

Parish Council Meeting

April 23, 2013

In Attendance: Chuck Cotting, Dotty Whittier, Kathi Martin, Linda Ladd, Carrie Pericola, Jim Marshall, Barbara Langill, Bruce Weaver, Sandi Watson, Jeff Law, and Debbie Cotting. The Confirmands were present for the first hour of the meeting.

Moderator Bruce Weaver convened the meeting at 7:05 P.M. Jim Marshall offered the meditation. For the benefit of the Confirmands, Bruce outlined the organizational structure of the church and the responsibilities of Parish Council. Before presenting their reports, each Ministry Team chair reviewed their team's duties.

Council approved the minutes of the March 26, 2013 meeting. In deference to the Confirmands' time constraints, Council agreed to take agenda items out of their usual order.

Christian Education: Barbara Langill reported that Rotation Workshops will focus on The Good Samaritan on April 21 and 28. The youth will remain in worship on May 12, Confirmation Sunday. Children's' Sunday is June 9. Both Youth Groups went to Laser Quest on March 24. The Middle School Group had a movie night on April 7. Both groups met on April 21 to discuss the Marathon Bombings, and they assembled a bulletin board display outside the Fireside Room. April 28 will be the last youth group meeting. Plans are underway for an End of Year Celebration on May 5. Barbara informed Council that fundraisers will be planned to support the Mission Trip to Joplin, Missouri. She noted that she is exploring the possibility of a youth mission trip to New Jersey in coordination with UCC/Fuller House which is seeking volunteers to help rebuild after Hurricane Sandy. Barbara thanked the Education Ministry volunteers who covered youth groups and church school during her recovery. She returned to work for half days the week of April 15 and resumed her regular schedule on Sunday, April 21. Council agreed to continue having Carrie Pericola assist Barbara on Sunday mornings until the end of May under the same financial arrangement as previously agreed upon.

Education Ministries: Kathi Martin noted that the last Confirmation Class is April 28. Confirmands will present their final projects on May 5, and Confirmation Sunday is May 12.

Outreach Ministries: Sandi Watson reported that the Outreach Team will invite people to volunteer at Haven From Hunger on May 11 from 2-4 P.M. to sort food collected by the Postal Service during their Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.

Membership: Dotty Whittier relayed plans for Town Day (formerly Geraniumfest) on May 18. Centre Church will sell tables for a Flea Market; the Youth Group will have a table to raise funds for the Joplin Mission Trip. An afternoon at the Peabody Essex Museum is scheduled for June 2. Ann Decker will be our tour guide. Folks will gather for an early dinner in Salem following the tour. Membership has reviewed the membership rolls and sent letters to folks who are not active in order to ascertain if they want to continue their "Active" status. *Membership will coordinate* refreshments for A Night in Bethlehem. Membership is working on a Fuddrucker's Fundraiser, and Joan Press is meeting with the Dean of the Longy School of Music to plan a concert at Centre Church during the next school year.

Diaconate: Linda Ladd reported that the Easter Breakfast made approximately \$375 for the Organ Fund. Two Baptisms are scheduled for May 5. Linda and Judie Potter taught the Confirmation Class about Communion

and had a small Good Friday Service for the Confirmands. The Confirmands will read their papers after church on May 5. They will present their projects at a luncheon on that day. Confirmation rehearsal is scheduled for 10:00 A.M. on May 11. Linda noted that a Communion bread tray needs repair.

Stewardship: Carrie Pericola reported that the Stewardship campaign is in full swing. On Stewardship Sunday, there will be a Children's message and a Power Point presentation. Pledge cards will be distributed and collected. A luncheon will follow the service. Pledge cards will be mailed to those not in attendance on April 28.

Finance: Chuck Cotting reviewed the estimates he has received for roof replacement, gutters, and painting. He is getting quotes for telephone and internet service. Scott Desantis replaced broken tiles in the center stairway.

Financial Reports: Jeff Law reviewed the Treasurer's report with data through March 31, 2013. Expenses are \$9,363.25 better than budget, and income is \$30,923.06 better than budget primarily because pledge income is coming in better than budget and the response to the supplemental pledge drive was strong. Fundraisers are doing well; we are at 83% of our fundraising goal. Jim Marshall will review pledges to determine if everyone is up-to-date. He will send statements to anyone in arrears.

Pastor's Report. Rev. Bailey could not attend the meeting, but he submitted a written report which Bruce Weaver reviewed. The report outlined pastoral concerns and worship activities. Rev. Bailey has been involved with several funerals, and he will attend the Lynnfield Clergy Association meeting on April 2. He will take 4 vacation days to perform his granddaughter's wedding in Florida.

Old Business: Carrie Pericola reported that the Night in Bethlehem group met to identify the best locations for the various stations including: Roman Soldier, Mapmaker, Wiseman, Holy Family, and Carpentry Market. Other Market places may include: Weaver, Fisherman, Scribe, and Tanner. They also plan to have a census taker.

New Business: Bruce Weaver asked Council to think ahead to the fall Annual Meeting and suggest people who might be nominated to fill open positions.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary

Next Meeting: May 28 at 7:00 P.M. Meditation: Carrie Pericola