

Parish Council Minutes - December 3, 2014

In attendance: Bruce Weaver, Barbara Langill, Margaret Waugh, Jeff Law, Chuck Cotting, Jim Marshall, Debbie Cotting, and Rev. Dennis Bailey. Moderator, Bruce Weaver convened the meeting at 7:00, and Jeff Law offered the meditation. Council approved the minutes of the 10/28/14 meeting.

Pastor Report: Rev. Bailey reported on pastoral concerns and worship activities during the month of November. He conducted a baptism on 11/23/14; another baptism is scheduled for 12/28/14. Rev. Bailey officiated at 3 funerals/memorial services last month. He led the wreath-making activity at the Advent Workshop and made 60 carrot cakes for the pie/carrot cake fundraiser. Rev. Bailey attended meetings of the Lynnfield Clergy Association and the Lynnfield Fire Department Relief Association. He led prayers at the town's Veterans' Day ceremony and attended the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at St. Maria Goretti's Church. Rev. Bailey informed Council of some new folks who have attended church recently. He received a generous undesignated donation to the church from Elizabeth Brigham in memory of her late husband, Jeffrey. Council voted to put the funds in Memorials to be used for Capital Maintenance.

Financial Reports: Treasurer, Jeff Law reviewed financial data as of Oct. 31, 2014. The overall loss in the operating budget year-to-date is \$63,456.93. This number is \$12,254.99 worse than budget. Income year-to-date is \$13,972 worse than budget. Pledges are nearly \$10,000 worse than budget. Expenses are \$1717.82 better than budget. Jeff noted that October was a poor month for pledges. We need the Supplemental Drive, but we also need budgeted pledges to come in as anticipated. Jim Marshall will put an article in Tower Notes to remind people to keep up to date with their pledges. He will highlight the fact that pledges made by Dec. 31 are tax-deductible for 2014 income taxes. Fundraising will be important this year, and Council discussed a variety of fundraising possibilities.

Christian Education: Barbara Langill reported that, on 11/2, the youth gave the Heifer message and collected the Ark banks. Eleven children attended Farm Day on 11/2. On Dec. 7, the youth will give a message based on the Heifer Cornerstones. The children will sing "Centre Church built an Ark", and the Heifer Marketplace will be held after the service. Linda Ladd will direct the Christmas Pageant on 12/21. The 3-6 year-olds have been focusing on different Heifer animals and making crafts for the Heifer Marketplace. Grades 2 through High School have been working on a gingerbread ark to enter in the Gingerbread House Contest on 12/6. The Advent Workshop was held on 11/30 with crafts for all ages and dinner provided by Kathi Martin and her crew. In Youth Group news: 4 youth and 2 adults volunteered at Haven from Hunger on 11/19. The youth collected 21 turkeys for Haven from Hunger on 11/23. Youth will meet on 12/7 to make scarves and no-sew fleece hats for City Mission Society. They will hold a cookie swap after church on 12/14 to raise funds for their April mission trip to Heifer

Ranch in Arkansas. Barbara expects the total cost of the trip to be \$900/participant. Missions will contribute 1/3 of the cost, fundraising will account for another third, and participants will pay the final third. Barbara reported that there are on-going opportunities for people 16 and older to volunteer with Merrimack Habitat for Humanity: Jan. 10, Feb. 7, and March 7.

Diaconate: Margaret Waugh noted that the Marie Lucca workshop has been postponed until the New Year. Diaconate is looking at possible dates in Jan. or Feb. The workshop will follow a Sunday service and include a light lunch. Organ maintenance and tuning was scheduled for 12/2. After review and discussion by Diaconate and other boards, Diaconate decided to keep Christmas Eve services at 5 PM and 11 PM. Representatives from the Senior Choir will sing at the 5 PM service. The Sanctuary was decorated for Advent on 11/25. Margaret thanked the Whittiers for providing the Advent wreath and the Cottings for providing the outside door wreaths. Diaconate hopes that the new TV can be installed in the Fireside Room and connected to Wi-Fi before Christmas Eve. Memorial envelopes have been ordered and will be placed in the Narthex card holder. After Christmas, they will be placed in pews as well. The Talent and Needs Survey has been postponed until 2015.

Stewardship: Carrie Pericola reported via e-mail that the Supplemental Pledge Drive has raised \$20,740.00 to date.

Finance: Chuck Cotting reported that the water heater failed on 11/24 and was replaced the same day by Titan Plumbing. In checking all water faucets as the hot water was turned back on, 3 leaking faucets and a cracked toilet were discovered. Scott DeSantis replaced 2 faucets and repaired the third. The cracked toilet will be replaced by Titan Plumbing. Titan will clean and inspect our 2 gas boilers and check the leaking water fountain in Dec. They will also replace the failing office gas furnace. Chuck installed Carbon Monoxide detectors in the 2nd floor offices on 11/25. National Grid will conduct an inside inspection in Dec. Chuck noted that the carpets in the Fireside Room and first floor hall need cleaning. Council decided to have those carpets cleaned in the spring. Baker Electric will be changing the Sanctuary and Chapel thermostats to 7-day devices on 12/4. They will also install an outlet for the oil-filled heater and lighting in the crawl space under the Ladies' Room and work on lighting for the Book of Remembrance. Baker Electric is investigating options to replace the failed parking lot light fixtures. Glenn Pyburn has promised to place 3 large boulders by the Tower Day playground fence soon. They are needed to protect the fence from being damaged by snow plowing.

There being no further business, Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM. Rev. Bailey led a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 7, 2015. Meditation: Jim Marshall