

**The First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Cherryfield, Maine**



ANNUAL REPORT

~ 2016 ~

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CHERRYFIELD

Organized in 1833

Rev. Larry A. Zimmerman, Pastor

River Road

PO Box 104

Cherryfield, Maine 04622

www.cherryfieldcongregationalchurch.org

*a member of the Maine Conference and the Sunrise Association
of the United Church of Christ*



Officers

Moderator - Martha Resotko

Treasurer - Alice Duston

Financial Secretary - Foster Mathews

Clerk - Laura Merrill

Deacons

Alice Duston, Robert Hall, Barbara Kneeland, Laura Merrill, Gena Norgaard

Trustees

Peter Duston, Richard Elias, Nancy Ives, Mark Richmond, Donald Small

Delegates

Alice Duston, Laura Merrill, Carol Morris, Martha Resotko

Media

George Crawford

Pianists/Choir Directors

Fall, Winter, Spring - Malen Hsu and Joseph Huber

Summer - Margaret Small

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Report on the Annual Meeting - Sunday, August 28, 2016

The meeting was held following morning worship and a potluck lunch.

Attending: George Crawford; Peter and Alice Duston; Abby Eden; Bob Hall; Foster and Leta Mathews; Laura Merrill; Marty Resotko; Jean Santiago, Don and Marg Small; Larry and Alice Zimmerman.

Rev. Z. offered the opening prayer and Moderator, Marty Resotko, conducted the meeting.

Treasurer's Report - Foster Mathews

- The bills are paid but it was a struggle.
- Total Income January-July \$12,746.29
- Transfer from UCC Fund \$ 3,000.00
- Total Expenses January-July \$22,615.35

Lamb House Committee

- An informational pamphlet is being designed.
- An anonymous donor offered a \$5,000 matching grant to be used for the heating system.
 - A fundraising mailing for the match is being planned for late summer/early fall.
- The Lamb House is currently occupied by members of the Maine Migrant Health Program.
- The first open house for the community was held on Saturday, July 23rd.

Continued participation in and support of the *Coffee House at the Edge Center and Downeast Table of Plenty (DETOP)*

- We have always had enough food (sometimes from our suppers) and from our volunteers.
- Alice Duston noted that DETOP has a clean-up crew which makes things a lot easier for those preparing and serving the meal.

Church Suppers

- Attendance hit an all-time low at 62 for the May supper. The suggestion to drop that supper and have only five was followed by Alice Duston's suggestion (to which all agreed) to keep the May supper and serve "comfort food."
- It was decided to drop the pork loin supper and have two turkey suppers, one in July and the second in October.
- Supper prices will remain at \$9.00.
- Alice will have magnets printed with the date and menu of our suppers. They will be ready in time for the October supper.

Gi-Normous Yard Sale - Saturday, August 27

- Marty thanked everyone for their help.
- Net proceeds of \$2,022.75 have been designated to The Lamb House Furnace Fund.

Elections

- Alice Duston was elected as Treasurer.
- Foster Mathews agreed to be the Financial Secretary. Those present offered their appreciation to Foster who has served as Treasurer for more years than anyone could remember.
- All other positions will remain the same.

Rev. Z. requested a \$3,000 cut in his salary to \$21,000 and in return he would cut back mid-week trips from once a week to every other week. This would exclude hospital and emergency calls when necessary. He sighted two reasons: he does not want to see the church continue to draw from savings to pay him, as has been the case; and also wants to cut back a little on his time. His offer was accepted.

The meeting **adjourned** at 1pm.

REPORT FROM THE PASTOR



Greetings in the name of Christ our Lord.

As I write this report, we are in the midst of a major winter snowstorm. Thankfully, it started late Sunday so in contrast to last year, we've not had to cancel any church service due to weather. It has been a good year! For a small church in Downeast Maine, this church accomplishes many good works.

Highlights of the year:

I conducted one wedding this year for Kayla Hall and Adam Brooks on April 30th. Kayla is the granddaughter of Melissa and Bob Hall.

We received two new members, Erica Kay-Webster and Diane LeVesseur, and three associate members, Don and Marg Small and Bonnie Gould.

Two young men who grew up in our scouting program distinguished themselves as Eagle Scouts. Congratulations to Savage Bloomer and Stowe Duston.

Our Lamb House project continues to be a shining example of the efforts of our church's community outreach. We hosted an Open House on July 23rd to introduce The Lamb House to the communities it serves.

The Town of Cherryfield celebrated its 200th anniversary in June, and our church hosted a public breakfast as part of that celebration.

We continue to partner with the Milbridge Church for Holy Week services.

Moderator, Marty Resotko, and I represented our church at the Annual Meeting of the Maine Conference at Husson University on October 22nd. We were asked to present a workshop on our Lamb House project, and it was well-received by the many delegates who attended.

Thank you

to **Foster Matthews** who stepped down as church treasurer after serving for more years than he can remember. Thank you, Foster, for your love of this church and for your dedication to its ministry.

to our musicians, **Malen Hsu, Marg Small, and Sepp Huber**. We are so blessed with their talent and leadership.

to those who sing in our **choir**. Your dedication enhances our worship and praise each and every Sunday.

to the "hard-working **church supper crew**". This is truly a united effort that provides not only income for the church but also a wonderful opportunity for fellowship for all who prepare and attend.

to **Marg and Don Small** who welcome us into their home every July for their annual Hymn Sing and Supper. What a wonderful, joy-filled tradition!

to all who serve as our **church officers**. A small church does not have the luxury of many faces willing to fill positions, so many of our folks serve year after year. I applaud your service and it is a delight to work with all of you.

May God continue to bless our church in our efforts to reach our community in service and love, guided by the Spirit of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Your Pastor,

Larry Zimmerman



MODERATOR'S REPORT

As a church we have started a vital ministry in The Lamb House, but we need to step back and focus on our ministry and our building. Our budget shows we still need to call on savings to meet our expenses. Unfortunately, our savings are depleted and we need to find new fundraising ventures. Larry has offered to reduce his time spent in Cherryfield and his salary, which is a great help but that alone will not balance the budget.



Can we find ways to reduce our expenses? Should we worship in a smaller space during the winter to reduce fuel oil consumption? Attendance is down at our suppers. Is it time to try something new? Can we find ways to increase our income? Where do we see God at work in our lives and how can we join in what God is doing?

Our church building needs attention. The walkways into the basement are rough and present a challenge for older people entering for the suppers. There is erosion from the banks. We need to replace the entry doors for energy conservation as well as security. The front doors need repair; the steeple needs painting and possible repair. The white pew ends need repainting and the Guild Room floor needs refinishing.

The dining room floor was painted this summer by a volunteer group. Grit was used in the paint to prevent slippery floors. The new dishwasher works beautifully, but our plumbing system needs updating as the dishwasher cannot drain at the same time as the sinks are draining. There is no cold water in the basement ladies' room.

We continue to reach out to our community through participating in DETOP, the Friday morning Coffee House, and the Wednesday noon Soup and Games. We held the Cherryfield Days Breakfast and helped sponsor the "Anything that Floats" race.

So in closing,

Looking behind I am filled with gratitude.
Looking forward I want to be filled with vision.
Looking upwards we are filled with strength.
Looking within may we be filled with peace.

~Quero Apache Prayer



Martha Resotko, Moderator



DEACONS' REPORT



2016 was another year of cooperative effort by all our deacons in sharing the many small, albeit important, responsibilities that enable us all to worship every Sunday and a few other days as well.

In order to do that, we polished silver, prepared and served communion, took care of the candles, oversaw that the heat was on, made sure bulletins were provided, and arranged for our musicians. We either stepped in to lead the service when our esteemed minister was absent or welcomed and helped out our substitute ministers, Marty Shaw, Ginger Snapp Cunningham and Walter Woitasek. We maintained the flower list, greeted you and let you know when church was cancelled.

We continue to be grateful for those who set up and provide refreshments for fellowship hour every week, knowing that this time of sharing is appreciated by so many.

Over the year we made contributions to some people in our community, especially at Thanksgiving and Christmas. As well, we occasionally take up a collection to help in special circumstances.

Rev. Zimmerman was accompanied to the spring meeting of the Sunrise Association on May 7th in Belfast by Nancy Ives and by Alice Duston to the fall meeting in Blue Hill on October 15th.

The Spiritual Study group meets several Mondays throughout the year, generally facilitated by Marty Resotko, and is always thought-provoking. We welcome anyone who wishes to join us.

Sadly, one of our deacons, Bill Boyer, passed away in December. We will miss him and the help he provided.

Again this year we express our appreciation to all of you for contributing to make this church such a very special place to worship.

Alice Duston, Head Deacon



TRUSTEES' REPORT

Our church building and property are in good condition and we receive comments regarding the same. The two most pressing needs are the repair of the main doors and the basement doors, both of which need to be done professionally. Funding for the front doors and the windows could be covered by a new Belvedere Historic Grant. Repainting the pews, "brushing" the river bank and other "general" painting of the church and Lamb House can be done by the Mission's summer work volunteers.

The Lamb House

Projects:

Completed: interior (95%); heating system; wiring and plumbing upgrades

"Unfinished"

Painting of the back and south sides – paint is paid for and we hope to have the job completed this summer.

The water line to the well needs to be buried deeper to prevent freezing.

We have approached Cherryfield Foods for financial assistance for this.

Non-critical landscaping.

The hot air furnace used for heat last winter was donated to the soon-to-be-open *Machias Veterans' Resource Center and Shelter* for use in the new building purchased by Ruth Moore's *Internity* for that effort.

The Lamb House Committee is pursuing 501(c)3 non-profit status to release the Cherryfield Congregational Church as its fiscal agent. Once that is in place, the church will no longer be responsible for funding and managing The Lamb House.

We urge you to contact us if you have suggestions for maintaining this magnificent 19th-century historic building.



On the church list for 2017

Landscaping from the 2014 list (front lawn, cut brush along river bank)

Improve river bank parking

Repair main doors

Re-paint pews

Refinish the Guild Room floor

Install stink pipe for upstairs bathroom and kitchen

Repair basement ceiling panels

Install I-beams under building and remove basement posts

Panel basement walls

Repair basement doors

Repair paving in walkways and parking lot

Reposition rear motion lights to illuminate the back door for safety

AND: _____



Respectfully submitted,

Peter Duston

TREASURER'S REPORT

INCOME

Pledges	12,354.00
Loose Offerings	8,328.06
Stewart Trust	2,840.00
Interest & Dividends:	724.15
UCC Fund	615.11
Harriman Fund	99.84
CD	8.34
Savings	0.86
Missions	667.00
Bazaar and C.A. Craft Table	1,118.75
Church Suppers	5,504.25
Special Donations	1,570.00

Total Income 33,106.21

EXPENSES

Ministry:	21,969.00
Pastor's Salary	14,826.00
Pastor's Health Ins.	5,643.00
Pastoral Pulpit Supply	1,500.00
UCC:	858.00
OCWM	375.00
OGHS	128.00
Neighbors In Need	127.00
Veterans of the Cross	128.00
Pilgrim Lodge	100.00
Property Insurance	4,379.00
Electricity	619.00
Oil	3,064.50
Supper Supplies	1,154.56
Music	3,509.00
Postage	107.00
Snow Plowing/Lawns	880.00
Cleaning Supplies	64.95
Dues & Assessments	532.29
Church Repairs	538.42
Bulletins	83.40
Misc.	369.00
Missions/Gifts	860.00
Lamb House from Loose Offering	4,000.00

Total Expenses 42,988.12

TRANSFERS

UCC Fund to Checking	3,000.00
Savings to Checking	2,000.00

INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS (12/31/2016)

UCC: Old Account	1,110.40
Harriman	50,156.04

CHARLES A. STEWART (ME Comm. Fdn.)

71,483.81

ACCOUNT BALANCES (January 1, 2017)

Checking	2,824.05
Julia Small Savings	2,875.55
CD	1,500.00

~ Alice Duston, Treasurer



The Lamb House - a Refuge from Fire and Storm Annual Report

2016 was a busy year with an amazing amount of progress made toward establishing The Lamb House as a four-season facility.

Residents

- Tammy H. lost her house to fire in late September, 2015. She stayed in the Lamb House until late March 2015, when her new home was ready for occupancy. She offered a moving testimonial for us to use in our publications and on our web and Facebook pages.
- The Maine Migrant Health Care Workers stayed in August during the blueberry harvest and again in November and December for the wreath workers.
- We provided refuge for a young pregnant mother and her 2-year-old child for a month.

A very complete set of “documents for residents” was written by Bruce and Nancy Ives and formatted by Malen Hsu. They provide information for us and for our guests.

Grants

- *The Belvedere Foundation grant of \$15,000*, received in the spring, provided funds for: rebuilding the stairs to the basement; electrical work in the upstairs - ceiling lights installed in each bedroom and additional outlets where needed; creating a drainage system in the basement to remove water that seeps into the basement from the hill behind the house; and repairing and prepping the two remaining unpainted exterior walls.
- *An anonymous matching grant of \$5,000* for the furnace was offered by a generous community member. Our “Gi-normous Yard Sale” netted \$2,022.75 for the match. Our first fundraising appeal was mailed to previous donors and new prospects from the service area. The First Congregational Church of Cherryfield also sent an appeal to our supporters who do not live in this area. Our efforts resulted in the match’s being met and more. The furnace was installed and functioning by December with a total cost of just over \$13,000.
- *The UCC Resourcing the Small Church grant of \$5,000* helped with winterization costs.
- *The Washington County Fund of the Maine Community Foundation grant of \$6,000* funded the installation of internet and phone service (installed in the church in early 2017), fundraising support and the hiring of a consultant who was a tremendous source of information, guidance and grant writing expertise. “Fundraising support” included the designing of a logo, printing of regular and return envelopes, and the publication of an informational trifold to be circulated in the area and included in future fundraising appeals.
- A letter of inquiry has been submitted to the *Charles G. Wright Endowment*.

Looking Ahead

Our consultant recommended applying for The Lamb House to be a registered 501(c)(3) corporation. As such, the Lamb House will be more attractive to endowments and grants. To that end, we have had preliminary meetings with an attorney and an accountant and have submitted a draft of by-laws to the attorney for review.

Thank you to all our supporters for your dedication to this vital project for Washington County.

Martha Resotko, Chair - The Lamb House Planning Committee



The Lamb House Planning Committee

Martha Resotko, Chair
George Crawford
Bradley Curtis
Peter Duston
Abigail Eden

Richard Elias
Malen Hsu
Nancy Ives
Erica Kay-Webster
Foster Mathews

Rev. Darren Morgan
Mark Richmond
Donald Small
Deborah Smith
Rev. Larry Zimmerman

A testimonial from a Lamb House Guest:

My house burned down to the ground on September 27, 2015. Not only did I suffer post-traumatic stress from the horror of watching my beautiful old 1828 house burn, I lost several beloved pets and everything in the house including family heirlooms and several large stained glass art panels that my daughter made in college. I was devastated.

My family, friends, co-workers and the community reached out to me in my time of crisis, but the Lamb House gave me a place to come home to.

The Lamb House was truly a refuge for me during my time of healing and recovery. It felt like home to me during the few months when I worked hard to plan and organize to make my new home a reality.

I thank the beautiful and kind people who bring to the community the Lamb House.

Please support the Lamb House as it is a worthy cause to those in crisis who may need it temporarily in order to move on and get on with their lives.

Sincerely,
Tammy H.



4 River Road - Cherryfield, ME

The Lamb House
PO Box 355
Cherryfield, ME 04622
<http://thelambhouse.org>





Financial Report

Income

Donations	4,162.10
Fund Raisers	2,022.75
Maine Community Foundation Grants	
Belvedere Historic Preservation	15,000.00
Washington County Fund	6,000.00
Maine Conference Grant	5,000.00
Matching Grant	11,039.00
Rent	2,000.00
<hr/>	
Total Income	45,223.85

Expenses

EBS Building Supplies	670.93
Richmond & Thaxter	15,823.50
Cloud 9 Electric	1,550.00
Cole Creek Plumbing and Heating	9,543.53
Emera	870.51
Martha Resotko (vacuum and postage)	205.19
Kelley Oil	340.50
Lawn, Plowing, Cleaning	300.00
Downeast Graphics (logo, brochure)	409.55
Deborah Smith (consulting)	800.00
Town of Cherryfield (taxes)	1,548.30
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Total Expenses	32,062.01

Checking Account Reconciled 1/1/2017 **16,904.53**



Our Donors 2014-2016

American Legion Post 8
Bar Harbor Bank & Trust
Anonymous (1)
Anonymous, in honor of their grandchildren
Jean Beckley
Morna Bell
a grant from the Belvedere Foundation
of the Maine Community Foundation
Beneficent Congregational Church
Rev. Deborah J. Blood
Fran Bodell
Bill Boyer
Linda Brewster
Family of Bill Brundage
Cherryfield Volunteer Fire Department
Peter and Judy Classen
Cloud 9 Electric
Congregational Church in Cumberland
George Crawford
George Cropley
a grant from the Downeast Arts Fund
of the Maine Community Foundation
Peter and Alice Duston
EBS Building Supplies
Murray Eden
Richard Elias and Daniel Griswold
Epping Volunteer Fire District
Richard and Joyce Fickett
First Congregational Church UCC
Cape Elizabeth
First Congregational Church UCC
Cherryfield
First Congregational Church UCC ,
South Portland
Carl Ganiel
Stephanie Garcia
Habitat for Humanity - Ellsworth
Theresa Hamel
Loren and Mary Harmon
Violet and Norris Harrington
T. Heavrin
Hope Community Church
Malen Hsu
Nancy and Bruce Ives
Barbara Jason
Erica Kay-Webster
Kelley Oil
Barbara Kneeland
Bernice Look
Mike Loughlin
Foster and Leta Mathews
Clyde and Laura Merrill
Milbridge Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary
Rev. Darren L. Morgan
Dana Morris
Warren and Velma Orcutt
John Petrisin
Esther Poce
J. Pollack
Carl Presley
Martha Resotko
Mark Richmond and Gena Norgaard
Richmond & Thaxter
Mordina and Stewart Roberts
Gene Sawyer
Second Congregational Church of Newton, MA
Alberta and George Sinclair
Don and Marg Small
Sunrise Association
Morton Thaxter, Jr.
Lisa Tootil
Adriann M. Tucker
in memory of Charlotte and Clayton Tucker
a grant from UCC Resourcing the Small Church
VFW Post 11553
a grant from the Washington County Fund
of the Maine Community Foundation
Phil White
Rev. Neil and Donna Wilson
Rev. Larry and Alice Zimmerman



The Scouts extend their thanks to the
Cherryfield Congregational Church for
over 35 years of support.

CUB SCOUT PACK 139 - 21 boys, ages 6-10

Committee: Sara Ippolito (Chair); Wendell Caler; Daniel Dorr; Lori and Reed Hamilton;
Mike Leighton; Foster Mathews; Judy Rolfe; and Blake Smith

Cubmaster: Peter Duston (Acting) Assistant Cubmaster: Daniel Dorr



Dens

- Cherryfield Den # 1 Tigers (grade 1) – Den Leaders Cindy Gay and Kathy Fitzpatrick
- Harrington Den # 2 Wolf and Bears – Den Leaders Bethany Dorr and Sunshine Strout
- Milbridge Den # 3 – needs a leader
- Cherryfield Den # 4 Webelos (grades 4-5) – Den Leader Wendell Caler
- Addison Den # 5 – Den Leader Krista R. Chandler

Meetings

- Dens meet once a week with Den Leaders to work on the themed projects for the month.
- Dens meet as a Pack on the last Monday of each month. Families and the public are invited to the meetings held at 6:00 pm at the Cherryfield Congregational Church.

Annual Events



- Pinewood Derby with miniature race cars;
- Cake Auction with fabulous cakes made by the boys and their dads, uncles and/or granddads;
- Blue and Gold Banquet

Community Service

Cub Scouts demonstrate the meaning of the Scout Promise and Law through projects including:

- Collecting food and raising cash for the food pantry;
- Visiting our elderly at the nursing home;
- Placing flags and wreaths on veterans' graves;
- Marching in the Memorial Day parade;
- Participating in flag disposal with the VFW;
- Leading their schools in the morning Pledge of Allegiance; and
- Sending tiny folded flags expressing thanks to a US Navy ship in harm's way (in 2016 in the Gulf of Hormuz)



Fundraising

- Popcorn sales and on-going bottle drives organized by Reed Hamilton

Camping

- Katahdin Area Council's Camp Roosevelt in East Eddington offers a three-day camp and an overnight camp.
- Washington County Cub 3-day day camp is in East Machias (2017 dates are July 20-22).
- The Tucker Cherryfield Children's Fund provides some scholarship assistance.

Special Events

- Monthly activities include skiing, tubing, ice fishing and Bangor Scout Show
- Older cub scouts have participated in council-wide Camporees.

Honors

- Cub Scout Pack 139 has earned the *National Quality Unit Award* for several years in a row.

The Quality Unit program recognizes units that have met specific requirements. Of the ten categories for the unit award, six qualify for this award. Required categories: training; two-deep leadership; outdoor activities; and on-time charter renewal. Other categories: pack meetings; Tiger Cubs; service project; advancement; *Boy's Life* subscriptions; and membership.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 139 - 7 boys, ages 11-18

Girls ages 14-18 may join if they are members of Venture Crew 139

Committee: Phil White (Chair); Mary Endre; Foster Mathews; Clyde Merrill; Erika Yates

Scoutmaster: Peter Duston Assistant Scoutmaster: Ron Smith

Senior Patrol Leader: Tommy Ray-Smith



Meetings Sundays at 6:30 at the Cherryfield Congregational Church

Activities

- Community Service;
- Emergency Preparedness;
- Hiking, camping, ski trips, bowling, ice fishing;
- Camporees;
- Annual Klondike Derby at Maine Maritime Academy

Advancements

- 3 scouts attended Katahdin Area Council's Camp Roosevelt in East Eddington and advanced one rank, earning many merit badges;
- Savage Bloomer and Stowe Duston joined Jacob Endre as fellow Eagle Scouts in early summer. Stowe and Jacob attend college. Savage is training in the Air National Guard as an Airman 1st Class - a promotion thanks to his Eagle advancement.

VENTURE CREW 139 - co-ed, ages 14-20

Advisor: Erika Yates (deployed with Army)

Assistant Advisor: Peter Duston

Meets as needed

Currently only 1 male and 1 female are registered.



Annual Events

- spring climbing/sliding/skiing backpack trip to Tuckerman Ravine, NH
- 50-mile backpack hike in the late summer

Community Service

- provides Color Guards for the Wreaths Across America and Memorial Day Programs

THE SCOUT OATH

On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
and to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake, and morally straight.

THE SCOUT LAW

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal,
helpful, friendly, courteous,
kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty,
brave, clean, and reverent.