

## **Parish Council Meeting: January 20, 2010**

**Attendees:** Chris Parker, Linda Ladd, Chuck Cotting, Barbara Langill, Jim Marshall, MaryAnn Parker, Kathi Martin, Bruce Weaver, Jeff Law, and Kim Morrissey. The meeting was opened by at 7:05 p.m. with a meditation by Jim Marshall.

### **Nominating Committee:**

Jeff Law reported that the Parish Council is looking to fill the historian position. Jeff will prepare information regarding what the position requires, so that Bruce can put it in Tower Notes.

### **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 12/31/09, total income is \$13,735 better than expected, but total expenses are \$19,581.37 over expectations. Current pledges are coming in to the church, but slower than in years past. 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, along with other offerings from pledges for organ maintenance and special church maintenance. Expenses have been higher than expected primarily due to property expenses and capital spending.

Jeff recommends the following:

- Balance some of the irregularities in the operating fund by moving the offerings for organ/church maintenance and expenses for capital purchases out of the operating fund and into the capital maintenance fund.
- Inspect ordering for custodial supplies to decrease expenses. Jeff will work with Susan Spear regarding the current system to see how it can be improved.
- Continue to control spending.
- Keep watch on current year pledges and Tower Day donations, respectively.
- Improve the cash handling procedures for offerings by Deacons.

Chris recommends placing information in *Tower Notes* for special opportunities for members to fund particular church needs similar to the 2009 special offering for the carpet, furnace and stove.

### **Financial Secretary Report:**

Jim Marshall stated that he will send members statements for 2009 tax returns soon, and will provide members with a year-to-date pledge statement to encourage pledge fulfillment. He added that the Christmas Offering was \$3,467, which was up from \$2,500 last year with half placed in general expenses, and half to three separate charities.

### **Christian Education Report:**

Barbara Langill reported upcoming events for children and youth groups.

- The Advent workshop in December had lighter participation this year.
- The Christmas pageant was a success thanks to Linda Ladd.
- A new Rotation Sensation workshop began for the Prodigal Son.
- In December, the Youth groups held a cookie swap to raise money for the mission trip. Less money was raised this year due to inclement weather.
- On January 24, the confirmation class and the High School youth group will see the movie: *To Save a Life*.
- On January 31, the high school and middle school youth groups will go snow tubing.
- On February 7, the High School youth group will make and sell Super Bowl subs. Orders to be taken soon.
- On February 26 -27, the High School youth group will participate in the 30 hour famine with money to be donated to Haiti.
- Group leaders for Our Whole Lives are meeting monthly to prepare for next year. They are planning to present information about the program to the congregation soon.
- College students have expressed interest in a young adult group. A Face Book page is in the works, and a possible summer mission trip is being considered.

### **Other:**

Though the parking lots and entrances have been cleared of snow well this year, any cancellation due to inclement weather will be made at the discretion of Reverend Bailey. A message will be placed on the church answering machine by 8 a.m. and an announcement will be placed on WBZ.

### **Sub. Committee on Confidentiality of Financial Information:**

Chris stated that a sub. committee composed of Chris, Jeff, Jim, Rev. Bailey, and Phil will meet to adopt and put into place a policy to protect member financial confidential information including social security numbers.

### **Membership Ministries:**

Chuck commented on several opportunities for the congregation to get together.

- Trivia Night will be held February 5. Currently 35 people have signed up to play. Teams can be made up of six people. Food, music and prizes will make this a fun event.

- Other ideas being considered include wine tasting, end-of-summer gathering with/without a scavenger hunt, Mardi Gras Night, a summer hike, and an all night trip into Boston.
- A replacement for Cindy Trayers is needed for the membership committee.
- Please look for the Newcomer Information cards available in the pews that can be put in the offering plate.

**Education Ministries:** Kathi Martin gave a brief update:

- Liz Seelig joined the Education Ministries.
- The next meeting is January 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Deferred until next meeting is the question of where adult education like Bible studies falls: Membership Ministries? Education ministries?
- Some questions by Tower Day parents regarding radiation from the cell phone tower have been raised. Leaders are referring parents to currently published information suggesting no health risk.
- Tower Day tuition may need to be increased slightly next year.
- Emergency exits need to be cleared for students.
- Jeff Law will discuss how teachers and the director of Tower Day are reviewed with the Tower Day Board to see if the process needs to be refined.

**Diaconate:** Linda Ladd reported on several events:

- Christmas Eve attendance increased this year with 300 people at the 5 p.m. service and 100 at the 11 p.m. service. The \$1,000 increase in offerings may have been due to more people, as well as the outreach committee placing the envelopes within the service bulletins.
- Recycled candles were used at the Christmas Eve service. This will continue next year.
- On January 24, Nancy Strickland will preach while Dennis is away.
- On January 31, the Diaconate will hold another pancake breakfast at 8 a.m. This has raised \$1,000 toward the organ fund with past breakfasts.
- On January 31, the Deacons will lead the confirmation class about communion.
- Doug Hodgkin's will provide the Diaconate with two quotes to fix the organ. The old quote of \$2,500 may not be accurate.
- The Diaconate and Rev. Bailey will provide a formal review for Doug, and will get more specific information regarding his budgets for new music and musicians.
- The Diaconate, moderator, and two others will formally review Rev. Bailey within the next sixty days.

**Finance Ministries:**

- The heating system is being replaced. Stage two will be completed this spring.
- The cost to replace the sewer pump is \$3,000. This is an unplanned expense.
- The microphone in the sanctuary was replaced with money for the Becker's memorial fund.
- Ryan Batchelor is currently handling the control room after Bruce Gist stepped down. Bruce should be recognized for his hard work.
- T-Mobile is bringing in revenue.
- Planned giving is beginning soon. Stay tuned.
- Water is running down from the wall in the sanctuary and in various spots. This will be looked at.
- The roof above the overhead above the ramp entrance should be cleared of snow to reduce ice that accumulates when water builds up.

**Stewardship:**

MaryAnn commented on several important items:

- Cindy Trayers has stepped down but will help with creative ideas from her new home.
- Information regarding pledge giving year-to-date will be placed once a month in *Tower Notes* by Jeff Law along with any special expenses or income to keep people up to date and remind people to fulfill their pledges.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of Parish Council is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 24, 2010 in the Pastor's outer office. Meditation will be offered by Kathi Martin.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kim Morrissey, Recording Clerk.