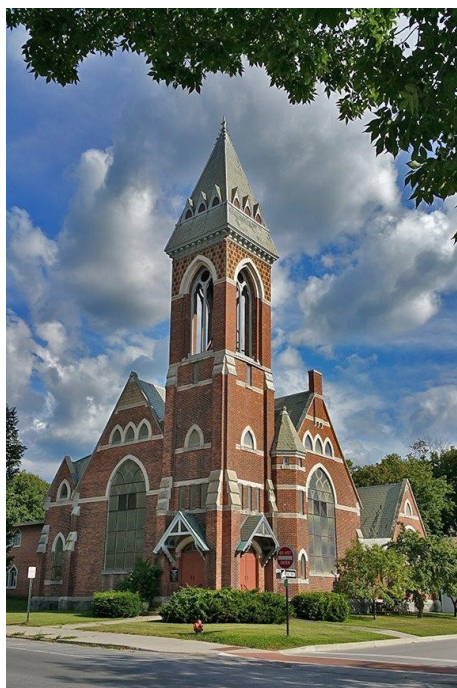


# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BENNINGTON, VERMONT



**ANNUAL REPORT 2019**  
**191TH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**  
**HELD JANUARY 19, 2020**

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# I. REPORTS OF THE CORPORATION

## CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of our Heavenly Father, to associate ourselves with this church in its united effort to promote God's will on earth, we therefore solemnly enter into agreement with one another and with the Lord Jesus Christ.

That we will strive to live a new and holy life, walking together in love as disciples of Jesus who said, "This is my commandment to you, to love one another as I have loved you... by this shall all men know that you are my disciples."

That we will seek to emulate the teachings of the New Testament: laying aside falsehood and speaking the truth. We will be kind one to another that we may live as children of light, standing firm as men and women of mature character and of clear convictions as to everything which is God's will.

That we will sustain this church in its worship, teaching, and missionary interests home and abroad by our regular attendance at its services, and will contribute, as God prospers us, to meet various needs of the Kingdom; knowing that this is the only way we can keep the church strong and its work progressive.

That we will aim to maintain private family devotion, create a Christian atmosphere within our homes, encourage cheerfulness, a right appreciation of prayer, and a balance of Christian life.

That we pledge ourselves to maintain individual liberty of conscience to strive with all Christ's followers in a courageous effort to bring our social relations into harmony with all society and government, to promote peace, and a better understanding among mankind.

That should we move from this community we will as soon as possible unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

### 191th ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

#### JANUARY 19, 2020, 10:45 A.M.

The First Baptist Church of Bennington, VT, will hold its 190th annual meeting on January 19, 2020, beginning at 10:45am in Colgate Hall for the following purposes:

#### A. CORPORATE BODY

1. Ratification of the actions of the Board of Trustees
2. Consideration of and action upon proposed bylaw changes

#### B. BUSINESS MEETING

1. Approval of the minutes of the January 20, 2019 annual meeting.
2. Presentation of the Financial Report
3. To hear and act upon the report of the Budget Committee.
4. To hear and act upon the report of the Nominating Committee.
5. To transact any other business that may properly before this meeting.

-Lisa Flynn, Church Clerk

## MINUTES OF THE 190TH ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 20, 2019

The First Baptist Church held its 190<sup>th</sup> annual meeting on Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The meeting was held in the chapel, immediately after church service. The meeting was called to order by moderator Grace Becker-Wilson at 11:40 AM.

There were no by-law changes made.

Grace made a motion to accept the minutes from the 189<sup>th</sup> annual meeting, Lisa Flynn 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all were in favor.

Cindy Marsh made a motion to ratify the action of the trustees, Allyn Lindsey 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

**Financial Report:** Grace encouraged members to review the financial reports. Grace spoke about the financial state of the church finances. The church needs revenue to sustain the church long term. Byron made a motion to accept the financial reports and Allyn Lindsey 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

**Boards:** The trustees welcomed Allyn Lindsey to the board, Jean Hoag made a motion to accept Ron Kramer 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

Luella Root from the church life board asked for a new member to join, as Rhonda Farnsworth declined to join the board. Aleta Boutin volunteered to join the board. Allyn Lindsey made the motion to accept Lisa Kramer 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

Byron Spafford made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:52 AM.

### REPORT OF MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

**TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AS OF 12/31/18: 249** (Resident Members 178, Non-Resident Members 71)

**Welcoming New Members:** George Renish (06/30/19), Laura Reed (06/30/19), Tammy Moffitt (06/30/19)

**Membership Transitions:** Hattie Hustler (Letter of Transfer 07-30-19).

**TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AS OF 12/31/19: 251** (Resident Members 180, Non-Resident Members 71)

### NOMINATING REPORT

#### Officers and Board Members for vote

Officers (one year term):

Lisa Flynn-Clerk, Sandy Harrington-Treasurer, Byron Spafford-Financial Secretary. Grace Wilson-Moderator.

Church Life Board (three year term): Cindy Marsh, Kristen Olmstead (new nominee).

Trustees (three year term): Randall Bates, Lisa Kramer.

#### **Current Board Members and terms of office (three year terms)**

Church Life: Aleta Bryant-Boutin (2019-2022-1st Term), Sandy Harrington (2019-2022-2ndTerm), Rhonda Harmon (2018-2021-1st Term), Cindy Marsh (2017-2020-1st Term).

Trustees: Randall Bates (2017-2020-1st Term), Lisa Flynn (2016-2019-2022-2nd Term) Lisa Kramer (2017-2020-1st Term), Allyn Lindsey (2019-2023 1st Term), Byron Spafford (2019-2022-2nd Term).

## II. REPORT OF THE PASTOR

*Report not available at this time.*

### III. REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, AND COMMITTEES

#### REPORT OF THE ALTAR GUILD

*Report not available at this time.*

#### REPORT OF AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S MINSTERIES

This was a busy year for the ladies of our church even though we have not been able to officially re-organize the group as some desire. Under the leadership of Grace Wilson, two successful Tag Sales provided income to give \$1,600.00 to the church's General Fund in addition to the Region ABW Mission needs. Thanks to all of the congregation who helped in any way by giving items for the sales, by helping prepare for the sales, by working during the sales, and helping with the cleanup.

Our goal of \$300.00 for the White Cross this past November was not met, however a \$200.00 gift card was sent to the First Crow Indian Baptist Church of Lodge Grass, Montana who lost their church and parsonage due to a severe flood. Their ministry to infants through high school got gifts for the children at Christmas time!

A check for \$100.00 was sent to the American Baptist International Ministries to be used where the money is needed.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the White Cross and supplied health kits for Church World Service.

Our mission is to serve in the name of Jesus Christ!

Respectfully submitted,  
Marion Riddle, Coordinator

#### REPORT OF THE BOARD OF CHURCH LIFE

Board members: Cindy Marsh-Chair, Sandy Harrington-Secretary, Luella Root-Treasurer (Luella resigned from the board a few months ago and has not been replaced, but we are working on this), Aleta Bryant-Boutin, and Rhonda Harmon.

The Church Life Board has had a very busy year. We are, generally, busy every year!

Over the year 2019 we have planned and prepared for many special events: the Valentine's Day Tea and the St. Patrick's Day Coffee Hour (which was preceded by Pastor Bob incorporating some Irish music and prayers during the church service). The CLB also handled the coordination of Mother's Day flowers and special cake for Father's Day.

We also coordinated the Annual Church Picnic and worked on the Tags Sales and the Bazaars. We have a special ministry: preparing communion the first Sunday of every month.

Baptisms this year as well as new members joining First Baptist Church of Bennington.

We prepare and distribute Thanksgiving Baskets every year, Thanks to everyone that contributed food items and thanks to Carol and Frank Morin who contributed the turkeys!

This year closed with a beautiful Candlelight Christmas Eve Celebration with Christmas music and scripture in the Sanc-

tuary!

The CLB would like to thank everyone who has participated donated time, talent, and goods to make the FBC a great success!

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandra Harrington, Secretary

## REPORT OF THE MUSIC MINISTRY

This past year, 2019, was a blessed year in the Music Ministry at the First Baptist Church of Bennington. Music is an integral part of the worship service. However, the Word of God is the focal point of the worship service each Sunday: the Meditation verse(s), Call to Worship, Confession, Scripture Reading, Sermon, and Benediction. Music is selected by Pastor Bob and Charlie Marshall, through the leading of the Holy Spirit, to reflect God's heartbeat for the congregation for each Sunday and the forth-coming week.

Every Sunday the Band plays 2-3 songs during the music portion of the service. The Band consists of Pastor Bob, guitars, mandolin and banjo; Peter Drutchal, percussion, Peter Lawrence, bass guitar; and Charlie Marshall, digital piano.

At First Baptist Church we offer a "Blended Service" which includes Classic Hymns of the Faith and Contemporary Christian Songs. During November through the end of winter we worship in the Chapel or Colgate Hall. From Palm Sunday through the end of October the service is held in the Sanctuary which allows the additional use of the organ, played by Charlie Marshall, in the singing of the hymns, the prelude and the postlude.

We have implemented some new ideas in the worship service in 2019. After the Welcome by the pastor, there is the Music Meditation, which Charlie Marshall leads. It allows the congregation to meditate and prepare their hearts for worship and receiving God's Word. We also formed a "Pick Up" Choir which practices before service on the second Sunday of the month and then sings during the Offertory for that service. This affords people in the church, who like to sing, an opportunity to share their gifts without the commitment of a weekly rehearsal/weekly anthem. All are welcome and may sing any Sunday that you are available to sing!

Music is, indeed, a vital part of the church at First Baptist Church in Bennington. Many verses in the Bible attest to the importance of music in worship. Here is one example: I Chronicles 15:16 "The David spoke to the chiefs of the Levites to appoint their relatives the singers, with instruments of music, harps, lyres, loud-sounding cymbals, to raise sounds of joy."

Respectfully submitted,  
Charles W. Marshall, Church Musician FBC

## REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The past year has been busy with a variety of changes within the building.

The trustee board continues to meet the third Wednesday of every month to discuss church finances, building use, and cost sharing opportunities. Anyone who wishes to address the board may attend a meeting to discuss church business and operations.

The church continues to cost share with several non-profit businesses;

- Family Time (a division of PAVE)
- VCIL Vermont Center for Independent Living.
- The Bennington Farmer's Market operates out of Colgate Hall on the first and third Saturdays during the winter months.
- Help a Pet Veterinary Clinic operates on the second Sunday of each month throughout the year.
- Over Eaters Anonymous meets twice a week.

Colgate Hall currently has vacant office spaces available for occupancy. Cost sharing helps maintain the sustainability

of the church.

First Baptist Church finances continue to be in a state of uncertainty. The trustees and the cabinet will continue to meet with Dale Edwards in the upcoming year to discuss the budget, legal obligations and possible options for long term goals of the church.

There have been a number of new members who have joined the church this year.

Welcoming New Members: George Renish, Laura Reed, and Tammy Moffitt.

Membership Transitions: Hattie Hustler (transferred)

Respectfully, Lisa Flynn

## V. REPORT OF FINANCES AND ACCOUNTS

### REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

<b>Local Income</b>	<b>2019 Projected</b>	<b>2019 Actual</b>	<b>2020 Projected</b>
Pledges	34,822.50	35,240.19	35,240.19
Non Pledges	4,504.00	2,416.00	2,416.00
Loose Offerings	2,050.84	3,880.44	3,880.44
<b>Building</b>			
Pledges	5,398.00	4,359.94	4350.00
Non pledges	485.00	225.00	As given
Special Gifts & Donations*	As given	2,624.00	As given

\*\$1000.00 masonry donation. \$1,624.00 from breakfast buffet fundraising.

The mission comparison for 2019 and the 2020 mission projections appears in the benevolence section of this report. Please contact me if you have questions about your giving. All records related to congregant giving are confidential and handled only by the financial secretary.

Respectfully submitted,  
Byron Spafford, Financial Secretary

## IV. REPORT OF FINANCES AND ACCOUNTS

### REPORT OF BENEVOLENCE

	2019 Projected	2019 Actual	2020 Projected
<b>Pledges*</b>	3,218.00	2,765.88	2,765.88
<b>Non Pledges*</b>	As given	290.00	As given
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>3,055.88</b>	-
<b>Pledges as Given</b>			
America for Christ	450.00	393.00	400.00
OGHS	300.00	521.00	300.00
Regional Office	As given	1,335.00	As given
RMMO	300.00	393.00	300.00
Special Projects	As given	1,035.00	As given
WMO	300.00	768.12	300.00
<b>Church Funds</b>			
Flower Fund	As given	475.74	As given
Memorial Fund	As given	0.0	As given
Scholarship Fund	As given	485.00	As given

Distribution of 2019 Pledges and Non-Pledges is as follows:

Coalition for the Homeless	244.73
Family Time	151.84
GBICS	762.08
Habitat for Humanity	111.51
Deacon's Fund	261.58
Northeastern Bible College	151.84
UM Basic Support	1,372.30
<b>Total:</b>	<b>3,055.88</b>

### REPORT OF THE DEACONS' FUND

*Report is not available at this time.*



## REPORT OF THE ANNUAL BUDGETS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019 AND PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

<u>Income</u>	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Budget
Checking Interest	30.00	22.57	22.00
Local Income	69,782.50	70,825.02	64,721.74
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>69,812.50</b>	<b>70,847.59</b>	<b>64,743.74</b>
<u>Expense</u>			
Administrative	4,645.00	5,658.82	11,995.00
Building R & M	60,165.00	64,350.70	76,810.00
Christian Education	2,800.00	1,025.99	1,500.00
Missional Works	1000.00	246.55	-
Parson Salary & Benefits	58,181.63	56,843.12	42,285.73
Parsonage R & M	2,000.00	996.03	2,000.00
Sexton Property	3,040.00	2,621.51	3,100.00
Staff Payroll Taxes	2,350.00	2,068.98	1,900.00
Staff Salary	38,524.60	31,602.12	21,849.40
Staff Temp. Help	1,250.00	600.00	750.00
Unknown	-	357.66	-
Worship and Service	3,445.00	2,445.00	1,910.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>176,401.23</b>	<b>167,869.88</b>	<b>164,400.13</b>
<b><u>Net Ordinary Income</u></b>	<b>-106,588.73</b>	<b>-97,022.29</b>	<b>-99,656.39</b>
<b><u>From Endowment:</u></b>	<b>74,400.00</b>	<b>74,400.00</b>	<b>74,400.00</b>
<b><u>Net Income</u></b>	<b><u>-32,188.73</u></b>	<b><u>-22,622.29</u></b>	<b><u>-25,256.39</u></b>

**REPORT OF THE ENDOWMENT**

<b><u>AssetMark</u></b>	<b>12/31/18 Balance</b>	<b>12/31/19 Balance</b>
Multi Strategy Acct	741,673.69	754,469.33
Annuity Acct*	221,040.20	234,399.55
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b>962,713.89</b>	<b>988,868.88</b>

\*Annuity Acct balance as of 09-30-19. On the recommendation of our financial advisor, a portion of the AssetMark funds was transferred to an annuity. This will allow it to continue to generate income but will have some protection for lost value when the market falls. The money transferred is that which is in trust and the income can be used only for its intended purpose. The income is available on a six year schedule.

**PROFIT AND LOSS OF 621 MAIN**

<b><u>Income</u></b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Interest	19.10	26.14
Rent	16,200.00	16,200.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>16,219.10</b>	<b>16,226.14</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>		
Checks	93.57	-
Electric	326.37	334.82
Mortgage	6,476.52	7,016.23
Oil	1,812.05	1,689.51
Property Taxes	2,886.32	2,945.76
Repairs & Maintenance	397.33	230.23
Water and Sewer	917.61	1,148.80
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>12,909.77</b>	<b>13,365.21</b>
<b><u>Net Income</u></b>	<b><u>3,309.33</u></b>	<b><u>2,860.93</u></b>

## REPORT OF THE CHURCH ACCOUNTS

All checking and savings accounts and certificates of deposit (CDs) of First Baptist are lodged at the Heritage Family Credit Union (Bennington, VT branch).

<b><u>Church Activities Accounts</u></b>	<b>12/31/18 Balance</b>	<b>12/31/19 Balance</b>
Primary Share: Savings *	5,437.03	5608.87
Lester Nichols Dividend Account	0.38	0.38
JH HA White Dividend Account	0.07	0.07
Mary Edgerton Dividend Account	0.05	0.05
VT Community Foundation Grant	1,069.98	1,074.29
Building Fund†	25,629.51	13,740.08
Mable Harris Dividend Account	0.22	0.22
American Baptist Women	3,256.02	2,446.07
Share Draft: Checking	9,707.62	21,907.99
<b><u>CDs</u></b>		
Video Fund (24 month CD)	1,975.83	1,990.24
Shoe Fund (3 month CD)	2,886.81	2,908.32
Scholarship Fund (3 month CD)	9,141.11	9,209.07
<b><u>621 Main Accounts</u></b>		
621 Savings	26.59	26.71
621 Deposit Account	1,467.17	1,473.03
621 Checking Account	8,515.68	9,412.80

\*The Primary Share is a combination of funds. The breakdown is as follows: Flower Fund-1,608.17, Memorial Fund-2,389.52, Shoe Fund-251.52, Scholarship Fund-1,605.00, Dividends-259.68, & Heritage minimum deposit allotment-25.00.

†The Building Fund is a combination of funds. The breakdown is as follows: Organ R&M-2,208.35, Parsonage R&M-5.39, Sound System-108.36, Masonry-1,000.00, and Building R&M: 11,537.88.

## REPORT OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH'S MEMORIAL FUND

Memorial Fund Balance as of 12/31/2019:

The following lists recalls the names those honored by friends and loved ones with a gifts to the First Baptist Church Memorial Fund.

Martha Anderson (03/11/?), Julia Behan (05/17/1985), Leslie Baker (07/05/1993), Josephine B. Ballou (11/20/1991), Jean L. Baudistel (11/26/1989), Bonnie Harwood Benkoski (01/14/2016), Barbara G. Benner (03/16/1981), Barbara R. Bennett (11/26/1995), Leonard J. Black (01/18/1987), Conrad Blodgett (date unknown), Harold A. Blodgett (06/01/1931), Eupha Bonham (03/01/1996), Lucy Boutin (01/14/2009), Albert G. Brown (11/29/1988), John Brown (date unknown), Belle Burgess (01/16/1984), Clyde Burgess (04/15/1983), Eugene C. Burt (03/13/1985), Ronald Bushee (12/17/2005), Hazel Candib(08/21/2017), Sarah Chase (01/12/1976), Lois Comar (06/12/2013), James A. Coulter (02/16/1962), Mary C. Coulter (03/03/1991), Genevieve B. Dawson (09/21/1996), Raymond W. Dickinson (01/26/1968), Minnette B. Dill (10/13/1976), LeGrand Dow (01/26/1994), Jean S. Durant (11/26/1995), A. Sidney Edson (10/22/1970), Ara O. Edson (1905), Bessie M. Edson (1919), Bettie W. Edson (01/06/1947), Dorothy Edson Madison (04/11/2011), Frank A. Edson (03/02/1999), Guy O. Edson (1958), Katharine L. Edson (10/14/1987), Maud A. Edson (04/06/1988), Edward N. Emmons (03/21/1983), Helen W. Emmons (05/02/1988), Mabel Fitzgerald (12/23/1979), Mrs. Carl (Marie) Gaines (12/28/1992), Christopher Gaines (04/30/2007), Osborne "Doc" Gaines (12/11/2010), Alice M. Gates (04/03/2013), Richard Gibbs (08/16/1981), Bertha Greenawalt (03/17/2018), Paul D. Greenawalt (10/05/1988), Peter Groenewegen (06/10/1998), Grace Hall (01/05/2005), Lee F. Hammond (08/22/1985), Harry Harmon (07/18/1977), Richard Harmon (01/15/2014), Gaylord Harrington (04/30/2003), Mary Harrington (01/24/2015), Mabel L. Harris (08/09/1991), Robert Harrington (10/31/1981), Eleanor Harwood (07/08/1983), John Gilbert Harwood Jr. (01/20/2015), George Hathaway, Jr. (01/09/1977), Marjorie P. Hayes (09/18/1994), Elizabeth Hescocock (04/09/1997), Anna Hilliard (03/15/2017), Jack Hoag (03/10/2014), Frank Hogel (05/05/2016), Richard "Dick" Hunt (03/29/2012), Tim Hunt (02/27/2015), Mildred Jepson (12/02/2004), Harold A. Kennedy (04/21/1988), Howard Lackey (10/10/2007), Sara LaBombard (12/09/2016), Virginia V. LaFlamme (12/15/1995), Evelyn Lindsay (02/10/2017), Ralph C. Lindsey (12/19/1989), Ralph H. Lindsey (02/05/1985), Richard "Dick" Lindsey (03/29/2013), Marie H. Loomis (02/18/1984), Jessie Maclay (01/23/1974), Dorothy A. Marechal (09/07/1985), Maud McNaney (04/03/1976), Louise McSherry (12/13/2010), Walter McSherry (01/25/1984), Florence Mears (01/16/1982), Mary Jane Mattison (date unknown), Glenn Miller (1994), Herbert Miller (11/29/1990), Frank Millington (11/20/1993), Florence C. Moore (01/04/1977), Ada L. Morgan (10/18/1975), Jean O'Connor (01/10/2018), Margaret Ogilvie (08/08/1979), Leon A. Orr (10/05/1975), Ada Ostrander (11/17/1979), Robert S. Outwater Sr. (04/19/2001), Mabel Paddock (12/07/2012), Gladys Paddock (07/13/2015), Hilda R. Parker (10/08/1984), Burt Peckham (07/22/2015), Etta Percey (12/07/1982), Mary McGrossan Percey (08/06/2005), Koby James Peterson (03/20/1994), Paul Prescott (09/20/1977), Joseph Prue (date unknown), Edna T. Rice (10/14/1984), Ethel Richmond (04/04/1983), John P. Riddle, Sr. (08/28/2000), Dick Root (01/01/2017), Lena L. Rose (07/17/1987), Carl Santo (02/17/2011), Maude K. Scott (03/14/1989), Ruth B. Shea (10/27/1997), Catherine "Cathy" Shepherd (11/09/2012), Jeffrey E. Shepard (05/09/1989), Althea Spafford (01/03/1992), Mary Spicer (05/24/1977), Mabel Stewart (08/03/1984), Elaine Sumner (08/31/1993), Lawrence Sumner (01/16/1994), Robert W. Thomas (08/30/1994), Arthur W. Tinkham (10/21/1974), Anna Towslee (12/09/1989), Marian W. Barber Vince (06/04/2000), James Vince (12/2005), Everett L. Vose (05/28/1984), Harriette Walbridge (01/21/1976), Jeanne Walbridge (09/03/1977), Lucinda Warner (06/24/1975), Kay Watson (12/02/2009), Ralph Watson (09/02/2006), Betty Werner (05/22/1980), Jessie Harris Wheeler (05/06/1979), Alice White (01/28/1978), Minnie C. Wood (03/16/1985), Kathryn Young (04/24/1984).

### MEMORIAL GIFT TO SPECIAL FUNDS

**SOUND SYSTEM:** James and Mary Coulter, Leon and Avis Peckham, and Lucy Quinby. **ORGAN FUND:** Burt Peckham, Maurice and Mescal Winn. **ORGAN MUSIC FUND:** Mescal Winn. **TOWER FUND: 2001 – 2002:** The members of the First Baptist Church, American Baptist Women, Eupha Bonham, James Coulter, Mary Coulter, Elizabeth Escala, John Finlayson, Paul Greenawalt, Harry Harmon, Michael Harmon, Rose Harmon, Eleanor Harwood, Harold Hilliard, The Jepson Family, Anna Kennedy, Chester Mallory, The Paddock Family, Harry Percy, Koby Peterson, Lucy Quinby, John Riddle, Sr., Kimberly Watson Shand, Blanche Strohmaier, The Summer Family, Florence C. Towsley, and Betty Werner.