

2011 ANNUAL REPORT



First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

1229 Court Street

Martinez . California . 94553

(925) 228-0549

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2011 ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday January 15, 2012

AGENDA

Welcome & Call for a Quorum.....	Laura Febus, Moderator
Prayer of Thanksgiving.....	Pastor Norm Luecke
Necrology.....	Laura Febus
-Prayer of Remembrance	
2010 Annual Meeting Minutes.....	Laura Febus
-Questions/Corrections	
-Approval of Minutes	
Treasurer's Report.....	Jennifer Champion
-Adoption of the Treasurer's Report	
Presentation of the 2012 Budget.....	Bill Chase, Board of Trustees
-Questions and discussion of the budget	
-Adoption of the budget	
Committee Reports.....	2011 Committee Chairs
- Verbal reports (In lieu of a written report Officers/Chairpersons may speak on their committee's behalf.)	
- Additions/Revisions to written reports.	
2012 Officers & Committee Members...	Linda Thurman, Nominating Committee
-Additional volunteers/floor nominations	
-Motions	
-Election of Nominees	
Old Business:	Laura Febus
-Corrections/Additions	
New Business:	Laura Febus
-Motions	
-Approval	
Meeting Room Assignments	Laura Febus
Closing Remarks.....	Laura Febus
Benediction/Adjournment.....	Pastor Norm Luecke

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Members as of January 1, 2011	121
Additions during 2011	
Confirmation	0
Affirmation of Faith	5
Letter of Transfer	2
Other Additions (Membership Review/Revisions)	0
Baptisms:	
Child	2
Adult	0
Total Additions:	9
Losses during 2011	
Deaths	5
Transfer	0
Other Removals (Membership Review/Revisions)	0
Total Losses:	5
Year End Total:	125

NECROLOGY REPORT

Members:

George Schrock
February 24, 2011

Stanley Kelly
June 20, 2011

Eric Gohs
July 16, 2011

Erna Long
July 25, 2011

Jean Olsson
December 11, 2011

Special Remembrance of Friends
(Non-Members/Transferred Membership):

Jim Channel
March 18, 2011

Sylvia Medina
June 23, 2011

Melba Rau
June 25, 2011

2010 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

January 9, 2011

Moderator Laura Febus welcomed and thanked those present for attending; Glenn Cottrell verified that a quorum was present.

Prayer of Thanksgiving: Pastor Norm Luecke led the prayer of thanksgiving.

Membership and Necrology Reports: AR, pages 3-4

Laura Febus acknowledged those church members and friends who passed away in 2010. She asked those present to hold each of them in their prayers as she read their names.

2009 Annual Meeting Minutes: The minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Jennifer Champion

Jennifer briefly reviewed the Treasurer's Report presented in the Annual Report, pages 8-10. She pointed out the reductions we were able to make in expenditures over the year however; we still overspent our income by almost \$39,000. **The report was approved as presented.**

Presentation of the 2011 Budget: Scott Parker, Board of Trustees Chair

AR, pages 11-12 Preparation of the proposed budget is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees. The proposed budget is then approved by the Cabinet. The 2011 proposed budget was presented to the membership for discussion at the budget workshop December 12, 2010. Questions and clarifications made at the workshop were reviewed again by Cabinet before the Annual Meeting. The proposed budget now includes the income projections for the coming year. **The 2011 budget was approved as presented.**

Constitutional Amendment: Laura Febus, AR page 26 **The amendment of Article VII – Boards and Committees, was approved as presented.**

Board of Trustees Report: Scott Parker, AR pages 13-14. In addition to managing the church's finances and preparing the 2011 budget the Trustees completed the following tasks: insurance for the church, finalized the Interim Minister contract during Norm's sabbatical, helped coordinate Winter Nights, purchased a new computer for the church office, trimmed the trees, and participated in the formation of the new stewardship committee which successfully generated pledges totaling \$37,000.

Diaconate Report: Linda Thurman, Senior Deaconess, AR page 15

Circle Reports: Sunset Circle by Barbara Patchin, AR page 16; Pricilla Circle by Beverly Annis, AR page 16

2010 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES (cont.)

January 9, 2011

Historian: Marlene Thompson, AR page 16 Marlene reminds all committee chairpersons to provide the Church office with a copy of their minutes so they become a part of the official church records/history.

Memorial Gifts: Marc Haefke, AR page 17 Funds from the Memorial gifts account are being used to contract with Helios Art Glass to restore two of our stained glass windows. Completion is expected at the end of January. A suggestion was made to have an installation celebration when the restored windows are installed.

Music Committee: Theo Pistochni and Norm Luecke, AR page 17/ Carol Baier, AR page 21 Acknowledgment and thanks for the ongoing and special musical contributions of: organists, Linda Anselmo and Michael Spencer; Gail Haefke and the church choir; and, Carol Baier for her piano accompaniments.

Minister-in-Covenant: Rev. Marsha Davis, AR page 18 Marsha has been our Minister-in-Covenant for 23 years and submitted this report as her last formal report.

Pastoral Relations: Laura Febus, AR page 18

Pastor's Report: Norm Luecke, AR page 19-20

Social Committee: Barbara Patchin, AR page 21

Moderator's Report: Laura Febus, AR 6-7 Special thanks to church secretary, Sandy Snyder, for keeping us all organized and on track!

Election/Appointment of Officers and Committee Members: AR pages 22-24

Before the vote was taken the following corrections were made: Historian – Marlene Thompson; Don Ulrich's term on Pastoral Relations has ended – Norm and Laura are seeking a volunteer to serve a 3 year term; Susan Willard is no longer on the Social Committee. It was moved and seconded that the corrected Officers and Committee Members submissions be placed in nomination. **Unanimously approved.**

2011 Committee Meeting Dates/Times: AR page 25

Benediction/Adjournment: Pastor Norm Luecke

MODERATOR'S REPORT

Moderator Responsibilities:

The Moderator is elected at the Annual Meeting each year. The Moderator works in close cooperation with the Pastor in giving leadership to the church. The Moderator is to preside over the meetings of the Cabinet, all special meetings of the church and the Annual Meeting. The Moderator shall be free to attend, and advise with, any of the boards and general committees of the church.

Cabinet Responsibilities:

The Church **Cabinet is the coordinating body** of the Church. Duties include: advising with Boards and committees, reviewing the business and activities of the Church, and the Cabinet shall be competent to speak for the Church in all matters except those reserved for the membership. Cabinet meetings are held on the 4th Sunday of each month following the worship fellowship hour.

Cabinet Members:

The 2011 Cabinet members include: Laura Febus, Moderator; Norm Luecke, Pastor; Patti Cosgrove, Clerk; Bill Chase, Board of Trustee Chairperson; Lori Ortiz, Financial Secretary & Social Committee chair; Jennifer Champion, Treasurer; Linda Thurman, Diaconate chairperson; Kathy Schawel & Barbara Patchin, Women's Fellowship co-chairs; Mark Thompson, Music Committee Chairperson; Mark Haefke, Memorial Gifts chair and immediate past moderator.

Report:

In January 2011 the Cabinet determined 5 major goals for the year. Below is a summary of how these goal areas were addressed this year.

- A. Explore Christian Education options for our youth. While Pastor Norm, Kate and Emily Haefke provided meaningful spiritual and service experiences for our youth, the Cabinet wanted to see if the Pacific School of Religion's Minister in Training program could provide a youth pastor position while also providing a pastoral student with church leadership opportunities. Church members Laura Febus and Gail Haefke attended PSR's MIT "recruiting fair" in February. They shared FCC information with prospective MIT candidates. While no candidates followed up with FCC the connection with PSR is one to cultivate for our continuing youth leadership needs.
- B. Increase church membership. This is an ongoing goal for our church. In addition to individual members inviting neighbors, friends, business associates to come to our church, the Cabinet continued to increase our church's visibility within the community (see goal D) in hopes of bringing in more people.

MODERATOR'S REPORT (cont.)

- C. Continue and expand our community outreach efforts. After a very successful first experience with the *Winter Nights* program, the Cabinet set a goal to participate again in the 2011-12 season. FCC is scheduled to host the *Winter Night's* families the last week of the 2011-12 season, April 23 – May 5, 2012. We hope to expand our participation to include other area churches and service groups. FCC continued participation in the Food Bank collection efforts, provided meals to the Mt. View Shelter, collected coats for the Kiwanis Warm Coat drive in December, and participated in Blanket Sunday.

- D. Increased visibility in the community. We want FCC to be a vital part of the community knowing that the more we participate in giving and sharing the more people will know who we are and what we have to offer as a church. In 2011 FCC continued to host a variety of activities and programs: Church Women United held its Fellowship Day here in May, Joe Warner's "Jazz in the Basement" monthly programs continued, the Martinez Music Forum hosted its annual holiday music concert at FCC and the Creekside Montessori preschool held its annual Christmas holiday program here. In addition, our church continued to be a place where various groups held meetings, i.e., AA, LGBT youth group, photography club, square dance group. Weddings and memorials continued to be a regular part of FCC's facility use.

- E. Continue our Stewardship Campaign. Our 2010 stewardship campaign initiated a pledge drive. In the spirit of promoting and encouraging "intentional giving" the Cabinet wanted to continue, and hopefully expand, the pledge program. Members were asked to make a pledge to support the church with whatever they can in 2012.

Stewardship is not just asking for financial support but also about taking care of our FCC assets. Church groups and committees were asked to "adopt a room" in the church to clean and/or renovate as needed. The following rooms were adopted by the group listed: Narthex and front porch – Social Committee/Cabinet; Pilgrim Hall – Board of Trustees; Mayflower Room – Sunset Circle; Kitchen – Priscilla Circle; Bradford Classrooms and choir closet – Laura Febus; Office restroom – Herb & Linda Thurman; Kitchen island – Norm Luecke. Rooms and areas have been painted, cleaned out, renovated and the work will continue into 2012.

Submitted by,
Laura Febus
Moderator 2009-2011

Account	1/31/2011	2/28/2011	3/31/2011	4/30/2011	5/31/2011	6/30/2011	7/31/2011	8/31/2011	9/30/2011	10/31/2011	11/30/2011	12/31/2011
Bank Accounts												
2000 Checking	10,576	3,119	3,936	6,100	7,957	9,743	4,880	7,573	143	3,778	4,443.95	5,794
3000 Savings	5,003	5,003	5,003	5,003	5,003	5,003	5,003	5,003	5,003	5,003	5,003	5,003
August2010 CD 1.6%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CD 03232008	25,000	25,000	25,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
First Savings	31,213	31,216	24,068	45,720	45,730	45,733	43,362	43,368	43,370	38,372	38,372.24	32,871
Memorial Gifts Checking	10,250	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,455	1,455	3,772	3,772	3,772	3,772	3,772.11	5,601
TOTAL Bank Accounts	82,042	65,823	59,492	58,308	60,144	61,935	57,017	59,716	52,288	50,925	51,591.18	49,269

Liability Accounts	50	50	335	523	568	568	247	267	267	267	287	0
Benevolnce	50	50	335	523	568	568	247	267	267	267	287	0
Helping Hand	379	379	379	279	254	254	254	224	189	189	139	471
Men Gifts	0	0	50	300	1,162	2,317	520	745	845	1,229	1,828.5	0
Payroll-FWH	208	416	624	208	416	624	208	416	624	208	416	0
Payroll-MCare	119	234	349	115	229	344	114	221	336	114	229	0
Payroll-SS	346	700	1,079	383	794	1,204	383	766	1,177	383	794	0
Payroll-SWH	99	198	297	99	198	297	99	198	297	99	198	0
TOTAL Liability Account:	1,201	1,927	3,113	1,907	3,621	5,608	1,825	2,837	3,735	2,489	3,890.96	471
OVERALL TOTAL	80,841	63,896	56,379	56,401	56,523	56,327	55,192	56,879	48,554	48,436	47,700	48,798

TREASURER'S REPORT

As the year 2011 ended we have overspent our income by \$28,864, as seen at the bottom of the 2012 Budget Proposal in the 2011 Actual column. This follows the previous year where we overspent our income by almost \$39,000. We have helped our income through renting out our space to various groups, but need to make substantial changes in order to continue at the rate. Our yearly pledges from our members are the major source of funds we count on to meet our expenses. Please continue to keep the church in your finances for the new year. Bequests are always a nice remembrance. If you have ideas for raising funds, or decreasing our expenses please let the Board of Trustees know, we're always open to suggestions.

Jennifer Champion Treasurer

2012 PROPOSED BUDGET

	2011 Actual	2012 Budget
1	INCOME	
2	Current Expense Income	
3	0	0
4	1,213	4,000
5	70,409	102,566
6	1,681	20
7	312	355
8	7,841	7,500
9	81,456	114,441
10		
11	EXPENSES	
12	Church Operations	
13	395	700
14	111	250
15	160	200
16	65	100
17	2,000	1,000
18	734	860
19	Minister's Salary & Expenses	
20	7,685	7,656
21	14,142	14,845
22	1,283	1,200
23	480	480
24	355	450
25	388	550
26	2,549	2,591
27	33,689	33,689
28	525	600
29	Music Expenses	
30	4,399	4,609
31	0	300
32	5,916	6,600
33	4	200
34	Office Expenses	
35	0	250
36	179	400
37	1,106	700
38	1,162	1,060
39	1,029	1,050
40	13,625	13,713
41	12	100
42	470	400
43	Operation of Church Properties	
44	1,897	2,000
45	4,920	4,920
46	849	600
47	540	600
48	6	78
49	4,407	5,680
50	721	720
51	2,566	2,800
52	443	450
53	Manse	
54	469	1,000
55	1,039	1,040
56	110,320	114,441

*Difference between Income
& Expenses*

-28,864

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Members: Bill Chase (Chair), Larry Coltharp, Richard Patchin, Randy Crosgrove, Tari LaCourt (Secretary), Marc Haefke, Scott Parker.

Function: Your Board of Trustees consists of a minimum of five (5) church members who serve a three year term and shall be ineligible for reelection for one (1) year, on staggered terms. The Board is responsible for the church properties, insurance coverage for same, maintenance, repairs, and minor alterations. The Board is responsible for endowments, investments, and general financial operations of the church. We prepare an annual budget for approval by the congregation. We are responsible for raising contributions to cover budgeted expenses. We are working a program of Stewardship. Your Board is also responsible for compensation and all financial arrangements for all employees. One member of the Board is required to co-sign checks with the Treasurer for all church transactions. These functions are expressly spelled out in our Constitution.

2011 Accomplishments: Your Board of has focused considerable attention on the financial situation and we have considered a number of options and have implemented or considered a number of overhead reductions. We have discussed landscape changes in the front of the church to reduce water use. We have surveyed the church building and grounds and have created an ongoing list of repairs and safety measures to protect the building and church members. We have posted the maintenance log in the Narthex. We are coordinating painting projects and roof repairs. We have dealt with several pest problems. We have looked into replacing the carpeting on the stage. We have worked on compensation issues. We have maintained the insurance package for the Pastor. Our financial concerns brought us in contact with David Bergman-Hill to help formulate solutions and reinvigorate church members. We worked with Union Bank of Martinez to reduce their fees. We reviewed our church advertisement policy to see if we can utilize our (Martinez News-Gazette) Church Directory notice to attract church members and advise the public of the availability of church property for events. We agreed to continue *The Messenger* at a relatively minor cost, however, it has since been replaced by a “free” weekly update through our church’s Yahoo email. We approved a “window replacement plan” for the manse. We have developed the 2012 budget for consideration by the members.

My thanks to the Board of Trustees and to our Congregation for their continued support.

Respectfully submitted by,
Bill Chase
Chairman

DIACONATE

“The duty of the Diaconate is to cooperate with the Pastor in ministering to the spiritual interests of the church and the community, in the preparations and administration of the sacraments, and in the caring for the poor, the sick, the sorrowing, the indifferent and the stranger.” The members of the Diaconate as well as many other members and friends of our congregation have worked together to achieve these goals.

Our Head Usher, Tari LaCourt, welcomes friends as they enter the Sanctuary, offers them a bulletin and answers any questions of visitors. She also assigns ushers for the collection. Marsha Davis and Yvonne Cottrell, as well as Pastor Luecke have been wonderful, friendly visitors to those who are ill or in need of a friendly face. Marsha and Norm also offer communion to those who are homebound. Linda Thurman assigns Liturgists and arranges for the time of Fellowship after the service. She has also enlisted the help of friends to bring food to those who are in need.

The entire Congregation has reached out to our community to prepare and serve a week’s worth of dinners to the residents of the Mountain View Family Shelter. We have also opened our doors to house “Winter Nights” by providing not only shelter but three meals a day for a week. We thank Don Ulrich and Scott Parker for their services as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Migs Carter faithfully changes the paraments according to the church calendar. She has also found pulpit supply during Norm’s vacations. Paula Nelson sends cards of remembrance, get-well and birthday wishes to all the members of the congregation and their families. All the members of the Diaconate assist in setting up monthly communion. Thanks to Carol Roberts for assisting in communion preparation and parament changing, and also for her unique offer to provide companionship to our church family’s pets in need.

The collection taken at our beautiful Christmas Eve service is used to purchase gift cards for our Helping Hands project which Norm administers. This year’s collection received \$487.00.

We are grateful to be of service to our church family and community. My thanks to all of you for your loving work and especially to our loyal church secretary, Sandy Snyder, for keeping us informed of all these and many other church activities.

Linda Thurman
Senior Deaconess

MEMORIAL GIFTS

According to the church constitution, the Memorial Committee is made up of the immediate Past Moderator (Marc Haefke), the Pastor (Norm Luecke), and one representative of the Board of Trustees (Scott Parker).

There are several responsibilities for the Memorial Committee, including approval of suggestions as to how to use the Memorial Funds. For the calendar year 2011, the Memorial Committee has an ending balance of \$5600.61.

Respectfully submitted by,
Marc Haefke
Chairman

MUSIC COMMITTEE

“Sing aloud unto God our strength: make a joyful noise unto the God of Jacob. Take a psalm, and bring hither the timbrel, the pleasant harp with the psaltery. Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day.” Psalms 8:1-3

Music is a special part of our worship at FCC. We are blessed to have a talented choir, wonderful organists and a host of musicians offering that joyful noise as special music.

Last year the Music Committee met periodically to keep the sound of music alive and well at our church. We continue to have an excellent choir under the direction of Gail Haefke. We are lucky to have a choir that puts together such vibrant and interesting music, week after week. New voices are always welcome. Contact Gail if you'd be interested in sharing your voice.

One of the significant events that the Music Committee faced last year was the departure of Michael Spencer. Finding a new organist is not an easy task, but our search found Jonathon Redrico, a music student at DVC, who has been hired as the second organist. Many thanks to Sandy and Norm for making this happen. Linda Anselmo continues her great work as organist. Again we are blessed to have two accomplished musicians to guide our services musically. Thanks also to Carol Baier who was a more than able substitute while we filled the vacancy.

Special music arranged during the summer included Spinning Wheel, Scott Parker, Lorenzo Loera, Mark Thomson, Devil Mt. Chorus, the Haefkes and Carol Baier.

The Martinez Music Forum, which began as a music study group of the Martinez Women's Club about 1915, has had a comfortable and supportive (Carmel Taylor used the word symbiotic) relationship with the Congregational Church for many decades. The members raised funds to buy the fine Steinway Grand which is now in the church sanctuary. Music Forum held monthly Friday night concerts, held annual auditions and awarded scholarship prizes to music student winners. Harriett Burt recently wrote a fine article for the Historical Society newsletter. Music Forum has consistently through the years encouraged and supported music programs in Martinez Public Schools.

The latest activity has been an ecumenical Christmas music program on Sunday, December 11, 2011 featuring church choirs, the Junior High Orchestra and Alhambra High Orchestra, Spinning Wheel (bluegrass), community singing, and soloists. More than seven hundred dollars collected at this concert, an addition to its treasury, will benefit public school music programs in Martinez. The current president is Virginia George.

The church pianos remain in good repair. Arrangements were made for the piano in the Mayflower Room to be tuned in December.

Sincerely,
Mark Thomson

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee make up and responsibilities: The Pastoral Relations Committee consists of six persons appointed for terms of three years each. It has the duty to support and maintain an open relationship between the ordained Pastor and members of the Congregation. The committee lets the Pastor know what members of the Church are thinking and provides a framework in which conflicts or concerns can be dealt with creatively. To aid the Pastoral Relations Committee in its duties and responsibilities, all deliberations are to be confidential. Members of the committee are selected by joint agreement of the Pastor and the Moderator. This committee will meet regularly, at least quarterly. It is not a board or policy-making body; therefore it is not a responsibility of the Nominating Committee.

2011 Committee Members: Bill Chase, Yvonne Cottrell, Roy Jeans, Lori Ortiz, Janet Castagnetti, Laura Febus, Norm Luecke

Report: The Pastoral Relations Committee met two times in 2011 discussing ongoing issues facing the church. Ideas and suggestions regarding worship and pastoral leadership that arose in the Planning and Sustainability Committee cottage meetings will be the basis for continuing discussions of the committee in 2012.

Respectfully submitted by,
Laura Febus

PASTOR'S REPORT

In 2011 my appreciation of our congregation and for each of you has grown richer and deeper. It's been a year of witnessing what you all do so well - reaching out, stepping up and serving. Rare is the day when someone isn't at the church volunteering, taking care of odds and ends that need tending; from caring for the building to making sure some outreach program is moving along, to overseeing our finances, to fine tuning our music ministry, to calling on a member who could use someone to visit, to helping a stranger who stops by the church seeking gas to fill their car or food to feed their child. It is truly a blessing to serve a church where so many people say "yes" when asked, "do you think you could help with this project?" It is truly a blessing to serve a church where so many see tasks that need to be handled and simply take care of them without being asked, and it is truly a blessing to serve a church with such strong leadership. You all - each of you - in large and small ways make my call to serve you easier, and I feel so much gratitude each time I stop and count my blessings.

What's in store for us in 2012? I have no idea, except I expect us to spend time together, to worship together, to pray together, to question together, to bring good news to all together, to welcome the stranger and to love one other with an open heart and an open mind.

Blessings to you all 2012!

With Gratitude,
Norm

The following UCC Personality Profile was developed to describe the United Church of Christ. I think it really describes First Congregational Martinez too!

My roots go back 2000 years, but I am very much now and today. I embrace modern intelligent thinking:

- *Acceptance*
- *Inclusiveness*
- *Justice*

I can even be light-hearted. My open-arms approach is appealing to people of all races and lifestyles, which might explain why my congregations are diverse and unique. A funny thing happens when you're less judgmental. You allow people to search, discover, and flourish. My friends come to seek their own answers, look inside themselves and explore their relationship with God. In the end, my personality is reflective of Christ's:

- *Open*
- *Embracing*
- *Nurturing*
- *And eternally relevant.*

PASTORAL ACTS

Weddings:

Stephanie Foulger & Randy Dismuke Jr.

Date of Service:

06/04/11

Memorials/Funeral:

Krista J. Stedman

05/06/11

Robert Sohl

06/06/11

Sylvia Medina

06/29/11

Eric Gohs

07/24/11

Erna Long

08/06/11

Baptisms:

Ethan Edward Jones

03/20/11

Olivia Maxine Rones

08/28/11

New Members:

Pat Arnold

02/20/11

Cynthia Baker

02/20/11

Larry & Alma Coltharp

02/20/11

Rich Papp

02/20/11

Carol Roberts

02/20/11

Marlene Vasilieff

02/20/11

PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE (PSC)

PSC Committee members include: Norm Luecke, Lori Ortiz, Barbara Patchin, Larry Coltharp, Yvonne Cottrell, Mark Haefke, Laura Febus, Janet Castagnetti and Richard Papp.

This summer the Trustees invited David Bergman-Hill, Associate Conference Minister for Stewardship and Finance with the NCNC UCC, to help assess our church's financial status and future directions. After meeting with David the Trustees and Cabinet decided to form a planning team that would develop a long term plan to build and sustain our efforts as a church community. The Planning and Sustainability Committee was formed to coordinate this plan.

In order to effectively formulate plans for our church's future the committee set out to gather information about our church and its members. Our goal was to gather ideas about our church so we could formulate and/or renew our church's purpose or mission. We decided to do this by conducting small group meetings or cottage meetings in homes and at the church. The congregation was divided into four groups and members were invited to attend one of four cottage meetings. The meetings were facilitated by PSC committee members working in teams of two. All who attended the cottage meetings were given an opportunity to speak up in response to three questions about our church and how we see it: **What do you love about our church? What will FCC be doing five years from now? What tools and resources will we need for the journey?** Attendees wrote down their responses to the questions during the meeting. The PSC group leaders then listed all the responses and put them into a report for their meeting. While a summary of the questions was prepared by Norm and printed in the December *Courier*, members are encouraged to look over the transcripts from each group. A hard copy can be found in the church narthex and online transcripts can be found on the church website (www.fccmtz.org)

The Planning and Sustainability Committee has reviewed all the information gathered and is developing a revised mission or purpose statement for FCC. With a redefined church purpose the committee will work to bring the projects and events brainstormed in our cottage meetings to life through all the FCC groups and members.

A more complete listing of the answers to question three is included in this report because it gives a specific picture of the kinds of projects members are interested in pursuing to keep our church vital and engaged with our community. The PSC hopes the church committees/groups use these ideas/projects/events to make our renewed vision a reality.

The PSC Cottage Meeting Question #3: **What tools and resources will we need for the journey?**

Facility repairs and renovation:

ADA accessibility: wheelchair access for the entire building (ramps and lift), downstairs bathroom accessibility

Kitchen renovation: new stovetop, oven; updated kitchen utensils

Upgrade interior

PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE (cont.)

PR/marketing person/committee to market the church to groups who would rent the space, coordinate community/member bulletin board linking members to services/needs.

Connect with community activities to become visible within the community – having a “booth” at all annual community events, i.e., Peddlers’ Fair, Farmer’s Market, Main Street Martinez events, First Night.

Create youth activities to attract youth: Parents’ night out, dances, movie nights, etc.

Conduct an overall financial analysis of church expenses, i.e., insurance, PG&E, investments; to make sure we are getting the most for our money

Volunteers for youth activities

Furniture/Supplies: paper, books, pencils; decorations for galas, tables for board games

Technology: computers for study hall, big screen TV, Wi-Fi connection

Games: ping pong table, futbol table, board games, game system for video games

Grow the membership

Capitalize on member talents, services and giving

Submitted by,

Laura Febus

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Social Committee is to foster friendship and a spirit of community within the church family. Serving on the committee this year were Lori Ortiz (chair), Patti Crosgrove, Tami Boyer, Tami Lacy, Laura Febus and Rita Carlson.

In February we adopted the front porch and we have planted fresh plants in the pots both Spring and Fall.

On Sunday, March 13 we created the traditional Irish Potato Bar which was enjoyed at long communal tables in the Mayflower room.

In April we helped the Diaconate to host the Seder Supper, a lovely annual celebration held in the Pilgrim Hall at round tables with white linen table cloths. Herb and Linda made delicious lamb and Lori made her first (enormous) Charoseth fruit salad and it was very good if she does say so herself.

In May the social committee hosted a very special event for our local chapter of Church Women United: their annual "Friendship Day". A program was held in the sanctuary and then we repaired to the Mayflower Room, festively decorated with white table cloths and fresh flowers. Every one (Pastor Norm too!) enjoyed a potluck salad lunch with chocolate and vanilla cupcakes for dessert.

For the Blessing of the Animals, on June 26th, we hosted the Fellowship hour held outdoors on our front lawn. Doggy and kitty treats were included in the spread!

In July, we helped to host the annual church picnic, this year held as a fund raiser for the first time. We all shared a lovely chicken lunch with all the fixings and peach crisp for dessert.

October found us helping with the Annual Gala Fundraiser, this year with a black and white ball theme. And finally, although we are not quite there yet as I write this, members of the Social Committee will be helping to organize the snacks for our beautiful Christmas Eve service. Finally, we will be serving pie and coffee following the prayer and meditation service on Christmas morning.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lori Ortiz
Social Committee Chair, 2011

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The purpose of this Women's Fellowship shall be to enlist the women of the parish in a fellowship of worship, Christian education and service, and to assist and cooperate with the various church activities.

All women of the parish shall be considered members of the Women's Fellowship of the First Congregational Church of Martinez. Any member of the Fellowship may join the circle of their choice.

We have had a busy year, meeting topics have been on our Community Response team, a wild bingo night, a talk on the Women's suffrage movement and, of course, Church Jeopardy. We continue to chair the annual dinner. Make sure supplies are there for Sunday Fellowship.

Kathy and Barbara continue to share Presidential Duties, which works out well. Lori Ortiz has also accepted Board President for Church Women United for 2012 which is a great honor.

Our big project this year was the rebuilding of the island in the Pilgrim Hall kitchen. A big thanks to Norm who is a craftsman, and was able to keep materials within the budget.

We continue to support the family shelter and Juvenile Hall, We Send cards out monthly to the women who need a little extra support.

We are looking forward to another year of faith and fellowship.

Barbara Patchin & Kathy Schawel

CIRCLE REPORTS

Priscilla Circle: We do a lot of things every year and the Circle ladies work hard. We do charity work for the community and the church. We meet at the church in the Mayflower Room on the third Wednesday of every month at 9:30am for goodies, coffee and tea.

We started the year with a tour of Reflections Studio (Emeryville) to see the progress of our stained glass window. We had our annual "Baby Shower" for the newborns at Contra Costa Regional Medical Center. We served dinners, coffee and dessert at the Women's Fellowship meetings. We also hosted several Fellowship Hours. A member from the Contra Costa Taxpayers Association talked to us about the ballot measures. Our Christmas luncheon was planned by Deloris McDonald and Shirley Peterson and held at Mr. Lucky's restaurant. We had a great time! We gave money to the Sunday School. We gave shampoo, conditioner and soaps to the Mountain View Family Shelter in Martinez. We made 100 Easter baskets for the children at Juvenile Hall. We had a potluck picnic at the church— lots of food, fun and friendship.

We have some wonderful women working with us and we love them all.

Beverly Annis

Sunset Circle: About 20 of us meet once per month to catch up on each others lives and to do the planning for up and coming events. We are a bunch of busy ladies! As a group we have stayed active in many church activities.

In April we decorated and filled Easter baskets for the children at Juvenile Hall, as well as, hosted a few Coffee Hours. In July we helped plan and organize our Church BBQ & Picnic. In October we helped out with the organizing/cooking/decorating for the Fall Gala. We also hosted the Women's Fellowship meeting in October. In November we held our cookie exchange and painted the Mayflower Room. In December we baked for our Annual Holiday Bake Sale, helped decorate the Martinez Museum, and helped at the Martinez Holiday Frolic. We also decorated the Chrismon Tree and our church for Advent.

We have had a great year and look forward to more fun activities in 2012.

Happy to be of service!

Patti Crossgrove

2012 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

(*Pending acceptance of position.)

MODERATOR

Patti Crosgrove

CHURCH CLERK

*Marlene VasiliEFF

TREASURER

Jennifer Champion

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Lori Ortiz

ASSISTANT FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Edie Porter

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Bill Chase	Marc Haefke
Larry Coltharp	Tari LaCourt
Randy Crosgrove	Richard Patchin
Laura Febus	Jacque Ulrich

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

<Members Needed>

DIACONATE

*Tami Boyer	Paula Nelson
Yvonne Cottrell	Carol Roberts
Migs Carter	Herb Thurman
Marsha Davis	Linda Thurman
Jackie Heath	

HISTORIAN

Laura Febus

2012 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS (cont.)

MEMORIAL GIFTS COMMITTEE

Laura Febus	(Diaconate Member)
Norm Luecke	(Trustees Member)

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Carol Baier	Norm Luecke
Gail Haefke	Emily Teifel
Tari LaCourt	Mark Thomson

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Cynthia Baker	Marc Haefke
Tami Boyer	Nancy Hobert
Pat Chase	Jacquie Ulrich

PASTORAL RELATIONS

Janet Castagnetti	Laura Febus
Bill Chase	Roy Jeans
Yvonne Cottrell	Lori Ortiz

PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY

Janet Castagnetti	Norm Luecke
Yvonne Cottrell	Lori Ortiz
Larry Coltharp	Richard Papp
Laura Febus	Barbara Patchin
Mark Haefke	

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Tami Boyer	Lori Ortiz
Patti Crosgrove	Barbara Patchin
Laura Febus	Susan Willard
Tami Lacy	Sunset Circle

ALTAR FLOWERS

January	Susan Willard
February	Tami Lacy
March	Sandy Simonds
April	Shirley Peterson
May	Kathy Schawel
June	Cynthia Baker
July	Edie Porter
August	Nancy Hobert
September	Migs Carter
October	Laura Febus
November	Lori Ortiz
December	Barbara Patchin

GREETERS & GUESTBOOK

January	Barbara Patchin
February	Lori Ortiz
March	Shirley Peterson
April	Jacquie Ulrich
May	Kathy Schawel
June	Susan Willard
July	Edie Porter
August	Marlene Thompson
September	Yvonne Cottrell
October	Bev Annis
November	Tami Boyer
December	Betty Holt

2012 COMMITTEE MEETING DATES/TIMES

The following Committees are encouraged to meet briefly following the Annual Meeting to elect a chairperson and secretary and confirm their meeting date/time:

Cabinet

4th Sunday 11:15AM - Church Office

Christian Education

Please designate meeting date/time

Diaconate

3rd Sunday at 11:15am - Church Office

Pastoral Relations

Please designate meeting date/time

Social Committee

Please designate meeting date/time

Trustees

2nd Monday 7:00PM - Church Office

(Cut along dotted line and return to office. Thank you.)

Please leave the name of your **CHAIRPERSON AND ANY CHANGES TO THE DAYS/TIMES OF YOUR MEETINGS** on the Secretary's desk so the church calendar can be updated and Cabinet personnel may be formed prior to the **January 22, 2012** meeting.

The _____ will meet on the _____
(Name of committee) (Day/Time)

Chairperson: _____

Secretary: _____

Submitted by: _____ Date: _____