

Parish Council Minutes

December 4, 2013

In Attendance: Chuck Cotting, Barbara Langill, Bruce Weaver, Margaret Waugh, Jeff Law, Carrie Pericola, Debbie Cotting, and Rev. Dennis Bailey.

Moderator, Bruce Weaver convened the meeting at 7:15 P.M. Debbie Cotting offered the mediation.

Council approved the minutes of the October 22, 2013 meeting.

Pastor Report: Rev. Bailey reminded Council that, after the first of the year, we will need to develop a job description for a supply UCC pastor to cover his sabbatical. He reviewed pastoral concerns and his worship-related activities over the past month. He conducted two committal services, a memorial service, and a funeral. Rev. Bailey offered a Veteran's Prayer at the Senior Center on 11/1/13 and participated in the Veterans Day program on the Common. He offered prayers for deceased members at the annual Lynnfield Firefighters' Association Dinner on Nov. 6. Rev. Bailey, along with members of the Lynnfield Clergy Association, planned the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service held on Nov. 24. He offered thanks to the many folks who assisted him with planning and to those who participated in the service. Rev. Bailey officiated at a wedding on Nov. 16. A wedding is scheduled for 12/31/13; Rev. Glenn Mortimer will officiate since Rev. Bailey will be away. Membership Sunday is set for Dec. 15; twelve people will become members on that day. Rev. Bailey informed Council that he plans to take vacation time from 12/26/13-1/2/14. Gary and Cindy Bayer will share a message on 12/29/13, and Margaret Waugh will assist in leading the service. Rev. Bailey will also be on vacation from 3/7/14-3/14/14. We will need a preacher for 3/9/14.

Treasurer's Report: Jeff Law reviewed financial data as of 10/31/13. He reported that the overall loss in the Operating Fund is \$44,964.79 which is \$8141.97 worse than budget. Income year-to-date is \$14,830.63 worse than budget. Jeff noted that the loss on the income side is due primarily to pledges, Other Support Income, and Fundraiser receipts being lower than anticipated. Expenses are \$6688.66 better than budget. Health insurance, MBA dues, custodial expenses, and fundraiser expenses were all lower than expected.

Christian Education: Barbara Langill reported that the Rotation focus in November was Moses, from the bulrushes to the Promised Land. The family-friendly worship services on the first Sunday of the month seem to be well received. The Heifer Marketplace will be held after worship on Dec. 8. The children have made ornaments to sell. The Christmas Pageant, under the direction of Linda Ladd, is scheduled for Dec. 22. Barbara noted that, recently, Lisa Gerbick has been required to work at her full-time job on Sunday mornings. She hopes her schedule will change after the holidays, but in the meantime, Alicia Dwyer will be the paid caregiver in the nursery. There's been an average of 7 children in the nursery. There was a good turnout for the Advent Workshop on 12/1. Barbara thanked Kathi Martin and Laurel Caputo for the delicious spaghetti dinner and Rev. Bailey for leading the wreath making. The Youth Group hosted a Halloween Party at Bridge House on 10/29 and led the Turkey Drive for Haven From Hunger on 11/17. They will volunteer at City Mission Society on 12/8. The Confirmation Class led the worship at the Advent Workshop and helped with set-up, crafts, and clean-up.

Membership: Bruce presented Dotty Whittier's report. The pie sale brought in nearly \$2000. Membership provided refreshments for the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, and they are now concentrating on refreshments for A Night in Bethlehem.

Diaconate: Margaret Waugh reported that a meeting for new members was held on 11/10. The Deacons' Breakfast on 11/17 earned about \$200 for the organ fund. The Deacons ushered at the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service. Margaret noted that the amplifiers for the hearing impaired are not working well. Deacons will be responsible for making sure batteries are charged and the units are in good working condition. They will investigate purchasing battery chargers, rechargeable batteries, and possibly new units. Three to four units are used each Sunday. Diaconate discussed ways to shorten Parish News. They reviewed the guidelines that Rev. Bailey distributed last year, and Bruce Weaver sent the guidelines to all Committee Chairs. The Sanctuary, Chapel, and entryways are decorated for Advent. Thanks to the Cottings for providing fresh wreaths for the entrance doors and new bows for all the wreaths. Thanks to the Whittiers for providing the Advent Wreath. Diaconate discussed the Christmas Eve services, noting that the 5 P.M. service is no longer attended primarily by families with young children. It seems that, in recent years, more adults and older children are choosing to attend the early service.

Stewardship: Carrie Pericola reported that the Raise the Roof Supplementary Drive is off to a good start. Several pledges have been received. Special envelopes are being placed in the pews for people who want to make a one-time donation.

Finance: Chuck Cotting updated Council on several property-related items. He is waiting for a sample replacement column base for the Summer St. entrance. There were a few leaks from the recent wind-drive rain. Chuck is exploring the repair or replacement of the lights by the Summer St. door. He will get an estimate to spray insulation on the concrete walls and exposed wood areas in the basement under the first floor ladies' room. Brassard Surveillance Systems will install an additional camera over the parking lot portico on Dec. 23. Cost of the equipment is approximately \$350; there will be no charge for labor. Bruce noted that the lights on the perimeter of the parking lot seem to go out. Chuck will adjust the timer on the lights.

New Business: Rev. Bailey showed Council two items that have been donated to the church: A needlework piece donated by Karen Duggan (The Serenity Prayer done by her mother) and a photograph of Old Town Day 1914 donated by Steve Furey. Bruce informed Council that it was nearing time to do a new pictorial directory.

There being no further business, Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 P.M. Rev. Bailey led a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary

Next Council meeting: Tuesday, January 7, 2014. Meditation: Carrie Pericola