

Parish Council Minutes - April 24, 2012

In attendance: Rev. Dennis Bailey, Bruce Weaver, Linda Ladd, Carrie Pericola, Barbara Langill, Jeff Law, Jim Marshall, Dotty Whittier, Debbie Cotting, and Chuck Cotting. Moderator, Bruce Weaver convened the meeting at 7:10 PM and offered the meditation. The minutes from the March 27, 2012 meeting were approved.

Pastor's Report: Dennis reviewed plans for Stewardship Sunday and reminded Council that he will be away on Sunday, May 27. Jeff Langill will lead worship and preach on that day. Dennis reported on recent committal services, upcoming baptisms and weddings. On April 22, he taught the Confirmation Class how to write a Statement of Faith and explained Baptism. Confirmation Sunday is May 13. Jill DiGiorgio and Carrie Pericola are organizing activities for young families. Dennis is extending invitations to potential new members to join the church. On April 14, Dennis attended the 75th Anniversary of Our Lady of Assumption and the dinner that followed. On May 15-16, Dennis plans to attend the Mass. Corp. of Fire Chaplains meeting in Duxbury, MA. Dennis is working with Leslie Miller, LICSW, of the Lynnfield Family Center to present a program entitled "Surviving the Teen Years." The event would be held at Centre Church, possibly on May 30. Dennis requested that he be able to take a 3 month sabbatical sometime after October 1, 2013 per his "terms of Call." He noted that he does not have specific plans at this time. Council acknowledged that he would be eligible for a sabbatical at that time and asked that he keep Council informed of his plans so that we can adequately budget for his absence.

Financial Reports: Treasurer, Jeff Law circulated the Treasurer's Report with data as of March 31, 2012. Income continues to be worse than budget, and expenses are still better than budget. It's hoped that fundraisers planned for the last quarter will help boost income. Jeff noted that transfers from the Flood Fund and Memorials to Capital Maintenance need to be finalized. Council voted unanimously to transfer the balance of the Flood Fund, \$7,320.20, to Capital Maintenance. Council also voted unanimously to transfer \$11,149.77 from Memorials money designated for capital maintenance to the Capital Maintenance Fund, pending approval from the Memorials Commission. Financial Secretary, Jim Marshall, reported that we have received \$2,086.25 from the Easter offering, \$2,212 for MBA dues, and \$640 in Memorial donations. At the suggestion of the Stewardship Commission, Jim provided general information about average pledges for Dennis to have available for discussions with new members about pledging.

Christian Education: Barbara Langill reported that Rotation Sensation workshops focusing on Paul's Journeys will be held on 4/22, 4/29, and 5/6. On May 13, Mother's Day and Confirmation Sunday, children will remain in worship. On May 27, children will plant flowers around the front of the church. Children's Sunday is planned for June 10; an ice cream social will follow the service. On April 18, 7 Middle School youth and 3 adult chaperones visited Nevins Farm in Methuen to deliver donations collected from the congregation. Sandi Watson joined the group and presented a check from Outreach Ministries. The Middle School group will go Zip Lining at Alpine Adventures in Lincoln, NH on June 9. Barbara is arranging overnight accommodations. The group has received a half-price discount as a result of their service projects. On Sunday, May 29, the NYC Mission Trip participants will attend a mini re-union at A Different Christian Voice in Middleton. Barbara is planning to attend the New England Association of Christian Educators in Craigville on May 8-10. She will co-lead a class on Old and New Testament Resources for Christian Educators Certification on April 28 in North Hampton and on May 5 at Centre Church.

Outreach: In Sandi Watson's absence, Jeff Law presented her written report. The Outreach team gives continuing thanks to Linda Ladd for including missions/outreach information on the church web site. In April, Outreach donated a small lawnmower and 2 wheelbarrows to Nevins Farm. Sue Johnson and Sandi joined the Middle School youth when they visited the farm on 4/18, and they presented a check to Nevins Farm. The

Outreach Team sent a check to the Protestant Chaplaincy Fund. In May, they'll present a check to Haven From Hunger. They will also introduce the congregation to Journeys of Hope, a non-profit organization in Salem that helps young adults who are homeless or at risk for becoming homeless to connect to agencies that can help them. Outreach plans to invite the congregation to donate \$10 Target gift cards which Outreach will match.

Membership: Dottie Whittier reviewed plans for Geraniumfest, May 19 from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM. Centre Church will hold a flea market with tables selling for \$35. Vendors who bring their own tables will pay \$30. There will be a "Bouncy House" for children. Those participating in the mission trip to Joplin, MO will rent a flea market table to raise money for the trip. Membership hopes to host the Essex River Boat Cruise again this year. They are also investigating the possibility of a Stoneham Theatre event.

Diaconate: Linda Ladd reviewed the worship services and events that have taken place since the April Council meeting. She noted that about 55 people attended the Maundy Thursday service, 32 people attended the Easter Sunrise service, and 232 people attended the 10 AM Easter service. Education Ministries and Diaconate are working on an emergency evacuation plan for the Church School and the congregation. They suggest conducting a fire drill when the plan is finalized and approved by Council. Linda highlighted some updates to the web site, and Council engaged in a general discussion of other information that could be included on the web site.

Stewardship: Carrie Pericola provided additional information regarding Electronic Giving. She outlined plans for Stewardship Sunday, and thanked the many volunteers who helped during the Stewardship Campaign.

Finance: Chuck Cotting reported that the rubber roof has been replaced, and the handicapped ramp and rails have been repaired. The rotten trim around the Todd Hall window wells has been replaced. The sump pump in Todd Hall will be replaced. Chuck is testing products from another vendor to save money on some supplies including soap, paper towels, and toilet paper. Super Soccer Stars scheduled a demonstration class on April 25. Instructors will be Safe-Church trained. Chuck will begin cleaning up Todd Hall in anticipation of replacing the stage. He is developing a list of major capital projects that will need to be addressed.

Fundraiser Update: In addition to the Geraniumfest Flea Market and Bouncy House, plans are underway for a Golf Outing on June 8 at the Thompson Country Club. Council agreed to hold the Yankee Candle Fundraiser again in the fall.

Council approved a Special Meeting of the Congregation to be held after the service on June 17. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the FY 2013 budget.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM, and Dennis led a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary

Next Council Meeting: June 5. Meditation by Sandi Watson