use of the Jones' gift.

Based upon recent income figures and pledges made thus far for the year to come, the total proposed budget for 2017 is recommended to be \$198,069.42. This budget includes a 3.0% raise for church staff. Nancy Fowler's position will change to Assistant to the Pastor; Hollie Friot will be the Church School Coordinator, and a new line item will be added to address snow removal. The Jones' bequest will add \$7,097 to the operating budget in light of its benefit by church staff to the elderly.

The pledge income necessary to fully sustain this budget would be \$147,675.00. With this amount, the proposed budget for the 2017 church year would be balanced.

A motion made by Tony Campos to accept the proposed budget, seconded by Catherine James, was passed by voice vote of the membership in attendance.

### **Bricks and Mortar Report**

The total cost of this project to date has been \$23,716. In addition, \$3,800 was used to reconstruct the landing in the bell tower. Donations to the project totaled \$17,153

2017 Annual Meeting

and an additional \$10,363 from the Murray Fund was used to complete the project.

Property reminded members of the church to make sure all doors are locked before leaving the church.

### **Other Concerns of the Church**

Snow Removal – With the addition of the line item, could we ensure that there is a path from the road to the sidewalk for elderly members?

Women’s Fellowship should have a report as part of the Annual Meeting.

Turning off lights, the stove, and properly recycling items – See Nancy if you need a list of things to remember when using the kitchen facilities. Recycling must be cleaned prior to placing in bins.

Monies in envelopes placed in the offering plates go towards the Plate Collections line item or the operating budget, if not otherwise specified.

A recommendation to inspect the church’s sound system by an outside contractor was made to the Church Council.

Motion to Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Barre Congregational Church was made by Kerrick Johnson and seconded by Tony Campos and was passed by voice vote of the membership in attendance.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ernest Wheeler, *Clerk of the Church*

## **Administration Ministry**

The Administration Ministry serves as a support group to the Church Council and other Ministries by overseeing Church records (both current and historical), communicating with our local Church community and the broader UCC community, and by providing administrative support to the Pastor and Church staff.

## **Diaconate Ministry**

The Diaconate Ministry works collaboratively with the Pastor to assist in all aspects of pastoral care. The Diaconate Ministry oversees the formation of a Pastoral Relations Team dedicated to the Pastor's self-care and personal well-being.

## **Faith Formation Ministry**

The Faith Formation Ministry focuses on developing, supporting and implementing a well-rounded education program for persons of all ages in the congregation. Additionally, opportunities will be sought to involve and invite the broader community into this learning process.

## **Finance Ministry**

The Finance Ministry is responsible for managing the financial aspects of the Church and providing financial reports, counsel, and advice to the Church Council. The Finance Ministry works in collaboration with the Bookkeeper/Collector to provide oversight and management of the collection and deposit of all offerings and gifts to the Church.

## **Mission and Outreach Ministry**

The Mission and Outreach Ministry works with the congregation, Church Council, Pastor and Faith Formation Leader to provide outreach opportunities to our Church family and the greater community.

## **Worship and Music Ministry**

The Worship and Music Ministry works collaboratively with the Pastor, Music Director and Christian Education Director to enrich the spiritual life of the congregation and enhance worship through the use of the spoken word, music and the arts. This may include creative enhancements to the worship space.

## **2017 Church Council**

Nancy Pope, *Moderator*

Hollie Friot, *Vice-Moderator*

Ernest Wheeler, *Clerk of the Church*

Jim West, *Treasurer*

Sherry Singer, *Diaconate Ministry*

Larry Beebe, *Faith Formation Ministry*

Bev Thomas, *Mission & Outreach Ministry*

Jeffrey Tuper-Giles, *Worship & Music Ministry*

Rev. David Vanderlinde-Abernathy, *Pastor*

## 2017 Membership Report

### Funerals/Memorials

Carol Richards . . . . .	June 3, 1945—January 15, 2017
Lucille Hoyt . . . . .	August 28, 1934—January 29, 2017
Lorraine Portalupi . . . . .	November 21, 1928—February 28, 2017
Lauren Towle . . . . .	April 5, 1984—March 19, 2017
Lorraine Granai . . . . .	March 28, 1925—March 27, 2017
Dewey Cecchini . . . . .	October 10, 1930—April 16, 2017
Dawn Borne . . . . .	May 12, 1965—July 4, 2017-
Laura Delano . . . . .	January 12, 1921—July 9, 2017
Nevia Campi . . . . .	March 24, 1923—December 23, 2017
Ella Liese . . . . .	December 12, 1927—July 5, 2017
Agnes Perantoni . . . . .	April 24, 1919—November 5, 2017
Marie Sherlock . . . . .	March 5, 1923—March 4, 2017

### Weddings

Karen Safford & Lori Shepard . . . . .	June 24, 2017
Jennifer Lague & Brian Tarbox . . . . .	July 8, 2017
Samantha Holland & Donald Hefferon.	September 2, 2017
Mark Chase & Anna Chase . . . . .	Dec. 24, 2017

### Baptisms

Leanna Copping . . . . .	April 9, 2017
Pepper McKenzie . . . . .	April 9, 2017
Jayce Huskes . . . . .	May 21, 2017
Adrian Holbrook . . . . .	July 2, 2017
Arlo Blodgett . . . . .	July 2, 2017
Lillian Blodgett . . . . .	July 2, 2017
Beatriz Blodgett . . . . .	July 2, 2017
Gwendolyn Elwert . . . . .	November 12, 2017

### New Members

Jim Donovan . . . . .	January 8, 2017
Diane Donovan . . . . .	January 8, 2017
Kenneth Folta . . . . .	January 8, 2017
Carolyn Friberg . . . . .	January 8, 2017
Cathy McCann . . . . .	January 8, 2017
Pam Murphy . . . . .	January 8, 2017
Erin Murphy King . . . . .	January 8, 2017
Prudence Krasofski . . . . .	January 8, 2017

By transfer of membership

Bronwen Neale . . . . .	December 3, 2017
-------------------------	------------------

### Membership Summary

Active Members as of December 31, 2016 . . . . .	205
New Members . . . . .	9
Active Members who Died . . . . .	5
Administrative Adjustments . . . . .	22
Active Membership as of December 31, 2017 . . . . .	187

wish I could say that my decision to retire was sudden. Truth is, it was anything but. My discernment process was long, thorough, and exhausting. However, in the end I was blessed with clarity and began to trust the magic of a new beginning for the church and myself.

What a joy it has been to serve this church for so long. Many factors have contributed to my longevity, none perhaps more important than your support of me. You prayed for my ministry and me unceasingly. You tolerated my weaknesses and affirmed my strengths. You faithfully adhered to the Vermont Conference Guidelines for compensation of pastors. You allowed me vacation, continuing education and sabbatical time off. Your care of me enabled me to avoid burn out, which plagues my profession. Thank you for your wisdom and care for me all these years.

As I write my last annual report, it is a challenge to keep my comments contained to the past year. That said, it was a good year. Highlights of the year for me include:

**Sunday Worship.** It was one of my happy places as I attended to my inner stirrings. I believe the efforts of all those involved with worship this past year were blessed with a spirit of creativity and mystery. Worship was often inspirational. Attendance was good and there seemed to be a steady stream of visitors.

**Mission and Outreach.** Separating the Mission budget from the Operating budget has increased resources and sparked new energy and interest in our efforts to touch the lives of the most vulnerable in our community. Laundry Love is proving to be a much needed and innovative outreach ministry.

**Faith Formation.** Reading books together and discussing them has proved to be an effective way of bringing members and friends together around topics of religion and spirituality. I was preoccupied this year and not as engaged in Faith Formation as I would have liked. So I am indebted to Nancy, Hollie and Jeffrey for taking leadership roles in our small groups and bible study.

**Improvements to our meetinghouse and worship space.** Thank you Gary Isham for your tenacity in seeing our roof and dishwasher projects to the end. I always wondered who would go first, the dishwasher or me. I'm sure some of you were wondering as I grew older, who would go first the pastor or the sound system. It is so refreshing to know that I outlasted the old sound system and the old dishwasher, if only by a few months.

One highlight I must mention is spending time with you. My interactions with you collectively and individually as I became aware that my time as your pastor would be coming to an end were treasured. I savored the conversations, worship experiences, small groups, and even business meetings. Your love and support of me even when the work was hard, I was stressed and sometimes absent is deeply appreciated. I am truly blessed.

In addition to being your pastor, this past year I have served on the Board of Directors and Annual Meeting Planning Committee of the Vermont Conference, UCC. I participated in a cohort for retiring ministers, provided spiritual direction for eight beautiful souls, and officiated at nine funerals of non members.

As I write this last report, it occurs to me there have been no bad years as your pastor. Yes, some presented more challenges than others, but all were filled with the mystery and wonder at the love God extends to us. The world at times seems to be going crazy as it is now but the church is our sanctuary and haven. It is where we wait on God, bring our broken selves with all our shortcomings and bring our longings and desires to be our best selves. We gather to prepare ourselves for divine encounters in all of life and prepare ourselves to witness to something greater than ourselves. In the end it is all grace. Thanks be to God who holds us. Thanks be to God for the Church.

With deepest gratitude,  
Rev. David Vanderlinde-Abernathy, *Pastor*

# Pastor's Report

From the Church By-Laws:

*The Church Council acts on behalf of the congregation between meetings of the congregation. The Church Council is the coordinating body for all Ministries in the Church. It is the primary source for leadership and guidance in all issues that pertain to policies and procedures. The Church Council is responsible for making and approving financial decisions and financial matters not expressly delegated to the Ministries or covered by each Ministry's annual budget. The Church Council works closely with the Ministries in envisioning and goal setting for the good of the broader Church.*

The Church Council met regularly throughout the year and here are some of the highlights.

In January there were two staffing changes. Nancy Fowler's job title changed to the Assistant to the Pastor and she now assists Rev. David in three areas of ministry; administration, faith formation for adults and youth, and pastoral care, especially to our older members and friends. Hollie Friot is the Church School Director.

The guidelines for the Jones' Bequest were approved in February and a subcommittee helped to review and plan for Rev. David's sabbatical leave. We also considered a request from the Good Samaritan Haven to be an overflow shelter providing up to ten beds and the details are in process.

Periodically, we brainstormed about mission and vision work for the church: "Who is God calling us to become?" The staff also worked on this.

A special meeting of the congregation was held on May 7 for the purpose of approving spending approximately \$17,000 from the Jones Bequest to upgrade the sound system in the sanctuary. That work was completed in June.

In July, another meeting of the Congregation was held to approve the expenditure of up to \$65,000 to install a new roof. An appeal letter went out to the congregation seeking individual donations to help fund the project in addition to the funds already in hand. That project was completed in November. The Council also approved the purchase of a new dishwasher for the church kitchen and the total cost for the project was \$9,632.

As of December 1, 2017 it was voted to make our church building and grounds a no-smoking area.

In December the Council worked with the Finance Committee to develop a budget for 2018.

This is my last report as Moderator of the church, having served on the Church Council for the past four years under the new by-laws, and for seven years prior to that on the Executive Committee of the church. It has been my privilege to serve the church and I know that the duties will be well tended to in the future. I thank Ernie Wheeler for his dedication to serving as the Clerk of the church, and I am grateful for the support of all others who have served on the Church council this year; Hollie Friot, Jim West, Darlene Clark, Larry Beebe, Don Singer, Jeffrey Tuper-Giles, and Rev. David.

I also give thanks for our dedicated church staff: Rev. David, Nancy Fowler, Eric Tuper-Giles, Hollie Friot, Kathy Adams, Neil Upham, and Mary-Ann Johnson.

With gratitude,  
Nancy Pope, *Moderator*

**W**orship and Music had another great year. We have been able to enhance the worship several ways. We have had the opportunity to work with guest speakers and talented musicians. We have been blessed with a great team of people.

Looking back on the past year, the biggest contributions to the enhancement of worship have been in the area of the visual arts. Linda, Jan, and Kate have made the sanctuary and front lawn just look tremendous! The angels that were handcrafted and donated for the Angels Among Us theme during Advent this year went above and all expectations. We continue to help create a worship space that engages all of the senses to make us a part of the worship and not just an observer.

The sound system has been upgraded and while there are a couple of snags to work out (isn't that the case with any new technology) it has greatly improved worship for the folks who couldn't hear as well before.

The music is and continues to be an important part of the service and even with the organ in such disrepair. Eric works tirelessly to keep it running and sounding good for Sunday mornings. He spends his free time tuning and doing minor repairs to keep us blissfully unaware of how much work it really needs. He's spent countless hours working on it in the past year on his own time. With that being said, the organ committee has met several times over the past year and is looking forward to diving into the organ restoration project in 2018 full steam ahead.

We were blessed to have several lay preachers over the past year and Hollie Friot being one of the favorites. Her sermon was powerful and inspirational. Pentecost Sunday this year was an exciting. It was a collaboration of the arts, children's themes and a communion liturgy written just for that day by a layperson.

Joan O'Gorman spent four Sundays with us. Her way of illustrating biblical texts by bringing them into everyday life was just wonderful. Her sermons really made people think about how they approach situations.

Overall, Worship and Music continues to be a thriving ministry and we look forward to bringing new and exciting worship ideas to the table. We are always looking for people who want to help the synergy of the team. This can be by bringing ideas to the table, helping the art group create stunning visuals or even standing in the pulpit and giving preaching a whirl. The commitment level is based entirely on what you have the time to do. Every little bit helps and is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jeffrey Tuper-Giles

Worship and Music

I write this on what is almost my one year anniversary as your Church School Director. In this position, I'm involved not only as the faith formation leader for children in our church, but I'm also involved - with Nancy Fowler, Larry Beebe and Rev. David - in planning our adult faith formation initiatives. As we prepare for Rev. David's retirement, I hope you might share your desires for faith formation within our church and join us in what we will be planning for 2018. A strong church community is valuable in so many ways, and sharing your faith journey with others is the fastest way I know of to come together and to grow together in relationship with God. The faith formation events I've participated in at the Barre Congregational Church have challenged me and changed me as a person, and the relationships I've formed through them are some of my most valued.

In the last year, we've started a book group that has met almost monthly to discuss books from Rev. Emily Heath's book *Glorify* to Brene Brown's new bestseller *Braving the Wilderness*. We'll be continuing this group in 2018, so please see me or Nancy Fowler or keep your eye on the ewindow if you'd like to participate. Currently, we're reading *The Cloister Walk* by Kathleen Norris. A discussion date is TBD, so there's still plenty of time to join.

In 2017, Jeffrey Tuper-Giles led a wonderful study called *Spiritual Autobiography* that he is thinking of doing again this year. And currently Nancy, Rev. David and I are leading a study called *Unwrapping Your Gifts* that will end just before Lent - as we prepare for a Lenten study and/or activity. Nancy also led a bible study that meets weekly during the day. See Nancy or the ewindow for details. And there's also *Theology on Tap* - we celebrated our 5th year anniversary in 2017. Join us at Espresso Bueno the 4th Friday of the month at 6 p.m. I'm sure I'm forgetting things, too, so if any of this interests you, stay in touch! We'd love to see you at a faith formation event in 2018!

And - saving the best for last - the children! (I'm a little biased, I suppose!) We've had a robust church school in 2017. Thank you to Krissy Bellavance who helped me downstairs when there were more children than I could wrangle alone. And thank you to Linda Copping, Maggie Sample, Eric Tuper-Giles and Preston Murphy for sharing their love of music with our church school children. And thank you to all of the parents who make the commitment to having their children experience the Christian faith through our church. I can't begin to tell you how much it fills my heart to have conversations about God, Jesus, spirit... and life with them. I feel blessed to be a witness to their profound observations and insights. They are amazing! In addition to Sundays, we held a fantastic vacation bible school this summer with 22 children and at least 15 volunteers. Thank you to Pastor Carl (First Presbyterian) and Rev. Kim (Barre Methodist) for joining us in that endeavor. And my most profound gratitude to the Warren Church, UCC for their guidance, prayers, and their amazing gift of our VBS curriculum and decorations. We've already started planning for this summer's VBS, and we hope you can join us.

Thank you to all of you who have participated in our faith formation activities and events in 2017. I hope you'll join us in 2018!

Hollie Friot  
Faith Formation Ministry

In 2017 the Art Committee accomplished a great deal. We met the goal of refurbishing our art work area over the conference room. Ed Blodgett and Joe Blakely gave their time and talents and we were able to do this at very little cost. New shelves, peg-board and fresh paint have made it is a very functional and pleasant work area.

There were ten different displays in the narthex last year showing the various talents of our church members. We had wood carving, Theorem painting, weaving, pottery, photography, and art work in many medias.

The Book of Remembrance made it possible for us to purchase the two new banners that were hung at Thanksgiving and Christmas. They also helped with the expense of materials for our large angels on the altar and the outdoor nativity scene. These are all things that we will be able to use again.

We are now starting to make plans for the coming year and welcome any new ideas or interested members that would like to join us.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Kiniry

For the deacons, 2017 was a transitional year. The Diaconate Ministry of the by-laws were rewritten. The deacons will work collaboratively with the Pastor to assist in all aspects of the church's ministries. The deacons continued to support and assist with the delivery of regular and special services. This included serving communion the first Sunday of the month, Christmas Eve, and other special services.

Thank you to our deacons this past year:  
Don Singer, Chris Perry, Ilene Gillander, Jan Aldrich, Cheryl Zanleoni, Nancy Fowler, Kerrick Johnson, Kyle Wheeler , Lindsey Benton and Lauren Jo Chase.

In 2018, the deacons plan to identify opportunities for continued service to our church.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donald Singer, *Chairperson*

# Liturgical Arts / Deacons

The Mission and Outreach Ministry looks to the commitment of our entire church community to realize our vision of providing support where need is present within our church family as well as within the greater community. We would not be able to do all that we do without the volunteers that put in many hours supporting our various endeavors as well as the generous financial support that we receive from many in our congregation.

Our newest mission initiative is Laundry Love which provides free laundry services at Busy Bubble the third Tuesday of each month from 6-9pm to those who find it difficult to afford doing their laundry. We have completed our first year providing this service and it has grown each month. Jesse Rosado has been the volunteer coordinator of this ministry and he was able to secure some matching donations from his workplace for this first year. Several of you have also been supportive monetarily as well as volunteering to be at the laundromat to insert quarters in the washing machines and dryers. Those that have been the recipients of this service are very grateful and have expressed this gratitude to our volunteers.

Our Second Mile Giving Sunday has also been growing in donations over this past year for which we are extremely grateful. A decision was made to change the Sunday of the donation to the second Sunday of the month from the first starting in January of 2018.

This year we did not have a chicken pie dinner for fundraising due to the fact that many of our usual volunteers were not available to help. This event takes a great deal of time and energy by many of you and this year proved to be a difficult one for many of us to commit to this event.

The Gobble Wobble Turkey Trot continues to be our biggest fundraiser and it was very successful this year! Again thank you to all who helped with this and we were graced with perfect weather which always brings more people out to participate.

Below are many of the commitments and donations made possible through our combined efforts for the 2017 year:

- Good Samaritan Haven meals every Monday (except holidays)
- Friday evening community meals every seventh week
- Saturday breakfast two mornings a month
- Tuesday breakfast weekly
- Coffee hour following Sunday worship services
- Support for our parish nurse
- Tape ministry
- The new dishwasher in the kitchen
- 40 plus Thanksgiving turkey dinners, boxed and delivered
- Sponsorship of a Guatemalan student through Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (this being her last year as she has aged out of the service)

- Donations to:
- The Vermont Conference UCC
  - Peoples Health and Wellness Clinic
  - Circle—Battered Women's Shelter
  - Aldrich Public Library
  - Malakaya House orphanage in Uganda

Central Vt Council on Aging in memory of Chuck Checchini  
Laundry Love  
Hedding Methodist Outreach Support  
Camp Thorpe  
Another Way  
Gift cards at Christmas for Good Samaritan residents

Fundraising activities:  
Second Mile Giving  
Dessert sales at Barre Heritage Festival  
Gobble Wobble Turkey Trot  
Giving Tuesday

Reverend David often will encourage us at the end of worship to go out and be the church during our daily lives. Supporting our Missions and Outreach ministry is one of the ways we can do this. If you are able and interested in serving on this ministry know you are welcome to participate and attend our meetings.

Serving in Christ's love and respectfully submitted,  
Jean Brown, Lauren Jo Chase, Joyce Copping, Kate Duffy, Marjorie Wheeler, Mary Ann Johnson, Jesse Rosado, Bev Thomas and Darlene Clark, *chairperson*

I am so proud to be able to announce to the members of this church that their Cub Scout Pack has once again obtained the gold status for running a Cub Scout program that has met all the requirements to meet the highest standard for a quality unit.

We have 16 dedicated leaders who have kept the joy and enthusiasm in our scouting program for the last year. They are a dedicated to the ideals of scouting and a wonderful group to work with. They have been very helpful to me in my first year in my role as Chartered Organization Representative for this church.

Currently the pack has eight Arrow of Light scouts, six Webelos scouts, five Bear scouts, ten Wolf scouts, eleven Tiger scouts and eleven Lion scouts and we are in the process of registering two more boys. Our pack is growing in numbers each year.

I want to extend my sincere thank you to everyone that supports our pack members and also support the youth in this community.

Next year, more exciting news for the Cub Scouts as it will be the first year girls will be allowed to be a Cub Scout and we already have some girls interested in joining our pack.

Yours in Scouting,  
Jan Aldrich

Mission and Outreach / Cub Scout Pack 7177

In writing the annual report for 2017 I was reminded that this is the sixth year since I completed the Parish Nurse training; May 2011 and then with the help and support of Rev. David as well as member/friends of Barre Congregational Church began to discern the mission of a Parish Nurse and Wellness program followed by the first steps to embark on this mission.

A lot has occurred in these past six years that I have had the opportunity to work with and serve members of our church and greater community. Going forward my hope is with your continued support of this mission, to work with members/friends in developing ways to promote health and wellness in our community.

Since I first began writing a report for our annual meeting I have included a summary of the activities of the Parish Nurse program in order to convey in more concrete terms a mission which encompasses much more than I am able to list or define with numbers.

- Blood Pressure Screenings Coffee hour- 42
- Community Breakfast-9
- Hospital/Nursing Home visits-12
- Home Visits-4
- Phone conferences-30
- Newsletter and other written contributions-4

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ann Johnson RN, *Parish Nurse*

After our winter hiatus, Women's Fellowship had their first meeting on the evening of April 19 with a program featuring, "Alive! With Song" which was well attended and open to everyone. The May meeting hosted Christine Litchfield and her "Young at Heart" singers performing and Old West musical.

Following summer break, the September meeting welcomed Susan McKnight and her husband Michael with their program about Malayka House, an orphanage for abandoned children in Uganda. Our October meeting featured a "Writers Workshop" with pastor and writer Maren Tirabassi. The November meeting highlighted Susan Osterman sharing about her weaving, showing examples of her beautiful work. Finally in December we had our annual Christmas party with Don Heurman talking about his Christmas woodcarvings,

Charitable donations were made to Camp TaKumTa, Aldrich Public Library and the Vermont Foodbank, and the Church Improvement Fund.

Respectfully submitted,  
Phoebe Chapin

## 2017 Financial Summary

Prepared by the Treasurer, Jim West

### Operating Budget

- The year ended with a deficit in the amount of \$3,578.
- We received \$138,643 in pledges which is 94% of the anticipated \$146,675, \$9,032 less than what was pledged.
- The year ending balance of the operating checking account was \$13,048.

### Restricted Funds

- The restricted fund balance was \$ 75,378. A breakdown of the individual accounts is shown in the annual report.

### Investment Funds

- The balance of our investment funds is \$1,349,321, which is \$78,974 greater than the previous year, a 6.2% increase. Note that this balance is after disbursements were made to support our operating budget, the Elderly Fund, and the scholarship funds.

### 2018 Proposed Operating Budget Highlights

- The proposed budget is a deficit budget in the amount of \$5,133.
- The budget includes a general 2% salary increase to our staff.
- The budget includes pledge receipts basically equal to what was received last year. This deficit can easily be wiped out with additional pledges or a slight increase in the anticipated pledges.
- Note that property related expenses have been removed from the operating budget and will be paid from our Murray Property Fund.
- Also, elevator related costs have been removed from the operating budget and will be paid from the Elderly Fund.
- This operating budget was prepared prior to receiving notice that our beloved pastor is retiring at the end of April of this year. Cost reductions and increases related to his retirement have not been estimated at this time.

Finance Highlights

**T**his ministry is responsible for [all money matters] of the Church. Work with the Bookkeeper/Collector making reports, create a budget, and over see the following ministries: Property, Stewardship, Scholarship, and Book of Remembrance. There is a complete list of Church Financial Procedures approved in January 2012 located in the Bookkeepers office.

Finance Members: Chair – Gary Isham, Treasurer - Jim West, Asst. Treasurer – Sally Beebe, Carol Ellison, Peter James, Ed Friot, Pat McDonald – served part of the year leaving committee because of family matter, Rev. David – Adviser.

Property Chair – Gary Isham, Rev. David, Jeff Friot, Eric Tuper Giles and Matt Safford

Stewardship – Chair - Hollie Friot, Rev. David, Ed Friot, Gary Isham

Scholarship – Chair - Ernie Wheeler, Nancy Fowler

Book of Remembrance – Ralph & Jean Brown, Phoebe Chapin, Don Allen

Meeting Dates:

1/17/17 – Budget was approved with changes;

1. Line item for Admin. Asst. deleted as Nancy Fowler is filling the position.
2. Building repairs line item were deleted as repairs are to come from the Bessie Murray fund.
3. Jones Bequest line added to show interest from the investment can be applied to the budget each year.
4. Under employee expense column line was added to pay for snow removal of \$1,000 a year.
5. Rev. David and Jim West recommended to suspend for one year payment towards the addition which is paid from the Bessie Murray fund. This will help keep more money on hand in Murray fund to pay church repairs. Motion made and passed to hold back payment for one year.

2/19/17 – This meeting of Finance, Property, and Council ministries met Sunday after worship. We needed to deal with water damage from overflow of toilets. This was to approve spending \$5,128.45 to replace flooring using estimate from Country Floors. Motion was made and passed. Gary recommended to replace all toilets to help prevent overflow, use less water and sit higher. Cost not to exceed \$4,000. Motion passed to replace same. Cost paid by insurance and a \$5,000 gift.

2/28/17 – Agreed more description was needed for items in Special Projects fund. Sally Beebe was approved as Asst. Treasurer for another year.

3/7/17 - It was approved to spend up to \$1,200 for new locks on bathrooms and classrooms at Gary's request to help against vandalism in the future. To do list for projects to be made, roof needs to be replaced, dishwasher needs replacing, and walkways need to be replaced.

4/4/17 – Committee listened to presentations from TD Bank, Community Bank and Northfield Bank about investing the Jones Gift. By majority vote the committee chose Northfield Bank to place the Jones Gift.

5/19/17 - Debra Burke hired to do church audit for \$5,000. When audit was done we ended up paying \$6,500 because of the amount of work done.

6/6/17 - Cindy Hooker will no longer serve on the Book of Remembrance. Thank you

Cindy for serving. Gary asked to spend up to \$2,000 for painting new doors, a portion of hallway and basement bathroom, money approved and work done. Committee approved to spend \$800.00 for Jeffrey Tuper-Giles to cover trip to UCC General Synod as a delegate.

7/16/17 – All Church meeting – recommended and approved to spend up to \$65,000 for replacing main roof, excluding area roof over new section.

8/8/17 – Painting done for \$1,300. Motion passed to pay 50% down for roof work at Beede Roofing request.

9/5/17 – Decided to meet second Tues. of each month giving Treasurer time to view reports with Bookkeeping. Large donation given towards roof project. Appears money will be put back into some accounts but need to wait until project is done. Motion approved to sign Engagement letter presented by Deb Burke for up to \$6,500.

9/19/17 – Oral report given to Finance by Deb Burke. She made some suggestions for Bookkeeping to improve every day use and would work with Kathy applying same. At this point nothing found by Deb Burke to be wrong other than making some improvements. Also, much discussion about spending for dishwasher. Presented under the counter washer but decided may not have the features needed and something should be put in place to last several years. The writer agreed to look at other models.

10/10/17 – Approved to use \$157,000 figure for the stewardship letter, this figure is not our final figure for the 2018 budget. Overall we feel the audit was a positive outcome and no major changes needed.

11/14/17 – There was a cost overrun for the roof project. Because of the storms in the south cost of plywood went up \$5.00 a sheet. Also, the roofing from the addition was not completed correctly overlapping onto the main roof. Much of this area was wet with sub roofing broken up taking more time to remove. Also, incorrect light weight metal used from main roof up to this false wall. Total of roof came to \$63,990. Dishwasher – Joint committees of Finance and Council approved up to \$8,500 for dishwasher and its installation. This also was a cost over run but has been approved and paid.

I have has resigned as Chairman of Finance and property committees as of 12/2017. It has been a very busy year and a break is needed. I will continue to serve on each committee. New members are very much needed and if interested please contact the church office.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Gary Isham

**Barre Congregational Church**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of December 31, 2017

	Dec 31, 16	Dec 31, 17
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>		
20900 · Prepaid Pledges	\$ 6,252.00	52.00
24000 · Payroll Liabilities	\$ 808.62	3,076.74
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	\$ 7,060.62	3,128.74
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	\$ 7,060.62	3,128.74
<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>		
20100 · Due To Building Fund	\$ 109,365.40	107,997.57
<b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b>	\$ 109,365.40	107,997.57
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	\$ 116,426.02	111,126.31
<b>Equity</b>		
30000 · Opening Balance Equity	\$ 763,199.36	763,199.36
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 72,460.25	628,115.53
44995 · Bessie Murray Donation	\$ 312,170.08	312,170.08
Net Income	\$ 555,655.28	58,253.45
<b>Total Equity</b>	\$ 1,703,484.97	1,761,738.42
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	\$ 1,819,910.99	1,872,864.73

<b>2016 INDIVIDUAL RESTRICTED FUND BALANCES</b>	
<b>Restricted Account Total</b>	<b>\$ 632,303.86</b>
<b>Individual Account Balances</b>	
Book of Remembrance	\$ 10,462.77
Dawn Borne Legacy	\$ 2,600.00
Christian Ed and Youth Program	\$ 1,883.39
Chancel Bell and Choir Fund	\$ 3,096.37
High School Scholarships	\$ -
Organ Repair	\$ 27,050.77
Parish Nurse Program	\$ 695.41
Pre-Paid Funeral Expenses	\$ 800.00
Seely Scholarship	\$ -
Special Projects	\$ 4,649.72
Judith Safford Camp Scholarship Fund	\$ 2,455.16
Wheelock Music	\$ 278.75
Mission	\$ 7,567.75
Women's Fellowship - Kitchen Improvements	\$ 276.51
Youth Mission Trip	\$ 408.60
<b>Total Individual Accounts:</b>	<b>\$ 62,225.20</b>
Difference Total Ind. Accounts vs. Checkbook Balance	\$ 570,078.66
* 78.66 represents interest yet to be moved to operating	

**Barre Congregational Church**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of December 31, 2017

	Dec 31, 16	Dec 31, 17
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
<b>Checking/Savings</b>		
10000 · Operating Checking TD Bank	\$ 22,005.95	13,048.13
10100 · Deacons Fund Checking Account	\$ 330.59	116.42
10200 · Murray Property Checking Acct	\$ 8,736.07	18,214.67
10300 · Restricted Checking Account	\$ 632,303.86	
10300-A · Book of Remembrance		11,621.57
10300-B · Dawn Borne Legacy		1,650.00
10300-C · Faith Formation & Youth Program		1,883.39
10300-D · Chancel Bell & Choir Fund		2,666.63
10300-E · Scholarships Account		(100.00)
10300-F · Organ Repair		27,050.77
10300-G · Parish Nurse Program		675.41
10300-H · Pre-Paid Funeral Expense		275.00
10300-J · Special Projects		4,117.14
10300-K · Judith Safford Camp Scholarship		3,237.16
10300-L · Wheelock Music		278.75
10300-M · Mission		10,029.72
10300-N · Women's Fellowship - Kitchen Im		276.51
10300-O · Elderly Fund		11,629.39
10300-P · Youth Mission Trip		80.79
10300 · Restricted Checking Account - Other		5.92
<b>Total 10300 · Restricted Checking Account</b>		<b>75,378.15</b>
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>\$ 663,376.47</b>	<b>106,757.37</b>
<b>Total Current Asset</b>	<b>\$ 663,376.47</b>	<b>106,757.37</b>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>		
11500 · Petty Cash		100.00
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>		<b>100.00</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>106,857.37</b>
<b>Other Assets</b>		
11000 · Building Add Loan Due - TDWM	\$ 109,365.40	107,997.57
11100 · TD Wealth Mgt Investment	\$ 464,789.50	489,430.99
11200 · TD Wealth Mgt Schol Invest	\$ 156,437.90	168,948.43
11250 · Infinex Financial - Jones Inves		554,928.81
11300 · Brusa Campi Fund	\$ 18,841.98	22,033.14
11400 · Cary Fund	\$ 110,277.53	113,978.76
11900 · Beneficial Int in Murray Fund	\$ 296,822.21	308,689.66
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,156,534.52</b>	<b>1,766,007.36</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 1,819,910.99</b>	<b>1,872,864.73</b>

Financial Report



# BCC BUDGET PERFORMANCE

1/1/2017 through 12/31/2017

Budget 2018

		63000 · Property Expenses					
		63100 · Custodial Supplies	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 767.12	51.14%	\$ 1,000.00	
		63200 · Liability Insurance	\$ 356.00	\$ 178.00	50.0%	\$ 356.00	
		63300 · Property Insurance	\$ 6,979.00	\$ 6,673.75	95.63%	\$ 6,979.00	
		63400 · Repairs & Maintenance					
		63410 · Building Repairs & Maintenance	\$ -				
		63420 · Heating Plant Repairs	\$ -				
		63430 · Elevator Maintenance	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,890.04	105.0%	\$ -	
		63501 · snow removal	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 805.00	80.5%	\$ -	
		Total 63400 · Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 2,695.04	96.25%	\$ -	
		63500 · Rubbish Removal	\$ 800.00	\$ 779.11	97.39%	\$ 525.00	
		63600 · Utilities					
		63610 · Electricity	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,934.99	112.43%	\$ 3,500.00	
		63620 · Fuel Oil	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 7,470.18	83.0%	\$ 9,000.00	
		63630 · Telephone & Internet	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,148.95	95.75%	\$ 1,300.00	
		63640 · Water & Sewer & Sprinkler	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 1,925.44	110.03%	\$ 1,750.00	
		Total 63600 · Utilities	\$ 15,450.00	\$ 14,479.56	93.72%	\$ 15,550.00	
		Total 63000 · Property Expenses	\$ 27,885.00	\$ 25,572.58	91.71%	\$ 24,410.00	
		80000 · Payroll Expenses					
		80100 · Bookkeeper Wages	\$ 5,300.00	\$ 5,652.71	106.66%	\$ 7,020.00	
		80200 · Assistant to the Pastor	\$ 21,284.00	\$ 21,283.92	100.0%	\$ 21,709.68	
		80305 · Church School Coordinator	\$ 3,010.00	\$ 3,010.08	100.0%	\$ 3,500.00	
		80400 · Custodian Wages	\$ 8,740.00	\$ 6,902.58	78.98%	\$ 10,912.00	
		80500 · Music Director Salary	\$ 16,818.00	\$ 16,818.00	100.0%	\$ 17,154.36	
		80600 · Pastors Salary	\$ 40,046.00	\$ 40,046.62	100.0%	\$ 41,286.92	
		80610 · Pastors Annuity	\$ 8,686.00	\$ 8,433.44	97.09%	\$ 8,860.17	
		80620 · Pastors Housing	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 22,000.00	100.0%	\$ 22,000.00	
		80630 · Pastors Social Security Offset	\$ 5,106.00	\$ 5,106.00	100.0%	\$ 5,915.08	
		80800 · Medicare Company	\$ 800.00	\$ 779.35	97.42%	\$ 1,472.95	
		80850 · Social Security Company	\$ 3,419.00	\$ 3,332.39	97.47%	\$ 3,738.35	
		80900 · Employee Insurance Expenses					
		80910 · Pastor Dental Insurance	\$ 984.00	\$ 945.00	96.04%	\$ 945.00	
		80920 · Assistant to the Pastor	\$ 1,185.00	\$ 1,185.00	100.0%	\$ 1,080.00	
		80930 · Workers Comp Insurance	\$ 1,397.00	\$ 991.00	70.94%	\$ 1,397.00	
		80940 · Pastor Life/Disability Ins	\$ 930.00	\$ 903.60	97.16%	\$ 957.86	
		80950 · Pastor Health Insurance	\$ 10,334.00	\$ 10,207.00	98.77%	\$ 8,994.00	
		Total 80900 · Employee Insurance Expenses	\$ 14,830.00	\$ 14,231.60	95.97%	\$ 13,373.86	
		80000 · Payroll Expenses - other		\$ 81.00	100.0%		
		Total 80000 · Payroll Expenses	\$ 150,039.00	\$ 147,677.69	98.43%	\$ 156,943.38	
		81000 · Miscellaneous Employee Exp					
		81100 · Mileage Reimbursement	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,395.50	119.78%	\$ 2,000.00	
		81200 · Pastors Professional Expense	\$ 800.00	\$ 634.32	79.29%	\$ 800.00	
		Total 81000 · Miscellaneous Employee Exp	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 3,029.82	108.21%	\$ 2,800.00	
		Total Expense	\$ 198,069.00	\$ 195,030.10	98.47%	\$ 201,174.38	
		Net Income	\$ -	\$ (3,577.85)	100.00%	\$ (5,132.66)	



35 Church Street  
Barre, Vermont 05641  
(802) 476-3065  
[www.barrecongregational.org](http://www.barrecongregational.org)  
email: [staff@barrecongregational.org](mailto:staff@barrecongregational.org)

*An Open & Affirming Congregation*