



ANNUAL REPORT

Year ending 2023



At Atkinson Congregational Church, our passion is to serve those in need, provide inclusive safe space, and inspire through worship, music, and growing faith.

Annual Meeting
January 28, 2024

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting - January 22, 2023

The meeting was held in person and virtually

Call to Order by Moderator Jay Goodman: 11:15

A quorum was present: There were a total of 43 church members present (32 in-person and 11 virtual on Zoom). A quorum would be 17.

Opening Prayer: Offered by Pastor Jim

Moderator Introduction: Motion made by Peter McVay to approve the change in the Annual Meeting date for this year (2023) to January 22nd the fourth Sunday in January and seconded by Kay Galloway. Passed unanimously.

Approval of January 30, 2022, Annual Meeting Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes from the Annual Meeting was made by Kay Galloway and seconded by Darlene Graczyk. The motion passed unanimously.

Election of Officers and Team Members:

- Thank you to everyone who has served on a Team or as an officer this past year. Everyone's dedication and hard work are much appreciated.
- The slate of officers and team members for 2023 was presented.
- No additional nominations from the floor were made.
- A motion was made by Julianna Hale and seconded by Sue Goodman to accept the slate. The motion passed unanimously.

Pastor's Report – Presented by Pastor Jim Thomas

- Refer to the Report of the Pastor in the Annual report.
- Positive accomplishments - More pledges, full nominating slate, more pledge money, more than \$15,000 contributions to causes, live stream reached over 1000 different people, more people, more baptisms!
- How we have become more spiritual – more live music, 250th celebration, ONA team's work.
- Still need to focus on increasing numbers and increasing budget but moving in the right direction.
- Also, wanted to recognize that we performed funerals for members who passed away.
- Vitality team will refocus efforts this year. The team will decide on the focus but may have something to do with evangelism.
- All of us should invite someone to church. The live stream has helped the church grow but it needs more growth.
- Our future is bright.
- Find a place where we can make a difference. Get out of our comfort zone.

Operating Budget: - Presented by Hank Riehl

- Slide 1 – summary of performance – 98% of pledges came in, the second line includes other areas and is not as strong at 92%, this includes non-pledge donations where it is hard to know how much will come in, spent less than what was projected, the actual loss is less than predicted.
- Slide 2 - Total cash position has decreased due to having to dip into saving to cover deficits and investment accounts are also down.
- Slide 3 – both pledges and pledge dollars have slightly increased.
- Slide 4 – 56 pledges for 2023 totaling about \$140,000, the best guess for total income is \$186,000 and expenses \$238,00 dollars so the deficit will be \$51,290.
- Question – 2022 expenses what were they? They were \$206,488. Why the increase for 2023? Most likely fuel oil, and electrical.
- Motion made by Gwen Grotenhuis to accept the budget as presented and seconded by Pete McVay.
- Motion passed unanimously.
- Jay – need someone to run a capital campaign, need coordinator, will have consultants.

New Business: Discussion and vote on solar project

- Proposal to add solar to church – benefits both environmental and economic.
- Savings of about \$2000 a year.
- Need to pay via a loan for the entire amount or ask for donations.
- Church support would head the project.
- No solar on the church building itself. It would be installed on the barn (Tuthill House) and dormer on Parsonage, invisible from the main street.
- Discussion
 - Kay – in support, the shift to solar makes sense.
 - Julianna – concern about the use of both of those buildings, are we limiting ourselves if we want to repurpose them?
 - Sherrill – in support, my husband has done a lot of research, panels could be moved off buildings and put on the ground, she has put it in and now has negative electric bills.
 - Adam – concerns about maintenance and wear out of panels.
 - Pete – in favor, new panels have improved a lot.
 - Jim – quote has cost-benefit analysis over 25 years. It factors in the degradation and maintenance of panels over time. The quote will be put online so church members can review it.
 - Helen – will the company fix any problem, if it is under warranty? Electricity has gone up since the quote was done.
 - Michelle - ground panels are more expensive.
 - Dorothy – aware of a situation with squirrels chewing panels, insurance probably will not pay.
 - Gwen – short-term benefits outweigh some of the long-term concerns.
 - Helen – will roofs hold the panels? Jim - a structural engineer will evaluate.
 - Julianna – need to consider if there will be a cost involved with moving the panels from Tuthill House or Parsonage if we needed to do that.

- Chet – will it increase the value of the property?
- Motion made by Pete McVay to accept the proposal from Revision Energy. Seconded by Chet Balut.
- Vote – 30 votes in favor, 3 votes against, and 10 abstaining.

Adjourn:

- Motion to adjourn made by Kay Galloway and seconded by Pete McVay
- Meeting adjourned at 11:55

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Cunningham
(Church Clerk)

Candidates for 2024 Elected Positions

DEACONS - one member will be representative to Council

1. Jeanne Elliott
2. Marisa Galinsky
3. Sue Goodman
4. Jane Goodwin
5. Dorothy Graaskamp
6. Nancy Louiselle
7. Vikki Quick
8. Adam Southergill
9. Anne Williams

MODERATOR - Council member

Jay Goodman

CLERK - Council member

Shirley Orio

TREASURERS - Comptroller will be a Council member.

Cheryl Riehl
Hank Riehl

CHURCH SUPPORT - one member will be representative to Council.

1. Kristen Diamond
2. Kay Galloway
3. Bill Ball
4. Chet Balut
5. Marisa Galinsky

CONGREGATIONAL ENGAGEMENT TEAM - one member will be representative to Council.

1. Julianna Hale
2. Chet Balut
3. Sue Cunningham
- 4.
5. Kelsey Iani

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM - one member will be representative to Council.

1. Linda Fisher
2. Marisa Galinsky
3. Linda Jowett
4. Marilyn Moran
5. Michelle Wunderlich

PASTORAL RELATIONS – at-large

Vikki Quick
Jay Goodman

Report of the Pastor for 2023

In 2023 we worked on getting back into a 'routine.' We were still trying new things and exploring our faith lives together, but we also yearned for normalcy and consistency. Well, except for those three months I was away on sabbatical! Here are some of my highlights:

WORSHIP

We continue to do minor tweaks to worship, both the in-person and the livestream versions to make the experience as connected as possible for both groups. We settled on the 4th Sunday being a traditional music Sunday, with the exceptional Ann Chalk playing the organ and piano when she is available. The 3rd Sunday has become our special music worship, with our Atkinson Bell Choir and/or Kokopelli flutes offering special music during worship. The other Sundays include a mix of traditional and contemporary music which is being received favorably. Kim Ridley continued to work with our youth to form a Kids Choir at multiple times during the year.

The Deacons have done a great job operating the livestream equipment each Sunday in addition to their other Deacon duties.

The Livestream (and subsequent posting of the worship service on our website and YouTube) is a continuing success. In 2023, we had 779 connections to our livestream. And since many of those connections consist of a couple or family, we easily had over 1,000 viewers watching our worship live. They came from 39 states and 13 different countries! Also of note is our YouTube channel, where many people sign on to watch during the week. In 2023, our worship videos on YouTube had 1,094 views, up 60% from 2022! Our worship extends far beyond Atkinson each week.

In person worship attendance also trended up during the year.

We added four new members in 2023, celebrated two Baptisms, and held four memorial services (with several others held away from the church).

SABBATICAL

During May, June, and July I took my first sabbatical as your pastor. I spent much of my time in Florida, reading, studying, planning out worship for the fall, and frankly, recharging batteries that three years of COVID had depleted. I attended a retreat workshop about gratitude, which shaped some of our worship experiences in the fall, including offering Gratitude journals to worship attendees. It is heartening how many of you have said that you are keeping up with the practice. I also attended the United Church of Christ General Synod in Indianapolis the end of June. This national gathering of the entire UCC is an opportunity to worship with thousands of your closest friends, attend multiple workshops, and study and debate the issues of the day. Nearly everyone leaves Synod with a full spirit and hope for the present and future church. I returned with a renewed appreciation for all you do as The Light on the Hill, and all we can do as we continue to grow into our future.

My personal thanks to the Deacons and all those who volunteered to lead or participate in worship while I was away. I have watched all those worship services, and was so gratified by the willingness to serve, and the depths of your faith!

COMMUNITY PRESENCE

Being present in the community is part of the core of my ministry. I continue to serve as the Chaplain to the Atkinson Police Department and the Atkinson Veteran's Group. I am a Director of the Atkinson Lions, and I am present and participating in many town events, including Town Meeting Day, Memorial Day, and Wreaths Across America. Late in 2023, I was asked by the Atkinson Fire Department to 'officially' become their Chaplain as well. This will be complete in early 2024 once the new Chief is onboard and the Selectboard so votes. I strive to be a community resource, and while much of that work is unseen by most, it does help to reinforce the idea that we consider ourselves a true 'community' church.

BEYOND THE COMMUNITY

I am engaged in the Rockingham Association and New Hampshire Conference of the UCC. In October 2023 I was elected as President and Chair of the Board of Directors for the NH Conference, UCC. It's exciting to help guide and support the 130+ churches of our Conference. For much of the year I also served on the Board of Directors of the New Hampshire Council of Churches, a statewide organization whose goal is to further Christian unity, life, and action in New Hampshire. I am also part of an area UCC clergy group, and a member of the Hampstead Area Interfaith Community.

STAFF

Lynn Thomas continues to excel running the office and taking on any new tasks that need doing, while continuing to streamline and make our current processes more efficient.

Bob Hodgdon continues his excellent work as our Sexton, caring for our physical plant.

Jane Goodwin led our Bell Choir until December, when she retired from the position. We are excited to have hired Carol Boudreau as our current Director. The Atkinson Bell Choir is the largest it has been in recent memory, and performs at least monthly, and also at special services and a Christmas concert.

This year will be better than ever! Planning is underway for a Spring Festival, the showing of a documentary titled "Gratitude Revealed", we look forward to the return of Vacation Bible Camp, and much more. Our future as The Light on the Hill shines brightly! Let's walk into God's future together.

Peace,

Jim

Pastor Jim Thomas

2023 Moderator's Report

Another year finished at ACC! I think it has been a very good year after our recovery and full return to normal after COVID.

The Moderator has a fairly light load to carry compared to all the other teams within the Atkinson Congregational Church. I need to schedule and run the monthly council meeting and I need to run the annual meeting that occurs in January every year. This time of year is the one I find the most stressful because this is the time we are preparing the budget for the following year. It is stressful for a couple of reasons. The first is the fact that we really need to get pledge cards in from all members of the congregation. The income for the church comes from our members and if we don't know how much money we have to spend it makes for a difficult process putting a budget together by our Treasurers Hank and Cheryl Reihl. They have a good handle on expenses but without pledge cards we have to guess at income.

The second big issue is the dollar amount of total pledges that we receive. Many of you have heard over the last 10 to 15 years that we are short on income vs expenses every year and that this is not sustainable. You all also see that nothing changes and the church continues to operate. We are reaching a point where this will not be true within the next couple of years. Since we have not covered expenses in quite a long time and we still need to pay our bills we have been depleting our savings and endowment funds. These funds will be consumed within the next 2 to 3 years. I personally value the family and fellowship that I have always felt at ACC and that is what drew Sue and I to the church originally. We would like to see this church continue to have a strong positive influence on the members and the community at large. We can't do this if we have to close our doors.

We have between 50 and 60 families that actually submit pledge cards every year. We also have a bare minimum expense budget of approximately \$235,000. This means we need to average about \$3,900 per pledging family just to pay our bills. We have families that pledge more than this and families that pledge less. Everyone should pledge what they can afford and what their heart tells them is the right amount. I am not including these numbers to make anyone feel bad about their pledge amount, I believe that many people just don't know how much it costs to operate our church. Hopefully the numbers above will help guide if you are unsure of what your pledge amount should be. If you have already pledged this year, thank you. If you have not please consider filling out a pledge card or just send an email to the office with a commitment. Help us keep the Atkinson Congregational Church open and thriving in Atkinson!

Yours in fellowship,

Jay

Deacons 2023 Annual Report

2023 was a year of loyal serving from the heart. Hybrid services (we don't even call them that anymore) are now the norm – in person and online. With two deacons regularly serving each Sunday as well as for special events, one deacon is always controlling the “tech desk” – the hub between the sanctuary and the parlor, which drives much of our technology glory.

The year began with a few changes on the diaconate. Mark Miller and Shirley Orio stepped away from active status. They are missed, but we've been in good hands. That's because we gained first-time deacon, Adam Southergill, in addition to returning deacons, Sue Goodman and Jane Goodwin. A hint within those last two names reveals how we've been feeling as a team: good. Very good.

2023 was an unusual year for the deacons due to Pastor Jim's much deserved, three-month sabbatical. How fortunate for the entire congregation that several parishioners stepped up to lead worship during that time. This also helped to make the deacons' job run as smoothly as possible during Pastor Jim's absence. Our heartfelt thanks go out to the following worship leaders who provided us with inspiring, long-to-be-remembered messages: Linda Jowett, Kathy Jerome, Mike Rabe, Kay Galloway, Julianna Hale, Pete McVay, Sherrill Davis, Darlene Graczyk and Ann Chalk. For at least a few, speaking in front of the congregation was outside their comfort zone – yet everyone handled the spotlight beautifully. God clearly had something to do with that.

We were also fortunate to have retired pastor, Linda Snyder, preach on several Sundays during Pastor Jim's sabbatical. Pastor Linda's worship services, combined with lay leader Sundays, provided for a rich program overall, which we believe served the congregation well while Pastor Jim was away.

As deacons, we continuously strive to be the healthy heartbeat of the church, ensuring that services run steadily and that everyone feels welcome. Did every deacon-supported program run smoothly in 2023? Of course not. But that goes with our imperfect nature of being human. A good sense of humor comes in handy during those times.

Further, behind the scenes, an important deacon-led pursuit is reaching out to individuals with a special card or phone call. If you know of anyone who could benefit from either, please let a deacon know. It doesn't matter what the circumstance may be, whether it's a prayerful thought, a “happy birthday,” or a simple “thinking of you.”

A year sure goes by quickly, and here we are, fortunate to be at the start of a new one. We're excited to serve you once again.

In joyful service from your 2023 deacons,

Jeanne Elliott, Marisa Galinsky, Sue Goodman, Jane Goodwin, Dorothy Graaskamp, Nancy Louiselle, Vikki Quick, Adam Southergill, and Anne Williams

Church Support Team 2024 Annual Report

We are delighted to present the annual report for the Church Support Team, highlighting the accomplishments achieved in 2023. It has been a year of progress, sustainability, and rejuvenation for our beloved church community.

Switch to Solar Energy:

In our commitment to environmental stewardship, we transitioned to solar energy for our church buildings. Working closely with Pastor Jim, this was a major effort for a good part of the year for the team, and came with reviewing plans, fund-raising, prepping the areas, and working closely with Revision Energy and our utility company. We could not be happier with the outcome. This transition not only reduces our carbon footprint but also lowers long-term energy costs.



Tree Care and Campus Beautification:

We took significant steps to enhance the aesthetic appeal of our church grounds, including:

- Removal of 31 diseased Ash Trees along the entrance to the back parking lot not only improved the aesthetic of the campus, it allowed for more sunlight to hit the solar panels.
- Installation of a rainbow fish to front sign as an outward symbol conveying our faith and warmth to the community.
- We continue to do our best to keep up with our many gardens, with extensive pruning, weeding, and landscaping efforts. Our goal is to continue to create a serene and inviting atmosphere for all who visit.

Attic Cleanup and Organization:

We undertook a major cleanup in the barn attic, sorting through and organizing materials accumulated over decades. This effort not only reclaimed valuable space but also uncovered numerous treasures. These finds were repurposed for children's programs or donated to the Church yard sale.



Alarm System Update at Tuthill House:

To ensure the safety of our parishioners and meet modern security standards, we updated the alarm system in Tuthill House, bringing it up to code and enhancing overall security measures.

Rally Sunday

We continued the tradition of leading the cook-out on Rally Sunday. And while the weather did not cooperate, the team still managed to pull together a fantastic indoor luncheon and time of fellowship.



These accomplishments were made possible through the hard work of our Church Support Team members, volunteers, and generous supporters. As we move forward into the future, we remain committed to nurturing our spiritual home and serving our community.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who contributed to these achievements and invite everyone to join us in continuing to make a positive impact on our church and its surroundings in the coming year. And as we look towards 2024, we

welcome Marissa Gralinsky to the team. We also thank the support of Alan Reed who will be leaving our team in 2023.

In faith and fellowship,

Chet Balut, Team Lead

Kristen Diamond, Team Lead

Bill Ball

Kay Galloway

Alan Reed

Your Church Support Team

Congregational Engagement Team 2024 Annual Report

The purpose of the Conga Team is to support programs that enhance the church's ministries within the congregation.

Our Mission: Minister to and engage the congregation by supporting meaningful connections, outreach, and experiences.

2023 members:

- Sue Cunningham, Co-Chair
- Julianna Hale, Co-Chair
- Chet Balut
- Kelsey Iani
- Catherine Southergill

Congregational Engagement oversees the following Working Groups:

- Fellowship Hour
- Faith Formation
- Music
- Nominating
- Scholarship
- Vitality

Faith Formation

Kristen Diamond stepped down from her role as the Children and Youth Leader. The Faith Formation Group, with Kristen's guidance, began the search for someone to fill this role. After discussion and analysis of our current needs the position was modified to be a Kid's Club Coordinator. This person's main responsibility would be to offer a program for children ages pre-K to 12 years old. Kid's Club would be held twice a month at 10:00 on Sundays during the worship service.

Under Sue Cunningham's guidance and volunteer coordination, we were able to start up the Kid's Club again in April on an interim basis with two adult volunteers from our congregation while we worked on filling this position. We are very appreciative of everyone who has volunteered and continues to volunteer for this important program.

In April we hired Phyllis Hanson to be the new Kid's Club Coordinator. We were excited to have her on board. Phyllis started in mid-April assisting the volunteers. She grew familiar with her role and had some great arts and crafts projects for the kids during spring and summer. During the spring, the Congregational Engagement Team with the help of Pastor Jim and Phyllis chose a new curriculum called Celebrate Wonder All Kids. This includes games, crafts, stories, videos, and is lots of fun.

We were unable to offer Vacation Bible Camp this summer due to difficulty with scheduling and resources. We offered scholarships to the Horton Center instead.

The bimonthly Kid's Clubs continued to meet from September to December. Attendance ranged from 2 to 8 children. Our hope is to continue to grow the program and outreach has been done to past Vacation Bible Camp participants and the community through Facebook and the Carriage Town News.

In December, the Council voted to change the requirement for a State of New Hampshire Criminal History Record Information check for staff and volunteers working with children from every 3 years to every 5 years. Any new hire or new Kid's Club volunteer would have to have it done immediately.

Fellowship/Coffee Hour

Fellowship/Coffee Hour continued to be offered after Sunday Worship. More people are staying after worship for this time of fellowship with friends old and new. We have had many people sign up to host and are thankful for their willingness to help and have been treated to many delicious snacks and goodies. More volunteers are always needed!

Special thanks again go out to Chet Balut who has helped with set up and clean up on a weekly basis and Sue Cunningham who continues to facilitate the weekly volunteer sign-up sheet – both on-line and in fellowship hall.

Nominating

The 2023 slate of candidates for elected positions on the Teams and Council was approved at the Annual Meeting on January 22, 2023. We thank everyone who served.

Starting in November, the church members, Team/Deaconate chairs, and Council officers were notified that it was time to develop the slate of candidates for 2024. Teams continue to do their own recruiting for any open positions. The Council is responsible for filling any vacancies in the Council's officer positions. Announcements were made in the E-News, and during worship regarding nominations for the 2024 slate.

The Congregational Engagement Team is looking for someone who would be interested in handling the Nomination process starting in November/December of 2024. This process develops a new slate of Officers and Team Members for the upcoming year. It is an easy process with guidelines and communication templates already developed.

Music Team

Music continues to be an important part of worship for our church. Most Sundays the music is selected by Pastor Jim to align with his sermon topics. Having the ability to project video recordings allows for a wider range and an excellent mix of contemporary and traditional music. Lynn Thomas, Officer Manager, ensures that all service music is covered by the proper licensure.

The third Sunday of each month is Music Sunday. On that Sunday, Ann Chalk is on the organ bench. The Bell Choir and Kokopelli also play. The Bell Choir consists of ten ringers, three of

which are new members. Kokopelli , flute ensemble, consists of up to nine players. We also have two new trumpeters who accompany worship on hymns.

During the Christmas season, Kim Ridley gathers and directs a group of children to sing during worship. It is always a joy to hear children sing. We held a Christmas Concert in December which was open to the community and was well attended.

With sadness in mid-November we accepted the resignation of Jane Goodwin, our Bell Director. Jane was responsible for starting our bell choir and has been the director for thirty-five years. During that time, she initiated and directed bell choirs for adults, children, a men's group, and a community bell choir. We are so thankful for the gift that Jane has given our church with her years of dedication and inspiring music for her bell choirs and the congregation.

Continuing the tradition of excellence in music, Carol Boudreau accepted the position of Bell Choir Director. Carol is a fine musician and has been a member of the bell choir for several years. She will continue the tradition started by Jane of inspiring bell music in worship.

The Music Team

Kathy Elliott, Nancy White, and Darlene Graczyk

Scholarship

The Atkinson Congregational Church Scholarship Team received four outstanding applications for the 23-24 Horton scholarship. The 4 applicants grew up in our church and each one contributed in all ways possible to the life and worship in the church. We were grateful to be able to award each of these young people \$1000 with the consent of the Church Council.

The students are Katie Burke - University of Southern Maine, Sidney Monahan- Wentworth Institute of Technology, Max Orio - Keene State College, and Zach Diamond - Elon University. They will be awarded the second half of their scholarships after their second semester transcripts are received by the end of January.

The Scholarship Team

Susan Carter, Marion MacNeill, and Janice Gallipeau

Vitality

2022 was an incredibly active and impactful year for the Vitality crew; so much so, that 2023 was a year of renewal and rejuvenation. We briefly met one time in Q1, then regrouped in Q3 and Q4, using Pastor Jim's sabbatical time as our teams also. That time of rest proved valuable, as several members of the Team came up with fantastic ideas for 2024. We're grateful that newest member, Kelsey Iani, volunteered to Chair a May 11, 2024, Atkinson Spring Festival with the support of the Team. The team will also be hosting a community movie viewing in the sanctuary called *Gratitude Revealed*, followed by soup fellowship. We are still looking for a couple people who feel called to explore the possibility of a "Garden for Good" on our campus. A few raised vegetable beds that the wider community can help maintain seem like a great use of our campus but requires a few dedicated "green thumbs" to lead this initiative.

We're praying for God's blessings and resources to widen our reach as the Light on the Hill to serve our community and bring people closer to Him.

The Vitality Team

Chet Balut, Kristen Diamond, Chris Duerr, Linda Fisher, Marisa Galinsky, Jay Goodman, Sue Goodman, Darlene Graczyk, Gwen Grotenhuis, Julianna Hale, Kelsey Iani, Linda Jowett, Pete McVay, Nancy Monahan Kim Ridley, and Pastor Jim Thomas.

Community Engagement Team 2024 Annual Report

We have continued to attempt to reflect a broader vision of what community engagement means.

We continued our monthly meetings in person. We continue to see increased need in the community for both financial and participatory support.

We were blessed to have a full team of 5. We look forward to engaging more community and congregational members participation in our team activities. We can always use for members

Projects coordinated by CommET this year include:

- Donations of food to St Anne's and St Luke's food pantries continue to be facilitated with the help of Lynn Thomas by placing the shopping cart outside on the porch to allow for drop-offs. Shelves that were built in the vestibule to more easily store food waiting for delivery are working well. We have dedicated the first Sunday of the month as food donation Sunday. A sign outside reminding people about food pantry Sunday seems to have helped with donations. The shopping cart is brought into the sanctuary and we are able to bless the food ready to be delivered.
- Special thanks to Marisa Galinsky and Marilyn Moran for continuing to make the deliveries to the St Luke's and St Anne's food pantries about 1-2x per month. We plan to continue this for the foreseeable future'
- Special Hat and Glove collection generated enough clothing to make deliveries to Liberty House, Ruth's House, and Common Ground. Thank you.
- We did not participate in the CROP walk this year due to lagging participation.
- The Scarecrows were set up to highlight our dedication to Caring for God's Creation by highlighting our switch to solar, recycling, and other things that everyone could do.
- Monthly participation in meal preparation at Sonshine Soup kitchen in Derry has continued for drive- thru pick up. We have consistently been able to staff 1-3 people on the 4th weds of the month. Extra effort was given to publicize this volunteer opportunity through e-news and announcements in church. Thank you, Michelle, for your dedication to this ongoing service.
- A special egg collection was initiated to collect eggs for Easter. 41 dozen eggs were donated to St Luke's Food Pantry. Thank you, Marisa.
- We continue with representation on the ONA team.
- A blanket drive through CWS allowed us to purchase 30 all-weather blankets that were delivered to Common Ground in Haverhill. They were gone in several weeks. Thank you, Marilyn, Lynn, and Marisa, for making this happen.
- A site visit was conducted to Common Ground to determine how we could most help. They are really boots on the ground for the homeless community in Haverhill; providing meals, showers, laundry and counseling. We will look at this closer in the coming year.
- A Comfort Station at the town- wide yard sale was continued with the appreciation of the community. Bake sales were run during both spring and fall community yard sales.

We began selling hotdogs in the fall with great success. We will build on this during future yard sale events. Money raised in the spring was split between support for solar and support for Maui relief (\$330 each.) the Spring church wide yard sale raised \$2,000 toward the solar project. The fall sale benefitted Maui relief and the solar project.. Community response has been good. Special thank you to all who donated items for the bake and yard sales.

- Christmas presents were collected for the children of 5 families identified through St Luke's food pantry, St Anne's food pantry and Atkinson congregational church office. We are thankful for the wonderful congregational response through the sign- up genius. Additionally, Market Basket gift cards were provided with the help of a Lion's donation for that purpose.
- Three Narcotics Anonymous meetings and an AA meeting have been continued. We appreciate their financial donations. Our groups have continued to meet in Lovejoy Hall. The weds NA group disbanded during the year
- We have considered restarting community dinners as a fund raiser, but didn't feel the time was yet right. We will again consider that this year if enough volunteers can be found.
- With limited funds, we cut back on the number of agencies we routinely support.
- In February, we initiated writing personnel welcome letters to people moving into Atkinson in order to acquaint them with our church community. 90 notes have been written sent by 10 members of the congregation. We will reevaluate in Feb to see if we continue this project. A sincere thank you to all who stepped up to help with this project.
- We have intentionally underspent the budget for the past several years due to the church budget situation. We try to replace it with fund raising activities, additional donation requests and direct participation in the community. The needs are endless.
- We look forward to increasing our presence in and assistance to the community.

Thank you to everyone who donated and especially those that volunteered. We look forward to increasing participation in programs to follow our vision of caring for those in need.

We would welcome any ideas or suggestions.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Fisher
Linda Jowett
Marisa Galinsky
Michelle Wunderlich
Marilyn Moran

Distribution of Donations 2023

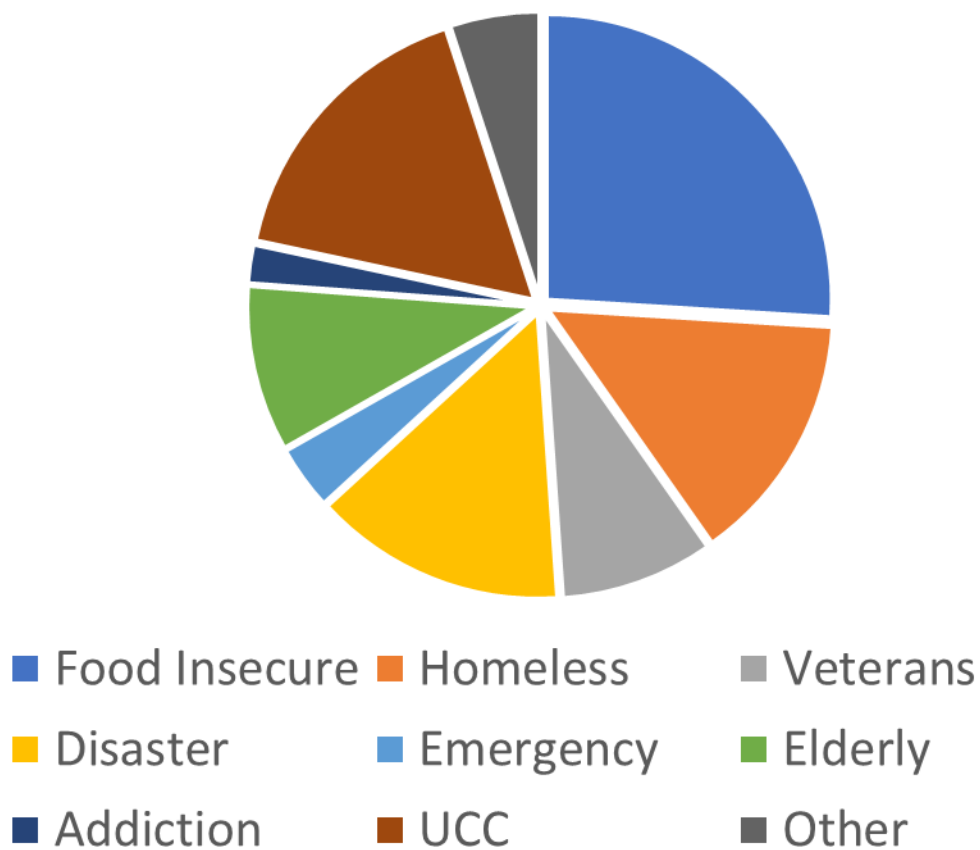
Food Insecure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NH Food Bank \$750 St Anne's Food Pantry \$500 St Luke's Food Pantry \$500 St Lukes' back Pack program \$300 Sonshine Soup Kitchen \$300 Rockingham Meals on wheels \$500 Edesia \$250 OGHS \$500 Total: \$3600	Homeless <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emmaus House 250 Isaiah 58 \$500 Common Ground \$500 Habitat for Humanity \$250 Crossroads \$225 Crossroads move out drive \$250 Total \$1975	Veterans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homeland Heroes \$200 Liberty House \$400 Wreathes Across America \$100 Soldier's angels \$500 Total \$1200
Disaster <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Church World Service \$1480 UCC disaster relief \$500 Total \$1980	Emergencies - local <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atkinson fire department \$100 Brigid's House of Hope \$400 Total \$500	Elderly (Kinney fund) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Caregivers \$400 Salem Caregivers \$400 Rockingham Meals on Wheels \$500 Total Total \$1300*
Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kimball library \$100 JJG Scholarship \$(dev disabilities) - \$250 NH Charitable foundation \$350 Total \$700	Addiction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> So Roc (prevention) \$300 Total \$300	UCC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Churches Wider Mission \$1500 NH Council of Churches \$800 Total \$2300

Contributions of Labor 2023

Food Insecure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sonshine Soup Kitchen averages 6 hours monthly Food delivered to St Anne's and St Luke's at least bimonthly 	Homeless <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect & Deliver clothing to Ruth's House Collect & Deliver clothing to Common Ground 	Veterans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect & Deliver clothing to Liberty House
Addiction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host 3 NA meetings 1 AA meeting 	Disaster <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staffing Bake Sale x2 	Local <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas family gift collection Hosting Comfort Station x2 Staffing yard sale x2 Preparing and writing welcome notes.

Donations

CommET Donations 2023



VITAL STATISTICS 2023

An accounting of the membership of Atkinson Congregational Church for the year ended Dec. 31, including all Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals, Letters of Transfer, Withdrawals from Church Rolls, and New Members.

Baptisms

Name	Child of	Place of Birth	Date of Birth	Date of Baptism
Charlotte Rose Battiato	Sherlie K. Battiato	Baylor University Hospital, Dallas, TX	6/20/18	4/30/23
Walker Everett Holmes	Brittany Walker & Alex Holmes	Holy Family Hosp Methuen, MA	12/16/22	8/20/23

New Members

Member	Method of Joining	Date	
Kelsey Iani	Confession of Faith	4/16/23	
Thomas Myers	Letter of Transfer	8/20/23	
Jeanne Myers	Letter of Transfer	8/20/23	
Michelle Zappala	Reaffirmation of Faith	8/20/23	

Members Removed

Member	Reason for Removal	Date	
Helen Hanson	Moving-request removal	10/2023	
Carl Hanson	Moving-request removal	10/2023	
Bill King	Moving-request removal	11/2023	

Funerals/Memorial Services Performed

Name	Place of Funeral-Memorial Service	Date of Death	Date of Funeral	Member	Officiant
Bernice Chavers	Brookside FH Atkinson CC	3/15/23	3/25/23	Yes	Pastor Jim
Marny Peabody	Atkinson CC	2/8/23	4/22/23	Former	Pastor Jim
Richard (Rick) Gardella	Brookside Funeral Home	6/12/23	6/20/23	Yes	Brookside
Barbara Childs	Brookside Funeral Home Atkinson CC	12/9/23	12/16/23	No	Pastor Jim

Treasurer's Annual Report Commentary: FY 2023

We entered 2023 with an expected budget deficit of \$51,290. Our actual loss was \$49,233. Overall church operating results are reasonably predictable, though individual items are less easy to predict:

- Income; **Pledges are our best predictor.** We historically collect 98%+/- of committed pledges. Less predictable are Non-Pledge donations (funds received from people known to us who did not make a formal pledge) and Loose Offerings (anonymous gifts). Giving Tree and Fundraisers offer great opportunities for additional income, but depend on extra church community initiative and generosity. Calendars, dinners, auctions, yard sales and other fundraisers have yielded past income boosts.

- Expense variability comes from risk items similar to those faced by every homeowner:

- o Energy (oil and electricity) price uncertainty;
- o Unforeseen repairs;
- o Heavy snowfall season;
- o General inflationary impacts.

The **proposed 2024 Operating Budget is being withheld** as of this writing (Jan 7, 2024) to provide more time to improve our so-far **DISAPPOINTING pledge returns**. If you have not submitted a pledge, please do so as soon as you can! The final **2024 Operating Budget** will be released after one final drive for more pledges takes place in mid-January 2024. It will be made available via email and download before the Annual Meeting.

The **Pledges Timeline Report** shows the **Pledge Units Received** timeline for every year since 2005. The 2024 figures are accurate as of Jan 7, 2024.

The **Year-End Total Cash Timeline Report** shows our TOTAL cash position on Dec 31 for several past years. The decline is mostly explained by our yearly deficits, forcing us to tap into savings. Clearly, this is not a healthy trend. Investment performance (gains and losses) also account for some changes and the slight rise in 2020 was due to our "COVID PPP Loan" being forgiven.

Respectfully; Hank & Cheryl Riehl Treasurers

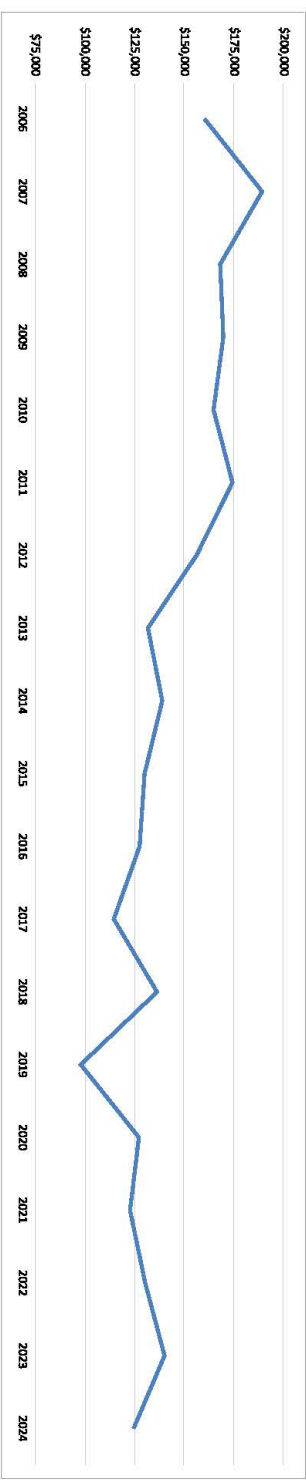
1/11/2024

Atkinson Congregational Church 2023 Annual Meeting

Pledges Timeline

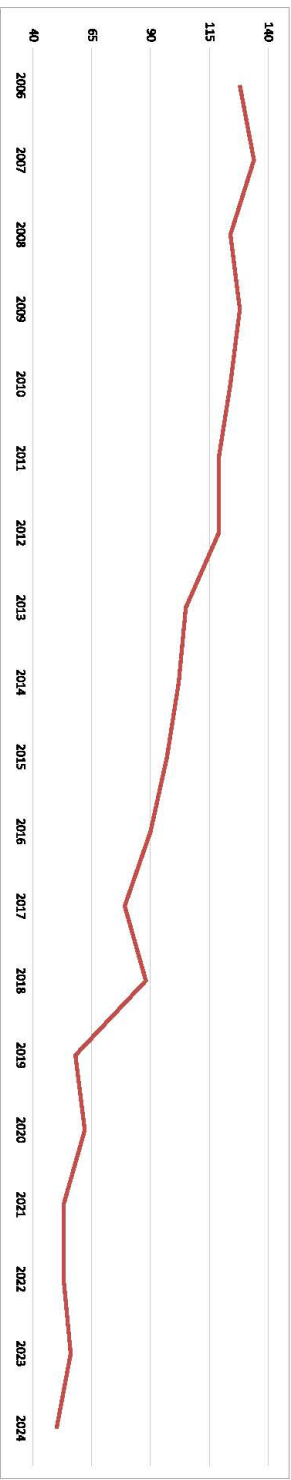
Pledge Dollars

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Dollars	\$160,247	\$189,212	\$168,106	\$169,696	\$164,795	\$174,301	\$166,226	\$131,802	\$138,989	\$130,102	\$127,591	\$114,621	\$136,343	\$98,029	\$127,255	\$122,789	\$130,400	\$140,132	\$124,590



Pledge Units

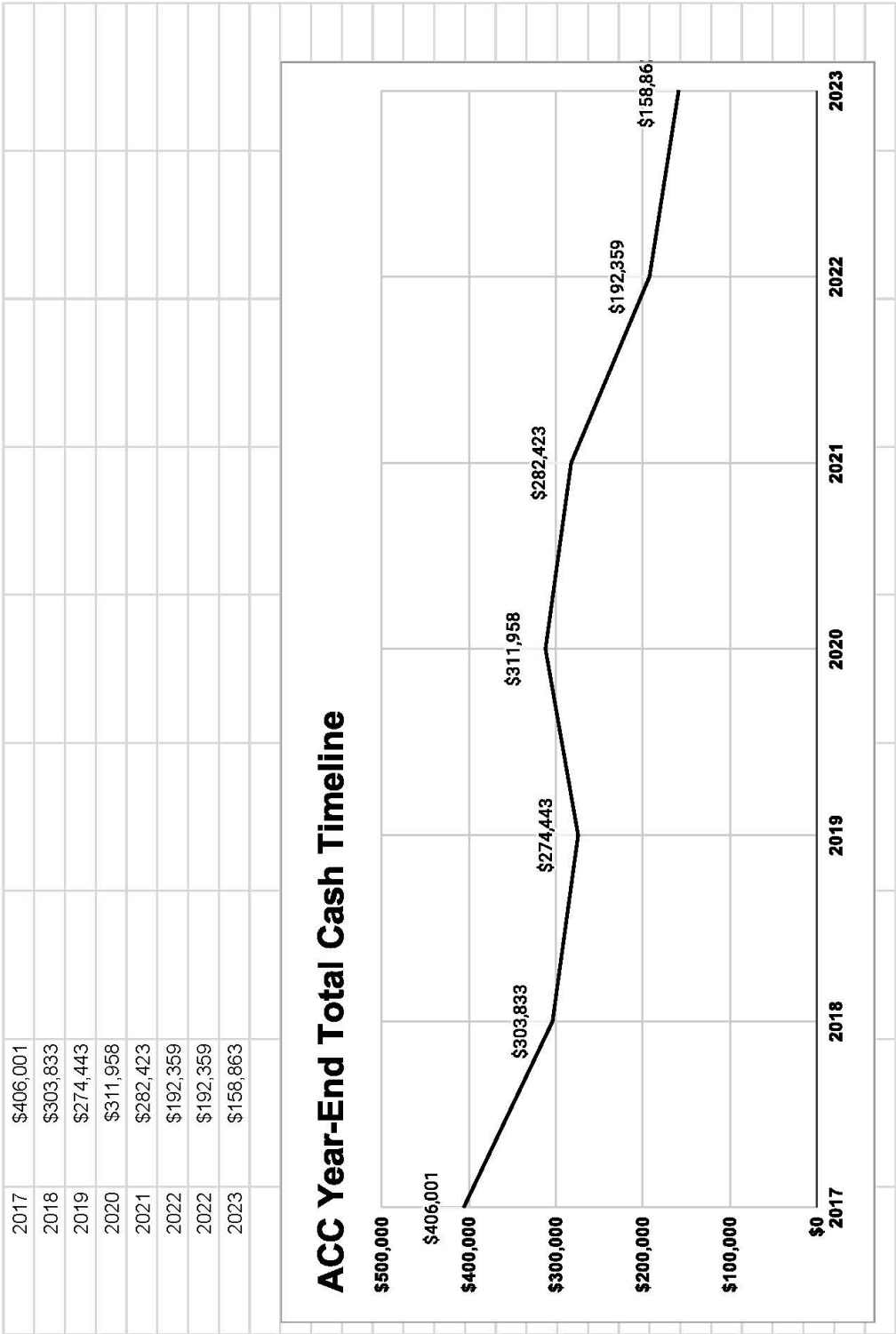
Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Units	128	134	124	128	124	119	119	105	102	97	90	79	88	58	62	53	53	56	50



Pledges Timeline

1/11/2024

Year End Cash Timeline



2024 Budget

		2022 Full-Year Actuals	2023 Full-Year Actuals	2023 Full-Year Budget	2023 Actual -vs- Budget	2024 Proposed Budget	Comments
Income							
Ordinary Income (Budgeted)							
	Income Before Pledge Split	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	Always zeroed out when Pledge/Non-Pledge reconciled - Will Adele Dillon still "caretake" in 2024? - Collected \$2,750 in 2015. Lot's of upside potential. - Ask for higher amounts, \$20-40-60 since most give cash - Figure shown reflects 50 pledges for 2024 received as of Jan 24, 2024 - We received 56 Pledges in 2023. - Local Donors who did NOT pledge, but can be identified by either envelope # or their name on a check. - Cash in the Plate, Donors Unknown
	Giving Tree	705.00	907.12	1,750.00	51.84%	1,100.00	
	Pledge Donations	127,447.00	137,299.50	140,132.00	97.98%	124,590.00	
	Non-Pledge Donations	16,348.00	18,198.00	18,000.00	101.1%	18,500.00	
	Loose Offerings	2,571.00	3,821.00	2,250.00	169.82%	4,000.00	
	Interest / Dividends	26.04	116.43	60.00	194.05%	125.00	Interest on money market account. - 2022 mailing was successful but tracking is very difficult. - "Train" townspeople to give annually - 2023 figure misleading cuz many gifts went to Solar - Hall only, Tent Rentals go to FF Savings - NAA/AA provide bulk of this - Kimi Nichols will return in 2024
	Town-Wide Appeal	3,755.00	100.00	3,500.00	2.86%	3,000.00	Monthly rate set at beginning of year - 2023 was \$883 per month, set when market was down, \$1100/month estimated for 2024, market is up - 2023 was mostly Calendars / Cards - Has been as high as \$12,000 in past years with suppers, auctions, etc. - Low hanging fruit here!!
	Hall Rental	2,855.00	2,524.00	2,800.00	90.14%	3,750.00	Scrap metal sales, other misc
	Richmond Trust Income	16,288.46	11,748.12	13,800.00	85.13%	13,200.00	
	Fundraisers (to GPF)	564.26	1,043.37	4,500.00	23.19%	800.00	
	Ordinary Income - Other	0.00	115.36	25.00	461.44%	25.00	
Total Ordinary Income (Budgeted)		170,559.76	175,872.90	186,817.00	94.14%	169,090.00	
Total Income		170,559.76	175,872.90	186,817.00	94.14%	169,090.00	
Expense							
Personnel Expenses							
	Salary Increase Pool	0.00		0.00			
	FF Youth Ldr Salary	0.00	1,500.00	7,750.00	19.36%	2,400.00	- Restructured as FF Leader in 2023.
	Music Dir / Organist Salary	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	Position Retired for now
	Choir Dir Salary	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	Position Retired for now
	Bell Dir Salary	2,509.20	2,509.20	2,510.00	99.97%	2,510.00	Assumes full year on staff
	Sexton Salary	10,374.00	11,856.00	11,856.00	100.0%	11,856.00	- Assumes full year on staff - Increased FEB 2022 to \$19/hr - Budgeted 2023 at \$19/hr x 12 hr/week x 52 weeks - continue as 2024
	Office Salary	19,749.96	21,000.00	21,000.00	100.0%	16,188.00	- Admin asked for 15-hour / 3-day workweek instead of 20-hour / 4-days beginning Feb 2024. - Essential tasks can be covered but less Team support may result.
	Church-Paid FICA & Medicare	2,496.43	2,820.18	3,300.00	85.46%	2,585.00	- Same hourly rate-of-pay as 2023. - Church-Paid FICA & Medicare (non-Pastors).
	Workers Comp Ins; All Empls	-765.50	1,210.50	1,040.00	116.39%	1,200.00	- 7.65% times non-pastor salaries - continue 2023 run rate
	Visiting Organist	0.00	0.00	300.00	0.0%	300.00	- Current Visiting Organist donates her efforts - This represents a gift

		2022 Full-Year Actuals	2023 Full-Year Actuals	2023 Full-Year Budget	2023 Actual -vs- Budget	2024 Proposed Budget	Comments
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[illegible]

