Stanwich
CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT

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Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2025-26

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Senior Pastor Report – Chuck Davis

"Praise God! From whom all blessings flow."
The Doxology, Bishop Thomas Ken, 1674

This 352-year-old benediction captures my summary of the 2025-2026 ministry year. I wonder how many times this doxology has been sung since the day it was penned. When I calculate the worship services alone, over my 13 years at Stanwich, we have declared it together as truth over 2,000 times. Then add the moments when we concluded dinner on Wednesdays at Stanwich, or at a retreat, or to close a staff meeting, or countless personal moments of gratitude. These words have become more than a song; they have become our shared testimony.

We are a blessed church family. Our love for one another has grown. Our spiritual friendships have deepened. Our discipleship legs have grown stronger as we followed the pathway. Our worship gets richer by the Sunday. And this has all happened while growing larger as a church family. Growing church in number and in depth – this is a New Testament church phenomenon:

> **"So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily" (Acts 16:5).**

In December of 2025, after 3 days of fasting and prayer, the Lord spoke 2 words to me about 2026 – harvest and healing. He has been unfolding those promises. We continue to hear testimonies of divine interventions in healing; body, soul and spirit. We see consistent harvest growth in Greenwich, and we anticipate a bumper crop in Stamford in our ReLaunch in September.

> **All the praise goes to the One from whom all blessings flow!**

I commend your vocational ministry team to you. They have made personal sacrifices to cooperate with the Holy Spirit, to walk into this season of flourishing. We are working well together and growing in many ways through collaboration and a teachable spirit. You are served well as a congregation by this team. And we are having fun doing it! Joy is often heard in the halls and lunchroom during the week. Stop by sometime during the week and you will hear the laughter.

Each servant leader on our team comes with a wonderful mix of ministry expertise and Holy Spirit sensitivity. The team is enthused about the additions of Pastor Jelani and Kimberly. Our level of effectiveness and synergy for ministry is in a state of multiplication with the gifting, experience, and anointing they bring to their spheres of ministry leadership.

As I celebrate the vocational ministry team, I want to thank all the lay church ministers and servant leaders who make so much Kingdom stuff happen at Stanwich and beyond. Many of you give so much of yourselves to make Stanwich a welcoming and growing community to know Christ and make him known.

Our ReLaunch Strategy/Business Plan is in the final stages of development after two years of collecting data, sights, and learning best practices of other church planting and campus multiplication initiatives. Our new campus heightens our ability to be a church family embedded in the urban community. Our goal is to have over 1,000 people walk through the building in "third space" type events after we receive our Certificate of Occupancy and our official ReLaunch is scheduled for September.

We are purposefully designing this as a "soft" launch, since we do not have any idea of what the response will be to a "new" church family and worship gathering in Stamford. The word the Lord gave me early in 2026 was "wait and see." So, our plans are skeletal and fluid. In December, we will then establish more specific goals and metrics for growth. Even with a "soft" launch, we have quite a robust offering for the Fall. Our staged rollout plan over a couple of years presents many opportunities for you to use your spiritual gifts to connect holistically and spiritually with our Stamford community.

I would be remiss, as senior pastor, if I did not again acknowledge the financial sacrifices you have made to provide 2 outstanding buildings to house the church over the past 25 years. Over $18M for Greenwich and over $22M for Stamford. You did this while maintaining growing operating and missions' budgets. You have taken on the DNA of our Generous God. As we remember the risky faith steps of 13 farmers in 1731, I wonder what legacy stories will be told by subsequent generations, if Jesus tarries.

We are 5 years out from celebrating our 300th anniversary as a church. I recently did some research on the oldest, continuously operating, and presently active churches in the United States. I imagine some churches are missing from the list, but we are the 51st-oldest church in America. I was curious about how many of the churches have active and vibrant ministries today. The results were disappointing. After running a table graphic for me, AI reported:

> "Churches like Stanwich Church are interesting because they've retained colonial continuity *while also adapting into contemporary ministry ecosystems*. That's actually relatively uncommon among pre-1740 congregations."

I do not share this in a spirit of competition but in gratitude that we get to be part of a church family that is alive and well. At the same time, it is a reminder of who drives this vibrancy. Jesus said,

> **"I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"** (Matthew 16:18).

Bless the Lord!
Pastor Chuck

Annual Report of Pastor of Care and Connection – Heather Wright

This is such an exciting time in the life of Stanwich Church. God continues to bring a rich harvest of attenders at Stanwich, hungry to grow deeper in their faith. Newcomers describe encountering Jesus in our worship, preaching, and prayers. We are growing as apprentices of Jesus, living out his kingdom both in backcountry Greenwich and soon in the city of Stamford. God is on the move.

Care

- Our network of care and support continues to grow, thanks to our faithful and compassionate members.
- Care is coordinated through our prayer chain, with congregants connecting with the clergy to let us know of their or someone else's need.
- Our 21 trained Care Ministers provide a listening ear, encouragement, prayer and communion for those dealing with loss, illness, or going through life's transitions.
- Prayer Shawl and Blanket makers knit together weekly. These are distributed to families with infants being baptized or on pastoral visits to those who are sick or grieving.
- Our November Service for Remembrance and Hope is attended by many Stanwich members who also bring grieving friends and neighbors. Our clergy and Care Ministers visit people in our offices, homes, hospitals, and nursing homes.

Connection

There is a team approach to both men's and women's ministry. Our Women's Ministry Team plans events for the women of the church, including the Advent Day Retreat (which this past year included three of us on staff speaking on *Women's Songs of Deliverance for Advent*), and our Spring Retreat which included 60 women in Tarrytown for an overnight retreat on Soul Care by Dr. Ingrid Davis. We also gathered at the Deinard's home last summer for fellowship and to get to know Stanwich newcomers.

Continuing to co-lead the Wednesday Women's Zoom Life Group has been a privilege. This intergenerational group includes many who work full-time and sign in on their lunch break. We have grown in faith and friendship through our time together.

With others facilitating, Charis Women's Life Group Thursday mornings has new women joining, mostly with school age children. We study the Scriptures and share how they relate to our lives.

Officiating a number of weddings, baptisms and memorial services this year have also been blessings in my ministry at Stanwich.

Extending Stanwich's influence in the Greenwich community, I continue to serve as a member of the Executive Committee for the Greenwich Fellowship of Clergy and contribute frequently to the Sentinel newspaper as a clergy columnist.

Our regional influence is also extended by JourneyMates, a monthly women's contemplative monthly meeting hosted by Stanwich. Entering our 16th year, I serve as the Spiritual Director, with a team of women from our church and other congregations who join in teaching and small-group leadership. Our participants include many female clergy and chaplains. Zoom members participate from different parts of the United States.

As a church body, may we continue to say "yes" to Jesus when he said, *"walk with me and work with me – watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace... Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely*" (Matt. 11:28-30, MSG). I ask God to draw us closer to himself and one another. Reliant on the Holy Spirit's power, may we walk with Jesus, learn his rhythms, live freely, doing as he did, serving and restoring the world God loves.

Thank you for your faithful prayers for our church family, staff, and leadership. God is honoring those prayers in the fruit that we see. I am grateful to God and each of you for the opportunity to serve Stanwich Church.

Blessings,
Pastor Heather

Report of the Discipleship Director – Gina Hantz

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”— **Acts 2:42-47**

This past year has been one of building, strengthening, and aligning the church around intentional discipleship. Much of this year was devoted to implementing our new discipleship pathway across the life of the church. What began as a vision has now become an integrated framework shaping how we welcome people, form disciples, raise leaders, and mobilize the church for ministry and mission.

Discipleship Pathway

We officially implemented the new discipleship pathway centered around four core values: **Behold, Beloved, Belong, and Beyond**. Using the Acts 2 church as our model, the pathway was designed to help every disciple of Jesus Christ:

- **Behold** — know God intimately
- **Beloved** — know their identity in Christ
- **Belong** — grow in Christ-centered community
- **Beyond** — make Jesus known in the world

This year we worked diligently to establish systems, structures, and ministry alignment around these values. One of the greatest successes has been the unification of our ministries under a shared discipleship vision. Ministries are now planning programs, events, and volunteer development intentionally through the lens of these four core values, creating greater clarity, consistency, and collaboration across the church.

Volunteer Development & Leadership Systems

A major focus this year was strengthening our volunteer culture and creating sustainable systems for onboarding and leadership development. In partnership with our admin team, we implemented streamlined volunteer systems and consolidated our volunteer database, improving organization, communication, and follow-through across ministries.

This year also marked significant progress in raising up new team leaders for Sunday volunteers throughout the church. We are moving toward a healthier culture of shared

leadership by equipping leaders not only to serve faithfully, but also to disciple others within their ministry areas.

We continue to refine clear onboarding processes for new volunteers, helping people move more naturally from attending into meaningful participation and service. These systems have already begun creating stronger pathways for connection, ownership, and long-term engagement within the church community.

Stamford

This past year marked an important season of transition for the Stamford campus. After helping establish and strengthen the foundation of the Stamford leadership team over the past several years, I was grateful to officially pass the baton of leadership to our new Campus Pastor, Jelani Pinnock. We are thankful for the smooth and successful leadership transition and excited for this next season under his guidance.

The Stamford Team spent much of the year intentionally walking through each of the four core discipleship values — Behold, Beloved, Belong, and Beyond — while also engaging in practical ministry training and leadership development. This created greater alignment between Stamford and the overall discipleship vision of the church while equipping the team to minister effectively in Stamford.

We have seen God lay a foundation of prayer, discipleship, evangelism, and leadership development within Stamford, and we are expectant for continued growth in the coming year.

Looking Ahead

As we move into the next year, my focus will continue to be strengthening a discipleship culture throughout the church, developing leaders, and creating clear relational pathways for people to grow in Christ. This includes helping people behold God, know their identity as His beloved, belong in community, and be equipped to participate in the work of ministry so they can take the gospel beyond the church.

We are grateful for all the ways God has been faithfully building His church this year and look forward with expectancy to what He will continue to do in the season ahead.

Stamford Campus Pastor – Jelani Pinnock

This report provides a high-level update on the ongoing preparation, leadership development, and launch initiatives for the Stamford Campus. The overall vision remains centered on establishing a Spirit-led, volunteer-driven, and missionally engaged extension of the ministry already taking place through the Greenwich campus.

Primary Ministry Framework

Our ministry efforts at Stanwich Stamford are being organized around three core initiatives: Encounter, Evangelism, and Discipleship. These concentric priorities are intended to shape the campus's culture, programming, outreach efforts, leadership development, and volunteer mobilization.

- Encounter – Creating intentional environments where individuals can encounter the presence and work of the Holy Spirit through worship, prayer, teaching, and pastoral care.
- Evangelism – Building relational and community-centered opportunities that serve and engage the city of Stamford while introducing people to Jesus and the life of the Church.
- Discipleship – Move believers into our current discipleship pathways for spiritual growth, leadership development, volunteer engagement, and biblical formation.

Leadership & Team Development Updates

Since my arrival, the Stamford Leadership Team has now gathered together on two separate occasions for prayer, vision alignment, training, and relationship building. These meetings have helped establish early unity, pastoral direction, and clarity around the mission and expectations for the launch season. Our next significant meeting will take the form of a retreat, where we will continue to train and practice inner healing ministry, team building and camaraderie, and dig into missional living training in the city center with a guest expert ministry leader.

One of the gatherings included approximately two hours of free seminary-level introductory training related to power encounter ministry and spiritual warfare (Led by Pastor Chuck). This training was prompted by a pastoral situation involving a visiting UCONN student who, following a time of prayer, appeared to exhibit signs of significant spiritual oppression. Pastoral care and prayer ministry were provided by Pastor Jelani and Pastor Chuck. In light of this experience, leadership felt it wise

to begin equipping the team with a foundational understanding of spiritual discernment, prayer ministry, and healthy pastoral response.

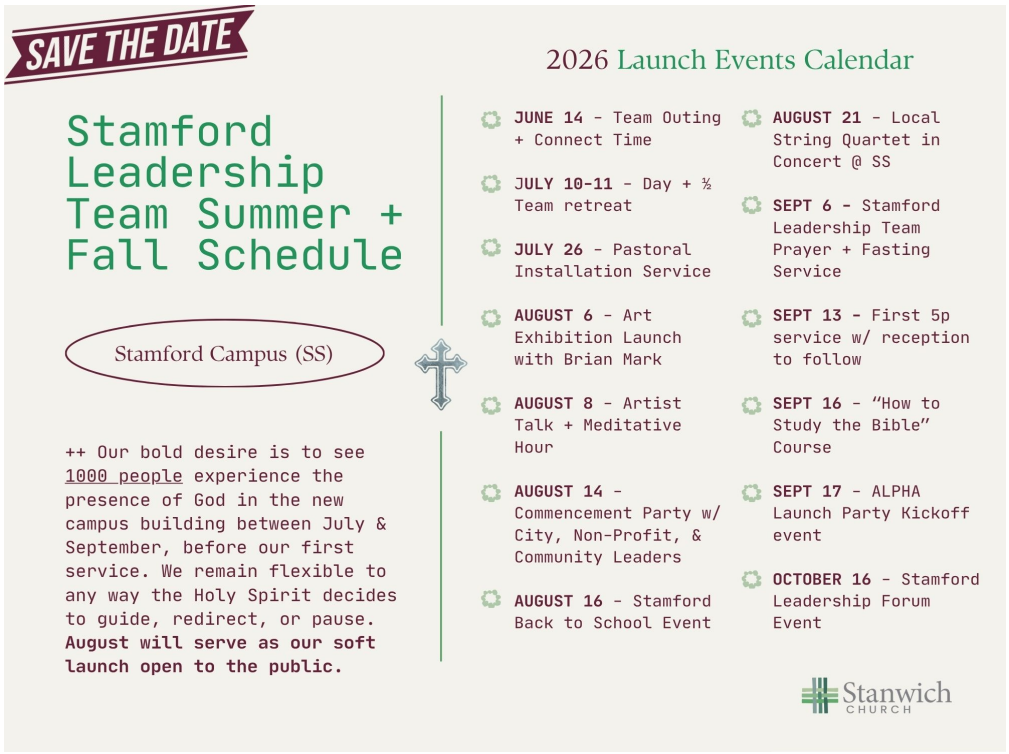
Campus Engagement & Community Momentum

The Stamford Leadership Team recently participated in a tour of the new Stamford campus building. The event included the majority of Stamford Leadership Team members as well as more than 100 prospective attendees and volunteers from the Greenwich campus. The gathering generated meaningful excitement, helped introduce individuals to the vision of the campus, and created early opportunities for volunteer interest and relational connection.

In addition, a tentative Summer and Fall Launch Calendar has now been released publicly. The current vision is to use August 2026 as a soft-launch season featuring community-facing events, arts engagement, prayer gatherings, discipleship opportunities, and relational outreach initiatives.

A central operational goal for this launch season is to see more than 1,000 individuals enter and experience the Stamford facility during August. These events are intended to serve both the broader Stamford community and the Stanwich Church body, while helping to establish a hospitable and spiritually vibrant ministry presence in the city.

Tentative Stamford Summer & Fall Launch Calendar



Operational Posture & Next Steps

The Stamford campus strategy is intentionally being developed as a lean, complementary, and volunteer-heavy ministry model that supports and extends the broader mission of Stanwich Church. Day-to-day ministry execution will rely heavily on lay leadership and volunteer participation while remaining pastorally guided and overseen by staff leadership.

Lord willing, January 2027 will serve as a formal reevaluation period in which leadership can prayerfully assess where the Lord was most actively moving throughout the 2026 launch season. This review period will help determine areas of fruitfulness, opportunities for refinement, volunteer sustainability, discipleship effectiveness, and long-term ministry direction.

Overall, momentum continues to build steadily around the Stamford launch initiative. Leadership remains encouraged by the level of early engagement, volunteer interest, prayerful unity, and openness to the work of the Holy Spirit throughout this formative season.

Executive Director – Dan Miracola

The Executive Director's role encompasses the overall management of the church's operations while actively partnering with the Pastors and other staff to provide a platform for effective ministry. To this end, my focus is on strategy, policy, planning, administrative leadership, and financial management. Here are some of the highlights of this fiscal year to date:

Financial Management
A new operating budget for FY 2027 has been developed in consultation with our staff, the Finance Committee, and Elders and will be voted on at our Annual Meeting on June 15. Careful stewardship in our Finance office has resulted in a clean opinion from our External Auditor of FY 2025 GAAP Financial Statements. An internal audit of FY 2026 has recently been completed, and an external audit will follow during the summer months. Sheila Hyland, our Financial Secretary, and Claire Daplyn, our Bookkeeper, both continue to do a wonderful job and are committed to maintaining the integrity of our accounting activities.

Administration
Our administration team continues to grow in strength and effectiveness. We are grateful for the ongoing contributions of Patricia Hallenbeck and Danielle Kohlberger, who serve faithfully as our Administrative Assistants. We are also pleased to welcome Kimberly O'Hara back to the team in her role as Ministry Program Manager. With a thoughtful reallocation of responsibilities, we have positioned our team to better support the wide range of programs within our church.

Buildings and Grounds
Joe DeCrescenzo, our Buildings Director, along with assistant Clay Morrison, continues to provide essential maintenance of our church facility, Stanwich Chapel, our three cemeteries, and the parsonages at 190, 208, and 237 Taconic Rd. Capital maintenance projects this year at our church facility included the replacement of the roof, exterior painting, masonry repair, and re-insulating several areas within our parsonages

Stamford
Over this past fiscal year, significant progress has been made in rebuilding 252 Atlantic Street. At the start of the fiscal year, the structure consisted of only the exterior frame, concrete floors, and roof; since then, all exterior finishes have been completed, including brickwork and precast stone. Inside, all interior walls are now installed, along with the full mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems. The stairwells and elevator have also been completed, and the building is fully insulated. Much of the lighting has been installed, and interior finishes—including painting, flooring, and ceilings—are largely in place. Additionally, all underground utilities have been installed, including gas, electric, storm, and sewer, with only the final water tap remaining. Work is now focused on installing fixtures and accessories, and the project remains on track to complete construction this summer, with an anticipated opening in the fall. Please continue to pray for protection over all the workers onsite and for God's favor as we bring this rebuild to completion and obtain a Certificate of Occupancy.

Gratefully,
Dan Miracola
Executive Director

Student & Family Discipleship Ministry

Craig Packnick & Lauren Sumner

1 Thessalonians 2:8 (ESV)

“So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.”

Our young people at Stanwich are “very dear to us”, and this past year has been all about going deeper and raising the bar for discipling the next generation of Christ-followers. As a large senior class graduated to college and entered the workforce, we’ve seen a new generation of students rising up to take the baton of leadership. With the Stamford campus opening on the horizon, God is developing new aspects of ministry to help us seek authentic encounters with Jesus as students are built up and sent out in the promises of God.

Small Groups

Small Groups continues to be the heartbeat of our student ministry - a weekly space to share a meal, hear the gospel, and open God’s Word together. This year we leaned into student feedback and made meaningful changes that have raised the culture and depth of our Wednesday nights.

We now invite students to share testimonies - how God has personally impacted their life - and students David, Val, Johnny, Kristina, and Owen have each been beautifully open and vulnerable before their peers. Lauren has built out a student worship team, and extended worship has become a cherished part of our Wednesday night rhythm. Our teaching series took us through King David’s story, Ruth, and Philippians, teaching students not just what the Bible says but how to read, interpret, and apply it to life.

Intergenerational Discipleship

We continued creating spaces for students to connect across generations - serving in Kids Ministry and gathering with parents through our “Let’s Talk About It” series, which this year covered “Understanding Our Minds” and “Redeeming Our Time.” Our adult volunteer team grew with five new female leaders joining, beautifully balancing our team to disciple both male and female students. Tracy Agro, who leads Kids Ministry and knows many of our students from their earlier years, has been a wonderful addition on Wednesday nights. If you feel called to invest in the next generation, contact Craig via email at craig@stanwichchurch.org.

Missional Engagement

36 students and leaders traveled to Johnson City, TN with the Appalachia Service Project - repairing homes, serving families in need, and encountering God in the middle of it all. This summer we return July 11-18, heading to Clay County, WV. Our student-led service group, Be the Blessing - now led by high schooler Norah Mendelsohn - has continued to create spaces for students to put their faith into action monthly alongside partners like Fuller Center NY, Abilis, Meals on Main Street, and ASP.

Confirmation

16 students completed our four-month Confirmation program, led by Lauren Sumner and Rocco Abbate. Through Scripture, the Heidelberg Catechism (a 16th century document that summarizes the Christian faith in a question & answer format), and honest conversation about life's biggest questions, students encountered the person of Jesus in a fresh way. A large majority said yes to placing their faith in Christ or recommitting their lives to Him. Praise God!

Winter Weekend

This year we brought 44 students and leaders to Camp Hume in Monterey, MA for our annual Winter Weekend retreat. Despite cold weather and a slightly shortened schedule, students showed up with great attitudes and genuine hunger to connect with Jesus and one another. We're continuing to pray and dream about how to make a weekend away one of the most formative experiences of the year - marked by authentic worship, deep conversation, and real encounter with God.

Sunday Student Service

Students continue to worship alongside their families before joining our Student Service for connection time, trivia, announcements, and a biblical lesson tied to the same Scripture as the adult and Kids Ministry gatherings. After the teaching, we divide into small groups based on age and gender for discussion time led by our amazing volunteer leaders. We're grateful to see students growing in faith and genuine friendship on Sunday mornings.

Expansion Into Young Adults

Three years in, and The Well - our 20s and 30s ministry - is booming! Our WhatsApp community has grown to 75+ young adults across Fairfield and Westchester counties, with 20+ gathering regularly for community and studying Scripture. We're building an executive leadership team, equipping leaders to facilitate Discovery Bible Studies, and prayerfully discerning how to scale. Those in the community consistently point to the spiritual friendships, the laughter, and the depth of conversation around God's Word as reasons they keep coming back and inviting their friends. Meanwhile, our college students stay connected through care packages sent out in the spring, prayer squares sent from our Prayer Shawl Ministry, and lunches during school breaks - reminders that they are still part of this family no matter where they are.

God is clearly on the move in the lives of our students and young adults, and we want to lean into this new season ahead with prayer. If you're reading this, would you pause right now and pray for the Student Ministry and for Stanwich Church - that we would continue to reach students and families, and that they and their friends would come to know Christ and make Him known?

Craig Packnick & Lauren Sumner
Student and Family Discipleship Leaders

Kids & Family Discipleship Ministry – Danielle Kohlberger and Tracy Agro

Tracy Agro continues to serve as our Kids Ministry Leader. Danielle Kohlberger directs the Pre-K ministry as well as all administration for the children's ministry. Marion Loizeaux skillfully leads our Kindergarten-1st grade class each Sunday, and we are excited to have Yanique Bennett on our team who is our adaptive Kids Church teacher. Yanique welcomed a baby in April and Nicole Miller has accepted a short-term position teaching the adaptive class while Yanique cares for her family. We are so thankful for our team of committed adult volunteers who are the backbone of the ministry. They serve faithfully and humbly.

God is doing amazing things in Kids Ministry as evidenced by the excitement we see as over 130 children run to the kids wing each Sunday. Children are inviting their friends to church, and even adults are coming to faith because of their children's enthusiasm for being in Kids Church and are therefore participating in worship and hearing the Gospel.

Kids Church
Kids Church follows the adult preaching series. This means that each Sunday, kids, teens, and adults all study the same Scripture. Each week, the elementary-aged kids learn the scripture together in a large group setting led by Tracy who teaches in a way that is exciting and engaging. Every lesson connects to the love of God and our invitation into His kingdom through the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus. After the large-group lesson, the children move into small groups based on their grade where our volunteer leaders lead them in discussion and activities related to the lesson. Similarly, our Preschool class follows the same curriculum and is engaged each week in the Scriptures through stories, songs, activities and crafts.

Adaptive Kids Church
A unique need was revealed in 2024 to provide an adaptive learning environment for children with special needs. God continues to provide for this need through Yanique Bennett who is a woman of faith, works as an Occupational Therapist Assistant, and is a gifted musician and teacher. She works as our adaptive Kids Ministry teacher during the 9am services.

Intergenerational Ministry and Connection
We have continued to emphasize meaningful relationships between kids, teens, and adults. Once a quarter, during Sunday services, our youth group and children join together for connection and fellowship. We are also blessed to have Katie Troyer visit twice a month to lead music and worship.

Tracy and Danielle are committed to engaging with the parents of our children. Tracy leads two weekly Life Group for Moms of young children, and Danielle leads a monthly Life Group for Moms of Children with Special Needs.

Engaging the kids in service is also a priority, which is done through kids greeting, volunteering, hosting coffee hour once a month, and participating in missions projects.

Throughout the year, Greg and Christa Hartch have graciously opened their home to host our family volunteer potluck dinners. During this time there is great conversation, humor, love, and joy as we get to know our brothers and sisters in Christ. Our ministry is blessed by wonderful friendships and our common faith.

Stanwich Kids Summer Adventure
At the end of June, Stanwich will be hosting a 5-day morning program for children ages 5-10. Through music, dance, Bible stories, games and science, children will be plunging into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God and exploring what it means to be rooted in a relationship with Jesus.

How Can You Pray for Us?
Please pray for the children of our church who are living in a performance-driven and anxious culture. May they encounter the Lord in a tangible way that allows them to rest in His promises. Please pray for God's anointing on our teachers and leaders each and every week, and for the Holy Spirit to flow through the Kids Wing. Please pray for the Lord to provide enough volunteers as our church family continues to grow. All Glory to God!

Tracy Agro & Danielle Kohlberger

Minister of Music – Leon Reid

"O come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!" -Psalm 95:1-2 (ESV)

In First Chronicles 6:31-32, David set priests and Levites in the house of the LORD for the sole purpose of providing music day and night. David recognized the importance of music as a means of ministering to the LORD. The music ministry of Stanwich Church has taken us to a deeper level in our corporate gatherings, but only with the help of God and under the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

The 2025-2026 season has been a season of musical, spiritual, relational, and numerical growth. The choir has added gospel music to its repertoire. Seven new people joined the choir, including a new section leader for the bass section. We had 23 choristers singing in our second Christmas Eve service, which, to date, has been the most choristers to sing in a Christmas Eve service during my tenure at Stanwich Church. Our Lenten Concert this season, "A Musical Journey to the Cross," was performed on the second Sunday of Lent (March 1st). Additionally, I led two Hymn Sings: one in December and another in April.

Along with excellent singing, we have been blessed with instrumentalists who have been a blessing to the music ministry. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the instrumentalists who have accompanied the choir with a high level of excellence in the classical and contemporary music genres.

I thank God for the commitment and dedication of all the singers and musicians at Stanwich Church. Please pray that God will continue to raise up more to participate in this ministry, ministering to the LORD, and that He will bless those that are already serving, with a new and deeper anointing of the Holy Spirit.

SOLI DEO GLORIA

Respectfully Submitted,

Leon G. Reid

Worship Director - Katie Troyer

Peter was a skilled fisherman before He met Jesus. But even with all of His experience and expertise around water, there was no way he could have anticipated WALKING on water. He just wanted to be with Jesus, and in a moment, he was doing something that he had never seen coming.

In my early years as a worship leader, I heard this quote:
"Attempt something so great for God it's doomed to failure unless God be in it." John Edmond Haggai

I think Peter had that type of moment. **-** And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So, Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. (Matthew 14:28-29)

And I think God is giving us that kind of moment too!

Yes, this past year and moving forward: We practice, we prepare, we bring the best that we can bring. We have a beautiful building, technology, spreadsheets, organizational apps, a choir, an organ, a piano, drums, guitars, violins, all ages of vocalists, we arrive at 7 AM to rehearse on Sunday, and some of the youth band meet on Tuesdays, and the choir meets on Thursdays. We have services at 9 AM & 10:45 AM, and many of you get out of bed, get dressed, and show up on your day off. We get creative when someone calls in sick, fill in the gaps for each other, and we learn new songs and old songs. We work hard to be present and to build up the next generation. (this is just the tip of the iceberg)

Mysteriously, every Sunday, the whole is greater than the sum of all of these parts. Jesus is with us, and He's always up to something that we can't fully anticipate. And we call out to Him, "If it's You, Lord, we will follow! Without you, we can do nothing, but with You, all things are possible!"

Final Note: It is such a joy to be part of all that God is doing here at Stanwich! And I'm looking forward to the year to come. What will He do in us, through us, among us?

Much love,

Katie Troyer

Board of Elders

Brothers and sisters in the Lord,

Last year, I wrote that Stanwich Church was in the process of being pruned. We were in a time of transition, typically not the most comfortable time for people. But pruning is done to enable new growth, and this year we have seen the first fruits of this new season in the life of our church.

We began the year by calling Pastor Chuck to serve as our senior pastor once again, and towards the end of the year, called Pastor Jelani to lead in Stamford and ordained Pastor Gina. Over the course of the year, we were introduced to our Discipleship Pathway, taught about the Our Father prayer, about His Kingdom, and about the Holy Spirit. We also learned about healing and about creating sanctuary. Preaching and teaching on Sunday were supplemented by rich resources for use throughout the week.

That God is doing a new thing can easily be seen in standing room only on Sunday mornings, a hundred people on Encounter weekends, and a thousand people on Easter morning. Beyond the numbers, those people are of all ages and from many different walks of life. Beyond numbers is the palpable presence of the Holy Spirit, the hunger for more of God, and the healing that many have reported. Beyond numbers are people caring deeply for one another, people speaking about God in the school yard, people inviting friends from the gym.

These we trust are merely first fruits, and more is to come. The scaffolding has come down in Stamford, the drywall is up, and the power is on; the campus is almost ready for relaunch. Friends, pray for a fresh outpouring of power over Stanwich, Stamford, Fairfield County, and beyond. Pray that we, individually and collectively, look to our Father, have the mind of Christ, and be sanctified by the Spirit. And pray for the privilege of participation in his kingdom advancement here on earth.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Gad Lim
Elder Board Chair

Report of the Clerk – Kimberly O'Hara

Regular Worship
Throughout FY2026, we worshipped indoors with two Sunday morning services: a 9:00 AM service and a 10:45 AM service. Each weekend, the 10:45 AM service was concurrently live-streamed as it was celebrated. Kids Church and Student Ministries continued in-person operation at each service. There were no regular Sunday worship services offered in Stamford this past fiscal year.

Special Services
We had a Thanksgiving Eve service on November 27, 2025. We had a Service of Remembrance and Hope on November 22, 2025, for those who had suffered loss during the past year. Christmas Eve services were held on December 24, 2025, at 3:00 PM, 5:00 PM, and 7:00 PM, with Emmaus Hall used for an overflow worship area. Ash Wednesday was on February 18, 2026, and we held a service for the distribution of Ashes at 7:00 PM. Palm Sunday was on March 29, 2026, and we had two services at 9:00 AM and at 10:45 AM, which were live-streamed per standard Sunday procedure. Good Friday was on April 3, 2026, and we had one service at 12:00 PM, which was live-streamed concurrently. Easter services were held on April 5, 2026, at 9:00 AM and 10:45 AM, with Emmaus Hall serving as an overflow worship area. The 10:45 AM Easter service was live-streamed for those worshipping at home.

New Members
This fiscal year, we offered new memberships at service celebrations on October 25, 2025, and May 3, 2026. As of June 2026, our total active membership is 537. That is a 56-person increase from the previous year.

Funerals & Memorial Services
We held thirteen funerals/memorial services/interments at Stanwich Church this past year.

Baptisms & Dedications
During this past year (6/1/2025 – 6/1/2026), there were twelve infant baptisms and dedications. There were thirty immersion baptisms involving children, teenagers, and adults who chose to be baptized for the first time or to rededicate themselves to their baptismal vows!

Weddings
Five weddings were held at Stanwich Church from July 2025 through June 2026 for both members and non-member couples.

Meetings
The Annual Meeting for FY2025 was held in person on June 9, 2025, and included a vote for Senior Pastor. A special meeting was held for the Stamford Pastor on March 16, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly O'Hara
Ministry Program Manager

Cemetery Report – Kimberly O’Hara

This report covers the financial data for this fiscal year through April 30.

Cemetery fund balances, revenues, expenses
Beginning Balance July 1, 2026: $255,408
Revenue: $15,000
Fund Performance: $32,224
Expenses: $8,572
Balance April 30, 2026: $294,060

Events/progress over the past year:
General maintenance and landscaping work. There is an ongoing project to digitize the cemetery files and plot maps in accordance with industry best practices.

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly O’Hara
Cemetery Superintendent

Stanwich Missions Annual Review – Travis Piegat

The purpose of Stanwich Missions is to proclaim the gospel in word and works of compassion, carrying Christ's good news "around the world and across the street." This past year, Missions hosted numerous opportunities for our congregation to walk alongside our partners and the broader community through service, prayer, financial support, and relationship building.

Partners and ministries supported this year included:

- Bridgeport Rescue Mission
- New Covenant Center
- Living Waters Church
- Pivot Ministries
- Fill in the Blank
- Tyndale Theological Seminary
- The Connery Family (Costa Rica)

We have emphasized giving, praying, and serving through volunteer opportunities, Mission Sunday, and Moments for Missions. We also continued supporting ministries led by Stanwich members who preach and teach the gospel on college campuses and through global worship events.

Earlier this year, the Missions Committee completed the annual review of mission partners and grant allocations. This process focused on stewardship, accountability, Gospel alignment, and creating space for new ministry opportunities while maintaining meaningful long-term relationships with existing partners.

Missions at Stanwich continue to be far more than financial support alone. The committee remains committed to building relationships with ministry partners, engaging the congregation in service opportunities, and prayerfully discerning where God is leading the church locally and globally.

Looking forward to this next fiscal year, the Missions Committee has added two new partners: Hopeline Pregnancy Center and the New York City Christian Athletic League. These missional ministries are focused on reaching people who are less likely to walk into a church. We have also been preparing to emphasize local outreach in Stamford as we plan for deeper engagement in the area. The committee continues to explore new opportunities to serve local schools, nonprofits, businesses, and families through relational ministry and practical support.

Thank you for continuing to faithfully support Missions through your time, treasure, and talent. Your generosity is making an impact - thank you for giving to the Missions Fund.

Serving in gratitude,

Stanwich World Missions Committee

Travis Piegat, Missions Director
Jessica Fitzsimmons, Administrator
Steve LaSala, Treasurer
Kim Hindle
Ingrid Hang
Thomas Faulk
Patricia Togra
Paulette Lee
Tom Crozier
Mary Ann O'Connor, Elder Liaison
Chloe Piegat, Intern

Internal Auditor Report FY2026 – Mark S. Squillante

As required by the By-Laws of Stanwich Congregational Church, I have reviewed the accounting processes, reporting and internal controls, and other aspects of the Church's operations, as in effect during the current fiscal year of the Church.

Basis and Scope of Review: The processes and controls of the Church are documented in: (*i*) the Stanwich Congregational Church Accounting Policies and Procedures Manual; (*ii*) the Stanwich Congregational Church Children's and Youth Ministries Policies/Guidelines; and (*iii*) the Stanwich Congregational Church Personnel Policies Manual. These policies, procedures, and guidelines were used as the basis for my review.

My review included discussions and interactions with the following individuals during the Church's current fiscal year: Dan Miracola, the Executive Director; Claire Daplyn, the Bookkeeper; and Sheila Hyland, the Financial Secretary. All individuals with whom I spoke and interacted were cooperative and knowledgeable about the controls and processes they oversaw.

In addition to my review, I attended and participated in the monthly meetings of the Church's finance committee during the current fiscal year, so that I am aware and have been part of any discussions relating to the Church's financial operations.

The materials and functional areas that I reviewed relate to the following:

- Collections/other donations and related deposits;
- Check disbursements and supporting documentation;
- Credit card expenditures and employee reimbursements;
- Budgeted vs. actual expenditures;
- Bank and investment account statements and associated reconciliations;
- Procedures of the Children's Ministry;
- Designated missions donations;
- Prior reports of internal and external auditors.

Conclusion: Based on my review, I can confirm: (*i*) that the Church currently has in place financial and operational controls and processes that are designed to reduce the risk of material fraud and misstatement of financial results as well as other relevant operational risks; and (*ii*) that no material issues came to my attention during my review indicating that those controls and processes are not functioning effectively to reduce such risks.

Mark S. Squillante
Internal Auditor