

## **Parish Council Meeting - August 31, 2011**

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

Bruce called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M., and Debbie Cotting offered the meditation.

Council approved the minutes of the June 29, 2011 meeting.

Pastor's Report: Dennis continues to work with the group of young families. He detailed the events scheduled for the 9/11 Day of Remembrance. Donations are still needed to support this effort.

Treasurer's Report: Jeff noted that we closed FY11 with an operating loss of \$6235.63. He reviewed all fund balances and the preliminary FY12 operating budget which contains a deficit of \$16,046.79. There is approximately \$40,000 available to address capital needs with \$10,000 of that amount earmarked for the roof.

Financial Secretary: Jim noted that we have received more pledges. The current total is \$230, 870.36 which represents a 3% increase over last year.

Council engaged in a lengthy discussion about ways to close the deficit in the FY12 budget. All agreed that there was no fat in the budget so reducing expenses would not be possible unless we were willing to severely impact or eliminate current programs. Several specific fundraising ideas were discussed. Council voted to add \$10,000 to the fundraising line item in the FY12 budget, leaving a deficit of \$6,046.79. Fund-raising efforts will need to be a major focus during FY12.

Christian Education: Barbara reported that there will be no rotations on Sept. 11. Instead, children will gather to hear The Story of the Little Chapel that Stood, a story about an historic chapel near the Twin Towers that survived the 911 attacks. Rotations will resume on Sept. 18 with the theme of Adam and Eve. Barbara noted that babies and toddlers have an easier time transitioning to the nursery when the same caregiver, preferably age 18 or older, is there every week. She proposed hiring someone to staff the nursery each Sunday; the second caregiver would be a volunteer. Council understood the need for consistent staffing, but was concerned about the expense. It was decided that Barbara would try a pilot program from Sept. through December. She will hire someone for the nursery at a rate of \$20 per Sunday which she will pay out of the existing Christian Education budget. Barbara will report to Council about the success of the pilot program. The Shareholder's dinner on October 2 will feature highlights of both the young adult mission trip to Maine and the high school mission trip to New Orleans. Thirteen children attended Vacation Bible School. There will be an Ice Cream Social on Sept. 18 for participants in the secret pen pal program. Planning is underway for this year's confirmation class. Mentors are needed. The Safe Church Committee continues its work to update policies. Council voted to approve the revised policy related to the Statement of Compliance, the form completed by outside groups who use the church building. The old policy required that adults not be alone in the building with children other than their own. The new policy requires that adults not be alone with children other than those related to them.

Membership: Dotty informed Council that there will be a potluck Welcome Back Luncheon on Sept. 25 after Annual Meeting. Membership is also planning a pie sale, and they are contemplating other fund-raising ideas.

Diaconate: Church services will be moved to the Sanctuary beginning Sept. 11. Communion will be served on that day. The Deacons are prepared to help with the 911/Day of Remembrance service.

Finance: Dennis reported that the parking lot loan has been re-negotiated to get a better interest rate. The term was not extended. Several ceiling tiles and light covers need to be replaced. Bruce reviewed a proposal for replacing the boilers. The proposal, from Weinstein & Weinstein, included 2 gas-fired boilers to heat the Tower Day section of the building and equipment to provide heat and air-conditioning to the chapel. The work would be done in September at a cost of \$26,750.00. Council voted to approve the boiler replacement contingent upon being able to use some money from memorial funds to supplement the money coming from capital funds.

Bruce reminded Council that Annual Meeting will be held after the service on Sept. 25. There are still vacancies to be filled.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M., and Dennis led a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary.

**Next Council Meeting: Thursday, September 22. Meditation by Chuck Cotting**