*Summary of 2014 Share the Plate Collections*

$37,013.65 Total Contributions

*Benevolence Fund* - $977

Life is unpredictable and often difficult. The Church’s Benevolence Fund is one way that people, or sometimes organizations, in need can get help without going through endless channels. For example, church members were helped with emergency funds including car repair, medical expenses and moving expenses. In past years Benevolence funds assisted families, church members and community members with flood relief.

Sponsored by Community Service Ministry

*Charles House* - $1157

Dollars raised for Charles House helps fund financial aid or scholarships to make it possible for a broader section of the community to participate in the eldercare offered there. About 20% of the people who use this daycare get some sort of aid. Charles House was named for Charlie Jones, Community Church’s first minister, who spent time there in his final years.

Sponsored by ECO-

*Clean Water for NC* -$1,134

Water is one of the most important issues we face even in North Carolina. Over 3 million North Carolinians depend on un-monitored well-water. CWFNC is working to stop hydraulic fracturing or to minimize the damage to water and health if NC allows fracking. CWFNC provides an opportunity through its stream monitoring program for CRE and ECO to work together.

Sponsored by Peace and Justice

*Coalition for Peace with Justice and*

*UUs for Justice in the Middle East* - $924

Peace rarely makes headlines but its importance has been dramatically shown by the news that does make headlines.  These groups sponsor peace vigils, dialogue groups, travel, and cultural programs.

Sponsored by Community Service Ministry

*CROP Hunger Walk* – $1,610

75% of our STP went to Church World Service for hunger, sustainability, clean water and self-improvement programs abroad; 25% went to the local IFC food programs.

Sponsored by Community Service Ministry

*El Centro Hispano -*$1,256

The STP this year was put toward the construction of the Workers Center in Carrboro.  The Workers Center will provide day laborers and other Hispanic workers with assistance in finding secure employment, education and training in a safe environment.

*El Futuro -*$2,023

This year’s Share the Plate funds helped to provide services for Latino young people in Orange County Schools. By working with school staff, El Futuro therapists and psychiatric staff targeted at-risk Latino youth, many of whom have suffered traumatic experiences. This included a number who came to our area alone as unaccompanied minors.

Sponsored by Peace and Justice

*Farmworkers Labor Organizing Committee* -$1,551

FLOC, which has a history of successful organizing to better the conditions of farmworkers, has taken on big tobacco.  Activities have included protesting the sale of tobacco at convenience stores, attending Reynolds Tobacco stock holders meetings, visiting tobacco fields and other activities aimed at promoting basic human rights for farmworkers.

Sponsored by Community Service Ministry

*Habitat for Humanity -* $4,198

The STP monies were used to build our 19th house with Habitat for Humanity of Orange County. It began in October 2014 and will be completed this Spring for the McBroom family. It is in the Tinnin Woods subdivision in Efland.

*Hispanic Liaison of Chatham County*-$1,623

This organization supports the Hispanic Community in Chatham County. The funds raised will be used to offer nutrition classes and mobile dental clinics and to support leadership training to Hispanic youth.

Sponsored by Religious Education

*Holiday Gifts for Foster Kids* - $1,095

For 20 years the Community Church has donated money to the Department of Social Services of Orange and Chatham counties to provide holiday gifts in December for children who are in foster care. The gifts average about $50 per child. We gave to more than 20 kids in Orange and Chatham County.

Sponsored by Community Service Ministry

*Holiday Meals -* $2,684

Our congregation donated $2,684.00 in 2014 which supported 107 families.   This year we collected $303 more than in 2013.  IFC anticipated serving 700 families, including shut-ins. That means that our donations served over 1/7th of the families served!

Sponsored by Community Service Ministry

*Inter-Faith Council for Social Services* - $4,106

Community Church was there at the outset in 1963 when a group of local churches took over the work of the Committee of Church Women United. Since that time, IFC has been involved in many programs supporting poor and homeless persons. Some of these programs have been taken over by government agencies. And there are projects that we support through STP that are sponsored by IFC such as Holiday Meals and CROP Walk. But our biggest commitment is to the operating fund of IFC which runs the day-to-day operations of Project Home Start (a shelter for women and children), Community House (a shelter for homeless men), Community Kitchen (providing prepared meals for hungry people who live or work in Orange County), the Food Pantry (providing 1500 bags of groceries to people in need every month), and the Robert Nixon Free Clinic (which tends to the physical and psychological well being of the homeless.

Sponsored by Religious Education

*Insch Fund for Youth Church Leadership-* $625

This fund was established by the Board of the Church to honor the memory of church member Sarah Insch.  Winners are drawn from youth who participate in the Insch Youth Church Leadership Program.  They participate in justice and service work as part of the program and learn to provide leadership in our church community. This year’s scholarship was presented Carter Smith.

*Minister’s Discretionary Fund* - $1,752

The Minister's Discretionary Fund supports those in our community who face financial emergencies.  It can be used to help with food, shelter, utilities, clothing, transportation, healthcare, or to help children keep involved with activities that they would otherwise have to miss because of financial hardship.

Sponsored by Community Service Ministry

*O.K.A.Y.*  - $1,094.65

Our contribution to OKAY made it possible for low income families to find supervised summer programs for their children. Through OKAY, summer programs such as those that take place through Rogers Road All Day Program, El Centro Hispano, and ECHH’s Refugee Outreach Club found financial support. In addition to the funds we donated, our Sarah Insch Associate, Emma Friedman, made on-site visits and helped to publicize the program.

*Orange County Justice United* - $2,953

Orange County Justice United is a local program that was chartered for the purpose of making changes in social justice issues right here in our own county. C3HUU was a founding member and each collection is for the purpose of paying our annual dues. Here is an example of the problems they address: Through the leadership of Justice United, tenants in low income housing developments learned how to be involved in eliminating sub-standard living conditions. Supported by this powerful organization, tenants were able to demand and get improvements in issues they identified such as mold, crumbling infrastructure, violence and abusive management.

Sponsored by Peace and Justice

*People of Faith Against the Death Penalty -*  $613 *and*

*N.C. Commission of Inquiry on Torture*- $612

These two organizations share the ethic of restorative justice and appreciation for the value of human life.

In 2013, the North Carolina Racial Justice Act, the law intended to end racially biased death sentences, was repealed. Despite this setback, **PFADP**, a nonpartisan, nonprofit, interfaith organization, has continued to advocate for NC's 160 death row inmates with pending claims to have their cases examined for racial bias.

North Carolina Stop Torture Now (NCSTN) is a grassroots coalition of individuals representing themselves and a diversity of faith, human rights, peace, veteran, and student groups across the state. It aims to stop torture everywhere, and has worked since 2005 to expose and end North Carolina’s central role in the ongoing U.S. torture program, mainly based in Smithfield and Fayetteville. composed of non-governmental, respected North Carolinians to undertake this task that requires public awareness and financial support.

Sponsored by Peace and Justice

*Rogers-Eubanks Neighborhood Community Center*

*Coalition to End Environmental Racism*

*Human Rights Center of Chapel Hill & Carrboro* - $1,386

These organizations had a combined Share the Plate as their missions are similar: to fight racism, promote inter-cultural understanding, to advocate for those who have been exploited and to combat poverty.  These groups work through political advocacy, providing classes to adults and children and supporting childcare.

Sponsored by Community Service Ministry

*School Supplies* - $1,236

155 backpacks, filled with notebooks, paper, pencils, crayons, felt tip pens, pens, rulers… all a child needs to get the school year started right were given to middle and high school students in Orange County and elementary kids in Chatham County as a result of the Share the Plate collection this past July.

Sponsored by Religious Education

*Shelter Neck UU Camp* - $625

This fund provides scholarships to youth in need to participate in UU Youth Summer Camps at Shelter Neck in Burgaw, North Carolina.  This year’s collection financed four scholarships to middle and high school youth who are part of small congregations in Eastern North Carolina.

Sponsored by Religious Education

*The Joe & Lucy Straley Fund -* $928

The Straley Fund for Youth Travel for Peace, Justice and Service is a fund of the church, the purpose of which is to assist youth of our church who are participating in service trips and trips to promote peace and justice in the United States and abroad.  This fund provides scholarships, makes life-changing travel and service affordable for the youth of the church regardless of their financial status. With the collection this year, we were able to send two of our outstanding youth, Carter Smith and Aiden Williams, to General Assembly.

*Unitarian Universalist Service Committee* -$851

UUSC advances human rights through grassroots collaboration. In more than a dozen countries throughout the world, UUSC fosters social justice and works toward a world free from oppression.