

Parish Council Minutes
April 27, 2011

In attendance: Dennis Bailey, Bruce Weaver, Linda Ladd, Barbara Langill, Mary Ann Parker, Jim Marshall, Debbie Cotting, Dotty Whittier, Jeff Law.

Bruce called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M., and Mary Ann Parker offered an opening prayer.

The minutes of the March 23, 2011 meeting were approved.

Pastor's Report: Dennis reported that there are two baptisms and at least one wedding scheduled. Confirmation Sunday is May 8. Dennis will accompany the Young Adults group on their Mission trip to Portland, Maine from May 23 to May 28. He is working to set up a get-together for new families who have been visiting the church. Dennis is considering the possibility of attending the UCC General Synod in Tampa from July 1 to July 5, and he continues to plan for the 9/11 anniversary events. Dennis reported on members of the congregation who are recovering from surgery. He noted that the skateboarders are back using our ramp and parking lot. He recently asked some skateboarders to leave the property.

Financial Reports: Jeff Law circulated the Treasurer's Report which included income and expenses through March 2011. He predicts that income for the year will be \$11,762.13 less than budgeted, and that expenses will be \$6916.55 better than budget for a total loss of \$11,437.82. The budgeted loss was \$6592.24. Jim Marshall noted that we have collected about half of the MBA dues, and that the Easter offering was \$1625.00. Pledges received to date total \$188,405. There are 30 people who pledged last year who have not yet returned pledge cards. Last year's pledges totaled \$234,026. Approximately, \$57,000 is needed to achieve this year's Stewardship goal of a 5% increase in pledges. Discussion ensued about ways to encourage those who haven't pledged to do so soon. It was noted that we may need to ask those who have already pledged to consider increasing their pledge. Even if all 30 people who haven't yet pledged do submit their pledges, it's unlikely their pledges would total the \$57,000 needed.

Christian Education Report: Barbara reported that the High School Mission trip will be to New Orleans, not NYC as previously thought. Nine youth and 3 adults will work with UCC Disaster Recovery in New Orleans from July 23 to 30. The church school raised over \$400 selling muffins to benefit Heifer. Barbara thanked Judie Potter and Steve Furey for leading the cooking workshop. She noted the following events: May 1 is Faith in Action, May 8 is Mother's Day and Confirmation Sunday, the May 15 and 22 Rotation Workshops will focus on the Great Commission, May 29 is flower-planting Sunday, and June 12 is Children's Sunday followed by the Ice Cream Social. Fifteen girls attended the Middle School overnight on April 1. Diana Gerbick led discussion and activities related to self-esteem. On Saturday, the group cleaned the Sanctuary pews. The High School youth volunteered at Cradles to Crayons on April 2. The Young Adult group tea was well-attended and raised \$450 for their mission trip. On April 29-30, the High School youth, along with members of St. Paul's youth group, will participate in World Vision's 30 hour famine. Friday will begin with a 7 A.M. breakfast. The youth will return to church at 6 P.M. for overnight activities; then head to Boston Nature Center on Saturday morning to prepare gardens for planting. The Middle School group will go white water rafting on May 6-7. There will be an end-of-the-year celebration for both youth groups on May 22, including mini-golf and ice cream at Richardson's.

Membership: Dotty reported on the plans for JuneFest which will be held on Saturday, June 11 from 9: A.M. to 2 P.M. This event will be a major fundraiser for the church. There will be a food table with coffee and donuts in the morning, and lobster rolls, hot dogs, chips and drinks for lunch. Tables will be

rented to crafters. There will be a bake table, a plant table, a Red Sox ticket raffle, and activities for children. Dotty also noted that Membership is seeking volunteers to provide coffee on Sunday mornings.

Educational Ministries: Barbara reported that the Women's Bible Study met 6 Mondays in Lent. There will be a Women's Retreat on May 14-15 at Adeylenrood in Byfield, MA. Rev. Maria Lucca will lead the retreat. Vacation Bible School will be held Aug. 8-12 with Samantha White as coordinator. The theme, based on cooking, is "Shake it up Café." An intergenerational secret pen pal program will begin in June and end in September. Participants will send 4 letters or postcards during the summer. The pen pals will meet at an ice cream social in September. Sign-up deadline is May 22.

Diaconate: Linda reported that Holy Week events went well and Easter services were well attended (Maundy Thursday=48, Sunrise Service=24, Easter=253.) The Easter Breakfast raised \$515 for the organ fund. Music program surveys will be distributed to the congregation on May 1, 8, and 15. Work on the Music Director's job description and performance appraisal will begin after reviewing results of the survey. Mary McCarthy has completed the P.A.L.M. care training and will be commissioned on May 4.

Stewardship: Council continued the stewardship discussion which began during the financial reports. Mary Ann noted that Stewardship will send letters and additional pledge cards to people who have not yet pledged.

Building Maintenance: Bruce reported that he, Dennis, and Sue Tomich have reviewed the quotes to replace the heating units for the Chapel and Tower Day School area and the Chapel A/C. Cost could be as high as \$40,000. Follow-up calls will be made to those who submitted estimates to clarify some items to make it easier to compare quotes. Scott Baker has inspected the fire alarm system and will replace a few defective Exit signs. The snow plow contractor has offered to repair a window well that was damaged over the winter. The wood near the entrance from the parking lot (along the ramp) is in poor shape and will require replacement. An electrician will be required to repair damage to some parking lot lights-quotes are being requested. There is a very small leak in a seal in the elevator pump that requires repair before our annual inspection. The leak does not compromise the integrity of the elevator system. The plans for the stage in Todd Hall have been reviewed by the town Building Inspector. The plans are ready to go when we are ready to pull the permit. Since the building code definition for a stage refers to a structure that is higher than ours, our stage is officially called a platform. The Eagle Scout candidate who had hoped to build our stage will be unable to lead that project.

Other business: Linda informed Council that the MACUCC Webfest will be held on Sat., May 21 at 9:00 A.M. at the MACUCC Conference Center in Framingham. Also, she noted that our Facebook page is active.

Council set June 5 as the date for the Annual Budget Meeting after church.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M., and Dennis led a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary

Next Council meeting: June 1. Meditation by Bruce Weaver