

## Parish Council Minutes

January 4, 2012

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

Bruce called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M. and engaged Council in a general discussion and review of all the Christmas services.

The minutes of the November 30, 2011 meeting were approved.

**Pastor's Report:** Dennis outlined his activities and pastoral visits for the month of December. He has a baptism and a wedding scheduled for January and another wedding scheduled for July. He will teach Confirmation classes on Jan. 22 and Feb. 12. Dennis provided support to the Peabody Fire Department when Firefighter James Rice died in the line of duty on Dec. 23. He continues to experience computer problems and plans to purchase a new laptop within the month. Dennis reported that he was excused from jury duty during the week of Dec. 19.

**Financial Reports:** Jeff circulated the Treasurer's Report which included income and expenses through Nov. 30, 2011. Jeff noted that expenses are \$3,058.34 better than budget, but income is \$9,162.67 worse than budget. Pledges are substantially lower than what was budgeted. Jim remarked that pledges seem to be on track so those who were behind on their pledges may have caught up during December. Another contributing factor may be the large number of pre-paid pledges received at the end of the last fiscal year. Jeff noted that the Tower Day balances are looking good so far. But, he cautioned that we need to keep an eye on pledge income and continue holding fundraisers. Jim reviewed several income items: The Christmas Concert donations for the music program totaled \$438, Heifer Market raised \$4293.85, the Christmas offering was \$3703, In Lieu of Christmas Cards donation to City Mission Society was \$570, Breakfast with Santa raised \$252, and Gingerbread Decorating raised \$125. Jim also received \$10 for the pie/carrot cake fundraiser.

**Christian Education Report:** Barbara informed Council that Victoria Martin will replace Lisa Gerbick as lead caregiver in the nursery. Lisa is spending the semester in Australia. The new Christmas pageant, which involved the entire congregation, was well received. Rotation workshops resume on Jan. 8 with a lesson on Epiphany. The remainder of January will focus on "The Call of the Disciples." On Dec. 4, six members of the High School Youth Group volunteered at City Mission Society's Christmas Shop. The Middle School Youth Group spent an overnight at church on Dec. 9-10. They volunteered at Breakfast with Santa by helping with the Secret Santa Store, Santa photos, and crafts. Barbara noted that she will be looking to purchase our own high-quality Santa suit for next year. The cookie swap was a great success- proceeds will support the mission trip. Two high school youth will participate in a multi-church mission trip to NYC over February vacation. Jeff Langill will be a chaperone. Nine members of the Young Adult Group met on Jan. 3. They're planning to hold the Spring Tea on April 7 to raise funds for a mission trip. Plans for a "Whole church mission trip" are in the works. More than 50 people attended the Gingerbread Decorating Event, held on the same day as The Country Store at the Meeting House. Barbara thanked Judie Potter for volunteering to make the event possible. Barbara noted that many of the attendees were looking for crafters so perhaps we should rent tables to crafters next year, taking care not to duplicate any aspect of the Country Store. **Upcoming Youth Events:** The High School group will participate in the Martin Luther King Day of Service on Jan. 14, and grades 5-12 will go snow tubing at Nashoba Valley on Jan. 29.

**Outreach:** Sandi Watson was unable to attend, but she submitted a written report noting that she plans to meet with her team in January to share ideas for hands-on outreach and discuss ways to spend the existing outreach money. She thanked Barbara Langill, the Church School teachers, shepherds, students, Mary Ann Parker, and Allie Parker for their efforts to raise both awareness and funds for Heifer International. The 2011 Heifer donations total over \$5000 so we

have earned Ark #12. There was a wonderful response to the gift collection to City Mission Society. Three loads of gifts were delivered for distribution to needy families. After having a conversation with Carl McDonald, City Mission Society's Boston Urban Outreach Director, Sandi's thinking we may want to take a more targeted approach next year and buy gifts for two or three families, working from a list provided by CMS. In addition to gift donations, many people made financial contributions to help CMS.

Membership: Dotty reported on the plans for the Trivia Night and Silent Auction to be held on Friday, Feb. 3 at 6:30 P.M. Other Membership events in the works include a Progressive Dinner on March 31 and lobster rolls in April.

Education: Kathi thanked Barbara Langill for all her fundraising efforts.

Diaconate: Linda informed Council that Dave Wallace and his crew serviced the organ on Dec. 20. The bill was \$350. Dave recommends that at a later time, he should remove the Choir Tromba stands and re-drill the holes so that the pipes fit properly in the stands. Linda thanked Jill and Mike DiGiorgio and the congregation for being enthusiastically involved in the pageant. She noted the attendance for holiday services as follows: 12/24, 5PM service=245, 11PM service=115, 12/25 service=32, and 1/1 service=45. The Diaconate's efforts to get the congregation's attention for the start of worship, prelude, and postlude are going well, and they will continue to focus their attention on that goal. The St. Patrick Family Players will perform The Resurrection at Centre Church on Sunday, March 25 at 7:00 P.M.

Stewardship: Bruce reported, on behalf of Carrie Pericola, that the Stewardship Team is coming together.

Finance: Chuck has assembled a Property Team which met on Dec. 14. They will plan a work day to tackle some of the projects that need attention. Chuck reported on the following building issues:

Heating/AC: Jim Wersackas has completed the heat installation and is nearly done the A/C installation. Roof Repairs: Additional temporary repairs have been made to the shingle roof; replacement of the rubber roof over Tower Day is pending. Parking Lot Lighting: Scott Baker is revising estimates for parking lot lighting and placing an additional post light near the sign facing Main St. Scott will also provide an estimate for heating wires on the main floor Ladies Room roof to reduce dripping and freezing on the handicapped ramp. Handicapped Ramp and Railing: Chuck is awaiting estimates to re-build or replace the ramp posts and repair the stainless steel railing. One contractor also suggested relocating or removing the downspout from the main roof because the melting and draining causes ice dams over the corner of the roof. Donations for building use: Chuck noted that our rate schedule has not been updated since 2008. He circulated an updated proposal which Council will review and discuss at the next meeting. Building use: Chuck received an inquiry from Super Soccer Stars about the possibility of using our building for their soccer skills programs. Chuck met with the Regional Director and gave him a tour of Richards Hall and Todd Hall. Chuck is awaiting a final proposal from the group.

Fundraiser Update: Council engaged in a general discussion about fundraisers. Bruce and Chuck will explore the Prince Pizza fundraiser.

Council voted to hold a Special Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, January 22 following the service to approve nominations of Officers and Ministry Team members.

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

Respectfully submitted, Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 31 at 7:00 P.M. Meditation: Jim Marshall**