

Parish Council Minutes  
February, 10, 2011

In attendance: Dennis Bailey, Bruce Weaver, Barbara Langill, Kathi Martin, Linda Ladd, Dotty Whittier, Chuck Cotting, Jeff Law, Debbie Cotting.

Bruce called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M., and Kathi provided the meditation.

The minutes of the January 5 meeting were approved.

Pastor's Report: Dennis expressed appreciation for all who helped with Scout Sunday. He noted that Confirmation class is going well, and he hopes to hold a Lenten Bible study again this year. Dennis would also like to have a membership class after church on a Sunday that doesn't conflict with his confirmation responsibilities. Pastoral care continues to be a strong focus for Dennis.

Christian Education: Barbara reported that the current church school rotation is "The Greatest Commandment." Children are learning the Bible story through art, storytelling, and cooking. As a Faith in Action activity, children brought cans of vegetables on Feb. 6. The vegetables were used to make soup which was delivered to shut-ins. Three high school youth and two chaperones traveled to Boston to participate in City Mission's "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service." On Jan. 23, thirty youth and adults braved the cold and had a great time snow-tubing at Nashoba Valley. On Jan. 30, high school students sold refreshments at "Lend Me a Tenor" and raised \$78.00 for this year's mission trip. The high school youth made and sold sandwiches and salads on Feb. 6. Members of the Middle School Youth Group will volunteer at My Brother's Table on Thursday, Feb. 24.

The Safe Church Commission will meet on Feb. 15 to review our Safe Church Policies and Procedures. As part of her Masters in Nursing program, Diana Gerbick will consult with the commission on health and safety issues.

There will be a Pancake Supper and Wii Game Night on Tuesday, March 8 at 5:30 P.M. Educational Ministries plans to offer a Women's Bible study on Monday nights during Lent and hopes to end the study with a Women's retreat.

Children's Day will be June 12. Samantha White will be the high school leader of Vacation Bible School this year. Dates for VBS have yet to be determined.

Financial Reports: Jeff circulated the Treasurer's Report which included income and expenses through December 2010. Pledges continue to be on-track, and expenses are better than this time last year, though Jeff noted that the January snow-plowing bills are not included in the analysis. Income from building use donations and fundraisers is lagging far behind budget. Dennis noted that a \$1000 gift has been made to the Minister's Discretionary Fund for the purpose of upgrading the sound system in the Theater Room. Dennis asked Ryan Batchelder to research systems. Based on Ryan's recommendations, Dennis will order a system that costs less than the \$1000 donated.

Membership: Chuck reported that approximately 70 people signed up for Trivia Night. Dotty noted that Membership is discussing the possibility of a Pie Making Day where pies would be made on a Saturday and sold at church on Sunday. Membership is also planning a May Day

celebration with crafters, food, and activities for children. The date is yet to be determined. Confirmands will begin helping with coffee and greeting on Sunday mornings.

Education: Kathi informed Council that the Confirmands are in the process of contacting Council members to learn their roles and responsibilities. The Confirmands will attend the April Council meeting.

Diaconate: Linda noted that the service on Boy Scout Sunday was well received, and Diaconate is investigating the possibility of having a Girl Scout Sunday. There will be a service of baptism renewal on Ash Wednesday, March 9, at 7:30 P.M. in the chapel. Diaconate is beginning the process of reviewing the Organist/Choir Director's job description and conducting a performance appraisal. On February 26, Dave Wallace may work on the sticking organ key. Diaconate will plan a communion class for the Confirmands soon. The next Deacons breakfast is expected to be held on April 3. The Diaconate is sponsoring Mary McCarthy as she takes the PALM (Pastor Authorized Lay Ministry) course which trains and mentors lay persons to be caregivers in their own congregations.

Stewardship: Mary Ann Parker submitted a report detailing plans for the Stewardship Campaign. Stewardship packets will be available after church on March 20, and pledge cards should be returned by April 10.

Finance/Building Maintenance: The oven has been adjusted to address the lighting issue. Snow removal costs in January were over \$3000. Rev. Bailey has requested additional donations to cover snow removal costs and additional manpower for shoveling and snow-blowing for weekend storms when the custodian is not present. Bruce, Dennis, and Sue Tomich will meet with a representative of Pyburn Oil to discuss details of replacing the HVAC system in the chapel. Pyburn's bid is approximately \$9000 to install a new oil heating system and an air conditioning system. The group plans to seek bids from other sources as well. Efforts are being made to repair the heater in the women's restroom near the parking lot entrance. If necessary, a new unit can be purchased at a cost of about \$130. Bruce noted that he will consult with our electrician to discuss options for heating coils on the roof, gutters, and downspouts on the parking lot side of the building where ice dams appear, notably adjacent to and above the ramp over the parking lot entrance. Council discussed the possibility of spending additional funds to restore parking lot capacity by pushing back the snow banks. Council decided against additional spending with the hope that Mother Nature would begin the melting process soon.

Fundraiser update: Linda reported that the performance of "Lend Me a Tenor" by the Quannapowitt Players raised \$390 for the church.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05, and Dennis led a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary.

**Next Council Meeting: March 23**

**Meditation: Jim Marshall**