

Old West Church Association

ANNUAL REPORT for 2019

2019 Officers:

Barbara McAndrew, President
Richard Maizell, Vice President
Sue Killoran, Secretary
Donna Fitch, Treasurer

Appointments:

Fundraising: Chair Richard Maizell
Building Chair: Nick Emlen
Music Chair: June Morse
Scheduling: Chair Kathy Saunders Morse
Finance committee: Rod Buck, Steve Killoran, Donna Fitch, Barbara McAndrew

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This year, it is with sadness that I begin by offering the Trustees' sincere and heartfelt gratitude to Ernie Parrish who we lost to a very untimely death. As with so many community projects Ernie took on, he was both a force of nature and expertise working on the Building Committee. We miss him and are so grateful for the time, energy, and passion he devoted to the church—the very definition of our mission and a legacy that will last forever.

We also owe a debt of gratitude to our long-time neighbors David and Kathy Morse who have just moved from their farm next to the church. To say they have been good neighbors is a wild understatement. From care and maintenance to sharing their space for parking to running electric cords to hosting Christmas Eve gatherings to quite literally saving the church from lightning and fire, David and Kathy and their family have been invaluable to the church's preservation. We offer our most sincere thanks.

I also want to thank fellow trustees, Sue, Donna, and Richard, for their work throughout the year. And, I very much appreciate the hard work of our appointed chairs Richard, Nick, June, and Kathy, as well as Steve and Rod.

The OWCA trustees met regularly throughout the year with primary business being management of the building, oversight of funds, committees, as well as a major effort to update the association's Bylaws. Please refer to the report on events held, as well as the Treasurer, Fundraising, and Building reports included below.

With Richard in the lead, we thank all the community members who participated in the redrafting of the Bylaws. This engagement by the community is so appreciated. Through

several special meetings we were able to bring them into more alignment with current and future needs. A key change was expanding the number of trustees to five members. We are keen to bring on a fifth trustee to support the work of the association as soon as feasible.

Following completion of Jan Lewandowski's steeple project, we prepared and submitted our report for the Matching Grant from the State of Vermont Division of Historic Preservation in the amount of \$20,000 to support the steeple repair project. Our report to the Division was based largely on Jan's documentation of his work. We so enjoyed working with Jan and wanted to share his singular expertise and passion with the community. In February, we hosted an evening at the Maple Corner Community Center for Jan to lead a talk and slideshow to share his process and thoughts about the steeple project. It was another interesting evening with Jan that was very well-attended.

As noted below, we prioritized completion of painting the steeple, repair of the bell, as well as the full painting of the exterior of the building. We were delighted to have the exterior work completed in August with such extraordinary results. We have also initiated an effort to engage high school students in replacing the road sign as it is in need of repair. The building looks phenomenal and we are so grateful for all the work that went into this major leap forward, and to all of our donors, members, and volunteers who made it possible.

We continue to increase outreach to the community and improve access to information about the church and its use. We utilize Front Porch Forum fairly regularly, maintain our post box, and have a wonderful and ever-improving website which is a fantastic resource to support the church. We thank Richard Maizell for his continued leadership with the website to keep it up to date and informative. This site is a great step forward in providing a virtual "home base" for the Old West Church and is connected to the other wonderful assets in the immediate area including Historic Kents' Corner and the Robinson Saw Mill. A reminder of our contact information for the Old West Church Association:

Mailing address:
PO Box 73
Calais, VT 05648

Telephone number: (802) 456-0576

Website at www.oldwestchurchvt.org.

The Year Ahead

We have many projects large and small—many behind the scenes—in the cue for the year ahead and beyond. Some examples of work under consideration for the trustees and chairs to prioritize include: association database; archives; building maintenance plan;

support of the Old West Church Cemetery maintenance; continuing to improve investments; planning for our 200th anniversary—just to name a few big categories.

We thank all of our volunteers, members, and donors for a very productive year.

EVENTS SINCE OCTOBER 2019

| | |
|--------------|--|
| 12/24/18 | Christmas Eve |
| 2/12/19 | Jan Lewandoski/Steeple Project Community Talk at MCCC |
| 5/20/19 | Calais and E. Montpelier Historical Societies |
| 6/22/19 | Fitch Wedding |
| 6/29/19 | Porter Wedding |
| 7/21/19 | Deb Flanders Annual Folk Concert for Vermont Folklife Center |
| 8/3/19 | Memorial for Lois Towers |
| 8/21/19 | Memorial for Rick Purchase |
| 8/24/19 | Van Susteren Wedding |
| 8/8/19 | Memorial for Ernie Parrish |
| 9/15, 22, 29 | Words Out Loud/Art at the Kent |
| 10/6/19 | June Morse's Annual Fall Foliage Concert |
| 10/13/19 | OWCA Annual Meeting |
| 10/26/19 | Hancq Wedding |

TREASURER'S REPORT

Fiscal Year 2019 Highlights

Income

In FY2019, donations totaled \$31,296.45 as compared to \$1,296.86 in FY2018. In August of 2018, the OWC trustees mailed an appeal letter to approximately 1,000 addresses. Outreach to private foundations and other donors garnered additional donations that substantially increased the church's income from gifts.

In FY2019, the last shares from MFS Funds were redeemed, and the money deposited to the church's money market fund and then to Vanguard Funds. (The MFS Funds were the result of investments made in the late 1950s.) Grant reimbursement of \$20,000 was received from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation for work on the steeple.

Expenses

The cost of the August 2018 appeal letter mailing was \$713.33 which covered printing letters, envelopes with return address, remittance envelopes and stamps. The trustees believe this expense was well worth it, not only for the donations the mailing brought in, but also for the opportunity to share news of the church's activities to a wide community.

The cost of designing and setting up the website (\$1,172) was offset by a donation received specifically for that purpose. The biggest expense, of course, was the restoration of the steeple. Those expenses in FY2019 totaled \$84,853.75 with payments to Jan Lewandowski, Travis Hodgkins Painting, Brian Clark Woodworking and Carriage House Millworks (Ernie Parrish).

Account Balances

The church ended the year with \$121,849.32 in cash, investments and certificates of deposit.

Fiscal Year 2020 To Date Highlights

Income

This year's solicitation letter was mailed in September, a bit later than last year. To date we have received \$4,331.32 in donations.

Expenses

The largest expenses for FY2020 to date are the final bill for painting the steeple (\$9,266.25) and the painting of the church itself (\$24,270).

Account Balances

Once the steeple and painting expenses were paid, the majority of the church's money in its bank account was moved to Vanguard Funds. The amount in those funds now totals \$50,499.09. The long-term financial goal for the Old West Church Association is to create an endowment fund with the interest going to maintenance of the church. Before that goal can be met, we must ensure that the church is structurally sound and take care of any large expenses that might arise from those investigations.

Donna Fitch, Treasurer
Old West Church Association
October 10, 2019

REPORT OF THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

The committee members include Donna Fitch, Sue Killoran, Richard Maizell (chair), and Barbara McAndrew. We initiated the second year of our annual fund raising drive. A letter was sent out to the Calais community, as well as to friends of the Old West Church throughout the country. A preliminary report of fundraising totals is provided in the report of the Treasurer, as well as final totals from the 2018 annual campaign. We are very encouraged by the initial response to our second annual appeal. Work continues to seek funding from state, federal, foundation, and corporate donations. Specific

fundraising goals continue to be informed by input from the Building Committee. It is the hope of the Fundraising Committee that ultimately sufficient revenue will be generated from multiple sources, resulting in a reserve fund to support maintenance and preservation in perpetuity. The Committee continues to be grateful for the outpouring of support from the community in support of the Old West Church.

REPORT OF THE BUILDING COMMITTEE

The committee members include Nick Emlen (chair), Peter Harvey, Mary Jo Llewellyn, John McCullough, and Ernie Parrish.

Just ahead of the snow, restoration of the church steeple neared completion last November with the final work on roofing, flashing, clapboard repair and louver panel replacement. This summer Travis Hodgkin's crew completed the exterior painting of the steeple and body of the church. Cindy and Mack Gardner-Morse and their son, John, took on repair and maintenance of the steeple bell, including cleaning the bell, fixing the West brace, tightening the nuts on the eye bolt from which the bell hangs, fabricating a bracket to clamp the pulley to the yoke and replacing the rope. They also prepared a full report on the project to add to our documentation of building maintenance history—greatly appreciated.

In the months ahead the committee will be examining and recommending priorities for building maintenance and preservation for 2020 and beyond.

Old West Church Association FY2019
July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

Account Balances June 30, 2019

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| People's Bank Checking | \$6,626.86 |
| People's Bank Money Market | \$47,044.69 |
| NSB Certificates of Deposit | \$24,048.42 |
| Vanguard Federal Money Market | \$37,129.36 |
| Vanguard Short Term Bond Index Admiral | \$6,999.99 |
| Total Cash & Investments | \$121,849.32 |

Expenses

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Christmas Eve Service | \$148.45 |
| Fundraising | \$713.33 |
| Insurance | \$854.00 |
| Maintenance | \$388.75 |
| Miscellaneous | \$235.03 |
| Porta Potty | \$524.35 |
| Steeple | \$84,853.75 |
| Web Site | \$1,172.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$88,889.66 |

Income

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| CDs and MFS Funds Redeemed | \$102,102.24 |
| Dividends | \$61.91 |
| Donations | \$31,296.45 |
| Grant - VT Historic Preservation | \$20,000.00 |
| Interest | \$75.44 |
| Rental fees | \$1,300.00 |
| Total Income | \$154,836.04 |

Old West Church Association FY2020 To Date

Account Balances Sept 30, 2019

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| People's Bank Checking | \$1,919.97 |
| People's Bank Money Market | \$4,084.53 |
| NSB Certificates of Deposit | \$24,153.82 |
| Vanguard Federal Money Market | \$30,291.64 |
| Vanguard Short Term Bond Index Admiral | <u>\$20,207.45</u> |
| Total Cash & Investments | \$80,657.41 |

Expenses as of 10/9/19

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Christmas Eve Service | \$0.00 |
| Fundraising | \$1,048.89 |
| Insurance | \$0.00 |
| Maintenance | \$24,883.44 |
| Miscellaneous | \$108.00 |
| Porta Potty | \$397.88 |
| Steeple | \$9,266.25 |
| Web Site | <u>\$0.00</u> |
| Total Expenses | \$35,704.46 |

Income as of 10/9/19

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Donations | 4331.32 |
| Interest | \$12.80 |
| Rental fees | <u>\$400.00</u> |
| Total Income | \$4,744.12 |

*Maintenance includes \$24,270 for painting church