

Stowe Community Church Annual Report 2011



Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 22, 2012

~10:30AM (following the 9:30 service)

Table of Contents

1. Annual Meeting Agenda.....Page 2
2. President’s Introduction.....Page 3
3. Minister’s Report.....Page 4
4. Treasurer’s Report.....Page 6
5. 2012 Budget.....Pages 7-11
6. Stewardship Report.....Page 12
7. Deacons’ Report.....Page 13
8. Trustees’ Report.....Page 14
9. Building Committee Report.....Page 15
10. Missions Committee Report.....Page 16
11. Women’s Fellowship Report.....Page 18
12. Music Committee Report.....Page 19
13. Christian Education.....Page 20

Annual Meeting Agenda

January 22, 2012

- Call to Order – Greg Morrill
- Opening Prayer – Bruce Comiskey
- Agenda Review – Greg Morrill
- Treasurer’s Report
- 2012 Budget
- Committee Reports
- Old Business
- New Business
 - Nominating Committee
 - Elections

Position	Name	Joins(through year)
President	Patrick Lacey	
Vice President	Lana Burkhardt	
Clerk	Tim Horton	
Treasurer	John Rains	
Head Usher	Dian Williams	
Trustee (3 year term)	Tex Bruns	Michael Alekson (2012) Scott Hamilton (2013)
Deacon (4 year term)	Virginia Kerrigan	Nancy Myers (2012) Gayle Rapp (2013) Bob Marshall (2014)
Nominating Committee	Greg Morrill Dian Williams Ben Brayton Ken Rapp Lynne von Trapp	

President's Introduction

Some of the 2011 highlights for the Stowe Community Church include:

- The move to one 9:30 service on Sundays. The goal was to increase the fellowship opportunities by merging our two services into one. The Board of Directors continues to monitor this change and welcomes any input you may have.
- Name tags. Thanks to Dian Williams all regular attendees now have a name tag to wear for Sunday services.
- Facilities maintenance. The Trustees have overseen many projects for improving the energy efficiency of the Church building. The furnace boiler has been repaired. The steeple and its shutters were repaired and painted. The front porch was also repaired and painted.
- Increased member involvement. Lay readers, ushers, and coffee hours have all provided more chances to get involved. Also the creation of the Changing the Conversation group has increased involvement for new and old members alike.

Financially the Church completed a tight year. We took on a challenge for 2011 to do some of the maintenance projects that needed to be done and ask for additional pledges to cover that work. The results left us with a shortfall during 2011. Thanks to John Rains' work, costs were cut and we were still able to do most of the projects. This did result in deferring any work on the proposed addition until at least 2012.

I have always believed that the key to a healthy, functioning Church is member involvement. The more you invest in your worship experience, the more you get back. I want to recognize two members who answered the call and made a difference.

- Dian Williams: Dian first took on the name tag project and single-handedly made it work. Then she volunteered to take on the Head Usher position – a position that we had been unable to fill for several years. She has recruited and signed-up ushers bringing organization to a vital ingredient in our worship services.
- Chuck Dudley: Chuck first stepped forward to keep the Church website up-to-date, then he took-on the weekly input to the Stowe Reporter, and when I needed a volunteer to update the Church history, Chuck said “yes!” Of course Chuck is also very involved in Changing the Conversation.

As I finish my term as President, I thank all of the Board members for their support. They have been diligent in their responsibilities and make the job of President much easier.

In looking to the future, the Stowe Community Church will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2013. This provides both a checkpoint and an opportunity. 150 years ago a group of people made a commitment to be involved and we still reap the benefits of that commitment today. 150 years from now will someone be able to say the same about us?

Minister's Report

Once again, I write a humble report to a very loving and supportive congregation. This is my 25th report to you as minister, pastor, and teacher. I have greatly appreciated serving a church that is a loving community of faith. Thanks to everyone for your gracious support in this year of renewal and restoration. As I ponder this past year and look forward to 2012, I feel the amazing power of the Holy Spirit moving our congregation forward. There is indeed a sweet spirit within our hearts when we sing weekly, "Here I am Lord". And I truly want to thank both the Choir and Sunday school for adapting their programs to the new hour. I also want to thank the faithful 8:30 and 10:30 worshippers for nearly seamlessly changing your Sunday routine. The Sunday school Christmas pageant brought together generations of renewed disciples on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The worship celebration offered promise and joy, reminding us that "a little child shall lead them..." It was also a celebration of new leadership sharing with established leadership: Sara, Virginia, Trecia, and Caroline and others keeping the tradition strong as John and Chris could sit back and see the seeds they have sown, come to fruition.

I also feel encouraged by the energy of our Bible Studies and Changing the Conversation study group. I pray that our congregation can move forward with more study opportunities and continue to discover who we are as a vibrant body of Christ. And so a special thanks to Dale, Kandy, and Lynne for their guidance and vision in these endeavors. Thanks to Merton for being our wise elder...to Lana, Chris, Nan, Chuck, Dian, Rosmary, Barbara, and John for the infusion of new ideas and dreams...especially to Tim for patiently guiding us to complete a powerful course of study and to begin the important process of further discernment.

I continue to serve you by meeting with the Deacons and Board of Directors on a regular basis. I have also found regular meetings with Greg Morrill and John Rains to be very productive. Both these men have given so generously in their time as officers of this church. I am very fortunate to have a very capable and hard working Office Manager, Marylou Durett. She assists me greatly in the day to day tasks of ministry. Her pleasant manner and patience offers a loving face to our congregation. She is well received by couples who are planning weddings, persons who have lost loved ones and are planning a memorial service, and young parents who seek baptisms for their children. She has a fine and respectful rapport with leaders of Women's Fellowship, Christian Education, and Board members.

I also enjoy teaching Confirmation class and am very excited about the interest of seven members, ranging in age from 7th grade to 8th grade. In May, these young people will join the life of our church by becoming members. They work hard in the classes that I teach and follow through with guidance from their selected mentors.

I continue to serve my denomination, the United Church of Christ, in the Vermont Conference as the chair of the Church and Ministry Committee of the Northeast Association. I also serve as the chair of the Convocation Committee. Both of these responsibilities are important and require travel and time. It is important for me to serve the wider church and keep my standing in the UCC vital and active. Thanks to this church for your support in this regard.

It is equally important I keep active in the community and greater Lamoille Valley area. I have now served on Community Health Services of Lamoille Valley Board of Directors for eight years. Since CHSLV now is a FQHC service, we are able to serve Lamoille County more productively. It has been a very rewarding experience to see these collective practices grow and thrive. Currently, I serve as the Human Resource's chair.

I continue to support the chaplaincy of the Rev. Alden Launer at Copley Hospital. I often cover for Alden for emergencies when he is away. In turn, Alden covers for me when I am away. I also can rely on Dr. Neal Fisher to sometimes cover for me both pastorally and in pulpit supply. I believe both Alden and Neal understand this congregation and offer meaningful and appropriate pastoral leadership.

For the record: Weddings, 26. Baptisms, 10. Memorial Services, 10.

Thank you for being a loving body of Christ and faithful servants of His kingdom.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce S. Comiskey

Treasurer's Report

The year 2011 was a “normal” year for us after two years of discussion and planning about whether to add to the back of the church. While there were many good reasons to go forward there was also much concern about timing and cost. In the end the decision was made to not go forward.. The focus on building meant that we did not focus on repair as we would have done in normal times and the capital expenditures this past year of less than \$20,000 reflect that. With an old church and an old parsonage we have to stay ahead of things and that means that your Trustees will be looking at what needs to be done to both structures and how to prioritize and pay for those projects. We have not budgeted for any large projects for 2012 since any expenditure should be well thought out before we begin the work. You will know well in advance of any large outlays thought necessary to keep the church and the parsonage running smoothly and attractive.

Our focus financially for 2011 was cost control and that is reflected in the almost \$10,000 reduction in spending over 2010. We saved money by renegotiating our internet package, phone package, copying cost, and other minor tweaks. Your Trustees put significant effort into energy cost control. Their efforts have resulted in a more comfortable church being run at less cost. At \$3.57/gal for oil we want to use the least of it we can and still stay warm. We are continuing to look for places to save money. At the same time we want to support the many programs and missions of this wonderful church. We actively seek your input if you have any great ideas.

For the year 2012 we want to paint the parsonage and the back of the church. We have budgeted \$7,000 for the parsonage and \$5,000 for the church. We will get bids and review those estimates when we get into the painting season. Women's Fellowship is making an additional \$5,000 contribution for a project yet to be determined. There is a suggestion that we put a roof over the back door and we will explore the viability of that idea. We'll see.

I will be at the Annual Meeting and will have copies of the 2012 budget available for your perusal and hopefully your approval. Your Board has already approved it. Take a look at it and feel free to ask me any questions. If you'd like to discuss it at another time I will try to make myself available.

It is a pleasure to be your Treasurer and I look forward to an exciting year.

Yours in Christ,
John Rains, Treasurer

Stowe Community Church Annual Report 2011

STOWE COMMUNITY CHURCH, INC. - APPROVED OPERATING BUDGET 2012								
PAGE 1	APPROVED		APPROVED		APPROVED		Proposed	Average
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	Actual
	2009	2009	2010	2010	2011	2011	2012	2003-2011
INCOME								
Church Revenues:Building Fund Income				3,150		1,060		
Church Revenues:Pledges & Tithes	149,000	142,898	142,000	146,046	167,825	160,164	160,676	135,700
Church Revenues:Plate Offerings	19,000	9,916	12,500	10,887	12,000	12,033	10,000	15,668
Church Revenues:Wedding Fees	16,000	10,925	15,000	8,045	9,000	8,425	9,000	12,599
Church Revenues: Other Gifts	19,000	3,847	10,200	4,404	5,000	5,133	10,000	25,421
Church Revenues:Concert Fees/Hall Rentals	1,600	1,299	1,500	1,573	1,600	1,155	1,600	1,518
Church Revenues:Antenna Fees	22,400	21,200	24,480	24,590	24,800	24,889	25,600	13,471
Church Revenues:Rent - Parsonage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,228
Church Revenues - Total Budgeted	227,000	190,084	205,680	198,695	220,225	212,859	216,876	215,664
Investments:Dividends	1,496	3,017	2,000	2,172	1,750	1,981	1,500	3,085
Investments:Money Market Interest	30	7	10	4	10	1	10	39
Investments: Gain or Loss	-	20,519		8,996		(2,560)		1,938
Investments:Carroll Pike Mem. Fund - UCC*	40	106	100	106	100	90	100	82
Investments:FLB - CD Interest								880
Investments - Total	1,566	23,649	2,110	11,277	1,860	(488)	1,610	5,632
TOTAL INCOME	228,566	213,733	207,790	209,972	222,085	212,371	218,486	221,296

Stowe Community Church Annual Report 2011

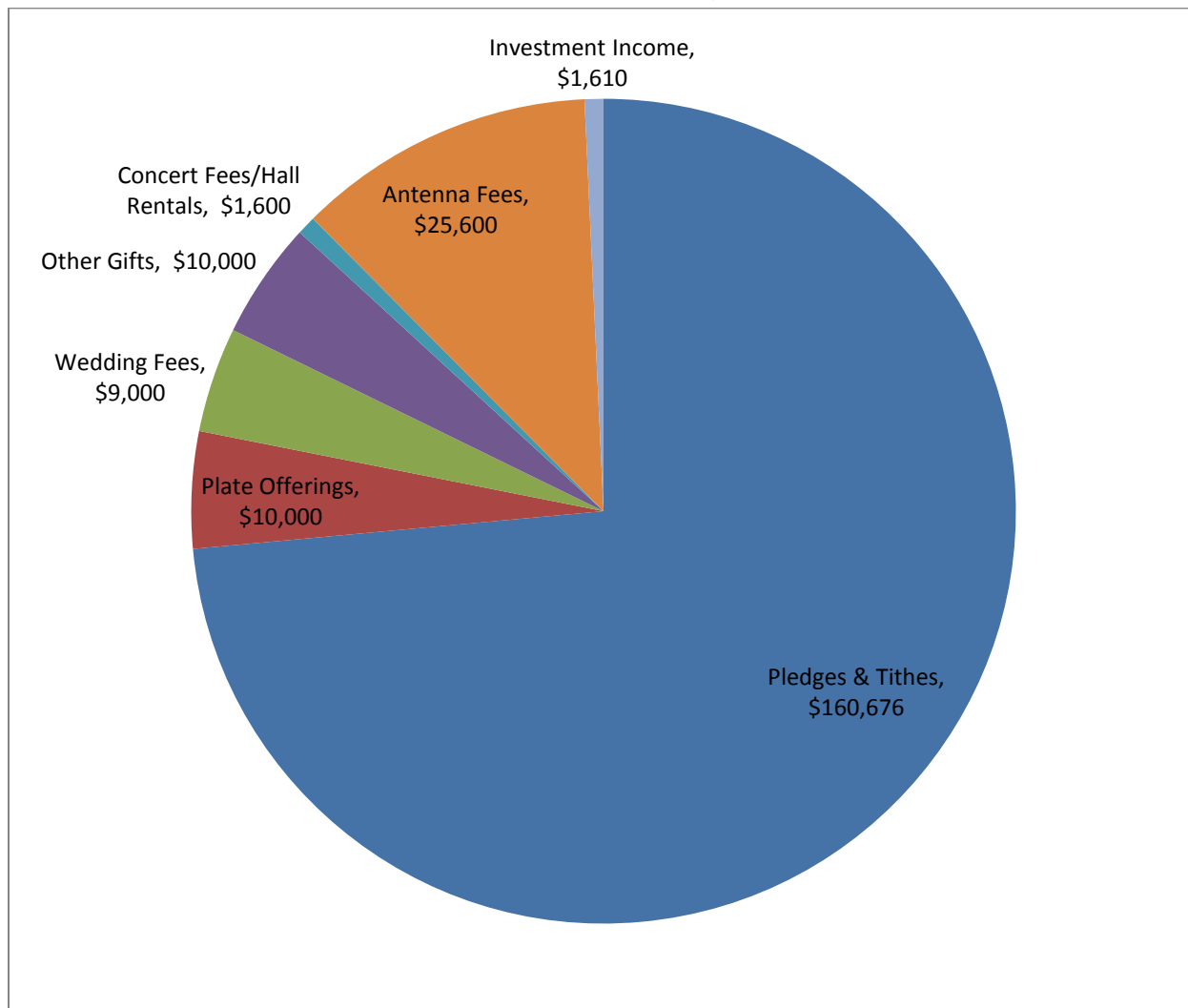
STOWE COMMUNITY CHURCH, INC. - APPROVED OPERATING BUDGET 2012								
PAGE 1	APPROVED		APPROVED		APPROVED		Proposed	Average
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	Actual
	2009	2009	2010	2010	2011	2011	2012	2003-2011
EXPENSE								
Church Maintenance/Cleaning	4,500	5,945	4,500	2,436	2,000	2,323	2,000	2,749
Equipment Maintenance	2,000	3,766	2,000	1,850	2,000	2,497	2,000	2,004
Piano - Organ Maintenance	1,400	2,648	1,400	2,495	2,500	2,182	2,400	1,826
Capital Expenditures - See Sheet 2	15,000	24,639	5,000	28,079	23,000	19,963	17,000	30,434
Church Supplies	2,400	2,421	2,400	1,161	1,500	2,216	2,200	1,903
Flowers	2,000	1,463	1,650	1,416	1,300	1,367	1,300	1,374
Office Supplies & Expenses	2,300	2,047	2,300	1,282	1,300	1,389	1,300	2,009
Music Expenses/Education/Robes	1,200	2,331	1,200	643	1,000	953	800	969
Weddings	500	200	350	332	350	-	250	370
Postage and Delivery	2,200	2,328	2,200	2,262	2,200	1,861	1,600	1,966
Equipment Rental - Copier	3,000	2,835	3,000	4,980	3,350	3,390	3,350	3,099
Office - Accounting/Software	5,500	6,796	3,130	4,473	5,500	6,365	2,375	3,869
Missions, World & Local	13,000	13,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	11,300
Community Emergency Fund (est. 2012)							3,000	
Christian Education(Curriculum)	4,300	2,868	3,500	2,794	3,000	2,300	2,500	3,605
Evangelism/Outreach								200
Church - Utilities:Electricity	4,000	3,477	3,523	3,899	3,900	4,175	3,900	3,753
Church - Utilities:Oil	12,000	10,904	9,520	8,745	9,175	8,902	9,175	7,712
Church - Utilities:Propane	200	284	300	306	200	182	200	261
Church - Utilities:Telephone/Alarms/Internet	2,500	1,829	2,200	2,870	1,800	1,723	1,800	2,368
Church - Utilities:Trash								
Church - Utilities:Water - Sewer	1,700	1,457	1,500	1,442	1,500	1,642	1,500	1,276
Honoraria:Guest Organist	400	100	250	-	100	100	100	322
Honoraria:Guest Minister & Interim Minister	700	200	500	300	300	250	300	411
Insurance:Church & Parsonage	5,422	5,422	6,050	5,964	6,127	6,127	6,127	5,438
Insurance:Workmans Comp	1,594	1,432	1,594	344	903	1,260	933	1,059
Minister - Benefits:Annuity	6,443	6,443	6,443	6,443	6,443	6,443	6,443	5,309
Minister - Benefits:Automobile	3,914	3,914	3,914	3,914	3,914	3,975	3,743	4,151
Minister - Benefits:Education	1,347	1,015	1,347	1,142	1,347	1,144	1,144	947
Minister - Benefits:Health Insurance	6,894	6,894	7,308	7,308	8,106	7,470	8,399	10,009
Minister - Benefits:Housing Allowance	-	1,094	1,193	-	-	-	-	9,918
Minister - Benefits:Travel/Robes	2,400	2,485	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,438
Parsonage:Maintenance	3,500	845	1,000	314	2,500	428	2,500	1,113
Parsonage:Oil/Propane	1,800	3,910	1,666	3,809	3,250	2,788	3,250	1,384
Parsonage:Property Taxes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,062
Parsonage:Rental Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	327
Parsonage:Utilities(Water, sewer, electric)	1,440	1,319	1,440	1,441	1,440	1,495	1,440	804
Salaries:Secretary	35,900	35,900	35,900	35,900	35,900	35,900	37,192	32,130
Salaries:Minister	40,700	40,700	40,700	40,700	40,700	40,700	42,165	37,771
Salaries: Dir. Of Music/Organist	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	14,333
Salaries:Custodian	9,500	11,150	10,000	7,460	7,500	7,290	7,900	7,008
Salaries: Nursery Provider	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,500	2,400	2,500	2,400	2,062
Salaries:FICA - Employer contrib/unemp etc	9,012	8,415	9,012	9,217	8,180	6,871	8,400	7,850
Capital Projects-Building campaign	500					975		
	148,866	148,638	148,117	144,155	146,510	143,115	149,836	147,901
TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSE	148,866	148,638	148,117	144,155	146,510	143,115	149,836	148,012
INCOME	228,566	213,733	207,790	209,972	222,085	212,371	218,486	222,411
EXPENSE	228,566	239,873	207,790	225,619	222,085	216,546	218,486	232,105
DIFFERENCE	0	(26,139.99)	(0)	(15,648)	0	(4,175)	(0)	(9,694)
Manager's Choice withdrawal				26,419		14,990		
Prepared by John C. Rains - 1/10/2012								
Approved by BOD - 1/11/2012								
Approved by Congregation -								

Stowe Community Church Annual Report 2011

STOWE COMMUNITY CHURCH - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET - 2011									
PAGE 3									
	APPROVED		APPROVED		APPROVED		APPROVED		Proposed
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	Budget	ACTUAL	BUDGET
	2008	2008	2009	2009	2010	2010	2011	2011	2012
INCOME									
Church Revenues: Building Fund est. 2010						3,035		975	
Church Revenues: Gifts & Designated Gifts									
Church Revenues: from Operating Budget	4,000	23,824	9,000	18,639	5,000	25,044	23,000	19,963	12,000
Church Revenues - Women's Fellowship	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000					5,000
Total Budgeted Capital Income	10,000	29,824	15,000	24,639	5,000	28,079	23,000	20,938	17,000
EXPENSE									
Upgrade fire alarms and emergency lighting				650					
Painting & repair church exterior				8,009	5,000		15,000	19,963	5,000
Painting exterior of Parsonage							8,000		7,000
Parsonage - Misc (New windows/porch)		6,930	11,500	76					
Furnace components			3,500						
Interior and Exterior Improvement Projects				9,794					
Long Range Facilities Planning	4,000	22,113		6,110		28,079		975	
Narthex Improvement	6,000	-							
Women's Fellowship project 2012									5,000
Total Budgeted Capital Expenses	10,000	29,824	15,000	24,639	5,000	28,079	23,000	20,938	17,000
Prepared by John C. Rains - 1/10/2012									
Approved by BOD - 1/11/2012									
Approved by Congregation -									

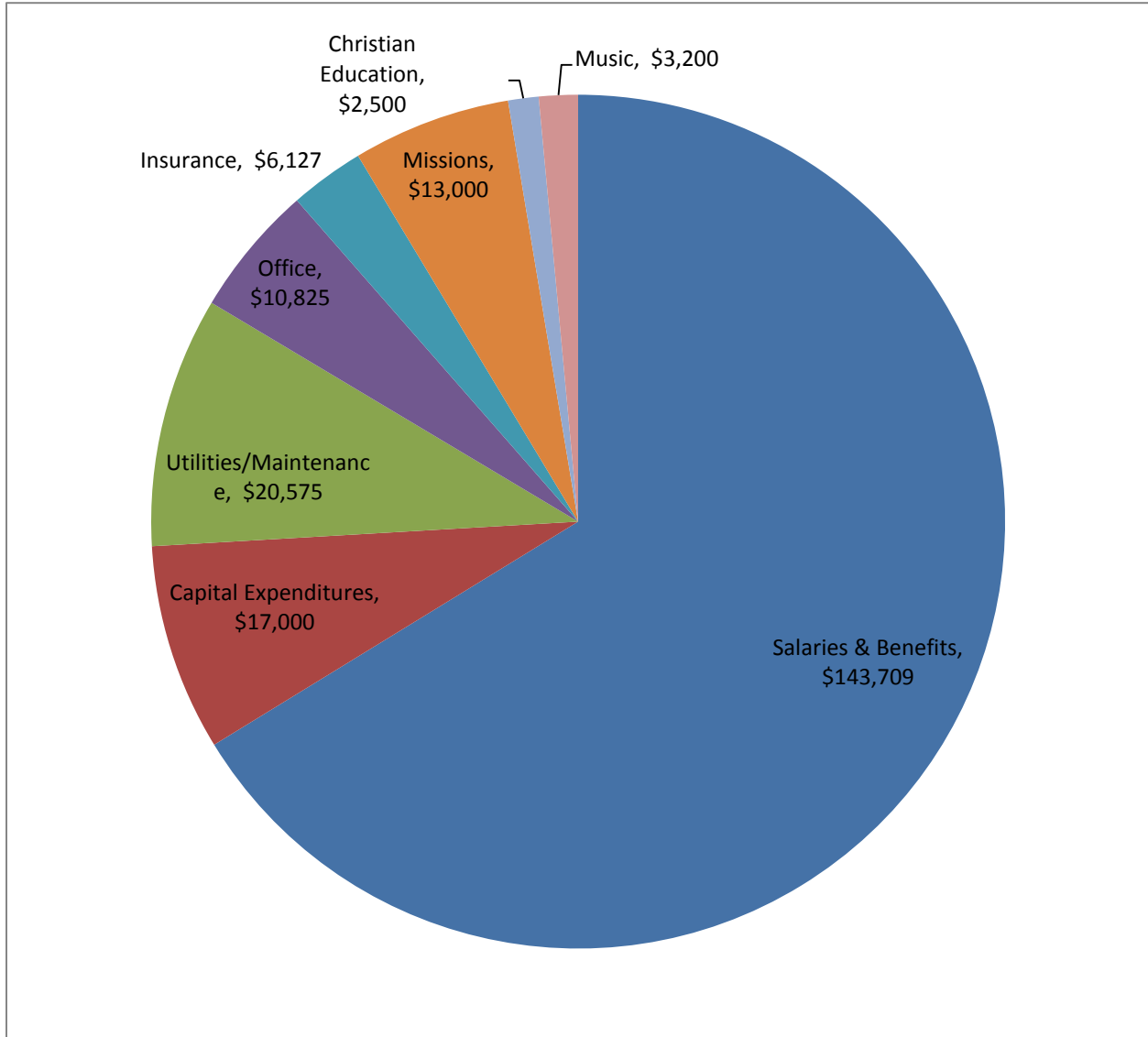
SCC 2012 Budget

Total Income \$218,486



SCC 2012 Budget

Total Expense \$218,486



Stewardship/Discipleship

In 2011 a Stewardship Committee was formed consisting of Greg Morrill, John Rains, Ken Rapp, John Beecy, and Deb Wucik.

The first action undertaken by the committee was to change its name to the Discipleship Committee. The feeling was that Stewardship tends to connote just a financial commitment while what we were looking for was a more comprehensive commitment of support for the Stowe Community Church.

Christian Discipleship means that you support the ministries of the Stowe Community Church

- with your Prayers
- with your Presence
- with your Gifts
- and with your Service

The committee scheduled monthly “moments” in the Sunday services to keep Discipleship as a year-round goal and not just associated with the annual financial campaign.

The annual financial campaign was held in November culminating in Discipleship Sunday held on November 20th. Included with the campaign was a Discipleship checklist highlighting ways to support the Stowe Community Church.

The 2012 financial campaign resulted in 113 pledges totaling \$147,774 as of January 11th, 2012. The dollar amount reflects a 22% increase over the 2011 pledging total. Thank you to all who so generously supported the 2012 financial campaign!

In 2012 the Discipleship committee will be following up on the Discipleship checklist results to assure greater involvement in all aspects of the Stowe Community Church.

Submitted by Greg Morrill

Deacon's Report

I am proud to have served as a Deacon this year along with Nancy Myers, Bob Marshall, and Gayle Rapp.

We have held meetings with Bruce Comiskey throughout the year, helped set up and serve communion each month, participated in the Seder Supper and Maundy Thursday Service, assisted with baptisms, ushering, and hosted coffee hours.

Bob Marshall and Gayle Rapp were elected in January 2011 to serve for four years. Virginia Kerrigan's term has been extended for one more year and will expire January 2013.

Thank you to the members of Stowe Community Church for your constant support and care.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Kerrigan

1-22-12

Trustees Report

The following maintenance and upkeep projects have been completed in 2011:

- **Steeple Renovation:** Scraped, caulked, sealed, primed and repainted steeple, steeple base platform and shutters
- **Front Entry Porch:** Repainted porch and replaced all-weather carpeting
- **Kitchen Back Entry:** Replaced rotting stairs and railing with new pressure-treated wood
- **Main Back Door:** Realigned door and door frame. Installed insulation around door frame to create proper seal and eliminate draft
- **Main Front Double Doors:** Installed new weather stripping to eliminate draft
- **Heating System:**
 - Addressed vacuum loss issue by replacing oil lines from tank to boilers
 - Conducted complete tune up and evaluation of system to ensure proper and efficient operation
 - Despite this work, the system continues have reliability issues. The system and it's operation will be monitored throughout the heating season to determine if further action and investment is needed to ensure continuous reliable performance

Michael Alekson, Scott Hamilton Trustees

*BUILDING COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT
2011*

Your building committee has had developed architectural plans for an addition to our church that we feel addresses the current and foreseeable future needs of safety and convenience for our congregation. Fire safety and handicapped safety and accessibility are the highest priorities of this committee and have been addressed with a plan that includes a sprinkler system, handicap-accessible bathrooms and a lift/elevator.

We have taken into account the suggestions that arose from the Demont survey done last year, such as getting the congregation involved and ownership encouraged for this project as well as the vitality of the church.

We have also established a checking account to keep track of our income and expenses. This account has had some donations deposited, enabling us to keep up with most of our expenses. Donations to this account are always welcome.

The Board, and church members at a meeting on October 2, 2011, unanimously felt we should hold off on carrying this project further at this point, especially in light of the current economy. Therefore, we are in a holding pattern until it is decided to seek funds and bids to get this important project started again.

Respectfully submitted

Ralph Wiltshire - Chair

*Bruce Comiskey, Marcia Johannesen, Jim Peterman,
Ed Pearson, Guy Cote and Judy Grosvenor - Secretary*

Mission Committee Report 2010

“Serving Him by Helping Others”

We were very grateful for the support of the church regarding World Missions. In addition a “Children Helping Children” concert raised over \$1200 which was divided and sent to Lamoille Family Center and Kenyan Orphans. The highlight was our visit from Pastor Ouma of Kenya. He shared with us his mission to help the AIDS orphans and widows to have shelter, clothing, food and most of all an education. This appeal and the various donations over the year helped us to send over \$6000 to Kenya. Locally we sent \$1000 to help our neighbors in Waterbury after the flooding from Irene.

Missions 2011

Local	Paid	Date	Budget
Lamoille Home Health & Hospice	\$1000	3/14/11	1000
Lamoille Community Food Share	500	12/1/11	1000
(turkey challenge raised \$780 paid 11/21/11 plus 50 paid 12/1/11)			
Clarina Howard Nichols Center	1000	9/28/11	1000
Meals on Wheels	500	6/27/11	500
PINS (100 non budgeted)	600	5/24/11	500
Lamoille Family Center	500	12/1/11	500
(\$640 raised by concert pd 5/10/11)			
State			
Lund Family Center	500	3/14/11	500
COTS	500	12/1/11	500
Hunger Free Vermont	500	6/27/11	500
Salvation Army of VT	500	9/28/11	500
Waterbury Good Neighbor (flood)	500	10/5/11 – part of 3 rd quarter donations	
“	500	12/1/11 – part of 4 th quarter donations	
International			
AIDS Orphans in Kenya	1000	3/14/11	1000
(also \$765 paid 5/10/11 non budgeted and \$3765 paid 10/11/11 and \$470 sent on 12/31/11)			
Church World Service	500	9/28/11	1000
“	500	12/1/11	
Habitat for Humanity – Lamoille	500	6/27/11	500
Heifer Project	500	12/1/11	500

Paid first quarter from budgeted \$2500
Paid second quarter from budgeted \$2000
Paid third quarter from budgeted \$2500
Paid fourth quarter from budgeted \$3000
Total for 2011 \$10,000
Non budgeted money received and paid \$5,790.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Monsen Chairperson, Mission Committee

Mission Committee Members:

Margery Rains
Kandy Neil
Clea James
Tim Horton

Women's Fellowship

The Women's Fellowship met almost monthly during the year 2011. With myself, Marcia Johannesen, as Chair, we have continued meeting, supporting the church, and promoting fellowship.

I, also being Treasurer, have kept up with our income and expenditures. Due to poor response in the past, we did not have a mid-winter supper this year. Our Fall Foliage Chicken Pie Supper in October netted \$2,999.42, and our Christmas Fair in December netted \$3,835.07. Moneys earned from these events (totaling \$6,834.49, which is about \$735. less than we raised in 2010), plus rentals (\$720.), sales of afghans, cookbooks, mugs, puzzles, note paper, mouse pads, and items from the July 4th Village Festival (\$331.) have allowed us to, among other expenditures, pay for trash collection (\$294.50), donate to the Turkey Challenge (\$100.) the PINS summer camp (\$100.), entertain our "Special Seniors", have Fellowship Hall carpet cleaned, purchase a new 100-cup coffee urn, and 100 new mouse pads (as an additional fund-raiser), and fulfill our annual pledge to the church of \$3,000. The balance in our checking account on December 31, 2011, was \$10,038.34. I have a detailed financial report for 2011, if anyone is interested in seeing it.

For this year, 2012, we have pledged our usual \$3,000.00 to the church. In addition, we plan to donate another \$5,000. toward the Capitol Improvements Budget.

This year, we would like to see more women taking a more active interest in, and participation in, the functioning of Women's Fellowship. As always, we welcome any so interested.

Our by-laws state: "The Women's Fellowship is a service organization open to all women of the Church who are interested in promoting Christian fellowship and financial support of the Church and mission needs."

Thank you for your support in the past and, hopefully, your increasing support in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia F. Johannesen,
Chair and Treasurer

Music Committee

Stowe Community Church continued the long-standing tradition of being a favorite venue for many musical events this past year. Rehearsals, concerts and recitals were held throughout the year, with a variety of wonderful styles. Noon Music in May, presented by Stowe Performing Arts was well-attended. 2011 saw the return of Mountain Choraleers and the 20th anniversary of The Messiah Sing-Along.

Our organist and music director, Karen Miller, has led us this year with the adult choir singing at each worship service. The choir successfully made the adjustment to one service at 9:30AM. Our services now include a new musical moment - the chorus of "Here I Am, Lord" as a response to the Gospel lesson. And of course, we especially enjoy the Sunday School children sharing their voices and energy with us.

During the summer we were treated to special offerings by members of our congregation.

The Music Committee meets quarterly to reflect and plan for the upcoming season. Members of the congregation who are interested in becoming more involved with our music ministry are encouraged to talk with Karen Miller after any Sunday service.

Committee Members: Mort Butler, Janet Godin, Karen Miller, Greg Morrill, Carol Peterman

Submitted by Mort Butler

Christian Education

Christian Education – This year the Christian Education department has offered Sunday school and Bible Classes for student's ages 3 years old up. We have 12 teachers helping to teach 4 Multi-age Sunday School classes each week during the Fall/Spring and 3 multi-age classes during the winter. Typically we can have anywhere from 12 students on a snowy Wintry day to 50 students during a rainy fall day. We have continued to use LIVE BIG for our curriculum. Live BIG helps students, see, hear and live their BELIEF IN GOD. The multifaceted lessons help kids grow as children of God and take what they learn from Sunday school into their everyday lives. Monthly during the fall / spring and bi-monthly during the winter the Sunday School Choir sings during the 9:30 worship service. We also present a Christmas pageant in December and have a Sunday school service in May.

Bible Camp – Our 2011 Bible Camp was held the week of 6/20/11-6/24/11. The camp is collaboration between St. John's, Blessed Sacrament and the Stowe Community Church. This camp was attended by 130+ students aged 4 through 7th grade. We had an additional 20-30 teenage helpers. Our camp had a beach theme and focused on how to get to know Jesus and how he would like us to live our lives. Time was set aside each day for a lesson time in which a new story about Jesus was introduced. These lessons were then reinforced during Music, Art and game time. Middle school children participated in our outreach program, helping shut ins with yard work, cleaning up trails, cooking and serving lunch to residents at West Branch, visiting and playing board and card games to the residents at a nursing home in Morrisville, and coordinating and cooking a pasta dinner which the proceeds were donated.

Youth Groups – Our youth groups took a bit of a hiatus this year, while one of the leaders was ill. However, we have helped to found a new student-run Christian organization that meets after school a couple of times a month. This is a student-run organization that is focusing on getting closer to God through fellowship, discussion and prayer.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of the teachers in our Sunday School and Bible Camp. Without their help and faithfulness in God, these programs would not be available.

Faithfully Submitted,
Chris DeRienzo