

D. W. Ross

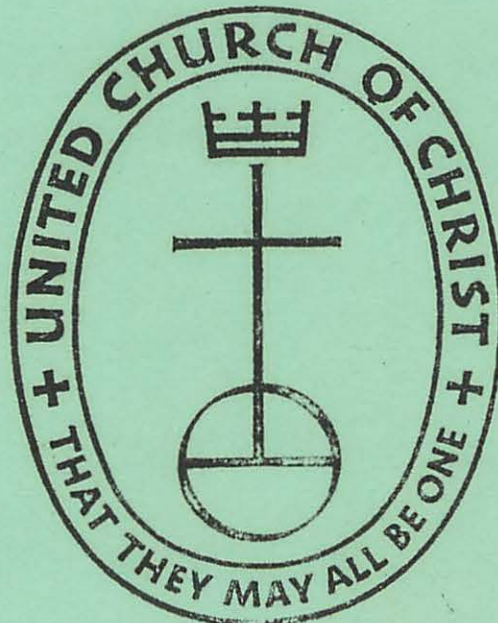
1975

ANNUAL REPORTS

FOR GOD
SO LOVED
THE WORLD



Congregational Church of Austin



1976 Ballot

* = Incumbents (1975)

Write In

ONE YEAR TERMS

Moderator	Weldon Scheel	_____
Clerk	Rizer Everett*	_____
Treasurer	Stella Morrison*	_____
Financial Secretary	John Camden	_____
Church School Supt.	Carolyn Chial	_____
Director of Enlistment	Mathis Blackstock	_____
Music Comm. Chr.	Marie Scheel*	_____
Publicity Comm. Chr.	Beth Placek	_____

Youth Members:

Board of Trustees	<u>George Coleman</u>	_____
Board of Deacons & Deaconesses	<u>Michael Ross</u>	_____

Lay Representatives:

Church Women United of Austin	Effie Wylie	_____
Austin Conference of Churches	Mary Masters	_____
	James Perkins*	_____

Advisory Council

<i>Steve Neuse*</i>	_____	_____
<i>Marie Biddle*</i>	_____	_____
<i>Betty Tarvin*</i>	_____	_____

THREE YEAR TERMS

Historian and Archivist:	Hildegard Everett*	_____
Board of Trustees: (1974-6)	Ron Dildine* Marilyn Stephens*	_____
(6 members, (1975-7)	Garry Cole* Betsy Russel*	_____
2 new each year) (1976-8)	Herbert Pickett, Tommie Pinkard	_____

Board of Deacons and Deaconesses: (1974-6)	Weldon Scheel*, Pat Oakes*	_____
(1975-7)	Chester Lay*, Jean Appel*	_____
(1976-8)	Rollin Russel, Joan Gatewood	_____

Nominating Committee (1974-6)	Nancy Brown*	_____
(1975-7)	Dorothy Lay*	_____
(1976-8)	Jean Cassel	_____

Religious Education Committees: (1974-6)	Judy Cole*	_____
(1975-7)	David Ross*	_____
(1976-8)	Jeanine Neuse	_____

Social Action Comm. (1974-6)	Vic Appel*	_____
(1975-7)	Kathy Strong	_____
(1976-8)	Mike Chial	_____

Board of Directors, Child Development Center (1974-6)	Linda Dildine*	_____
(1975-7)	Nancy Brown*	_____
(1976-8)	Nancy Pickett	_____

(Sara Ross is Treasurer with term ending in 1977)

Missions and Stewardship Comm.: (1974-6)	Billie Bess Saustrup*	_____
(1975-7)	James Perkins	_____
(1976-8)	Doyal Pinkard	_____

Delegate to South Central Conference	_____	← (Stella Morrison)
" to Brazos Assoc. Council	_____	← (Carrie Coleman)

South Central Conference wants Hunger Fund Contact Person	_____	_____
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A. D. Magazine Representative?	_____	_____
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United Urban Council Delegates (2) (Doyal Pinkard & Kathy Strong in 75)	_____	_____
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1. Stewardship: Member of Conference Staff
Bob Ruhe

Graeber moved, duly seconded, that the Task Force on Stewardship implement the Consultant's Program and report to the Board of Directors at their meeting preceding the next Spring Meeting of South Central Conference. Carried.

2. Ethnic Group and Minority Empowerment:

Dr. Denzer Burke, Texarkana
Rev. John Moore, Houston
Ernie Cortez, San Antonio
Al Price, Beaumont
Mrs. Yvette Olivier, New Iberia, La.
Milton Thomas, New Orleans

3. Youth:

Marti Lange, Weimar
Debbie Bartholomew, Houston
Madison Hopson, Beaumont
Youth to be named by William Green
Frank Horak, Clifton
Adult to be named by Chairman Pantermuehl

Price moved, duly seconded, that Wells be appointed as liaison between Youth Cabinet and Board of Directors. Carried.

4. Mission Priorities: General Synod Delegates available to churches and Task Force on Planning and Communication.

5. Income Maintenance: and Welfare Reform:

Elsie Ramge appointed to inform Conference of important matters in this field. She may use the following as resource people: Elmo Fischer, Wilfrid Calnan, ~~Bob Morgan~~, Mrs. Gady Geier, Doyle Pinkard, Earl Klein and Hulda Arndt.

6. Ministry to Aging:

Graeber moved, duly seconded, that any action on this task force be tabled until the next meeting. Carried.

7. Slumber Falls Camping Committee:

The following Task Force will examine needs of Slumber Falls Camp:

Barbara Vasterling, New Orleans
Mrs. E.L. Loonam, Houston
Rev. Frank Dietz, Bryan
Rev. Frank Horak, Clifton
Rev. Barney Federwisch

Also, Hennig, Borne and Federwisch will continue their present work of scheduling and maintenance.

8. Christian Education:

Frank Dietz is appointed as liaison between the Denomination and Conference work in the Christian Education field. He will be responsible for contacting Association Chairman.

Pledges for 1976

43 # 18,920.36

(18,550 in 1975)

1976 BUDGET

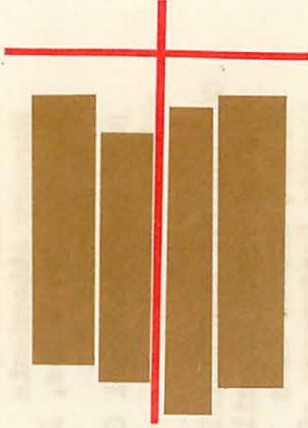
OCWM 21 #3,151.00

	1975	1976
PASTORAL LEADERSHIP		
Salary	\$ 9,000.	\$9,000.
Annuity	1,287.	1,287.
*Health and Disability Insurance	725.	900.
*Car Allowance	663.	720.
*Housing Allowance, including utilities	2,700.	3,000.
	<u>14,375.</u>	<u>14,907.</u>
LOCAL CHURCH PROGRAMS		
*Music for Worship	600.	650.
Christian Education Materials	100.	100.
-Office Supplies, Postage	600.	550.
*Church Utilities	2,250.	3,000.
-Church Property Maintenance	1,000.	800.
-Janitorial Supplies	150.	100.
-Church Telephone	310.	200.
**Church Insurance (Liability)	231.	232.
Conference Delegates Expenses	100.	100.
Nursery Attendants	150.	150.
Expenses to Camps, Institutes, etc.	25.	25.
*Safe Deposit Box	17.	20.
Bond for Financial Officers	9.	9.
-Miscellaneous	100.	50.
	<u>5,649.</u>	<u>5,936.</u>
COOPERATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES		
*United Urban Council	50.	55.
-Brazos Assoc. Dues	62.	60.
*Austin Conference of Churches (\$10. for Jail Chaplain)	20.	30.
*Texas Conference of Churches	8.	10.
National Council of Churches	10.	10.
World Council of Churches	5.	5.
*Regional Seminary Support	15.	30.
	<u>170.</u>	<u>200.</u>
MORTGAGE PAYMENTS *New Wing	9,636.	9,660.
TOTAL LOCAL BUDGET	\$29,830.	\$30,703.
////////////////////////////////////		
OUR CHRISTIAN WORLD MISSION BUDGET (Separate Pledge)		
OCWM, Undesignated	\$3,000.	\$3,000.
*Eden Home for the Aged	300.	400.
-Crisis in the Nation	150.	
	<u>\$3,450</u>	<u>\$3,400.</u>
////////////////////////////////////		
Non-Pledged Income		
-Sale of 902 Houston St. Property	\$ 675.	\$ --
Child Development Center	2,244.	2,244.
-Loose Plate Offerings	800.	700.
*People's Community Clinic	600.	1,920.
Other Churches	120.	120.
*Interest from Certificates of Deposit	885.	945.
Total	\$5,324.	\$5,929.

9,400
- 1320
if on
basis
of salary
+ housing

Note--We are mailing this budget, pledge cards etc. to a total mailing list. We know that some of you will be supporting your own church. Frankly it saves us money to mail to over 200 addresses. WE do hope that you will want to support your church. If you do not have a church to support and are in favor of what this church and/or denomination stands for and does, we need, can use, and welcome your participation through and with us. Questions?--Call 453-1800.

*Item was increased from 1975 -Item was decreased from 1975.



13th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY September 12, 1965 Luke 10:23-37

About the cover: Who is my neighbor? Our Lord made it amply clear in the parable of the Good Samaritan that our neighbor is all men . . . the children, the laborers, the school drop-outs, the discriminated against and the discriminators in the neighborhoods of our own land; the struggling new nations, the victims of war and disaster, and those beyond the Iron and Bamboo Curtains in the neighborhood that is our world. Anyone who needs our help and our good will, he is our neighbor and we are his.

DISASTER IN BALI

Two years ago the volcano of Gunung Agung exploded on the island of Bali in Indonesia. Three times, during January, March, and May, it poured out its flames and its destructive lava — an unparalleled blow to the three million Balinese.

Churches throughout the world, including the United Church of Christ through the Division of World Service of the Board for World Ministries, rushed aid to the victims. Bali's three thousand Christians, living among three million Hindus and people of other religions, have worked to help those of all faiths who suffered from the disaster.

Almost two years later, according to Charles Grant, director of Church World Service in Indonesia, 240,000 persons were still suffering from malnutrition, 10,000 of them in critical need of food. Most of the latter suffered from hunger edema, a grotesque swelling up of the body caused by a lack of protein in the diet. The church has helped in distributing food to more than 9,000 of the neediest cases. As soon as one village has regained its health and its people are able to return to work, the church volunteers have moved into another area to tend the sick and the hungry and to help in the work of reconstruction.

In such ways, through *Our Christian World Mission*, we are able to help our neighbors, even though they may be half a world away.



who is my neighbor

CLERK'S REPORT

Membership at the beginning of 1975 was 123. During the year three members were lost by transfer to other churches. Three new members were added by letter of transfer; therefore, the membership as of 31 December 1975 remained at 123. Not included in the membership list are four associate members.

The average attendance at church services for the ten months of highest attendance was 54.3 Average attendance for 1974 was 61.02 and for 1973 was 54.8.

Rizer Everett, Clerk

DEACONS AND DEACONESSES

The Board of Deacons and Deaconesses met formally on seven occasions during the past year to consider matters of worship, fellowship, church membership, and the religious development of our congregation.

Guest speakers during the past year included Charles Akin, Principal of Anderson High School; Phillip Russel, Researcher with the Latin American Alternate Policy Group; Glen Wilkerson, Attorney; Mike Renfro, Judge of Travis County; Rev. Dr. Carl Siegenthaler, Professor at Austin Presbyterian Seminary and Missioner for Austin Urban Council; and the Rev. William Towery. Several of our own members spoke or participated in worship services during 1975: Rev. Dr. James Perkins, Doyal Pinkard, Dr. Howard Rase, the Rev. Rollin Russel, and James Strickland. Jean Appel, Mike Chial, Rizer Everett, and Pat Oakes also participated in the Laity Sunday service.

Several special worship services were sponsored or conducted by the Deacons during 1975. These included an explanation of the traditional Jewish Passover, followed by communion (March 27), and the Christmas Candlelight Service (December 14). Laity Sunday (October 12) featured a presentation on early child care. A major activity of this Board is the observance of communion. Different forms of service have been followed in an attempt to enrich the meaning of this sacrament.

As in the past, we have profitted from the leadership and direction of our minister, the Reverend John Towery. The Board wishes to thank both John and Eleanor for their continuing dedication and devotion to this church.

A distinguishing feature of our congregation has been a strong bond of fellowship among our members. The Deacons have attempted to nurture this bond through bi-monthly suppers, church work days, and the Friday Night Forum program. Group meals have featured ethnic cuisine, work days have mixed sweat with service, and Forum travelogues have widened our world view. A very successful social retreat was held in November at Slumber Falls, a United Church camp in New Braunfels. Another retreat may be held this coming spring.

Perhaps the flame of fellowship burned brightest in the rooms of a flooded house where church members struggled to remove mud and debris, or in a jail cell where Rev. Towery ministered to an accused criminal. Or perhaps in work shops, sewing rooms, and kitchens where members created things for crafts sales, or perhaps in the halls of a nursing home where the "Joyful Noise" music ensemble played Christmas carols. In any event, we enjoyed many opportunities for growth in christian fellowship during the past months.

Hildegard Everett, Superintendent of the Church School, has resigned that position effective January, 1976. In this activity, as in countless other, Hildegard has served the congregation unselfishly and enthusiastically. The Board expresses its deep appreciation for her very able leadership in the religious program.

Two changes in Board membership occurred during the year. Donald Reed and Dennis Schneider moved to other areas, resigned from the board and were replaced by Weldon Scheel and Chester Lay. The Reeds and Schneiders left us on completion of degree programs at the University of Texas. Their fellowship and concern for the church will be sorely missed.

Several items of unfinished business await the new Board. A discussion was begun on those matters of faith, belief, and action which distinguish us from the many other churches in Austin, and the relationship between our "corporate" faith and our particular religious heritage. This issue seems an appropriate one as we enter the 75th year of our existance. It is hoped that discussion will continue and expand to include the larger church membership.

A second issue relates to the conflicting values of (1) increased membership, and (2) the sense of community characteristic of a small congregation. This issue must be resolved if we are to state and pursue enlistment goals.

Finally, there is the problem of holding confirmation classes for very small numbers of young people. This problem may diminish in the next few years, but it is with us now.

-Michael R. Chial, Chairman.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Receipts through 12-31-75

Pledged (donations by persons who pledged)	18,550 pledged	\$19,181.55	
Congregational Child Development Center		1,870.00	
1976 Pledges	19181.55	429.00	
Peoples Community Clinic	18550	1,920.00	
Mars Hill #120		240.00	
Interest on Certificate of Deposits	631.55	565.16	
Loose Plate		669.76	
Church School		56.13	
1074 Pledges		129.50	
Reimbursement of Expenses		69.65	
Handicraft/garage sales	1691.63	1,691.63	
Other Contributions	2548.67		
<i>from pledgers</i>	631.55		
<i>Mars Hill</i>	120		
	4871.85		
			2,520.72
			29,443.10
			2548.67
			<u>29,471.05</u>
Itimized Other Giving	4,991.85		
Emily Jo Strong Memorial		\$ 42.50	
Mrs. Nello Matthews Memorial		10.00	
Josephine Trenckmann Memorial		12.50	
One Great Hour of Sharing		225.97	
17/76		2,159.00	2,209.00
Eleanora Schenck Memorial		5.00	
the Rev. Fred E. Cole Memorial		10.00	
Annie West Dulaney Memorial		1.00	
Ralph Bickler Memorial		75.00	
Neighbors in Need		96.85	
American Indians		149.40	
Hunger Fund		15.00	
Helen Kuehne Memorial		50.15	
Slumber Falls Camp		197.50	
Paul E. Lerret Memorial		10.00	
Reimburse Office Expense		1.95	
Veterans of the Cross		79.00	
Our Christian World Mission		3,009.67	
Estate of Josephine Trenckmann		1,000.00	
			\$ 7,209.49
			\$7,159.49

John Camden, Financial Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance in Bank, Jan. 1, 1975	\$311.42	
Deposits 1975	36,680.64	\$36,992.06
Disbursements		
Legacy from Trenckmann Estate, Placed in		
Cert. of Deposit @ 5 3/4%		\$1,000.00
Funds re-imbursed, office supplies		22.05
Pastoral Leadership (Budget=14,375.00)		14,449.00
Local Church Programs (" 5,649.00)		6,154.90

Responsibilities in Co-op Budget	(Budget=170.00)	169.00
Payments on Educational Wing	(" 9,636.00)	9,642.00
Our Christian World Mission-undesignated	2,617.03	
Eden Home	261.70	
Crisis in the Nation (87.2% of goal)	130.92	3,009.65
Special Offerings		
One Great Hour of Sharing	225.97	
17/76 (Black College Fund) <i>owe #20 (2,209.00)</i>	2,189.00	
American Indian Sunday Offering	149.40	
Neighbors in Need	96.85	
Veterans of the Cross	74.00	2,735.22
Bank Balance, 12/31/75		(\$189.76)

	Budget	Spent
Pastoral Leadership (Itemized)		
Salary	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00
Annuity	1,287.00	1,287.00
Disability and Health Insurance	725.00	799.00
Car Expense	663.00	663.00
Housing	2,700.00	2,700.00
	<u>14,375.00</u>	<u>14,449.00</u>

Local Church Programs (Itemized)		
Music	600.00	561.00
Christian Education Supplies	100.00	10.50
Office Supplies & Postage	600.00	472.94
Utilities	2,250.00	3,360.28
(Utilities were: Water, Light etc. 2,755.06		
Gas= 605.22)		
Telephone	310.00	329.76
Publicity	0	8.10
Maintenance	1,000.00	202.40
Janitor Supplies	150.00	203.35
Insurance	231.00	232.00
Delegates to Conference	100.00	109.92
Nursery Attendants	150.00	147.00
Camps, Institutes etc.	25.00	207.50?
Safe Deposit Box	17.00	20.00
Treasurers' Bond	9.00	9.00
Miscellaneous (Release of Lien, Houston St.)	100.00	10.00
Insurance on Houston St. Property		46.00
Stained Glass Window		80.00
Transferred to Memorial Fund		145.15
	<u>5,649.00</u>	<u>6,154.90</u>

Responsibilities in Cooperative Work (Itemized)		
Brazos Association Dues	62.00	61.00
Austin Conference of Churches	20.00	20.00
Texas Conference of Churches	8.00	8.00
National Conference of Churches	10.00	10.00
World Council of Churches	5.00	5.00
Regional Seminary Support	15.00	15.00
United Urban Council	50.00	50.00
	<u>170.00</u>	<u>169.00</u>

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS & CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSITS

ASSETS

Memorial Fund (Austin National Bank Savings Account)		
Balance Jan. 1, 1975	\$1,120.47	
Interest during 1975	152.51	
Deposits in 1975	145.15	
Balance Dec. 31, 1975		\$1,418.13

Franklin Savings Passbook Acct. @ 5½% int.	Bal. 1/1/75	\$122.08
	Int. 1975	6.47
	Bal. 12/31/75	<u>\$128.55</u>

Certificate of Deposits at Franklin Federal accruing interest.		
2 for \$1,000.00 @ 6½% int. now worth		\$2,355.82
1 for \$1,000.00 @ 5 3/4% (90 day) from Trenckmann		1,029.17
Certificate of Deposits paying interest to General Fund quarterly		
10 @ \$1,000.00 @ 6½% interest (1 yr. C. D.'s)		
4 @ \$1,000.00 @ 5 3/4% interest (90 day C. D.'s)		
Total Amount Invested		\$18,931.67

LIABILITIES

Loan at Franklin Federal for Educational Wing,	Bal. Jan. 1	\$86,137.21
Payments Made	\$9,642.00	
Interest of Above	5,709.90	
Escrow Payments	517.20	
Amount Applied to Principal	3,414.90	
Balance on Dec. 31, 1975		\$82,722.31

-Stella Morrison, Treasurer.

CHURCH SCHOOL REPORT

Our Church School attendance was normal again this year. The Nursery-Kinder-garten group leading with the best attendance.

We had several very successful and interesting programs this year. Due to rain, we had no annual picnic at Billie Bess Saustrup's home-instead we held our picnic in the Educational Wing during the Church School and Church hours on May 25th. Billie Bess Saustrup, Eleanor Towery, and others furnished the refreshments and entertainment.

In the fall, under the direction of Jean and Vic Appel the Junior class planted a number of small plants which were sold at both the Garage Sale and the Bazaar. In extended sessions the Junior Class also made a number of hanging flower pot holders which were sold at the Bazaar.

Also, in the fall the Junior class-in extended sessions-made tin can "luminaries" and other Christmas decorations. Our Christmas theme this year was; "Christmas in Mexico". The "luminaries" were used both at the Candle light service and the Church School Christmas Party.

On December 19th we had our Christmas Pot Luck Supper and Tree Decorating Party. Carolyn Chial and I planned a Mexican Christmas Menu and program. The food was delicious, and the program was delightful. Following the dinner Carolyn and Mike Chial directed the children in breaking two beautiful Piñatas which the Chial family made.

The newly formed "Make a Joyful Noise" Band played a number of Christmas carols for us. We certainly want to thank Mel and Pat Oakes, and Sara and Dave Ross for organizing and directing this group--made up of the Junior and Senior Classes.

Carolyn Tarvin entertained us with a dance in which Adam Antoniewicz also participated. After the children hung the decorations they had made this year on the Christmas tree, Carolyn Chial explained some Mexican Christmas Customs to the group and hot Chocolate and Mexican Christmas Bread was served.

The Sunday before Christmas the "Make a Joyful Noise" Band entertained at the Barton Hills Nursing Home where our dear friend Mary Cassel is living. They were very much appreciated out there. I understand that Mrs. Cassel even danced for them. Keep up the good work, gang! I'm all for you-and we need YOU.

The High School Class entertained a group of children from the State School at a Christmas party in the Towery's home. They made all the arrangements themselves. My hat's off to you-Keep it up.

In closing, I would like to thank the following teachers and helpers for their faithful help and co-operation: Carolyn and Mike Chial, Sara and Dave Ross, Kathy Strong, John Camden, Pat and Mel Oakes, Tommie and Doyal Pinkard, Jean and Vic Appel, Clark Hubbs, and Eleanor and John Towery. And, of course, all you faithful parents who brought your children to the Church School every Sunday. Last, but by no means least, I want to thank the children who attended and co-operated so very

Vic
Inquire of other churches

upper h.s. & college?

faithfully. Without them I could not have functioned at all..

I also want to thank Mary Towery Masters and Cheryl Appel for their dedicated help in taking care of the Nursery during the church hour.

Again I want to thank everyone for their support and co-operation during the years I was Church School Superintendent. Without all this I could not have functioned. I know you will give the new Superintendent all your support and cooperation. Don't wait to be asked, step up and volunteer!

-Hildegard Everett, Superintendent

PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY CLINIC

Trustees investigate donation?

Well, it's 1976 and 1975 went out about the same way it came in. The Clinic was extremely busy the entire year....in fact starting in September we were forced to drastically cut back the numbers of patients we were seeing. We had budgeted enough money to see approximately 10,000 patients and it seemed as if 12,000 was going to be more realistic. Although we would like to see as many people as need services, limited staff, limited money, and limited energy put a halt to such ideals. We continue to turn away about 200 people per month but we still manage to see about 800 to 900 people.

Our finances this past year were holding their own. We have been quite frugal with money but have spent more than usual on patient education. We also splurged and put in air conditioning - what a delight. Staff and patients love it but our electricity bill has gone sky high. The remainder of the money has gone for staff and supplies (how dull!!!). This year we added a new staff person-an Eligibility Screener. He has been a real asset in getting Title XX reimbursements for family planning. The Board of Directors also approved an "Office Person" who will be on staff as soon as we find a suitable person. (ed. they have)

There are also a couple of other significant events that happened in '75. First, we got a new Medical Director for our general medicine program. His name is Dan Finch, and he is a resident in internal medicine at Brackenridge Hospital. Dan has been working with the clinic for the past two years and has always taken an interest in what's happening.

The second piece of good news is that Alicia Jarry, our counseling coordinator, has been accepted to Harbor Hospital's Allied Health Care Worker Program. This is an excellent program and H. E. W. is paying Alicia's \$5,000 tuition. We are real happy for Alicia and we are hoping after the six month program that she will return to the clinic and work in a nurse practitioner capacity. Kittye Roberts, an R. N. has taken over Alicia's counseling responsibilities.

Well, that's about it in a nutshell. It's hard to say what 1976 will bring our way but for now it looks like we'll get through the year O.K. Keep your fingers crossed. We are having a Benefit on February 8 at the Armadillo and everyone is invited to come.

The staff would also like to take this time to thank the church for providing the clinic space and all the other kinds of support we get during the year. I guess we often take it for granted-----but it really is appreciated.

-Char Dison, Director

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The Women's Association of the Congregational Church held most of its meetings during 1975 on the second Monday of each month with no summer meetings.

During the year the Association paid \$50. to the church budget, \$6.15 to the Memorial Fund in memory of Miss Helen Kuehne, and \$7.24 to the Leper Foundation. Presently our bank account is depleted and closed. Hereafter the treasurer will disburse funds in cash.

Members and shut-ins have been sent appropriate cards on burthdays, Valentine, Easter, and Christmas.

Since there are only ^{seven} ~~six~~ active members, there is a real need for more women of the church to become active in a women's organization, to join the existing group or to

activate a new one at a time convenient for those who are interested.

-Marie Clark, President

MISSIONS AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

At a recent meeting of this Committee the minister pointed out that the per capita giving of our church to missions is very good and well above average. This is true in spite of the fact that some of our members pledge nothing to missions. Of forty-three pledges turing in toward the 1976 budget only 21 of them pledged support to Our Christian World Mission.

The practice of having a 'Moment of Concern' or brief excerpts from a missionary letter read once a month at a Sunday service has started again. Two mission study guides have been purchased, namely, "Southeast Asia: Christian Presence" by Maryruth Clanton, and "Southeast Asians Speak Out: Hope & Despair in Many Lands" by Barbara and Leon Howell.

-James C. Perkins

PASTOR'S REPORT

1975 has been an almost miraculous year in meeting a budget with the large gap that we had between our needs and what was promised. We can, however, look at some of the reasons and recognize what they were even if we remain in mystery at times about why. Two major factors enabled us to almost finish the year in balance. We received a large amount of money from non-members who did not pledge not to mention the pledged money which we knew that we would get from non-members. We raised over \$1,600 with rummage and handicraft sales. We have also continued to receive support from some members who have moved out of Austin. When I said that we were almost in balance, we need to recognize that we actually gained financial strength because we did not use the \$1,000. bequest from the Trenckmann estate for current expenses as we could have. We also delayed using a significant amount of money donated in response to our 1976 enlistment effort and deposited it in 1976. Even though the treasurer's report shows a negative balance, no checks bounced, and we are using 1976 money a bit early. We usually do.

We can indeed feel good about the giving record of many of our group; however, we still have a number of potential giving units which to do respond to the ways in which we let them know about our joint programs. We also wonder about only half of our pledge units supporting Our Christian World Mission. We have not looked at the amounts given by our various giving units for some time, but we suspect that a small number of say ten donors provide close to half of our income. It would be encouraging if all of the members of the church supported our work; however, we may have failed in our confirmation education or in our education of people who join the church about the responsibilities of church membership. Perhaps the Mission and Stewardship Committee can help educate all of us to responsibility in order to meet the opportunities ahead of us.

Our drop in attendance was a bit of a personal surprise although we knew that we had too many members moving out of town without replacements. Membership recruitment which may be a more acceptable phrase for us rather than evangelism would seem to be a definite need and perhaps should be our number one priority. Whether we like it or not we are much smaller in relation to Austin as a whole than we were 15 or 20 years ago. We are now able to fill our committees and offices in the local church, but we are not doing some things in or for the community which we might do. We will be receiving a study of our church over the past ten years with some insights into our community which may provide some help for the Board of Deacons.

Perhaps one aspect of what we might call fellowship or personal growth of our membership could use more conscious cultivation. We do help one another much more than some realize when we are called upon, but we do not really sit down in neighborhoods on a regular basis to discuss our problems in living, our faith difficulties and vistas, our community problems, or organize to make certain that our single members are included in somewhere or other. We do not check as we once did with Huston-Tillotson College, Bergstrom AFB, or University of Texas students to see if they

need a place to eat on Thanksgiving, Christmas, or week-ends. It could be that they could use someone to talk with. Our social events have enabled us to know each other in a relaxed atmosphere. A goodly number participated in the informal but fairly regular picnics after worship in the summer led by the Oakes family. We did manage to obtain Slumber Falls Camp for a social week-end in November and thirty of us had a grand time watching canne races, playing volleyball & pingpong, singing, and just relaxing. We can have the camp again in the spring if we choose. Our pot-luck dinners have been excellent, and the Friday Forums have been enjoyable as well as educational. We failed to start another women's group, but that may be an indication of little need. We have talked about but have not planned a group oriented toward singles. Too many church programs are concerned only with "family". In our location a significant program might be aimed at meeting the needs of single persons. What type of meeting, speakers, social events, worship etc. would be helpful and appealing? Do we need to have monthly meetings in the different areas of the city? What study programs would enable us to know one another better and also help us know ourselves and our faith position better than we have in the past? Can we have a Sandwich Seminar during the week again?

Our education program needs to be looked at carefully by our Religious Education Committee. The Deacons report mentions the difficulty of having a confirmation class when we have only one in that age group, but we also have the problem in a non dogmatic church of what we do about teaching our religious heritage. Many of us grew up in churches which emphasized knowledge of the Bible or creedal teachings, and we suspect that some of us are still in revolt against some of teachings, approaches etc. which upset us. We are only too well aware of the complexity of our world and the world of our children, and we differ on ethical concerns and judgements; however, we might agree on dialogue in facing our individual and group problems. For example the pastor is involved in Problem Pregnancy counseling and may become involved in Sex Information counseling, but our church does not have any program to help us as adults or young people in that area of life. We do share information informally on practical affairs, economic concerns, but again we are not prepared to be immediately helpful to a newcomer to our community. We all make ethical decisions every day, but our church, as with many churches, depends upon what is said at the worship hour to carry the educational burden of the church. What do we need to know about our heritage? What do we need to know about our world? Can such knowledge be helpful? Can families join together to help one another? Can we be more effective during the church school hour? Do we need to locate or develop new materials? Could we use task force type of involvements rather than class type? Would it help to talk with near-by church to check on the feasibility of some joint programs?

We probably place more social concerns before our members in items placed on bulletins boards, written in the newsletter, and reported at church worship hour than most churches do; however, we could significantly improve on our communication. We hope that the Social Action Committee will take the opportunity to tell us about local issues, report on Engage/Social Action articles, and organize an educational forum or some program to help us know the issues in the national and local elections. We are participating in the United Urban Council, and we hope to have a project that will enable us to be involved as a group as well as individually. We have, thus far, as a group been reluctant to issue pronouncements, become a lobbyist for particular causes, or start a political group. We can do a much better job of educating ourselves in the future.

We have seen our building usage as one way of serving our community, and we have been willing to have our building used by unpopular groups which may have cost us some financial support from our members and may have kept some potential members away from us. We have the Clinic with us as reported earlier. We have two church worship groups plus a meditative "dance" group. We see our mission more clearly in building usage by worship groups, variant though they be and human needs services as against political action groups or organizations although we have allowed building usage by them at times. We did have the building used for a week by Texas Stud-

ent Union for a program on "Woman and the Arts". Wellesley Book Sale again used our facilities with benefit to the book buying community and to the students who receive scholarship aid with the funds they raise. We are examining carefully the need for a child development facility in our area and will likely be taking action at the Annual Meeting. What we will then do with our Educational Wing during the week may be a new challenge for us.

The minister is chairperson of Back Bay Mission, Hildegard Everett is a member of the Church and Ministry Committee of Brazos Association and a member of Eden Home Board, Vic Appel is on the Board of United Campus Ministry, Pat Oakes is co-chairperson of the Women's Task Force of South Central Conference, Marilyn Stephens is filling in as secretary-treasurer of the Brazos Association, and others of us may be involved in Association, Conference, denominational, and interdenominational affairs. We post some things on our bulletin board, but we suspect that a majority of our members do not know what is happening, what pronouncements are made by General Synod, Board of Homeland Ministries, South Central Conference etc. We can improve our information sharing both in receiving and communicating our responses.

Your minister participated in two seminars staffed by Austin Mental Health Mental Retardation resource persons which evolved a kind of personal support group. He was a bit concerned over the church financial picture and hesitated to meet with the group this spring. He hopes to take a course at UT this coming summer and may try to audit a course at one of the seminaries this spring. He feels a need to have more dialogue about articles, ideas, and programs. The shared lunch while reading an article was meaningful in the past and could be resumed this spring. He has been involved in counseling a fair amount and that may increase.

To name all the persons who have been helpful to the church and to me personally would be lengthy and also face the problem of leaving some of you out because of the frailty of the memory of the writer. We do wish to express our appreciation as a couple for the warm supportative feelings as well as monetary gifts given to us on our 25th wedding anniversary. We are glad to have spent so many of our married years with you. One way in which our church serves us and some of you is as a part of the "extended family", and we assure you that in many ways you are a part of our family.

What will 1976 bring? We hope that we will find some 20 more members on our rolls by the end of the year. Your writer will observe his 25th anniversary of his ordination with over 16 years of ministry here in Austin. We are indeed puzzled about how God is working in us, the world, and this church, but man has always lived with that problem. Jesus' commandment to love God and our neighbor is still our basis for what we do. May we continue to examine how that can be applied daily and develop better ways of expressing how we feel towards each other and express our concern and care for the world that we live in.--John C. Towery

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The concerns of the Board of Trustees over the past year have been the usual ones: the Church's financial situation and the maintenance and utilization of church property.

The members of the Trustees during 1975 were: Garry Cole, Betsy Russell, Ron Dildine, Marilyn Stephens, Jean Cassel (secretary), Mike Ross, Susan Swallow, Doyal Pinkard (chairman), Rizer Everett (Clerk), Stella Morrison (Treasurer), and John Camden (Financial Secretary).

As the Treasurer's report makes clear we just about broke even financially last year. This is a miracle of sorts when you consider the wide gap between our budget and our pledges when we started the year. Part of our success has been due to the volunteer services of members of the congregation, and the Board of Trustees would like to extend its deep appreciation to the following:

1. All those who have volunteered to clean the church on Saturdays--this has helped us save on janitorial services.
2. Those who have helped on workdays and maintenance activities: John Camden, the Oakes, the Coles, Eleanor and John Towery, the Neuses, Kathy Strong, Jean Cassel, the Reeds, and Rizer Everett, and perhaps others.

CONGREGATIONAL CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

1975 was a year marked by increasing financial difficulties. As inflation continues to take its toll, we are finding it to be increasingly difficult to fill positions with qualified personnel. At the same time, parents are finding it more difficult to pay tuition. The turnover rate of both employees and children is becoming more rapid and children are dropping out without giving notice. We have not had a sufficient number of children in the school to make ends meet since September, and have not made monthly payments to the church in November and December. In past years, our most successful months have been February, March, and April.

Having perused the report written by Jeanine Neuse last year, I feel that the last paragraph of her report should be repeated with comment. It reads:

"At the present time, the Child Development Center Board and the Congregational Church must take firm actions to continue the community service which we offer in the form of child care (to save it) or recommend that the church select some other forms of service. These actions include: (1) pursuing the possibility of qualifying for commodities and the USDA Milk Program, (2) increasing tuition to \$85.00 per month and create a sliding scale fee based on survey of income, (3) seeking assistance to increase enrollment from all sources, (4) establishing firm, continuous, conscientious support from the church and its members, and (5) recommending that, if no improvement in the financial and church support situation develops by June 1, we should close the Child Development Center."

We have observed the following on these five points:

- (1) We did not obtain commodities. This would have required much effort for doubtful results.
- (2) We increased tuition to \$85.00 per month effective December 1, 1975. (no sliding scale)
- (3) Tried to increase enrollment by putting ads in the Daily Texan, American Statesman, bulletin board ads, and more. None of these efforts were very successful.
- (4) We had good support from church members in September during our employee crisis; however, the Board has not been complete at any time, and this center cannot be effectively run without a stable, effective board. Furthermore, every member of the Board must accept some sizeable share of the work.

If this church expects to keep this center open, even if it is just until June, we must get the Board up to full strength.

The financial situation is as follows:

Balance January 1, 1974	\$1,609.33	
Amount Owed January 1, 1974	600.00	- Food
	40.00	- Milk
Amount Free January 1, 1974	\$ 960.00	
Balance January 1, 1975	\$ 150.25	
Amount Owed January 1, 1975	212.39	
	21.84	- Milk
	300.00	- Soc. Sec.
	\$ 534.23	
Amount Behind	383.98	
Net Loss for 1974	\$1,343.98	

Balance January 1, 1976	\$ 27.00	
Amount Owed January 1, 1976	167.62	- Director's Salary
	227.06	- IRS
	165.87	- Food
	13.00	- Fire Ext.
	37.17	- Milk
	250.00	- Vacation Pay & Lucretia Baker
Subtotal	\$ 860.72	
	187.00	- Nov. Church Payment
	187.00	- Dec. Church Payment
Total	\$1,234.72	
Amount Behind	1,207.72	- Not including amount owed 833.72 to Church
Net Loss for 1975	\$ 823.74	

		Income by Month						
		1975						
	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	Jan. 1976	
2094.75	2182.50	2317.50	2163.00	1851.50	2245.25		1612.70	
2033.75	1774.25	1545.00	1827.50	1473.75	1735.35			

--Sara Ross, Treasurer

not including amount owed to church

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN

Special Review Committee Meeting
January 13, 1976

Doyal Pinkard called the meeting to order at 9:00 p.m. at the church. The Review Committee consisted of the following individuals: Doyal Pinkard, Pat Oakes, Gary Cole, and Vick Appel. Also present at the meeting were the following members of the Child Development Center Board: Sara Ross, Rev. John Towery, Linda Dildine, Nancy Brown, and Jeanine Neuse who was taking the place of Billie Bess Saustrup as CDC Chairman.

The purpose of this meeting was to get a general evaluation of the Child Development Center's status and to discuss the feasibility of continuing the services of the Center in the future.

The first item brought out at the meeting was the Center's current financial report which is as follows:

Income	\$1,577.70
Present Bank Balance	973.00
Expenses	1,919.16 (doesn't include the \$187.00/mo. owed to the Church for the months of November, December, and January.)

The Center owes Lucretia Baker approximately \$250.00

The total figure for staff salaries was noted...\$1,386.00

Also noted was Social Security..... 83.16

Total.....\$1,469.16 per month

Enrollment consists of 11 in the younger group with 3 part-time tuitions, and 10 in the older group with 2 half-time tuitions.

As of January 1, 1976, the Center has a deficit of \$1,207.72.

It was noted that the Center usually does its best financially during the period of February through May.

The next portion of the meeting consisted of comprising a "Criteria versus Standards" outline by which to study the feasibility of continuing the Center's services. The outline consisted of the following: (1) essential criteria deemed important for running the Center successfully, (2) the minimum standard acceptable for each item, and (3) the realistic status of the Center in regard to each item. The outcome was as follows:

<u>Essential Criteria</u>	<u>Minimum Standard Acceptable</u>	<u>Center's Status</u>
Significant Need	The Center should be providing a significant service--meeting a real need in the community.	Due to the opening of several other day care centers, University Presbyterian being one such center, much of the need in this area for day care centers with learning programs has been taken away. The Center's low enrollment is a primary result of this.
Commitment of Church Members and Board	There must be a broad-based, strong level of commitment on the part of the Church members and the Board to offer continuous, voluntary support.	We have always been short of this level of commitment.
Likelihood of Continuation of Stable Staff	Staff stability is essential in order to run the Center efficiently; keeping overall procedures running smoothly and up-to-date, and maintaining some consistency in the daily routine and in the familiarity the children have with the individuals they come in contact with each day.	During the past six months, the turnover of staff at the Center has been excessive. As a result of this, the transition from one director to another, one teacher to another, etc., has been erratic and has created confusion and misunderstanding for all concerned.
Extent of Financial Risk	It was agreed that the Center must be able to break even on its own.	The Center is in debt \$1,207.72 as of the 1st of January.
Capability of Board Members	Board members need sufficient expertise.	Some of us who are, have been, or will be CDC Board members feel we do not have sufficient knowledge to be running a business.

<u>Essential Criteria</u>	<u>Minimum Standard Acceptable</u>	<u>Center's Status</u>
Parent Cooperation	It has always been felt that parent cooperation and interest was a vital asset in getting things done such as work day repairs and clean-up, etc., and in keeping the lines of communication open so that teachers and parents could openly express their ideas and concerns.	For various reasons, the Center has never had good parent input. This is something that needed to be cultivated by the staff.

After an evaluation of the above information, Vic Appel made a motion that: "the Review Committee recommend that the Church cease operation of the Congregational Child Development Center as of May 31, 1976, and that we make all possible efforts to make a smooth transition of closing down the Center". Fat Oakes seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

It was decided that Vick Appel was to present the Review Committee's decision to the Church at the Annual Meeting on January 18, 1976.

It was suggested that all future contracts written for new enrollments be dated through May 31, 1976, only.

It was agreed that all parents would be given at least one month's notice that the Center will be closing down.

The committee decided that it would be necessary to let church members know that the Center may be needing help in the form of staff substitutes, cooks, etc., in the closing out period.

It was suggested that a committee be made to consider alternative utilization of the space.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

-Linda Dildine, Sect.

Board of Trustees (cont. from p. 8)

3. Don and Sarah Reed (who, to our great loss, have moved away) for investigating and promoting the idea of bazaars and garage sales, and those who worked so hard to make the sales a success, especially Eleanor Towery and Gertrude Andl for the facility--without the money earned on the sales we would have been deep in the red at the end of the year.

The Clinic continues to use our facilities, and they have increased their contribution for utilities significantly. This has been very helpful with the high increase in utility costs during the year.

The Trustees were concerned about the Child Development Center because of financial difficulties it was having and a review committee was appointed which has its report above.

Several groups have used our facilities on a short term basis for a special project such as the Wellesley Book Sale, the Texas Union's "Women and the Arts"

Symposium, and a Bake Sale to benefit Greenbriar School. Regular users are the People's Community Clinic, Mars Hill, the Sufi Dancers, and the Austin Independent Community Church.

At the request of Van C. Walton the Trustees have established a special building fund. Donations to this fund will be kept separate from the operating fund and the memorial fund and will be used only for major repair and renovation projects. We would like to thank Van for his suggestion and thoughtfulness.

The Trustees have once again presented a budget to the congregation that seems to exceed our grasp (Else what's a Heaven for!). If we can enlarge our membership by from ten to fifteen families, this budget is feasible. Can we do this? What can each of us do? That is what I would like you to think about today as you consider the budget.

-Doyal Pinkard, Chairman.

AGENDA?

Worship

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Review of Reports (Any questions, differing opinions, statements etc.)

Report of Organization or Activity omitted in printed reports.

Old Business (Any unfinished church business?)

New Business:

1. Election of Officers, Board Members & Committee Members etc.
2. 1976 Budget. The Board of Trustees recommend that it be accepted with a review of finances to be held in April.
3. Child Development Center. (The Review Committee recommends that it be closed on May 31, 1976.)
4. Spring Retreat? Two dates available.
5. Observance of 75th Anniversary. April 4th. Plan on Jan. 30
6. Host Brazos Association on April 25th.

Adjourn?

17/76 report ?

Retreat # April 11 ?