



hope central church

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2010 Annual Report

Hope Central Church

85-87 Seaverns Ave

Jamaica Plain, MA 02131

2010 Annual Report

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Leadership Circle Annual Report

Your faithful Leadership Circle accomplished so many things in 2010. One major accomplishment is the merger of Hope Church and Central Congregational church in February 2010. In 2010, Hope Church moved to Central Congregational, lived into our first joint budget, officially merged, said goodbye to our interim Wendy Miller Olapade, bade farewell to Central's settled pastor Michael McSherry and called the first settled pastor of the tribe of Hope and of the merged congregation of Hope Central. As a leadership team, we welcomed Pam Wylie, Abbi Holt, and Andrew Taylor and said goodbye to Frank Stevens, Kathie Mainzer and Kevin Tucker. Over the course of the year, we also bade farewell to John Brock, Bob Drake and Andrew Taylor as they were called to other commitments.

The church building was a place of change in 2010. We painted and moved the church office from the basement to the first floor, cleaned out spaces in the church, fixed up the pastor's office, did some gardening and began a Building Team.

2010 saw the inauguration of a spirited Sunday School program, various Adult Education programs, formed and sustained the Called to Care-team, did a month of thinking and meeting about the spiritual work of anti-racism, held Social justice events and installed our settled pastor, Laura Ruth Jarrett.

As a merged congregation, we held our first joint Lent, Easter, Advent, and Christmas Eve services. We responded to the earthquake in Haiti, and the violence in Mattapan and in JP. We supported the social justice work of KDTC (Kitty Dukais Treatment Center), the clinic in Kenya, the Boston Faith and Justice network, sponsored fast track grants for various causes and continued to be a community resource for many rental groups. We held a very successful fundraiser in December with the Moodswings (band) and with an anonymous matching grant, we raised 16K at the end of the year.

10 people joined Hope Central congregation since June 2010 and we dedicated and baptized numerous babies and one grown man. We ordained two pastors, too, from our Seminarian program.

These are the highlights with so much rich conversation, community and strength knitting our community together. We are in an upswing and despite a financial deficit, the energy and spirit of Hope Central is moving and growing. What an amazing first year together.

Submitted by Christie Dustman, Moderator

Pastor Search Committee Annual Report

In our 18 months (or so) together, the Search Committee:

- Met with members of the congregation in small house gatherings and larger church meetings – learning more about our identity and what we were searching for in our future pastor
- Created a Church Profile
- Received and vetted 97 candidate profiles from the UCC and the DOC (Each member of the search committee read and prayed on all 97 of these profiles. As a team, we then prayed on and discussed next steps for each of the 97 candidates.)
- The committee maintained contact with each candidate, via email, minimally every 3 weeks until a decision on the profile was made.
- Conducted first interviews
- Attended neutral pulpits (attended services at an agreed-upon church to hear the candidate preach)
- Conducted second interviews
- Prayed a lot
- Called our Pastor – Laura Ruth Jarrett

Submitted by Nancy Azar

Pastor's Annual Report

Dear Beloved,

What a year 2010 was for our congregations, Hope and Central and then Hope Central! We have been a courageous and busy people. By the mercy of God and the gifts of talents and hours of the people of Hope Central, we have had a good year. We merged and said goodbye to two pastors, and hello to a new pastor. We continued the good works started in us, caring for our elders, praying the weekly prayers of our congregation. We opened the doors twice every Sunday to worship and pray. We held a search for a pastor. We searched for a musical director and found the musical directors we wanted right in our midst, Vanessa Morris and Todor Stoinov. We started and sustained a Sunday School in the morning for our children. We released Xhochitl Alvizo, our church administrative manager to her PhD studies at BU and hired April Trussell Smith. We reapportioned space and brought all church operations upstairs. We fixed and painted the pastor's office and the church office. We cleaned out our kitchen and restored it to good use. We looked into every corner, pitched out stuff, and waxed our floors. We re-inhabited our sacred space.

We made our first budget as a merged church, ran our first combined stewardship campaign, combined two sets of financial books into one, revived our finance team, and in response to a GBIO campaign, consolidated and closed our Band of America accounts.

We ordered stationary that says "Hope Central Church," and everywhere we found Hope Church or Central Congregational on signs, on the web, in the newspaper, in the stores with whom we have accounts, with our denominations, in directories, and on our tongues, we updated it all to say Hope Central Church.

We did outreach, inviting our neighbors to pray with us. We began to consolidate the social justice and mission work of the two congregations, all the while continuing our work with the Kitty Dukakis Treatment Center, Jubilee International, the Crop Walk, with City Mission Society, with St. Paul's Health Center in Kenya, with Boston Faith and Justice Network, with GBIO. Our marching Band, the Spark of Love Joy Band led the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC's contingent in the Gay Pride Parade and provided music for the Mothers for Justice march down Blue Hill Ave. in response to the summertime violence in Dorchester and Mattapan.

We fixed the furnace and had our building inspected by Mass Power and Light to see if we could make our building more energy efficient. We continued relationships with

our tenants, the Mosaic School and Iglesia Hispana, our two major tenants. We have long term tenants and tenants who rent just once for a wedding or another event, and Lisa Pilat, our church building manager manages all this with professionalism and aplomb. Pam Wylie pitches in all the time. She knows the building and its ways, and is a great help.

Our ministry to folks in our care seeking ordination has been a huge part of our work. We have had thirteen people in care for ordination, more than any other congregation in the UCC Conference or the DOC Region. This work has been sustained by the In-care Committee and the In-Care Support Team.

The Leadership Circle, led first by Bob Drake and then Christie Dustman, has led faithfully, even when the membership of the LC was reduced by one third. It must be that God holds them in the palm of her hand for they have been constant, mighty, and wise. By their leadership, our boat floats.

Our worship life has been busy, deep, and meaningful. We marked the usual services on the wheel of our liturgical year - Ash Wednesday and Lenten services, Easter, Advent and two Christmas services, a pageant and a contemplative service.

We had many services of celebration, separation, and ordination. You said goodbye to the Rev. Michael McSherry on February 21. On February 28 Central Congregational and Hope Church merged. On April 28th, I candidated. May 16 you said goodbye to the Rev. Wendy Miller Olepade. On 6/6/10, my first Sunday morning at Hope Central, we dedicated Lorimar Mainzer Ramirez to God in a bi-lingual service. On one day, August 1, in the morning service, we baptized Greta Elizabeth Gagnon and dedicated Ari Ahlsen Metcalf, and in the evening had a picnic and service at JP Pond, waded into the pond and baptized Andrew Taylor Peck . On August 29th we had a morning service in the church yard by the gardens and dedicated Cora Gray Chandler. In November we held a service of installation for the church and me on the first Sunday. Judy Brain preached. On the third Sunday, Sara Drummond preached and we ordained Bob Brown. On the fourth Sunday of November, which was the first Sunday in Advent, we ordained Kevin Baker Rooks. Amanda McCollough was the preacher.

We had special services and guest preachers in 2010. In February, people told their faith stories. On April 11, sponsored by our Social Justice team, Wahu Kaara preached about Jubilee mission of debt relief. On April 25, in honor of earth day, Sarah and Andrew Taylor Peck preached. On May 23, Angela Letizia and Judy Wagoner led services and preached about their experience in Haiti. On June 20, we re-dedicated the grand

piano in our sanctuary in memory of Kristyne Louise Crawley. On June 27, we blessed and sent Gretchen Snoyenbos to begin her medical school career at Emory. During a morning service outside on August 29, we blessed the gardens and gardeners. In October we concentrated on learning, thinking, and praying about racism. On October 3, Michael Fiorentino began our preaching about racism. On the third Sunday in October we had as guest preachers, Mr. Burton Joseph to preach about racism and the economy and specifically its impact on Haiti, and in the evening Mr. Vince Maraventano preached about environmental racism.

Throughout the year, some of our folks in care for ordination preached, Kevin and Bruce Baker Rooks, Andrew and Sarah Taylor Peck, and Rebecca Anderson.

Every Sunday since March 7, we have had two services every Sunday, communion every Sunday. Since March 7th, the congregation of Hope Central has held ninety-one (91) services.

We welcomed 10 new Covenant Partners to our congregation. We are growing. Our attendance is creeping upward at a nice pace. We are building the infrastructure we need to support the work of our congregation and the growth we anticipate.

Most importantly, we are growing in trust and love for each other. We are growing deeper into our spiritual work. We are learning how we will seek God through our Social Justice work, our worship. We are learning God's ways by learning our neighborhood, and sinking into it. Our merger is advanced. We have a goal of growing by 20 members in 2011.

We have set up and sustained and repaired structures and relationships that will help us thrive in 2011. We began a vision process, as a way to steer the work of the merged congregations.

I want to express my deep thanks to the administrative staff of the church, April Trussell Smith and Lisa Pilat. These smart women work with great commitment on behalf of our congregation. They work hard and constantly. They are professional and durable. I'd like to also thank Christie Dustman, our moderator. She has a sweet combination of abiding, listening, and acting with wisdom. She too is durable and committed to the well being of our congregation. Please don't forget to express your appreciation to April, Lisa, and Christie.

God has been good to us and we have been faithful.

Respectfully submitted by the Rev. Laura Ruth Jarrett

Building Mission Team Annual Report

2010 was a year of many changes for our church community, including our physical home. Some of the highlights were:

- We moved the church office from downstairs, next to the stage, to upstairs across from the Parlor. Mosaic moved their Mariposa classroom downstairs and both organizations are happier to be located on one floor. The move was done in phases in order for: the school to open, the pastor's study and church office to be wired for computers, phone & outlets, both rooms painted and the entire building professionally deep cleaned, as well as all the floors cleaned and polished. It was a tremendous amount of work and largely accomplished with a crew of happy & well-fed volunteers. We now have beautiful and functional spaces that receive much use and appreciation. We also created a workspace in the office for Iglesia Hispana and turned the connecting space between the office and the church into a sacristy, with worship supplies for both churches.
- We conducted an energy audit with MA Interfaith Power & Light and received their insight on how to make the building more energy efficient as well as accessible.
- We held several volunteer workdays to clean out and reorganize Capen Hall and storage areas in the building.
- We had another successful volunteer effort with the cleaning out and re-organizing of the kitchen, including a new fridge donated by J and Nancy.
- We made significant improvements to the sound system, with help from the Iglesia Hispana who allowed their speakers to be mounted on the walls and their sound system to be combined with ours in a new console in the back of the sanctuary. We also bought acoustical wall panels, and mounted them on the sanctuary walls, and now use a dedicated microphone for the minister. All of these changes have made a noticeable improvement in the acoustics of the sanctuary.

Submitted by Pam Wylie

Call to Care Ministry Annual Report

What a year it has been for our church: Hope and Central merging, Wendy leaving, Laura Ruth becoming our settled pastor. And in the midst of all this transition and change, several members of the congregation began to meet regularly to begin to coordinate the care needs of our congregation. Ours is a church deeply rooted in mutual care, and we have seen this care flourish in 2010 as new relationships were made and existing relationships deepened. We welcomed new babies with knitted blankets, visits and food; we prayed with and for each other; we cooked food and filled our freezer; we helped ourselves to food when we were sick, or sad or hungry; we made friends across generations; we provided transportation; we celebrated weddings and good self care; we prayed for and with each other.

Submitted by Barbara McQueen

Children's Church Annual Report

2010 was a transformative year not only for Hope Central Church, but also for our programming for children. Realizing that many families from both Hope and Central Congregational would want to take advantage of the morning service, Hope Central enlisted the help of Patti Ryan, along with our veteran Hope Church child care providers Julie and Jessica, to beef up our children's church offering for the morning service.

The result is a format that provides enough routine for the kids to feel comfortable and enough variety to keep them interested. For the kids who can walk and talk, there is a story, a discussion, then Godly play. Kids play with the characters and scenery from the story or choose from one of several other options. As the time draws to a close, the kids gather for a snack. After the offering, they return to the sanctuary and process up the aisle with the collected offering and wave their ribbons to the rousing sound of the congregation singing "Amen." Infants and young toddlers have a great time upstairs with supervised play and a snack. Child care is also offered during the evening service, although the programming is less formal.

It is a joy to see relationships deepen between the kids and the caregivers. So much joy is shared as the kids come back each week and greet the familiar faces. There is also tremendous potential for growth of our youth programming in the years to come. Some weeks we have as many as twelve kids under the age of five in children's church, and we look forward to the challenge of expanding our youth offerings as the kids continue to grow.

Submitted by Matt Mulder

Finance Team Annual Report

Members:

Kathie Mainzer	Allison Nevitt
Beth Chandler	Laura Ruth Jarrett
Frank Stevens	Judy Wagoner (2010 Assistant Treasurer)
Pam Wylie (2010 Treasurer)	

The Finance Team met in 2010 to assist in the financial consolidation of Hope Church and Central Congregational Church. Frank Stevens worked intensively with Lisa Pilat (Building Manager and Book keeper) to reconcile and then combine the two accounting systems. Allison Nevitt also consulted with Lisa on the new accounting system and provided some training and support as we moved forward with QuickBooks (the Hope Church accounting system), an on-line software program.

Starting in September, the Finance Team met to review our profit and loss statements and analyze the projected deficit. We addressed a reporting error made to the congregation, that occurred when the two systems were combined, by developing a plan to have the Finance Team review all financials before they are submitted to the congregation, meet quarterly going forward and to work on the development of the annual budget together. We then issued corrected financials to the congregation.

We met to review the draft 2011 budget that was developed by the Treasurer and Asst. Treasurer and identified numerous recommendations to both reduce costs and increase our income. This budget was then referred back to the Leadership Circle for review and approval, prior to being voted in at the 2011 annual meeting. Text will go here. and here. and here.

Submitted by Pam Wylie

Fun, Fellowship, and Food Annual Report

Hospitality takes many forms at Hope Central Church, from the weekly Sunday morning hospitality hour to a reception for a special event such as an ordination or baptism to sharing Popsicles on the lawn after a summer evening worship service.

The Hospitality Hour held after Hope Central's morning service offers food, drink and conversation time to adults and children before they get going again on their busy Sunday routines. No count is taken as to how many are served, but at least four tables are in use and there are always standees around the refreshment tables. Often holidays and birthday are celebrated with a special cake – mostly shared together, though occasionally a single one will find its way home with the birthday celebrant.

The Hospitality group shares the responsibility of providing and preparing food and drink weekly, relying on the core of Vivian Reilly, Ruth Collyer, and Barbara Walnut to create a welcoming feast. Each week it is Graham Brown who gets the coffee ready to brew. Someone once said the Hospitality Hour was like a second communion - this time offering sustenance for the body after the spirit had been fed!

Submitted by Vivian Reilly

Hospitality after the evening service is more fluid, and takes the shape of the season and the situation. In winter, an offering of steaming cider and homemade cookies is likely, and in the summer cool, juicy grapes may be found. Our potlucks are legendary. J. Conlon and Nancy Azar manage the process, with the help of many cooks and contributors.

In 2010 our events were varied and joyous:

- Early in the year, there were numerous meetings and events surrounding the merger of Hope Church with Central Congregational Church. We “married” the congregations and commemorated the service of Central’s pastor, Michael McSherry and Hope’s interim pastor, Wendy Miller Olapade.
- Spring brought the Candidating Weekend and a chance to meet Rev. Laura Ruth Jarrett and her partner Meck Groot over brunch. At the annual meeting in April, Laura Ruth was approved as our settled pastor, and we welcomed her warmly in June.
- We welcomed new members to our Christian family in the summer with the dedication of Cora Seaman Chandler and baptism of Greta Gagnon. A very special evening was Andrew Taylor’s baptism in Jamaica Pond.

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- In the autumn, we celebrated our seniors with a birthday party for the 90+ year olds, couple with a Ministry Fair showcasing the various small group ministries and opportunities for people to join and serve where their gifts and graces led them. Later in November we celebrated the ordinations of Bob Brown to the UCC and Kevin Rooks to ministry in the DOC.

Submitted by J Conlon

In-Care Seminarian Team Annual Report

The Hope Central In Care Team has been very active this past year. We meet monthly for prayer and conversation with seminarians and other covenant partners who are seeking ordination in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) or the United Church of Christ.

Typically, a candidate for ordination in either of these denominations needs the support and endorsement of a local congregation to be able to pursue ordination. The In Care team meets individually with each candidate, once or twice a year, and prays with them, asks probing questions, offers encouragement, and celebrates their gifts and call to ministry. We seek to provide a space for discernment and self-reflection, and to be a source of prayerful support. It has been a great joy to spend this quality time with our candidates; we are blessed to have so many people in our congregation who are interested in a life of service to the church, and who offer such diverse gifts and talents!

Along with myself, Anne Walsh, Alan Bone, and Stacey Chambers have served on the In Care team for the past two years; they all bring great wisdom and experience to our conversations! Pastor Laura Ruth always brings a deeply compassionate and wise presence to our meetings. We are also pleased to welcome Kate Dare-Winter and Elizabeth Gagnon, who are joining the In Care team this spring. It is a wonderful team to work with, and I am deeply grateful for their gift of time and energy.

In the past year, several of our in care candidates have reached the joyful conclusion (or near conclusion) of their ordination trek, after many years of faithful discernment, theological studies, and practical field education.

- It has been a great joy to hold ordinations for **John Brock** and **Kevin Baker-Rooks**, who were recently consecrated to the ministry by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and **Bob Brown**, who was ordained in the United Church of Christ.
- **Sarah and Andrew Taylor-Peck** have been approved for ordination by the Disciples, and will hold their ordination service in North Carolina, on May 15th, 2011.
- **Rebecca Anderson** likewise has been approved for ordination in the DOC, and is currently making plans for an ordination on May 7th, in Chicago, where she has been attending seminary these past three years at the University of Chicago Divinity School.
- **Laura Everett** was approved for ordination in the United Church of Christ, following her impressive presentation at her Ecclesiastical Council, hosted at Hope Central; she will be ordained in June, 2011.

We continue to support several other candidates who are in the midst of the journey towards ordination:

- **Bruce Baker** and **Nanette Savides** are each working on their Master of Divinity degree at Andover Newton Theological Seminary, and are currently also working in local churches (known as field education sites) as part of their studies. They have been preaching, praying and gaining much practical experience in ministry this year.
- **Nate Metrick** will be completing his theological studies at the University of Chicago Divinity School this spring, and is active in a remarkable street outreach program for homeless youth in downtown Chicago.
- **Jasmine Beech-Ferrara** has graduated from Harvard Divinity School, and is now engaged in an exciting community ministry regarding G/L/B/T/Q rights in the South.
- **Lance Wiser** and **Christine Evans** were both taken “in care” this past fall. Lance and his wife, Juliana Leon, have recently moved to the area, to pursue a Master of Divinity degree at Andover Newton Theological Seminary. Christine was previously in care with Hope Church several years ago, and she is now renewing her journey, after taking some time off for discernment. She has been teaching yoga classes at Hope Central this Lent.

The In Care Team gives thanks and praise to God for all these talented and spirit-led “in care” candidates, and we invite the whole church community to pray for them regularly, as they continue their journey towards ordained ministry.

Respectfully Submitted by Polly Hamlen, Chair, In-Care Team at Hope Central Church (UCC/DOC)

Knitting Circle Annual Report

We are not good statisticians -- but we do know:

- We've met most every week since our inception in 2004 (?)
- We come together to knit for ourselves and for our community:
 - Every child baptized or dedicated received a white baptismal towel or a sweater if the child was older;
 - All newborns received a baby blanket;
 - More than 100 baby hats were sent to Africa;
 - Most of the shawls at the Church were knitted by our group;
 - A lap blanket was knitted for a member who is dealing with cancer;
 - Items were made for the Swing into the Holidays auction

In years past we also knit prayer shawls for those in need of comfort and prayer, and Duduza dolls that were sent to orphanages in Africa.

Submitted by Nancy Azar

Music Team Annual Report

I continue to marvel at the adaptability and resilience of Hope Central Church. 2010 brought much change in both the format of the morning service and its musical content. The flow of the service changed. After the merger, Wendy really enabled us to adapt to a faster paced service. The singing of the psalms was a big transition and there was definitely a shift away from traditional hymns and complicated anthems. The choir was encouraged to sing anthems that could really be learned in 20 minutes. More upbeat music was added after the offertory (the weekly, "amens"); the sermon was shorter and I was encouraged to improvise more and energize the music.

The arrival of Laura Ruth was huge. I feel like we all coalesced under her leadership. I was inspired to bring more of myself to the service and began to experiment with more jazz and gospel music. Drums were added which really invigorated the service. As a whole, I feel like we began to take more chances and really explore our spirit: what we were feeling; what music and sentiment could support this exploration.

We are still in the midst of this exploration; still trying new things, tweaking the format. The addition of music during prayer has been interesting. 2011 has shown a growth in our acceptance of one another. The challenges of merging as one church are beginning to fade into the background.

The vitality continues to grow. I continue to get positive feedback and suggestions which is an essential element in this growth. I feel like we have shown ourselves what we are capable of achieving but see that there is much work ahead.

What do I dream of happening in 2011? Having 5 more regular choir members. Having monthly musical guests- like the Sunshine in the Shadows duo I brought in last month. For the monthly sing-a-long to continue to grow and bring in more people. For musicians in the congregation to come forward every now and then and share their gifts.

For more folks to sign up for service duties so that choir members can focus on singing.

For a monthly music series to be established and possibly be grant funded. For musical concerts to be connected to some of the political activism that define Hope Central. For segments of our service be on-line so that folks can see how amazing we are. For us to continue to grow and to fill the pews with love and music.

Submitted by Vanessa Morris

My name is Todor Stoinov and I have been with Hope Church since it's creation.

The church has been changing locations, pastors, and congregants but since the beginning we - the musicians have been loyal and devoted to the style of music performed during services.

The ideas of expanding the music program includes monthly music series with guest musicians and chamber ensembles. Blue Grass performers, blues, jazz and folk music will be welcome, as well.

During the service I believe, hymn-sing will accepted by the congregation.

Creating a list including people with musical talent who can participate during the service is another idea we have been focused on.

Greater choir attendance is the most imminent goal.

Submitted by Todor Stoinov

Nominating Committee Annual Report

The faithful members of Hope Central's Nominating Committee for 2010 were J. Conlon (Leadership Circle ex-officio), Kate Dare-Winters, Melissa Kreider, Beverly Pacheco, and Laura Everett, chair. In 2010, we revised the "job descriptions" for the Leadership Circle and the Nominating Committee and circulated them to the congregation. We also wrote for the first time the job description for the Pastor/Parish Relations Committee. For a while, it was hard to see where new leadership would emerge. We were a church, in some ways, feeling tired. The Nominating Committee met diligently, even trudging through a snowstorm on foot to get to a meeting at church. After many meetings, phone calls and prayers, we were able to put forward a slate of 5 nominees for Leadership Circle and 5 for the 2011 Nominating Committee. We held fast to the words from Paul's 2nd Letter to Timothy 1: 6-7 "For this reason, I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you... for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline." And our God did not disappoint us. We are grateful for all those who stepped forward in faith to lead our church.

Submitted by Laura Everett

Online Communication and Design Team Annual Report

This year was marked by the consolidation of two churches' internet services into one and by the formation of a new Online Communications and Design (OCD) team. On the web, the original Hope Church website was updated and became the interim website for the merged congregation, while the original Central Congregational Church website was archived and retired. On Facebook, we started a new Hope Central page ("Hope Central in JP") to replace the past pages of Hope and Central. In summer 2010, the new OCD team consulted with Rev. Jarrett to envision a more interactive online future including updating our website content, implementing forums for enhanced community conversation, blogging, social media, and more. Steps completed so far include securing free website and email hosting, acquiring a new url (hopecentralchurch.org), building a prototype of a forum system, and doing preliminary work toward creating a new website. The team's aspirations for 2011 include launching an online discussion forum, renovating or redeveloping the web site, and increasing activity on Facebook and Twitter.

Submitted by Kevin Kelly, Allison Nevitt, and Nannette Savides (OCD team members 2010)

Outreach Team Annual Report

In 2010, the Outreach Committee had a core of Abbi Holt, Laura Everett and Mary Anne Rodriguez, with many other Hope Central members pitching in on various projects in all seasons. We set up a table and craft activity at the Spring "Wake Up the Earth" Festival near the Stonybrook T, where many small children made noisemakers and we talked to their parents about Hope Central. In the Summer, we fielded a team of cyclists to ride in the Bikes not Bombs community bike ride, with our "Hope Central" team tee-shirts, announcing "On the Third Day, Jesus Rode Again." In the Fall, we covered the neighborhood with flyers inviting the community to the installation of our pastor. With the great folks planning our winter swing dance & fundraiser, we put up more flyers and chatted up local businesses for donations. We created Christmas baskets for those in our church and in our community needing some love and sustenance. And in Advent on two cold night right before Christmas, we gave away 408 fair trade candy canes to commuters coming home from the Green Street T. Each candy cane had a paper tag with our service times for Advent and Christmas and a note about why we supported fair trade and why we thought they should come visit Hope Central. We remember the joy of tired commuters getting free candy and hope that we have done good work in all our outreach to show Christ's love in JP and share the good news of our community.

Submitted by Laura Everett and Abbi Holt

Hope Central Prosperity Team Annual Report

Swing into the Holidays Fundraiser Nets \$6,288

In September, an ad hoc “prosperity team” was convened to organize a fundraiser to plug a hole in the annual operating budget. Nancy Azar, J Conlon, Amy Lindstedt Kelly, Kathie Mainzer, Patty Ryan, and Suzanne Wolk spent nine weeks putting together a “Swing into the Holidays” evening of music and dance, with the goal of raising \$6,000. The



Photo by Kolya Lynne Smith

event, held on December 4, featured the Mood Swings, Boston’s all-women big band, who played to a good-sized crowd in Capen Hall, which was transformed by hundreds of sparkly white Christmas lights, silver and purple gossamer, balloons, and big, glittery snowflakes into a palatial winter dance hall.

More than eighty items were displayed on tables in the rear of the hall, in a silent auction that featured everything from homemade pies, to gift certificates from local shops and restaurants, to theatre and concert tickets, to voice lessons and massage sessions, to long weekends in cottages in Vermont, Maine, and Cape Cod. Reverend Laura Ruth Jarrett even donated a sermon on a subject of the winning bidder’s choosing!

During the band’s intermission, two big-ticket items – a gorgeous wooden boat hand-crafted by Patti Ryan’s woodworking students, and a week in a beautiful house in Provincetown in mid-August, donated by Robin Joyce and Susan Freedman – were auctioned live by auctioneer J Conlon.

With revenue from admission tickets, beverages, and above all the silent auction, we raised a net amount of \$6,288, exceeding our original goal. The prosperity team, which disbanded after the event, could not have pulled it off without help from church members and friends too numerous to name, who contributed items to the auction and solicited local businesses for donations; helped decorate the hall; created a website for the event, made or bought food; helped man the door – and came to the party and brought their friends. Best of all, we got to dance together. This fundraiser was truly a church-wide effort!

Submitted by Suzanne Wolk

Social Justice Team Annual Report

The Social Justice ministry shared God's love locally and internationally through direct service and advocacy efforts. We served locally at the Kitty Dukakis Treatment Center by going and hosting recreational evenings for the women, providing them with a karaoke machine and music, doing a deodorant collection, and sending a basket of Christmas goodies. We also partnered with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) to withdraw our church funds from Bank of America as part of the campaign to end usurious practices by big banks. After the earthquake in Haiti, our congregation responded by helping to financially and prayerfully support one of our members who was going there and relief efforts. We prepared ditty bags for Seafarer's Friend and made up 15 Christmas baskets to share with our community.

2010 brought opportunities for extraordinary advocacy efforts. In April, we partnered with Jubilee USA to host Wahu Kaara from Kenya to present workshops and worship about God's vision of Jubilee where debts are cancelled and there is a just economic system. In May we partnered with Boston Faith and Justice Network (BFJN) to host a Fair Trade Fair where we sold products from SERRV, had a fair trade bake sale, hosted speakers, and more! In October, we partnered with Church World Service and local faith communities to participate in the CROP Walk. We also hosted a series of conversations on racism with the YWCA.

Within our church community, we created a "Pastor's Fast Track Grant" that allows the pastor access to Social Justice funds to help people in need within our congregation in a confidential way.

Through our long term ministry partners (those underlined above as well as Common Hope for Health- St. Paul's Health Center in Ugunja, Kenya) and fast track grants we shared over \$12,000 of God's abundance.

Submitted by Neeka Stanley

Stewardship Team Annual Report

Stewardship at Hope Central is the act of pledging a financial commitment to our church home. The stewardship time in the fall is when we think about what the church means to us and how we want it to be a part of our lives. But it is also a time to look outward and ask ourselves what difference do we want Hope Central to be in the world? Is it enough just to exist? Does God want us to be a larger presence in bringing his Kingdom to Earth?

This past stewardship season, Covenant Partners and the many friends of Hope Central formed 72 pledges that committed \$127,791.88 to the continuation of the mission of Hope Central. That's a 33% increase of people over last year, even factoring in the merger!

This is an amazing testimony to the importance of Hope Central in the lives of its congregants and it tells me that we have something of meaning to share. The visioning that we did this past month gives me an even greater sense of the urgency of our task. Hope Central is not just another edifice in Jamaica Plain. It is a living, breathing community of doers, seekers, sharers, visionaries and participants who see their church as a light of hope and compassion in a frequently dark and despairing world.

Not only that, but it's full of fun people who laugh, create, and share the craziness as well as the mystery of life. We try to be honest with each other while offering the hand of friendship and trust and a reminder that tomorrow is a new day full of great possibilities. We see the possibilities out there and say, "We can build a better world."

Submitted by Ellen Snoeyenbos

WAMM Annual Report

Chaired by Nanette Savides until September, WAMM was charged with helping the pastor with the work of worship. WAMM set up and cleaned up both in Roslindale where Hope did church in a box, and in Jamaica Plain, where the sanctuary is shared space with Iglesia Hispana, and so must be set, cleared and reset each Sunday.

In 2010, pre-merger, WAMM helped guide the style of worship indigenous to Hope Church during the interim time. Post-merger, WAMM helped build a more Hope like experience in the morning service, providing infra-structure.

Post-merger, WAMM undertook a search for a new musical director, which culminated at the same time the new pastor arrived. After the new pastor arrived, WAMM concluded its search in favor of already resident Vanessa Morris and Todor Stoinov.

Currently WAMM supports the continuing need for set up and clean up of services, provides support for planning services when asked by the pastor, and helps direct creative work of dressing the altar and sanctuary.

There has been no chair of WAMM since September and the direction of WAMM's work is diffuse at this moment. We are in the process of discerning WAMM's mission for the church for 2011.

Respectfully submitted for WAMM by the Rev. Laura Ruth Jarrett

Budgets

Treasurer's Annual Report

2010-YEAR END BUDGET REVIEW

Our 2010 budget was developed jointly by our then two churches and voted on by both congregations. This was in January and it was a time of many changes and many unknowns; at that point we had 2 ministers who we knew were going to be leaving but we didn't have a settled pastor yet so we made assumptions about timelines. We were extremely blessed to have much of this actually fall into place as budgeted. We approved a deficit budget of (\$28,196) to be funded from our combined savings and although many of the individual line items in the budget changed due to unforeseen conditions (the office moving upstairs, building repairs etc.) we were able to successfully raise funds at the end of the year (through the Mood Swings benefit and matching gift campaign) that brought our year end deficit to within \$1,000 of that amount.

A Financial Statement showing Budget vs. Actual for 2010 is attached, as well as showing our approved budget for 2011.

2011 PROPOSED BUDGET

The attached 2011 budget was prepared jointly by the Treasurer and the Finance Team and vetted by the Leadership Circle before the congregation at our January 2011 annual meeting voted it in. As the enclosed letter from the Leadership Circle explains, this budget was developed with an eye towards supporting our continued growth. Given our reduced savings, that will be further reduced by this deficit budget we have committed to revisiting the budget halfway through the year to make any adjustments needed to keep us on track. We need everyone's help to envision new ways we can support our beloved church as we grow into a balanced budget. Given our success last year in meeting our goals, we are hopeful that our community will be similarly blessed in 2011.

Submitted by Pam Wylie , Treasurer

Leadership Circle Budget Proposal Letter

Dear Beloved of Hope Central Church,

We eagerly look forward to being together next weekend at our Vision Retreat on Saturday, 1/29 and at our annual meeting next Sunday, 1/30. In accordance with our by-laws for the fiscal stewardship of our community, the Leadership Circle presents the attached copy of our proposed budget for 2011. We will vote on this budget at our annual meeting and ask that you please review it this week. If you have any questions, please talk to someone on the Leadership Circle.

Friends, we are strong, committed, and giving community. We have pledged \$125,192 for 2011. Combined with offerings and grants, we anticipate a total income of \$155,192. With our many blessings of time and treasure, we will support our full time pastor, the Reverend Laura Ruth Jarrett, our devoted administrator April Trussell-Smith, our ministries of worship and hospitality, music, religious education, growth and marketing, and continue to tithe ten percent to social justice. Our expenses total \$193,765 which leaves a deficit of \$38,573.

In addition we have a total income of \$119,232 for our building budget from our renters and those using the parking lot. This amount supports our building expenses of utilities, repairs and maintenance, waste removal, grounds keeping, building supplies, fire alarm system, insurance, etc. and our amazing staff of Leonel Cermeño, janitor and Lisa Pilat, building manager. We will net \$10,671 which reduces our total deficit to \$27,902. We are blessed to have a building for our own church home, to share with Iglesia Hispana de la Comunidad, and to share in stewardship with our community.

As you can see, the Leadership Circle proposes passing a deficit budget at this time. With the incredible talent and commitment of our community, we raised about \$6,000 at our Swing into the Holidays event, which helped increase our savings to \$36,329. This allows us to continue to support our mission and awesome ministries at Hope Central. At the same time, friends, we would like you to understand that our financial resources only allow us to continue with a deficit budget for this year; next year we will need to pass a balanced budget. Therefore, we ask you to join us, beginning with our vision retreat, to imagine what we might do differently throughout the coming months and indeed the next year ahead. The Leadership Circle recommends passing this budget in faith that the work we are doing is pleasing to God and will continue to grow our beloved community. We also request to re-evaluate our budget halfway through this year, in June 2011, to decide together if there are any changes to be made.

Hope Central Church

85-87 Seaverns Ave

Jamaica Plain, MA 02131

So, would you carefully read and pray over this budget? Would you continue to pray for our pastor, our leaders, and our whole community as we vision together? Would you pray for whatever we need to sustain us and help us live into our best, authentic, spiritual selves? And that we talk openly and kindly with one another? And please will you come on Saturday and Sunday to be together?

In Grace and Peace,

The Leadership Circle of Hope Central

Christie Dustman, J Conlon, Abbi Holt,

Judy Wagoner, Pam Wylie, and Stacey Schamber

Hope Central Church

85-87 Seaverns Ave

Jamaica Plain, MA 02131

Hope Central 1.22.11	CHURCH BUDGET	2011 PROPOSED	2010 ACTUAL	2010 BUDGET
Account #s	Income			
4100	Pledgers (as of 1/14/11)	125192	136339	140500
	Loose Offerings	15000	11305	29300
	Fundraising & Grants	15000	26594	15485
	Total Income	\$155,192	\$174,238	\$185,285
	Expenses			
5100	Minister's Compensation	88310	91224	91205
	Salary	85620		
	Housing	in salary		
	Health Insurance	in salary		
	Travel	690		
	Discretionary Fund	1500	498	0
	Continuing Education	500		
	Pension	in salary		
5210	Guest Preachers	0	150	0
5800	Church Administrator April Trussell-Smith 25 hr/week @ \$18 Payroll Taxes (@ 10.55%)	25869	23785	25190
7100	Social Justice: 10% of pledge & plate income only (LC agreed to revisit annually.)	14019	14373	18804
	Missions & Memorials (pass through acct.)	0	2836	0
7200	Music Ministry	32880	33514	34996
	Music Directors: Vanessa & Todor (1099 employees)			
	\$200 each service per week / 11 months	19200		
	August: \$150 each service (no choir)	1200		
	Musicians: (1099 employees)			
	am = (1) @ \$80 x 52 weeks	4160		
	pm = (2) @ \$80 x 52 weeks	8320		
	am = occasional guests:	0		
	special events: (4) @ \$160 (2 musicians)	0		
7250	Worship & Hospitality 2010 actual pro-rated for 12 months	3900	4420	5500

Hope Central 1.22.11	CHURCH BUDGET	2011 PROPOSED	2010 ACTUAL	2010 BUDGET
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	am = (1) @ \$80 x 52 weeks	4160		
	pm = (2) @ \$80 x 52 weeks	8320		
	am = occasional guests:	0		
	special events: (4) @ \$160 (2 musicians)	0		
7250	Worship & Hospitality	3900	4420	5500
	2010 actual pro-rated for 12 months			
7300	Religious Education / Children's Church	8800	8143	15028
	Staff: am (3) @ \$30	4680		
	pm (2) @ \$30	3120		
	Supplies	1000		
	Religious Education / Adults			
	Books for bookgroup (subsidy)	0		
	Honorariums for teachers	500	500	0
8200	Church Growth / Marketing	4000	3451	7500
	Advertisements, website, mailings			
8500	Dues & Fees: 110 members x \$19.70 (need to confirm DOC dues included.)	2167	1904	3000
8900	Administration Expenses	12000	15626	19950
	Office supplies, postage, phone, copier, etc.			
	Accountant or Payroll Service	1320	1828	2500
	Search Expenses	0	149	10000
	Building Set-Aside	0	0	10000
	Total Expenses	\$ 193,765	\$ 201,901	\$ 243,673
	Net Income from church	\$ (38,573)	\$ (27,663)	\$ (58,388)
	Plus Income from Building Ministry	\$ 10,671		
	Proposed Deficit Budget for 2011	\$ (27,902)		

Approved in All-Church Meeting, Jan 30, 2011

Hope Central Church

85-87 Seaverns Ave

Jamaica Plain, MA 02131

Hope Central 1.22.11	BUILDING BUDGET	2011 PROPOSED	2010 ACTUAL	2010 BUDGET
Account #s	Income			
4300	Long Term Renters (*includes \$6K rent reduction for HCC)	92032	97263	93000
	One Time Renters	6000	5501	2496
	Parkers	21200	21733	21000
	Total Income	\$119,232.00	\$124,497.00	\$116,496.00
	Expenses			
6400	Utilities Fuel / Oil Gas / Electric Water / Sewer	22200	29146	24504
6500	Repairs & Maintenance Heating System Avg. Other Repairs	20000	31174	7500
			2285	504
6513	Waste Removal	3900	3941	3996
6514	Groundskeeping	7000	5075	7500
6515	Building Supplies	3000	4320	2004
6516	Janitorial Wages Leonel (with 4 weeks vacation) Coverage for Leonel's vacation 18 hr/week @ \$15; includes \$1/hr. raise Payroll Taxes (@ 10.55%)	16529	14302	13500
6517	Fire Alarm AFA / monitor Keene / inspect	600	104	0
6521	Insurance Building Worker's Comp.	9463	8701	8796
6531	Building Mgr. Wages Lisa Pilat (raise in 2010) 25 hr/week @ \$18 includes add of 1 wk vacation coverage for vacation Payroll taxes (@ 10.55%)	25869	23864	18000
	Total Expenses	\$108,560.92	\$122,912.00	\$86,304.00
	Net Income from Building	\$10,671.08	\$ 1,585	\$ 30,192

Approved in All-Church Meeting, Jan 30, 2011



hope central church

United Church of Christ
and Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

85-87 Seaverns Avenue
Jamaica Plain, MA
02130

Welcome . . .

Welcome to all who have no church home, need strength,
want to follow Christ, have doubts or do not believe.

Welcome to new visitors and to old friends.

Welcome to grandparents, to mothers, fathers, and children.

Welcome to single and partnered people.

Welcome to people of all colors, cultures, abilities,
sexual orientations, and gender expressions,
to old and young, to believers and questioners —
and welcome to questioning believers.

Welcome to everyone!

We are all invited to live into God's love, peace, and justice.

2011 Leadership:

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Ministers: All of us!

Pastor: Rev. Laura Ruth Jarrett,
lauraruthjarrett@hopeboston.org

Children's Church: Patti Ryan

Music Leadership: Hope Central Singers,
Vanessa Morris (am), Gillian De Lear, Todor
Stoinov (pm), Bobby Hall, Neil Helme

STAFF AND MINISTRY CONTACTS

Administrative Manager: April Trussell-Smith,
office@hopeboston.org

Building Manager: Lisa Pilat,
building@hopeboston.org

Sexton: Leonel Cermeño

Leadership Circle: Kevin Baker-Rooks, J Conlon,
Christie Dustman, Abbi Holt, Robin Joyce, Dan
McLaughlin, Yuliana Leon, Judy Wagoner,
Pam Wylie, leadership@hopeboston.org

Moderator: Christie Dustman,
moderator@hopeboston.org

Building Mission: Bob Drake, Christie Dustman,
Pam Wylie

STAFF AND MINISTRY CONTACTS continued

Care Ministry: Barbara McQueen and Pastor

Casserole Care, Welcome Baby

Prayer Ministry: Beverly Pacheco

Treasurer: Judy Wagoner

Hospitality: J Conlon, Nancy Azar, Vivian Reilly
and all of us!

In Care Team: Polly Hamlen

Nominating Committee: position to be filled

Seminarian Support: Rev. Laura Ruth Jarrett,
Rev. David and Deb Malone

Social Justice: Neeka Stanley, Emmie Mcdonell,
socialjustice@hopeboston.org

Stewardship: position to be filled

**Worship, Arts, and Music Ministries; Education
Team; Online Communications and Design
Team; Finance Team; Vision Team**

OFFICE HOURS

Laura Ruth: Thursdays 4:30-6p, JP Licks; and by
appointment

April: Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 10a-6p

Lisa: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9a-2p; and by
appointment