



Stowe Community Church
Annual Report
2022

Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 22, 2023
11:30am
In-person and Livestream

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Pastor's Message.....	Pages 3, 4
2. Christian Education	Pages 5, 6
3. Deacons	Page 7
4. Endowment.....	Page 8
5. Financial.....	Pages 9, 10
6. Mission and Service.....	Page 11
7. Music.....	Page 12
8. Nominating	Page 13
9. Stewardship	Page 14
10. Trustees.....	Page 15
11. Ushers	Page 16
12. Women's Fellowship.....	Page 17

PASTOR'S REPORT

“To live up to their name, local churches must be continually moving out, extending themselves into the world, being the missional, witnessing community we were called into being to be: the manifestation of God’s going into the world, crossing boundaries, proclaiming, teaching, healing, loving, serving and extending the reign of God. In short, churches need to keep adventuring or they will die.”
— Tod Bolsinger, [Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory](#)

I am so glad that we are adventuring together! God has blessed Stowe Community Church this past year in unprecedented ways. With research and statistics telling the story of the declining “Church” in America, what God is doing here at SCC is exciting and praiseworthy. Our congregation is writing a new narrative as we extend the reign of God in our community, and our story has received national recognition. I invite you to read the article published in Religion Unplugged:
<https://religionunplugged.com/news/2022/11/15/are-we-entering-an-postdenominational-era-inside-the-rise-of-the-unaffiliated-church>

This past June, I was officially installed as your new Pastor, and my heart is still filled with joy from that special service. Thanks to Kathe Rhinesmith and our Pastoral Relations Committee for organizing such a moving worship service. Clergy from across Lamoille County participated and my mentor, the Rev. Dr. Scott Herr preached. Rev. Paul Sangree from the Vermont Conference of the U.C.C. gave the official charge.

Following that service, I began to seek a Privilege of Call with the United Church of Christ and anticipate my ordination with the denomination to occur in 2023. As part of my involvement with the Vermont Conference, I am now serving on the “Hope Fund Discernment Team”. The team’s mission is to help local U.C.C. churches in the process of revitalization.

Our children’s ministries continue to flourish thanks to the wonderful support of our Christian Education Committee and the work of our Director of Children’s Ministries, Taryn Noelle. This past year we have seen exciting growth in the number of children and young families participating in our programs and attending church on Sundays.

This past year we hired our new directors of Youth Ministries. Chris and Whitney Vigneau are a wonderful addition to our team and have been building meaningful relationships with our youth and families and developing a solid youth program.

We hired Lizi Lyon as our wedding coordinator to expand our wedding ministry, and Rev. Dr. Barbara Purinton joined our team as our first Pastoral Associate. Barbara is our “on call” clergy to help officiate services, lead worship, and preach during times I am unavailable and brings a wealth of wisdom and pastoral experience to our congregation.

In 2022 we welcomed 40 new members who joined our church. These individuals are committed to helping us grow into God’s dreams and vision for us through their active participation, fellowship, faith formation, service, and giving.

I offer my gratitude to our Stewardship Committee for their hard work and efforts over the past few months, achieving a milestone goal of \$200,000 in pledges for 2023. This support will help us continue to grow and live out God’s dreams for our congregation.

PASTOR'S REPORT CON'T

I am indebted to our amazing office administrator, Marylou Durrett for being the face of SCC and the heart and hands of Christ to each person who calls, emails, and walks through our doors. Praise to our Director of Music, Karen Miller for conducting our choir, playing the organ and piano, and helping plan inspiring worship services each Sunday. Additionally, Karen and I have led numerous weddings and memorial services together over the past year. Under her leadership, our dedicated choir continues to inspire us and help us connect with God

I want to thank Chris DeRienzo for serving as our Church President. We would not be where we are today without her vision, faith, leadership, and the tremendous effort and hours she has committed this past year. I also offer my utmost thanks to our Board of Directors, our committees, and our entire church staff. Each person has faithfully served God and our congregation with their time, talents, and gifts.

We are part of something exciting that God is doing transforming hearts, lives, and communities. I am confident in God's provision through the generosity of our members and friends as we cast an expanded vision for our church. This includes enhancing our musical programs and worship experiences with special music and guest musicians, offering adult fellowship groups and Bible studies, expanding our children's and youth ministries, increasing our missions and service opportunities, growing our online congregation, and continuing to reach out and welcome new individuals and families.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Dan Haugh

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

GOOD NEWS FIRST. 2022 was a year of amazing growth for our Christian Education Program. By year's end, we have a fully functioning nursery, a two-class children's program and a launched youth program. On average, there are between 30-40 babies, children and youth in church on a regular basis and nearly 70 in all who have participated or are participating in CE programs.

We began the year with our committee consisting of myself, Taryn, Chris DeRienzo and Pastor Dan. Thankfully, and after a lot of prayer, Stephanie Krukur, Lauren Jennings and Bob Arnot committed to serve as well.

As a result of our growing pains, we struggled a bit to configure the space downstairs to best serve our students, but have found good solutions to meet our needs. What was the former nursery is now a dedicated space for youth, the two classrooms closest to Stowe Landing are for the children and the third classroom, formerly the library, is now a dedicated nursery space.

Nursery. Early in the year, our Nursery Coordinator, Lorna Dill resigned from her post to focus on her family during a difficult time. As we headed into the fall, Orly Bryan, an outstanding Stowe High School senior became our new Nursery Coordinator and has committed to serve in this way until graduation. Week after week, our babies grew in numbers and there are, on average, five to eight babies in attendance on Sundays.

In September, SCC hosted a baby/toddler/parent meet and greet, and collectively Pastor Dan baptized 6 babies in 2022.

Children's Ministry. Hats off to Taryn Noelle for bringing her talent, ideas and an incredibly large amount of patience to the children of SCC. In 2022 the Sunday morning Sunday school class grew enough to warrant separating this group into two classes. Laretta Haugh took over the older kiddos (3rd-5th grade) while Taryn continued to teach the younger kids (Pre K-2nd grade). A new curriculum, Holy Moly, was researched, implemented, and was a huge success for all ages.

Typically, Miss Laretta typically has about 15 students and Miss Taryn has anywhere from 6-10 students in her class.

Youth Ministry. In March, Pastor Dan hosted a virtual meet and greet with parents of middle and highschoolers to gauge interest and what activities would be engaging to the youth. It was clear families were interested in a youth program and after almost a full year of steadfast prayer, SCC welcomed Chris and Whitney Vigneau in October as our official Youth Ministers! Big thanks to Taryn for filling in the gap and arranging a few youth outings as we searched for a youth leader.

As of this report, there are 15 students participating in our youth outings and events. The first order of business was updating the new youth space with a painting and planning party. And, a brainstorming session for the youth to let Chris and Whitney what they wanted to see happen at Church. A generous member of our congregation sponsored the purchase of several pieces of AV equipment to be used in their space. They plan to launch the new youth program using the "Live My New Life with Jesus" 8-week curriculum.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CON'T

I could fill pages and pages with all that was accomplished for SCC's Christian Education program in 2022! Here are some additional highlights:

- Spark Afterschool Program – Taryn held 5 classes and had 10 students participated, generating \$500 to support the program
- Blessing of the Animals
- Blessing of the Backpacks
- Blessing of the Costumes
- Blessing of the Baskets and Easter Egg Hunt (over 750 eggs were hunted!)
- Bible Camp - 18 campers, 8 outreach leaders and 4 high school counselors
- Pumpkin Carving Party
- Christmas Tree Lighting
- Leading up to Bible Camp, Pastor Dan led 4 all-inclusive Family Worship services, with a special Children's and Youth Worship Bulletin each week
- "Twas The Night Before Christmas", and we have an amazing cast of 24 kiddos ranging in age from 5-14 and raised \$1300 to cover cost!
- Annual Christmas Pageant

It is my pleasure to serve my Church in this meaningful way. As Pastor Dan says, the most important room in the Church is the nursery and I am so pleased with the fruits of our labors. Thank you to all who volunteered throughout the year to make all this possible; specifically, John DeRienzo and Leslie Peterman and so many more.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Alverson Stowe

Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him. Psalm 127:3



DEACON'S REPORT

The Deacons continued to setup for the monthly Communion services and to assist Dan in celebrating Communion. This included the Maundy Thursday service where past Deacons Bernadette Wyman and Janet Wilkins Godin also assisted. The Deacons were available to support sharing Communion with those who cannot make it to Church in person. However there weren't many requests for this outreach.

As part of the Communion support, new supplies were ordered and the Communion silver was cleaned..

We were also happy to act as Ushers on Communion Sundays.

The Deacons assisted Dan with Baptisms and the welcoming of new members.

A big "Thank You" to Ben Brayton who has filled in at Communion services when any of our active Deacons weren't available.

Deacons: Greg Morrill, Penny McGaughy, Jean Mudgett, and Theresa Tedstone

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Endowment Committee (Special): In accordance with the Church bylaws, in 2022 the President appointed a Special Committee known as the Endowment Committee. It was charged with researching forming an endowment for the Church. The Committee met throughout the year, developed an understanding of the mechanics of an endowment, and developed an organizational structure for such a program. It has reserved the name the “Stowe Steeple Society,” and formulated an operating structure, procedures and documents, and considered legal and accounting implications for the Church. Committee members have also met with the Church’s Investment Manager (Morgan Stanley) to discuss the program.

During the year it became evident that there are several major physical projects that will need to be accomplished in the next several years. The Committee has recommended that the fundraising for these projects should be carefully coordinated with the endowment’s implementation, using the Stowe Steeple Society. This could be accomplished by combining the endowment program effort with major projects fundraising, using a new permanent committee to be called the Development Committee. This is the subject of a Board of Directors recommendation to the congregation’s Annual Meeting in January 2023.

Scott Noble - Chair, Charlie Burnham, Lana Burkhardt, Walter Frame, Steven Soule, Skip Wentz and Chris Derienzo

FINANCIAL REPORT

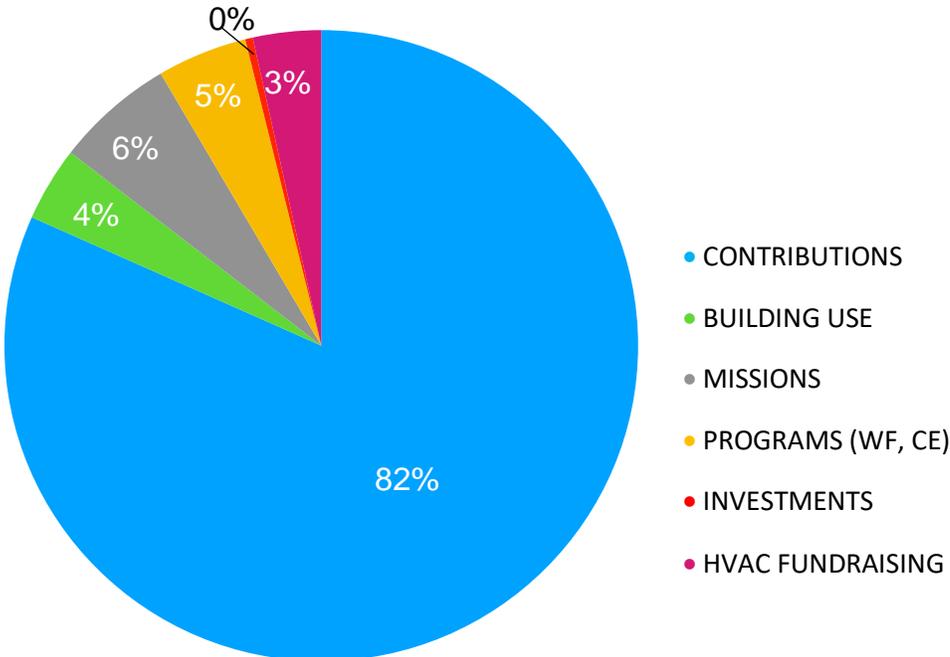
Financial Summary 2022 and Budget 2023

	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
INCOME			
Contributions	\$ 198,500.00	\$ 253,970.00	\$ 263,500.00
Building Use	\$ 33,000.00	\$ 11,854.00	\$ 31,500.00
Missions	\$ 2,650.00	\$ 18,845.00	\$ 850.00
Programs (WF, CE)	\$ 15,150.00	\$ 14,310.00	\$ 12,500.00
Investments	\$ 625.00	\$ 1,196.00	\$ 3,075.00
HVAC Fundraising	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 10,800.00	
TOTAL	\$ 260,925.00	\$ 310,975.00	\$ 311,425.00

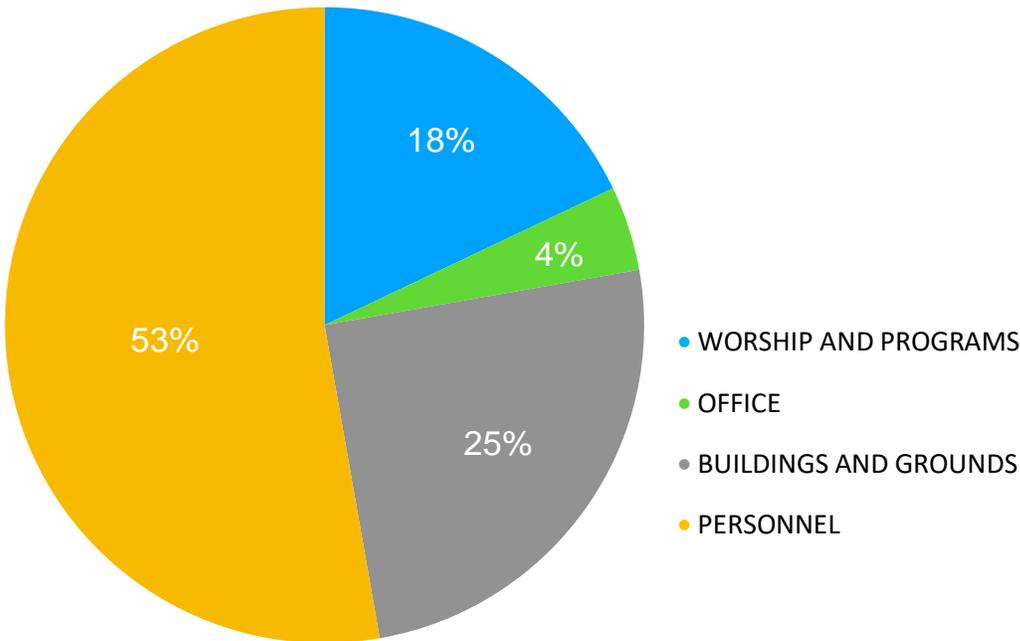
EXPENSES			
Worship and Programs	\$ 37,800.00	\$ 60,728.00	\$ 42,250.00
Office	\$ 18,650.00	\$ 14,567.00	\$ 17,300.00
Building and Grounds	\$ 89,040.00	\$ 84,804.00	\$ 70,490.00
Personnel	\$ 193,800.00	\$ 178,842.00	\$ 209,370.00
TOTAL	\$ 339,290.00	\$ 338,941.00	\$ 339,410.00

ACCOUNT BALANCES ON DECEMBER 31, 2022			
Money Market	\$ 2,109.60		
General Checking	\$ 43,747.64		
Women's Ministry	\$ 14,880.28		
Morgan Stanley Investments	\$ 130,104.15		
Building Preservation Fund	\$ 14,538.06		
Local Missions	\$ 6,661.38		
UB Checking (Credit card)	\$ 20,452.09		
TOTAL	\$ 232,493.20		

2022 INCOME



2022 EXPENSES



MISSION AND SERVICE

“Serving Him by helping others in need”

The Mission and Service Committee met each month to ensure we are serving those in need as best we can. With covid still a factor, inflation and a war in Ukraine, there were more people in need than ever. In 2022, the committee’s name was changed to “Mission and Service” as we are hoping to include more service project opportunities for the congregation in 2023.

To support those in need locally and internationally, we sent funds to the following organizations: Lamoille Family Center, Kenyan Orphans, Lamoille Community Food Share, Meals on Wheels, Lamoille Foster Parent Association, Habitat for Humanity, Clarina Howard Nichols Center, Compassion International, Hunger Free Vermont, Church World Service, Lamoille Home Health and Hospice and the Stowe School Emergency Fund. We gave extra funds to Lamoille Community House to help with their 365 Campaign to build a year-round homeless shelter in Lamoille County. Many of us attended a benefit for this important cause in November.

Working with local schools and DCF, our committee helped collect and fill food baskets and an extra food pantry at Thanksgiving. This Christmas, we set up an Angel Tree to collect gifts for the Lamoille Family Center families, contributed to a DCF Christmas party for children, donated gifts for a family at the Clarina Howard Nichols Center, and collected and distributed Christmas gift cards for approximately 15 teens and children in our community. Our congregation continues to support the Food Shelf with members bringing non-perishable food to the collection box each week. Additional missions included a Coat Drive, Book drive, and Backpack drive. The congregation was very generous, and all of our missions were successful and beyond expectations.

We organize a Mission Moment at Sunday service every month with speakers from the various organizations we support. This helps raise awareness of that organization, what they do to help others in our community and ways that the congregation can help. We have also designated a committee member to build a relationship with each of the organizations we support and look for opportunities to better serve those in need. We have worked on improving the communication of our missions in the Bulletin and Quest. More work is coming on the mobile and desktop websites for missions.

Thank you to Dan for inspiring us to think bigger and to the congregation who generously donated time, food, toys, money. In addition, Marylou was extremely helpful with last minute requests and needs. Together we can make a difference to those in need in our local and international community.

Blessings,

Amy Cobaugh

Chair, Mission Committee

Members: Karen Monsen, Lana Burkhardt, Dian Williams, Jean Mudgett, Teresa Osborne, Brad Osborne, Amanda Song

MUSIC

We were delighted to have so much of our music back in 2022. The choir sang every Sunday from January to June and September to December. We added instrumental features in the spring and fall - saxophone, recorder, and flute - a great addition which we will expand on this coming year. The choir also sings at our special services during the year, including Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Blue Christmas and two Christmas Eve services. Special music during the summer featured the return of the vanDyke family and the Gibsons, as well as familiar choir faces, and other community members. In April we resumed our monthly Evening Music Worship with Taryn Noelle and Chris Vigneau. They were joined by David Lowenthal and Carlos Serrano, and some great members of our Youth Group.

Noon Music in May, produced by our friends at Stowe Performing Arts, gave us a terrific lineup this spring. We had a very successful “Old-Fashioned Christmas Carol Sing” in December. The highlight of our musical year, though, had to be the return (after a two-year pause) of the Messiah Sing in Stowe. A fantastic orchestra, wonderful soloists, and of course, the choral congregation, all had a great time.

We are hoping to add more instrumentalists and singers to our roster this year. If you are interested, please leave your name and phone number with Marylou at 253-7257, or come visit us after any service. We’d love to include your talents!

Committee members: Mort Butler, Janet Godin, Karen Miller, Greg Morrill and Carol Peterman.

2023 NOMINATIONS

President Chris DeRienzo
Vice President Heather Stowe
Clerk Teresa Osborne
Treasurer Skip Wentz

DEACONS

Theresa Tedstone
Jean Mudgett
Tracy Wall
Brad Osborne

TRUSTEES

John Peterman
Petie Peterman
Dave Myers
Maggy Dunphy

CHAIR OF DEVELOPMENT

Scott Noble

HEAD USHER

Dian Williams

NOMINATING COMMITTEE TO BE ELECTED

Dian Williams
Janet Godin
Greg Morrill
Nan Myers
Leslie Peterman

Submitted by 2022 Nominating Committee members: Dian Williams, Greg Morrill, Nan Myers, Leslie Peterman

STEWARDSHIP

The theme of our Stewardship campaign this year was Quest 2023...A Journey Forward in Faith. Each member or family unit was encouraged to make a pledge to support the operation and maintenance of our iconic Church. The campaign was launched in late October with a budgeted goal of \$200,000. Stewardship committee members included Nancy Biscoyne, Christian Cobaugh, Maggy Dunphy, Nancy Jeffries Dwyer, Sara Reed, Bidi Wheelwright. I am grateful to each of them for their dedication to our committee and church.

With the generous support of members and friends and God's grace, we are gratified to announce that this goal for 2023 has been achieved, representing 66 pledging units. This is a \$50,000 increase over last year's budgeted goal and reflects an increase of 13 new pledging units over 2022.

Our campaign strategy included an initial letter to members and friends in mid-November outlining the goals and vision of our campaign. A second newsletter mailing with photos was mailed in mid-December. Additionally, a separate letter was emailed to Christian Education families highlighting the opportunities we have added for children and students in 2022. Parents were highly encouraged to pledge. In early January we reached out to those who had pledged in 2022 but not to the current campaign.

Throughout the Sundays in November and December stewardship messages were delivered during worship. Special thanks to Nancy Jeffries Dwyer, Lynne Von Trapp, Brad Osbourne, Charlie Burnham, Heather Stowe, Greg Morrill and Christian Cobaugh for their heartfelt and compelling stories. In addition, these weekly messages were posted in the Quest urging members to return their pledge cards or submit their pledge online.

Special thanks to Pastor Dan for supporting and encouraging our stewardship outreach with his reminders from the pulpit on Sunday mornings and in working with us to monitor and brainstorm ideas for implementing the campaign.

Faithfully submitted,
Chris DeRienzo
Chair of the Stewardship Committee

TRUSTEES

In 2022, significant time and money was expended on the necessary maintenance, repairs, upgrades, and the well being of the parsonage. This included new appliances, plumbing repairs, pest control, replacement of porch roof, window washing, gutter cleaning, and other normal maintenance. The major project still to be completed in conjunction with the town government is the replacement of the stone wall on the edge of the property.

With the church the major projects included:

- completion of the heating system, removal of the oil tank, replacement of rear ramp, removal of dying tree on front lawn, installation of new propane tank.
- repair and painting of bench, installation of flagstone in front of bench, reseeding of lawn
- cleaning and painting of church facade
- repair of side roof over exit door
 - replacement of all lighting in the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall
 - removal of failed gas stove from Fellowship Hall
- replacement of folding tables in Fellowship Hall
- thorough cleaning and removal of toxic droppings and wildlife from belfry
- normal maintenance of church including upgrading the pastor office
- window cleaning and pest control services
- security monitoring which including over 32 security breaches, requiring one fire department and two police dispatches.

2023 major projects to be considered include:

- kitchen cooking capability. State regulations specifically ban the use of ANY stove without outside venting. (we are a public access building) This was reviewed extensively personally with three State Fire Marshall executives. Only ovens and possible convection hot plates and crock pot appliances allowed
- replacement of all Fellowship Hall ceiling tiles and replacing light fixtures with LED lighting.
- we have been advised that our electrical lighting system will no longer meet code in near future and will require replacement. We already have reached the point where replacement bulbs will no longer be available for the sanctuary in the immediate future.

David McGaughy
Trustee

USHERS

Thank you to all our ushers who help so much with our Sunday morning services.

You welcome everyone, give them bulletins, take up offering, speak to participants as they are leaving, tidy up the sanctuary!

Thank you so much for all you do for us.

Dian Williams, Head Usher

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Lauretta Haugh joined Meg Scotti to become Women's Fellowship co-chairs in July of 2022. Theresa Tedstone resigned in June. Thank you Theresa for all your help with WF. It is definitely a group effort to accomplish all of what Womens Fellowship has done this year.

We held the outdoor tent event in the front yard of SCC not only to promote the church, but to sell some items and food for fundraising. These were held on July 4th and in the British Invasion evening.

Chicken Pie Supper cancelled due to covid.

Sandy Noble held floral themed painting lesson. It was definitely a fun night out. We each brought some food and wine to the event.

Sandy Noble and Denise Wentz organized a pie making fundraiser to sell and give the remaining pies to Thanksgiving baskets for Sharing. This is the second year we've held this and it was very successful, bringing in \$600+ and donating over 20 pies.

We had another very successful Christmas Fair. We slightly changed the overall look and feel of the fair this year. In addition to our in house decorated wreaths, we also had themed baskets for raffle and silent auction. We focused on bringing in our local church community artists to sell items. Lana Burkhardt, John DeRienzo, and Sandy Noble were a huge part of this effort. Thanks to Lauretta Haugh and Carol Peterman and all the volunteers for helping. And, a special thank you for Nancy Tooley donating her handmade quilt for raffle.

We had a fun Bunco night at Lauretta's home. It was a successful large gathering with food and drinks.

Jean Mudget and Theresa Tedstone are our daily kitchen keepers. Their efforts to keep the kitchen spotless on a daily basis do not go unnoticed, and everyone is very appreciative for their hard work.



Stowe Community Church

Our purpose is to develop loving followers of Christ who
celebrate through worship, grow through teaching,
connect through fellowship, care through service, and
share through outreach to our community and world.