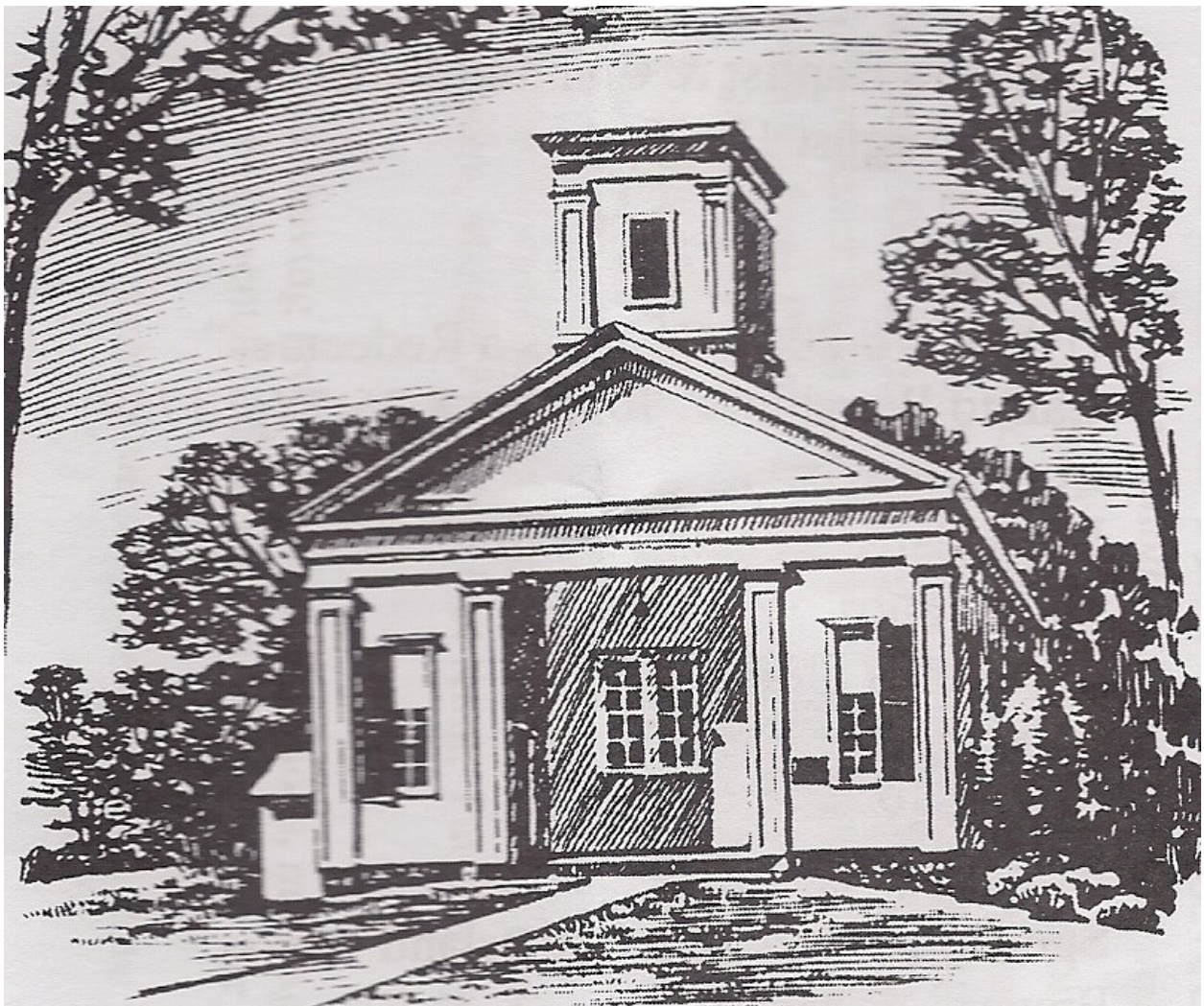


Flanders Baptist
and
Community Church
Annual Report
✝ 2023 ✝



Location

162 Boston Post Rd
East Lyme, CT 06333
No mail to this address

Mailing Address

PO Box 176
East Lyme, CT 06333

Telephone

860.739.7987

Web & Social Media

FlandersBaptist.org
Facebook.com/FlandersBaptist



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Financial Reports

Quarterly Report: 4th Quarter 2023 October 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>4th QTR</u>
Envelope Offering	9,651.50	9,873.19	17,983.95	37,508.64
Loose Offering	1,507.00	901.00	2,173.00	4,581.00
State of CT Refund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest/Bank Charges	1.99	1.76	1.64	5.39
Bank Adjustment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TAS Adjustment	500.00	500.00	500.00	1,500.00
Jane Scott Mission Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transfer from Memorial donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mission Offering	382.00	509.50	371.00	1,262.50
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>12,042.49</u>	<u>11,785.45</u>	<u>21,029.59</u>	<u>44,857.53</u>

DISBURSEMENTS

Rev. Jean-Fritz Guerrier	4,533.33	4,533.33	4,533.33	13,599.99
Housing Allowance	2,300.00	2,300.00	2,300.00	6,900.00
Guest Pastor (includes mileage)	0.00	263.75	263.75	527.50
Retirement	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Health Insurance	922.30	922.30	922.30	2,766.90
FICA Offset	0.00	0.00	4,433.33	4,433.33
Mileage	691.68	461.12	19.65	1,172.45
Moving Expenses	0.00	802.17	0.00	802.17
Choir Director	625.04	625.04	625.04	1,875.12
Organist	866.67	866.67	866.67	2,600.01
Pianist (Accompanist)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Administrative Assistant (formerly Social Director)	1,733.33	1,733.33	1,733.33	5,199.99
Treasurer	643.98	643.98	643.98	1,931.94
FICA Taxes and Payroll Taxes	642.79	642.79	642.79	1,928.37
Workers Comp. Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pastor's Retirement Contribution Adjustment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

OPERATING EXPENSES

Electric (Church)	307.04	240.29	236.28	783.61
Heating Oil (Church)	0.00	892.84	789.14	1,681.98
Water (Church)	0.00	0.00	106.01	106.01
Phone (Church)	66.32	64.35	66.08	196.75
Office Supplies	299.44	0.00	441.37	740.81
Operating Supplies	1,114.20	487.20	321.18	1,922.58
Music	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Insurance (Business Owners Policy)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Insurance (General Liability)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Payroll/Tax Filing Service (ADP)	153.38	153.38	153.38	460.14
Stop Payment	0.00	0.00	30.00	30.00
East Lyme Property Taxes (for Church Lane)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Air Conditioning/Furnace Maintenance	0.00	535.00	0.00	535.00

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>4th QTR</u>
Newsletter	0.00	0.00	66.00	66.00
Youth Group	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Alarm Service/Lawn care/Fire Extinguishers	150.00	150.00	140.91	440.91
Piano Tuning/Capital Improvements	2,041.33	0.00	150.00	2,191.33

<u>TRUSTEES</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>4th QTR</u>
Church	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

<u>MISSIONS</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>4th QTR</u>
American Baptist Churches	0.00	509.50	371.00	880.50
ABCCONN: Youth Ministry/Camp Wightman	375.00	0.00	0.00	375.00
American Red Cross	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Jane Scott Mission - Safe Futures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Jane Scott Mission - Care and Share	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

<u>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</u>	17,465.83	16,827.04	19,855.52	54,148.39
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Balance September 30, 2023	-1,236.55
Total Receipts	44,857.53
	43,620.98
Total Disbursements	54,148.39
Balance December 31, 2023	-10,527.41

<u>Designated Fund Balances as of 12/31/23</u>	
Reverend Discretionary Fund	183.12
Educational Donation Fund	6,389.00
Kitchen Committee	0.00
Jane Scott Fund/Rev. Scott Discretion	3,256.10
Building Fund in Memory	19,525.82
Memorial Donation Funds	29,814.69
Music Donation Fund	3,622.74
Care and Share	3,654.55
Camp Scholarship Fund/Jane Scott Fund	283.00
Marian Hurlin Scholarship	180.72
Robert Burgess Fund	384.87
Paula Horn Fund	25,769.36
Jane Scott Fund (est 12/2022)	16,016.68

<u>Invested Funds as of 12/31/23</u>	
Vanguard (Capital Improvement)	819,859.96
Stock Donations	0.00
Memorial Donation Funds in Vanguard	121,879.30
Total Funds	941,739.26

Submitted by Kristine Smith, Treasurer

2023 Annual Report

INCOME:

Envelope offering	135,682.87	
Loose offering	14,433.12	
		<hr/>
		150,115.99
TAS Adjustment	5,000.00	
Transfer from Memorial donations	0.00	
Rummage Sale Income	0.00	
Mission offering	4,846.22	
Balance Adjustment (1/31/22)	0.06	
Interest/bank charges	26.33	
		<hr/>
		9,872.61
		<hr/>
TOTAL INCOME:		159,988.60

DISBURSEMENTS:

Rev. Jean-Fritz Guerrier	47,633.30	
Housing Clergy	20,700.00	
Flex-Med	0.00	
		<hr/>
		68,333.30
FICA Offset	4,433.33	
Mileage	4,630.85	
Retirement	0.00	
Health Insurance	9,095.80	
Moving Expenses	802.17	
		<hr/>
		87,295.45
Choir Director	7,500.48	
Organist	10,400.04	
Choir Pianist	0.00	
Treasurer	7,727.76	
Social Director/Administrative Asst.	12,420.00	
FICA Taxes (7.65%)	6,554.73	
Workmen's Comp.	632.00	
		<hr/>
		45,235.01

OPERATING EXPENSES

Electric - Church	3,134.71
Phone- Church	715.30
Heating Oil	4,627.80
Furnace Service	535.00
East Lyme Water	214.32
Office supplies	2,142.07
Organ/Piano Maintenance	570.00
Operating supplies	5,164.88
New Sign	75.00
Lawncare	1,000.00
Guest Organist / Pianist	200.00

2023 Annual Report (Continued)

Substitute Choir Director	0.00	
Guest Pastor	3,324.56	
Capital Improvements/Operating Exp	2,472.79	
Air Conditioning Service	0.00	
Fire Extinguisher Service/Fire Alarm	524.91	
Snow Plowing	60.00	
Directory Printing	0.00	
Insurance	5,349.00	
Music	622.53	
Newsletter	286.92	
State of CT	0.00	
Stop Payment and Account Adjustment	30.00	
Payroll Processing/ Tax Service	1,893.36	
		<hr/>
		32,943.15
Youth Program	0.00	
		<hr/>
		0.00
Property Taxes (Church Lane)	203.28	
		<hr/>
		203.28

MISSIONS:

American Baptist Churches	3,493.22	
Camp Wightman	1,346.00	
		<hr/>
		4,839.22

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS:

Balance JAN.1, 2023	0.00
Total Receipts	159,988.60
	159,988.60
Total Disbursements	170,516.11
Balance DEC. 31, 2023	-10,527.51

Submitted by Kristine Smith, Treasurer

2024 Operating Budget

	2020 Actual	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
INCOME								
Envelope Offering & Checks	186,887.14	171,000.00	160,389.21	175,500.00	147,459.92	171,000.00	135,682.87	171,000.00
Loose Offerings (Cash)	2,718.60	3,000.00	8,581.26	10,000.00	11,341.00	25,000.00	14,433.12	25,000.00
Interest	35.49	35.00	89.75	35.00	21.30	30.00	26.33	30.00
TAS Adjustment							5,000.00	0.00
Balance Adjustment							0.06	
Parsonage Proceeds	0.00	0.00	302,500.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00
Missions	4,619.92	5,500.00	3,996.90	5,500.00	6,184.89	5,500.00	4,846.22	5,500.00
Jane Scott Fund	978.83	1,000.00	689.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rummage Sale	509.50	500.00	102.09	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
Miscellaneous**	0.00	0.00	72.28	0.00	16,298.50	0.00	0.00	35,000.00
Balance Brought Forward	5,059.33	39,763.84	39,763.84	33,998.27	33,998.27	0.00	0.00	-10,527.51
	200,808.81	220,798.84	516,184.33	226,533.27	215,303.94	201,530.00	159,988.60	228,002.49
EXPENSES								
Pastor's Salary	58,898.72	70,173.45	69,602.31	68,491.57	69,598.26	68,333.33	47,633.30	62,940.00
Housing Allowance	6,744.00	40,464.00	40,464.00	45,468.00	45,468.00	0.00	20,700.00	20,700.00
FICA Offset	7,556.08	8,327.55	8,327.55	8,577.38	8,577.38	4,433.33	4,433.33	5,854.80
Auto Allowance (Mileage)	588.80	2,500.00	2,030.03	2,500.00	4,217.12	5,000.00	4,630.85	4,000.00
Pastor's Retirement	19,746.65	19,034.00	19,034.28	19,605.43	19,557.66	10,842.67	0.00	21,319.17
Pastor's Health Insurance	13,772.06	14,690.00	14,993.02	16,600.00	9,632.77	26,705.52	9,095.80	9,095.80
Medicare & Medicare Suppl.					739.60			
Moving Expenses						5,000.00	802.17	0.00
Pastoral Enrichment/Books	0.00	250.00	0.00	250.00	0.00	1,250.00	0.00	250.00
Parsonage Utilities	5,805.45	2,000.00	841.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Organist/Choir Director	11,786.70	14,928.32	14,568.36	15,366.00	15,005.28	18,500.00	17,900.52	18,437.49
Choir Accompanist	418.00	1,820.00	450.00	2,000.00	440.00	8,000.00	200.00	8,240.00
Treasurer	5,893.30	7,284.16	7,284.12	7,502.68	7,502.64	7,727.76	7,727.76	7,959.59
Social Director/Admin Asst	3,081.00	3,808.12	3,808.08	3,922.36	3,922.32	4,040.03	12,420.00	21,424.00
Grounds Maint.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	3,000.00	1,060.00	3,000.00
Custodial	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	4,000.00
Youth Programs	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00
Workmen's Compensation	731.00	750.00	636.00	750.00	933.00	800.00	632.00	700.00
FICA Taxes	1,620.28	2,200.00	1,962.96	2,635.00	2,022.00	2,635.00	6,554.73	5,911.94
Guest Pastors (plus mileage)	0.00	450.00	0.00	450.00	0.00	3,700.00	3,324.56	1,040.00
Business Insurance Policy	5,142.00	5,400.00	4,015.00	5,200.00	3,562.00	4,500.00	5,349.00	6,000.00
Operating Expenses	11,191.17	15,000.00	11,967.00	15,000.00	14,649.72	16,000.00	20,410.06	17,000.00
Music	276.64	500.00	331.36	500.00	612.64	600.00	622.53	500.00
*Amer. Baptist Churches	2,991.27	4,000.00	2,763.40	4,000.00	4,113.80	5,000.00	3,493.22	4,500.00
*Other Missions/Camp								
Wightman	1,628.65	1,500.00	1,233.50	1,500.00	2,071.09	500.00	1,346.00	1,000.00
Jane Scott Mission Fund	978.83	1,000.00	689.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

2024 Operating Budget (Continued)

	2020	2021	2021	2022	2022	2023	2023	2024
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Newsletter	311.36	500.00	507.87	550.00	274.99	550.00	286.92	400.00
Payroll Processing/Tax Service	1,383.01	1,600.00	1,707.07	1,800.00	1,803.67	1,800.00	1,893.36	2,000.00
Account Adjustment***	0.00	0.00	274,469.79	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
	161,044.97	220,679.60	482,186.06	226,168.42	215,303.94	201,517.64	170,516.11	226,272.79

*Paid from Missions income.

**Transferred from Memorial Account and/or Vanguard, as needed

Submitted by Kristine Smith, Treasurer

Nominating Committee Report

Pastor Jean-Fritz Guerrier
Moderator Lind Bayreuther
Church Clerk Dorothy Hulme; Asst. Clerk Pat Bayreuther
Treasurer **To be determined**; Asst. Treasurer Beth Richmond

Board of Trustees Matt & Kim Thompson 1/2023-1/31/2026 (head)
Lew Bull 1/2022-1/31/2025
John Hallissey 1/2022-1/31/2025
Burt Hobby 1/2023-1/31/2026
Carol Martin 1/2023-1/31/2026

Deacons *John Eberle 1/31/2025 (head)
*Robin Soule 1/31/2025
To be determined
*Walter Signora 1/31/2027
Ted Richmond 1/31/2026
Jan Richmond 1/31/2026
*Ann Viens 1/31/2027
Elizabeth Korineck 1/31/2026
Pam Gore 1/31/2025
*Kirby Hallissey 1/31/2027
*Brian Burridge 1/31/2027
*Carol Ann Cray-Grund 1/31/2027
*Marilyn Beckwith 1/31/2027
*Guy Jean-Pierre 1/31/2027
*Kedna Jean-Pierre 1/31/2027
Dave Watson 1/31/2026

Board of Finance **To be determined**
Jeanne Bull 1/2023-1/31/2026
*Bob Craft 1/2024-1/31/2027
*Jim Gerber 1/2024-1/31/2027

Board of Christian Education Ashley Perkins (1/2022-1/31/2025)
Dan Wheeler 1/2023-1/31/2026
Spiro Kavarnos 1/2023-1/31/2026

Pastoral Relations Lois Hobby, Lind Bayreuther
Music Committee Jim Gerber, Bob Craft
Sunshine Treasurer Kirby Hallissey
Sunday School Superintendents Jeanne Bull, Ashley Perkins
Nominating Committee Lind & Pat Bayreuther, Pam Gore

* Indicates either a new member, or a candidate serving a new term

Submitted by Lind Bayreuther, Moderator

Annual Report

As we all know, 2023 was a year of transition for our church. Rev. Alan Scott retired at the end of 2022 after more than three decades of pastoral ministry at Flanders Baptist and Community Church. The Search Committee, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, called me as the new minister. While I began to lead worship at the end of January 2023, I officially began my pastoral tenure at the beginning of March 2023 after a congregational vote. Aside from a pastoral transition, we also, as a community, decided to remove a number of restrictions put in place due to the COVID pandemic, the biggest public health crisis in nearly a century.

2023 was a year of multiple blessings for our congregation. One of the most important biblical verses about the word of God is found in Psalm 119 v. 105: “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.” Therefore, when we spread the news of the coming, death, resurrection, and second coming of Jesus, we bring the light of God to the world, and make it a better place. There is so much darkness around us that as Christians we must be increasingly intentional about bringing the light of truth and salvation to the world.

During the 12 months of year 2023, our entire congregation has worked tirelessly to stay true to its divine calling. As an example, we were able to organize a number of events that we have not been able to hold for a while because of the pandemic. For instance, we had a successful church picnic during the fall. We had such a great turnout that some of our fellow church members expressed their strong feelings of excitement about it. We also organized a successful sale during the Christmas season. Once again, several congregants told me that they were elated to be able to organize a holiday sale to raise money for the church after a hiatus due to the pandemic. The main organizers of those events will surely give more details about them in their annual reports.

In March, I let the congregation know that we planned to accept new members during our Maundy Thursday service. It is nearly impossible for me to describe my joy when seven people expressed the desire to become members of our church community (Flora Kyle, Charon Mangino, Julie and Joe Migliaccio, Luca Signora, Don Shogren, and Penny Smyth). Because of today’s rough religious landscape, very few pastors in this part of the country can “boast” that their church membership increased by seven in one day. In fact, six of the brothers and sisters mentioned above officially became members during that service. One of them, Flora Kyle, was unable to join us that day because she was dealing with health-related issues. Unfortunately, she went back to her Lord a few months later. We thank God for her legacy, and will continue to pray for her family. Furthermore, our attendance numbers have been strong throughout the year. During that time, we had quite a solid number of first-time guests. I am happy to report that four of them have decided to become regular attendees. My hope is they will become new members soon. I am also happy to report that I have tried to be intentional about engaging our community. For example, I began to organize a monthly service for residents at Bride Brook Health & Rehabilitation Center in 2023.

During my first year as the pastor of this congregation, I believe I did what I promised you do from the beginning: to become a student of the history of this church. I hope that I was able to show that I personally value the traditions, the culture, and the welfare of this congregation. Aside from hospital visits, phone calls and emails, I cannot count how many conversations I have had with long time members about what some scholars would call the lived theology of this church. It has been a blessing to be a member of this wonderful community. My wife Ange and my daughters Naelle, Jena and Nayla have also told me how strongly they love our church.

I also want to mention a number of additional happy events in which I have been involved in 2023. On August 27, I led the ceremony of baptism of baby Adaline Dawn Hary. Holding this precious baby in my arms was one of the most joyous things I did during the year. Blessing her as well as her parents touched my hearts and brought me an undeniable feeling of fulfillment. On December 9, I officiated the wedding ceremony of James Campbell and Angela Soares. I have had the opportunity to pastor several other churches. However, this is the first time that I have been able to celebrate a wedding during my first year of pastoral ministry at a church. I see this as a tremendous blessing.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the entire congregation. I thank you for everything: your trust, your gifts, your words of encouragement and your faith in God. More importantly, I thank you for making it easy for my family to embrace this church as our new home. I thank my predecessor Alan who has always made himself available to answer my questions and offer some ministry-related advice. I am thankful for our Church Moderator Lind Bayreuther. I was impressed by his Spirit-filled approach of the pastoral search. I thank Linda, our choir director, for her decision-making and her willingness to always give me all the details regarding the best practices of our congregation.

Furthermore, I am thankful for our Social Director, Davilee Deal, who has also accepted to become our church's Administrative Assistant. I thank her for keeping our office in order. I am thankful for her husband, Gary Deal, as well as church trustees Matt and Kim for remodeling our offices during the year and keeping our facilities safe and sound. I thank Pam Gore for her leadership. As most of you know, it took my family and I some time to find a home near the church. Thus, I am thankful for Penny and Paul Smyth for working tirelessly to help us buy a home in Waterford. I am thankful for all our committees and ministries. Our deacons have been wonderful. I am thankful for everyone who volunteers at our church, and contributes to making it a great place for all attendees.

Finally, I want to thank those who work behind the scene to keep our essential and nonessential functions afloat. I want you to know that I see you. More importantly, you must know that our Creator sees you and highly values what you do to expand the kingdom of heaven. None of us should forget why we are involved in Christian ministry: we want to recognize Jesus' sacrifice, be ready for his second coming, and invite unchurched folks to accept him as their savior. Thus, this is not about us. It is about Jesus. If we always remember that, we will get along, and, despite our shortcomings, we will keep forgiving each other, and continue to work together to make the world a better place.

Thank you.

Submitted by Rev. Jean-Fritz Guerrier, Pastor.

Trustees

If it takes a whole village to raise a child, it takes the whole congregation to run a Church.

I want to thank you all for your help keeping our Church running safe and seamlessly. Our many thanks and gratitude go out to all the volunteers, without them we would not be able to run our Church. All the up keep and maintenance on the Church and Parsonage could not have happened without many hands, most of which is done behind the scenes by these volunteers.

Davilee Deal has done a GREAT job adapting to all new tasks and requirements that her new position requires. Many of these were not known at the time of her taking the job, because they were done behind the scenes by Rev. Scott and Peter.

April 2023

Church Wi-Fi set is completed.

Many thanks to John Holtz and the Giving Garden. We have our own connection thru the Giving Garden's Internet service. There are two repeaters in the church, which allow Wi-Fi in all rooms of the church. This Wi-Fi has given both Rev. Jean-Fritz and Davilee internet in their offices space.

In addition, we have added a new Wi-Fi printer for both printing of the Bulletins and regular church business.

July 2023

Gutter upgrade on sanctuary roof.

The gutters on both side of the sanctuary were upgraded to new 6" commercial gutters with 4"x3" commercial down spouts. This has stopped the water coming into the basement during heavy rain storms, which was a problem when we got more than 1" of rain in a short period.

Oct 2023

Church offices construction completed.

A new larger Pastor office was constructed by dividing the old Adult Sunday school room at the old dividing curtain with a sheetrock wall. So many thanks to Gary Deal for all his hard work/time doing this, He not only did the wall construction but also made custom bookshelves and did all the painting in both rooms. With the addition of the new carpet, furniture and window fixing, this space has become a nice office for our new pastor.

A Media room was created in the other half of the space, giving a location for the printers/supplies as well as a nice location for small meetings. Many thanks to Davilee for the donation of the table, rug and window fixings including Her and Gary's time.

With the Church going back to full use and all activities started backup, we rely on the help of the members lending a hand in many tasks. Many thanks to all those who help keeping our Church running smoothly. Without you we would not have a Church, I cannot thank you enough.

The Trustees are looking forward to serving the church in 2024.

Please feel free to contact us with any of your concerns.

Submitted by Matt Thompson, FBCC Head Trustee

(860) 447-0676 home

(860) 448-5028 cell

matthew.thompson@snet.net

Kitchen Committee and Social Activities

2023 started with the departure of our dear, blessed friend and Pastor, Reverend Alan Scott. After 33 years of dedicated service to the Church and surrounding communities, and more than seven decades of a “Scott” at the helm of the Church, we had a wonderful catered pasta luncheon for over 100 guests. From there we conducted our first Annual Meeting since the start of the COVID pandemic, and served lite refreshments and desserts. In February we officially elected Reverend John-Fritz Guerrier to be our Pastor and provided a sandwich luncheon. February also saw our sunshine celebration take place with the delivery of flowers, crocheted book marks, and crafts made by the Sunday School children.

In March, we officially welcomed Reverend Guerrier, along with his family and friends, by providing an Installation ceremony and catered luncheon. The excitement during this transition time was joyful since the region was still recovering from the perils of COVID. We had a St. Patrick’s potluck supper in March as well. We sadly lost our dear friend Marge Beebe, and we setup and provided a luncheon for her family.

In April, we setup a coffee station for the Choir to enjoy during the sunrise service for Easter Sunday, and provided coffee and lite refreshments for the Quarterly business meeting. May brought us to a “birthday” celebration coffee hour with delicious cake for everyone, and by June the upstairs was “Under Construction,” with the implementation, painting, and constructing three of the upstairs rooms into working Offices and meeting spaces. July was the funeral for the loss of our friend Flora Kyle. There was also a Quarterly business meeting where lite refreshments were provided.

In August, there was a brief calendar meeting and gone are the days of many paper calendars being passed around! We also lost our friend Marion Savage and hosted another funeral luncheon. We did however, have the Baptismal ceremony for Adaline Hary where the entire congregation welcomed her with great joy!

October came with the annual Church picnic at McCook’s Point! A great time was had by all! Sadly, there was another funeral, as we lost our friend Ken McKeever. However, October also brought a wonderful surprise party for the 50 years of music ministry provided by our Music and Choir Director, Linda Sutherland! Cake and refreshments were served as she unknowingly thought she was just attending a Quarterly business meeting!

In November, we sadly lost 3 more friends, Marjorie Welch, Jane Sullivan, and Joanne Tong where we again provided lunch and comfort to those families. Tom and Nancy Kalal hosted us for our annual wreath making, where folks gathered laurel and made our gorgeous wreath for out in front of the Church! Roasting hotdogs on an open fire is always a huge highlight of the fun and fellowship had during this event!

Finally, in December, we were able to have our first post-pandemic holiday sale and luncheon! Even though these sales have been voted down upon in the past, an attempt was made to bring the holiday sale back. It certainly was nice to see the Church buzzing with shoppers and enjoying our beloved luncheon of corn chowder, sandwiches, and pie! We also had the first wedding conducted in Church since the pandemic! It was beautiful to see the Church decorated lovely for this ceremony, and that we have the happy couple as an addition to our congregation!

There’s a saying of “It takes a village,” but in our case it takes a congregation, and what a wonderful congregation we have! Here’s to 2024, and the continued blessings this Church has for one another, and the community as well!

Kitchen Committee and Social Activities Treasury Report

	Income	Expenses	Balance
Opening Balance			\$7212.19
Donations/Proceeds	\$800.00		
Expenses		\$3500.00	
Totals	\$800.00	(\$3500.00)	
Closing Balance			\$4512.19
Cash Account			\$4512.19

Submitted by Davilee Deal, Social Director and Administrative Assistant

Music

Music is an important part of the worship experience in church. The adult choir continues to provide vocal music each week from September through June. As organist, I provide instrumental pieces for preludes, postludes, and offertories and accompany the congregation weekly. I also play for weddings and funerals and accompany vocalists for special music.

We are grateful to the following musicians who offered vocal and instrumental solos and duets during the summer months: Melissa Neill, Dan Wheeler, Ange Guerrier, Lucinda Nelson, Carla Caudle, Linda Sutherland, Etta Sutherland, Naelle, Jena, and Nayla Guerrier, and Jim, Lanie, Kevin, Jamie, and Daniel Littlefield.



Children's music started in September when Sunday School began. Students sing about once a month in church. The students sang with the adult choir in October and November (Veterans' Day). The adult choir also supported the students by singing some of the songs in the Christmas musical "The Noel Critter Motel." Many thanks to Elizabeth Korineck, who creates and prepares all costumes and props for the musical, and to the Sunday School staff (Ashley Perkins, Susan Levanti, Dan Wheeler, Kerry McDonald, and Jeannie Bull), and all our families for their help and support.



In October, I was surprised and humbled by a celebration of my 50 years of service to the music ministry of the church. I was presented with kind words, lovely gifts, and flowers from the church and the choir. It has always been an honor to be a part of this very special church community.

This year, the choir presented "Light of Lights," a unique advent anthem that included Bob Craft as narrator and the congregation taking part in the responsive reading. Each week, the advent candles were lit by the worship assistants, with Rev. Guerrier lighting the candles on Christmas Eve.

The members of the choir are: Sopranos: Dot Brown, Kerry MacDonald, Melissa Neill, and Kate Wells. Altos: Joanne Gerber, Dot Hulme; Tenors: Cindy Craft; Basses: Bob Craft, Jim Gerber, and Dan Wheeler.

If you are interested in singing in the choir, please talk to Linda Sutherland. We are still in need of an accompanist. A job description is available upon request.

Submitted by Linda Sutherland, Music Director & Organist

Sunday School

Religious education is a vital part of any church. We are pleased to have students in pre-school through Middle School taking part in our program this year.

Superintendents

- Jeannie Bull
- Ashley Perkins

Teachers

- Pre-K - 4
 - Susan Levanti
 - Ashley Perkins
 - Dan Wheeler
- Middle School - High School
 - Kerry McDonald

Treasurer & Music Director

- Linda Sutherland



This year, we purchased curriculum materials from the David C. Cook “Bible-in-Life” series rather than create our own curriculum. Middle School students are also using a supplemental text called “One God, One Plan, One Life,” which is a daily devotional resource. Students often work together on group projects such as making cards for Veterans’ Day, Christmas cards for veterans in local hospitals, making crafts for Sunshine baskets, ornaments for the church’s Christmas tree, and more.



Religious Education

Part of the weekly routine includes an opening time with scripture, offering, and a mini-lesson, followed by class time, and music time. Students sing in church each month, as well. In November, the students were joined by the adult choir to sing “Thank You, Soldiers” for Veterans’ Day. In December, the adult choir joined the youngsters for their Christmas musical “The Noel Critter Motel,” directed by Linda Sutherland and Elizabeth Korineck.

We are grateful to the families who support our program and to the teachers and staff who make it possible to provide this valuable ministry.

Submitted by Ashley Perkins, Co-Superintendent

Sunday School Treasury Report

	Income	Expenses	Balance
Opening Balance			\$8,958.24
January offering	\$48.57		
Reimb. To Linda Sutherland for curriculum supplies		\$233.78	
Closed previous account			(\$8,773.03)
Opened new account - Linda Sutherland and Ashley Perkins			\$8,773.03
Offering deposits 2-9-23	\$18.00		
“ 3-15-23 (5 weeks)	\$72.25		

	Income	Expenses	Balance
“ 4-3-23 (3 weeks)	\$32.00		
' 5-22-23 (5 weeks)	\$54.00		
“ 10-16 (6 weeks)	\$57.22		
“ 12-4 (7 weeks) includes \$150 reimbursed to account for cash box at sale)	\$214.00		
“ 12-10, 12-17	\$16.00		
Shared Profits from Holiday Sale	\$400.93		
Curriculum D.C. Cook		\$411.76	
Graduation Gifts 4 students x \$25		\$100.00	
Service charges \$3 x 12, plus checks \$12.00		\$48.00	
Supplies-Staples, Christianbooks.com, end of year teacher and helper gifts, Orientation trade		\$635.98	
Starter cash for Holiday Sale (reimbursed)		\$150.00	
Halloween Party supplies		\$70.49	
Youth Group paid to Alan Scott 2/12/23		\$81.00	
Totals	\$912.97	\$1,731.01	
Closing Balance			\$8,140.20
		Youth Group	\$2,759.75
		Sunday School	\$5,380.45
		Total	\$8,140.20

Many thanks to the families who support the Sunday School each week with their offerings. We also would like to acknowledge a gift from a former devoted and long-time Sunday School teacher whose gift was used to purchase music for the students.

Submitted by Linda Sutherland, Treasurer

Adult Bible Study

In February we started the book of Job. It is considered one of the oldest books in the Bible and it is one of the longest with 42 chapters. It took us all the way through till May. You may remember it begins with the angels presenting themselves before the Lord and Satan also came. The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from? Satan answered the Lord, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it." Peter says in his first epistle "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him standing firm in the faith because you know that your brothers throughout the world undergo the same kind of sufferings."

We took great comfort and strength in knowing Job stood firm amidst all that Satan did!

In the fall we began our study of Galatians which took us into Advent so we spent some time before Christmas looking at some of the ways Jesus birth fulfilled prophecy.

Time spent in God's word is always profitable and we have a good time fellowshiping and sharing with each other. Please feel free to join at any time.

Submitted by Lind Bayreuther, Moderator

Deacons

2023 may have represented the full return to the 'new normal' and what has been consistent whether through COVID or this new normal, is our deacon's willingness to serve! As a group we are hopeful for a calm, peaceful 2024. The Diaconate saw a number of changes last year with the previously reported addition of Elizabeth Korineck and Dave Watson to our ranks (they both have been wonderful, positive additions). Expanding their service even more, we had several deacons take on the new church roles of Worship Assistants including myself, Pam Gore, Brian Burrridge, Walter Signora, and Dave Watson. I thank those deacons for the additional service.

For 2024, we note the retirement of Alan Johnson (again!), Walt Smith (again!) and Carlene Ambulos. The church thanks them for their dedication. We are happy to have Robin Soule, Walter Signora, Brian Burrridge, Guy, and Kedna Jean-Pierre and Carol Ann Cray-Grund extend their terms of service. They will be joined by our two new deacons, Marilyn Beckwith and Anne Viens. We welcome both to new roles with the church and know they will do an excellent job! **As of this report, we are still looking for one church member who want to serve their church family and be that friendly smile greeting those entering our church.**

Finally, we are lucky to have wonderful people willing to serve as part of our church family. As always, we will be there to support our congregation. God Bless.

Submitted by John F. Eberle, Head Deacon

Sunshine

Flowers once again decorated the church for Easter and Christmas in memory of family and friends. Thanks to everyone who made it possible.

Sunshine Treasury Report

	Income	Expenses	Balance
Opening Balance			\$523.59
Collected Easter 2023	\$560.00		
Smith Acres Easter 2023		\$533.80	
Collected Christmas 2023	\$444.00		
Smith Acres Christmas 2023		\$486.75	
Closing Balance	\$1,004.00	\$1,020.55	\$507.04

Submitted by Kirby Hallissey, Sunshine Chairman

Care and Share

On behalf of Care and Share, East Lyme, in 2023 Flanders Baptist and Community Church was VERY generous for the Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays by sponsoring 40 Care and Share families with food and gift donations. All these families are from the East Lyme, Niantic, and Salem areas.

Thanks to all the generous donations of food, cash, gifts, devoting of their time and delivering.

Besides the members of the Congregation, we would like to give special thanks to the Community Circle, Junior Circle and Sunday school for their generous donations.

- For Easter we delivered food and Easter baskets to 12 families. (17 Children and 26 Adults)
- For Thanksgiving, we delivered food baskets to 14 families. (23 Children and 25 Adults)
- For Christmas, we delivered food baskets and gifts to 14 families (23 Children and 23 Adults).

Many, if not MOST of our deliverers received words of gratitude and thanks when showing up at the client's doors with a plethora of food for their families!

A great Thank You to all those who helped to pack the food and load the cars!!!

Many, Many, thanks our Church family for all their generosity.

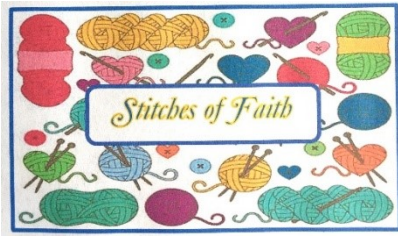
We look forward to helping our local families in the future.

Submitted by Kim and Matt Thompson

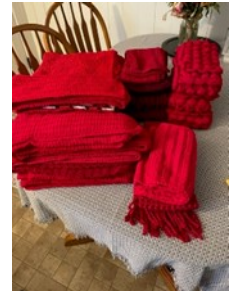
On behalf of the Care and Share Committee

- Jan and Ted Richmond (and family – Teddy and Eric)
- Charlie and Barbara Johnson, who go above and beyond in this effort
- Carol Martin and Greg

Stitches of Faith



The “Stitches of Faith” knitting/crocheting group continued its ministry by creating prayer shawls, scarves, hats, and blankets for those in need of support. We have given nearly 100 shawls or lap blankets to individuals since the group formed in April 2019. This year, our group sent over 30 scarves to Foster Care to Success. Some friends of group members also donated to this cause. We have also started giving white blankets for baptisms/dedications at our church. In December, our group participated in the Holiday Sale. We had knitted, crocheted, quilted and other hand-made items to sell. All of the members have donated their time and supplies for all of the gifts we have given out. With the proceeds from the sale, we now have a small treasury to help supply yarn to the members for projects and to pay for postage and other expenses.



Members of the group include Cindy Ashton, Liz Beals, Susan Bindloss, Carol Ann Cray-Grund, Carol Farrow, Marge Ferencz, Pat Fraser, Janice Johnson, Linda Lemanski, Sharon Meinz, Florence Rollins, Linda Sutherland, Merie Uzzell, and Margaret Watson.

We welcome new members at any time. Some of our members are willing to help teach new members to knit or crochet. We have some extra supplies available to get people started. We meet monthly at the home of Linda

Sutherland. Dates and times are announced at church and printed in the monthly newsletter. If you know someone who would benefit from a prayer shawl or lap blanket, please notify Linda Sutherland, Liz Beals, or any of the members listed above.



Submitted by Linda Sutherland, Liz Beals

Church Newsletter



Newsletter

The monthly church newsletter serves to keep our congregation and extended church family connected to church events. The newsletter is emailed to 204 people, thanks to Mike Meinz for handling all the technical tasks involved in sending them out. 28 people receive the newsletter via “snail mail”. We appreciate all who have sent pictures that highlight events that have taken place or photos of past events. If you have any photos from the past, please send a digital copy to Linda Sutherland at jsutherland@att.net or bring them to church and I will take a picture of them. Thank you to Rev. Guerrier and to Maggie Watson for serving as proofreaders each month.

Submitted by Linda Sutherland, Editor



If you would like to receive the newsletter, please email us at: [***FlandersBaptist@yahoo.com***](mailto:FlandersBaptist@yahoo.com)

Web & Social Media

During 2023, there were 1,830 website visitors with 2,887 sessions and a total of 5,827 page views. A total of 31 emails were received via the web site Contact form. The church calendar, published as a PDF on the website, was revised several times. The [facebook.com/FlandersBaptist](https://www.facebook.com/FlandersBaptist) Facebook page had 191 Followers at the beginning of 2023 and 215 Followers at the end of 2023; a 12.5% increase.

Submitted by Michael Meinz

Church Records

* indicates a Church Member

First Quarter

Deaths

March 18 Marge Beebe *

Second Quarter

Infant Baptisms

August 27 Adaline Dawn Hary

Deaths

July 15 Flora Kyle

August 5 Marian Savage *

Third Quarter

Deaths

October 27 Ken McKeever

Fourth Quarter

Deaths

November 3 Marjorie Welch *

November 4 Joanne Tong

November 4 Jane Sullivan *

Total: 7 (four of whom were members)

Funerals

No additional funerals, so please refer to above

Adult Baptisms

There were no adult baptisms for 2023.

Weddings

April 29 George May/Charlene Williams (Flanders)

May 28 Jeremiah/Briana Northcutt (Country Club in Milford)

July 15 Jeremy Medina/Jennifer Parks (Grassy Hill)

July 22 Justin Staub/Tori Pappas (Salem)

October 7 Mark Millett/Lauren Rogers (Water's Edge in Old Saybrook)

December 9 James Campbell/Angela Soares (Flanders)

Church Members

Note: Please note corrections at the Annual Meeting.

Allen, Cindy	Caudle, Carla	Dumont, Danielle	Hawkins, William
Altvater, Fred	Chan-Scott, Violeta	Dumont, Diane	Henderson, Brenda
Ambulos, Carlene	Chao, Norma	Dumont, Tammy	Henderson, William
Anderson, Lori	Chao, Ronald	Eberle, John	Higgins, Molly
Anderson, Wayne	Chao, Tyrone	Eberle, Kate	Higgins, Robert
Anger, Edith	Clarkson, Mason	Eberle, Kelly	Hildebrand, Joanna
Anger, Robert	Clarkson, Scott	Evankow, David	Hinkle, Muriel
Annello, Corrinia	Cochrane, Kathy	Evankow, Lois	Hobby, Burt
Annello, Justin	Craddock, James	Evankow, Marc	Hobby, Lois
Arcarese, Michael	Craddock, Jesse	Evankow, Paul	Hodge, Joanne
Ashton, Cynthia	Craddock, Kelly	Evankow, Peter	Hollis, Barbara
Ashton, Michael	Craddock, Shannon	Evankow, Steve	Holtz, En-Hua
Ault, Janine	Craft, Cynthia	Farrior, Carol	Holtz, En-Ming
Ayrton, Esther	Craft, Robert	Fee, Paula	Holtz, John
Backes, Patricia	Cray-Grund, Carol Ann	Ferencz, Marjorie	Holtz, Janet
Bargnesi, Abby	Cummins, Hanson	Filosi, Daniel	Hulme, Dorothy
Bargnesi, Ben	Cummins, Tanya	Fraser, Candace	Jackson, Joanne
Bargnesi, Taylor	Currier, Ed	Fraser, Pat	Jean-Pierre, Guy
Bartlett, Jeff	Currier, Diane	Fraser, Scott	Jean-Pierre, Kayle
Bayreuther, Lind	Currier, Donna	Fraser, Wayne	Jean-Pierre Kedne
Bayreuther, Nathan	Currier, John	French, Andrew Jr.	Jean-Pierre, Schneider
Bayreuther, Pat	Currier, Marjorie	French, Andrew Sr.	Jezierski, Michael
Beckwith, Marilyn	Currier, Raymond	French, Liz	Jezierski, Paul
Binaco, Kim	Currier, Robert	Freudenthal, Lynn	Johnson, Allan
Bodenhofer, Kristen	Currier, Steven	Garbati, Lilian	Johnson, Barbara
Bogue, Tammy	Currier, Susan	Garbati, William	Johnson, Charles
Bond, Jacob	Currier, Todd	Gallo, Marissa	Johnson, Doreen
Brackett, John	Cushman, Robert	Gayda, Kyle	Johnson, Janice
Brackett, Bernadette	Cushman, Virginia	Gayda, Margaret	Johnson, Sandra
Brown, Darthea	D'Angelo, Kristine	Gerber, James	Johnson, Timothy
Bryant, Cort	Daniels, Hank	Gerber, Joanne	Jones, Amy
Bull, Elizabeth	Deal, Davilee	Glover, Rita	Jones, Ashley
Bull, Jeannie	Deal, Gary	Gore, Pam	Jones, Courtney
Bull, Lewis	Dennison, Heidi	Goss, Rene	Jones, Craig
Bull, Matthew	Dennison, Warren	Gotay Matthew, Barbara	Jones, Deborah
Bumgardner, Eliz.	Donahue, Dana	Griffin, Janet	Kaika, Lindsey
Bumgardner, Lourdes	Donahue, Ryan	Gucwa, AnnMarie	Kaika, Susan
Bunnell, MariAlice	Donohue, Rebecca	Hallissey, John	Kalal, Nancy
Burridge, Brian	Driscoll, Daniel	Hallissey, Keryl	Kalal, Thomas
Campbell, Ryan	Driscoll, Kathleen	Hallissey, Kirby	Kavarnos, Julie
Carlson, Glen	Driscoll, Matthew	Hanover, Jessica	Kavarnos, Spiro
Carlson, Linda	Driscoll, Timothy	Hanover, Ryan	Keeney, Beatrice
Cash, Don	Dubreuil, Marcia	Hawkins, Betty Lou	Kerr, Valerie
Cash, Susan	Duberg, Donna	Hawkins, Dorinda	Kerr, William
Castillo, Heather	Duffy, Robert	Hawkins, Jacob	Kopchik, John
Castillo, Joseph	Dufresne, Beverly	Hawkins, Ned	Korineck, Elizabeth

Kump, Karen
Larson, Carol
Larson, Robin
Larson, Scott
Lemanski, Linda
Levandoski, Charles
Levandoski, Deborah
Levandoski, James
Levandoski, Robert
Levandoski, Roberta
Lewellen, Pixie
Leyland, Kevin
Lindie, Ed
Lindie, Mary Ellen
Lindstrom, Jeffrey
Lindstrom, Myrna
Littlefield, Albert
Littlefield, Gary
Littlefield, Georgia
Littlefield, Kevin
Littlefield, James
Littlefield, Rosemary
Loscoe, Lanie
MacDonald, Kerrie
Manno, Michelle
Marelli, Carol
Martin, Carol
Martins, Linda Lee
Mathison, Diane
Mattison, Frances
Maynard, Kimberly
Maynard, Lee, Sr.

McCrabb, Matson
McCrabb, Tucker
McKeever, Kathleen
Migdalski, Thomas
Mortimer, Ann
Muscurella, Mary Jo
Muscurella, Olivia
Nazarko, Betty
Neilan, Linda
Neill, Melissa
Nichols, Curt
Nolan, Chelsea
Nowakowski, Justine
Nygren, Jane
Nygren, Steven
Olson, Rose
Patterson, Elizabeth
Perkins, Ashley
Perkins, Cory
Peterson, Lawrence
Peterson, Sandy
Pope, Judy
Price, Pamela
Provencher, Richard
Provost, Josie
Quiles, Lourdes
Rand, Doris
Richmond, Elizabeth
Richmond, Holly
Richmond, Janice
Richmond, Kristina
Richmond, Ted Jr.

Richmond, Ted Sr.
Riozzi, Edgar
Ruth, Eileen
Salafia, Laura
Salafia, Michael
Sartori, Judy
Savage, James
Savage, Robert
Scott, Rev. Alan
Scott, Arolyn
Scott, Peter
Selden, Joseph III
Selden, Joseph II
Shasha, Barbara
Shea, Jill
Sherburne, John
Sherburne, Skip
Sherburne, Toni
Sigler, John
Signora, Kyle
Signora, Paula
Signora, Walter
Shields, Krista
Smith, Bonnie
Smith, Cindy
Smith, Elisa
Smith, Roger
Smith, Sarah
Smith, Susan
Smith, Walter
Sobiech, David
Soule, Robin

Souza, Amber
Spakowski, Lorraine
Spakowski, Paul
Spring, Dan
Spring, Ellen
Strouse, Judith
Strouse, Robert H.
Strouse, Robert K.
Sutherland, Linda
Thompson, Justin
Thompson, Kim
Thompson, Matt
Trowbridge, Robin
Viens, Anne
Wallace, Louise
Watson, David
Watson, Margaret
Welch, Craig
Welch, Marlene
Wheeler, Daniel
Wheeler, Irene
Whitlock, Fred
Whitlock, McKenzie
Wilson, Frank
Wood, Edwin
Wood, Nancy
Wright, Michael
Wyatt, Karyn
Yuhas, Alan
Yuhas, Joel

Total: 310 members