

Parish Council Meeting: February 24, 2010

Attendees: Dennis Bailey, Chris Parker, Linda Ladd, Barbara Langill, Phil Johnson, Jeff Law, and Chuck Cotting. Council also welcomed Cory Johnson, Eagle Scout candidate and his mother Melinda Johnson.

The meeting was opened by at 7:05 p.m. with a meditation by Dennis Bailey.

Cory Johnson, Eagle Scout candidate:

Cory sent a letter to the Church regarding his Eagle Scout Project. He explained his plan to paint the walls in Todd Hall. He chose Todd Hall because Troop 48 meets there on Monday evenings.

Council questioned Cory about planning, timing, supplies, the extent of the project, assistance, and parental support. After much discussion, Council approved the project. Cory will now bring the project for discussion and approval by the Boy Scouts.

Pastor's Report:

Dennis took a couple of days off after notifying Council leadership and the Worship team.

Long time parishioner Elsie Bartlett died. Dennis will handle the funeral.

Friday Bible study and a Lenten Wednesday Bible study program were attended by 20 people.

The Confirmation Class is going well. Our young people have been full participants in Confirmation activities.

The Easter offering will be applied to the General Fund.

Centre Church has donated over \$3,200 to the Haiti Relief fund.

Our Easter Sunrise Service: Dennis has a request in to the Board of Selectmen to hold our 6 AM service at Newhall Park. Julie Ernest will play her guitar. If approved, an article about our Service will be placed in the local papers.

Our 10th Heifer Ark award is planned for March 28th. Sandi Watson will present the award to Allie and Mary Ann Parker.

Chris mentioned that the Budget Sub-Committee will meet to develop a preliminary 2010-2011 Budget for next year for presentation to Council. Also discussed was a plan for spending controls to parallel the income/ revenues.

Treasurer's Report:

Please refer to the year-to-date treasurer's report prepared by Jeff Law for fiscal year 2009-2010. Jeff stated that as of 01/31/10, total income is \$2,222 better than expected, but total expenses are \$7,982 over expectations. The major factor driving these results is that current pledges are coming in slower than in years past. [\$126,566 vs. 135,901]

This has been offset by income from other sources including: local support offerings, fund raisers, T-mobile, Local Pass-through, prior year pledge, the Christmas offering, and refunds to the church. Expenses [\$7,882] have been higher than expected primarily due to property expenses and capital spending.

Jeff recommends the following:

- Continue to control spending
- Keep watch on Current Year Pledges and Tower Day, respectively

Jeff provided detail in his January Treasurer's Report

He also provided detail on:

- Key Line Items
- Repair & Maintenance
- Non-recurring expenses
- Missions income and expenses and
- Capital Maintenance funds

Christian Education Report:

Barbara Langill reported upcoming events for children and youth groups.

- The Church schedule will focus on Lent

- A new Rotation Sensation began for Lent and Holy week and will include workshops in Upper Room, Cooking and Computers which features the Bible story told in Lego pieces.
- Church school classes and the High School Youth Group will bake Heifer muffins and provide them for donations after Services during Lent.

Youth Groups:

1/31: 22 Youth and 6 Adults went tubing, Dennis included.

2/7: Middle School raised \$231 with their Super Bowl of Caring

High School raised \$267 for the Mission Trip with the Subs program

2/26-27: 30 hour famine – no food for 30 hours. The group sent their final hours doing volunteer work at Bridge House

March: Laser Quest evening for both Youth Groups

Mission Trip: UCC Disaster Relief – 15-20 people are expected @ \$750 total. 1/3 Youth, 1/3 Missions, 1/3 Fund Raising

Young Adults: College graduates, 9 currently, are working on a mission trip for their group

Communities of Practice: A group of other CE people – a sharing and support group that meets from Andover and Essex.

Sub-committee on Confidentiality of Financial Information:

Discussion and review of the draft CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH: POLICY FOR THE PROTECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION OF RESIDENTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

The discussion included: Computer password protection, Locking file cabinets, Physical and electronic security in Church Office and Tower Day School.

A motion was made and seconded to approve this document. The document was approved unanimously. Council will consider and present at the next meeting ideas on the Church IT systems.

There was a discussion of the Church's web hosting software, owners, passwords, updates.

Membership Ministries:

Chuck reported on a very successful Trivia Night - Friday February 5. Over 80 people attended, enjoyed terrific hors-d'oeuvres, pizza, salads, desserts, prizes. The congregation provided the excellent hors-d'oeuvres and desserts! The Trivia was well received and there were very spirited celebrations of correct answers. The proceeds were added to support the General Fund.

- Please look for the Newcomer Information cards available in the pews that can be put in the offering plate.

Diaconate:

Linda Ladd reported on several events:

- Preparing for the Easter season – Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunrise Service, Easter Breakfast
- Easter music including a Cantata
- Easter Service
- Organ maintenance quotations

Stewardship:

Stewardship will be meeting in early March to plan their program. They are considering a motivational speaker.

Finance Ministries:

- The sewage septic pump has been replaced.
- Next steps on the heating system upgrade will be reviewed in the spring.
- Council moved, seconded, and unanimously approved the appointment of Ryan Batchelder as Centre Church AV Coordinator.
- Bruce Gist and Ryan have the new AV equipment funded from the donations in memory of Ernest Becker, long time parishioner and AV volunteer, in use during worship services

Next Meeting: The next meeting of Parish Council is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 31, 2010 in the Pastor's outer office. Meditation will be offered by ????

Respectfully submitted - Chuck Cotting, fill in Recording Clerk.