

Parish Council Minutes  
January 5, 2011

In attendance: Dennis Bailey, Bruce Weaver, Barbara Langill, Kathi Martin, Mary Ann Parker, Linda Ladd, Jim Marshall, Jeff Law, Chuck Cotting, Debbie Cotting.

Bruce Weaver called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM, and Jeff Law provided the meditation.

Council approved the minutes of the November 30, 2010 meeting.

Council voted unanimously to accept the stage repair design as submitted by Jack Marino.

Pastor's Report: Dennis reported that 3 members of Boy Scout Troop 48, Chris Enos, Sean Enos, and Jon Boone, were awarded the Eagle Award on Jan. 2, 2011.

Dennis updated Council on the vacation time he has taken to date. He has taken 6 days of his allotted 4 weeks vacation. He also reported on changes to the study time he had planned to use. The December class he had planned to attend was full so he couldn't enroll. He had anticipated attending a class in January, but will not because a funeral has been scheduled.

Confirmation class is going well.

Dennis informed Council that both the Lynnfield Fire and Police Departments and the Lynnfield Clergy Association are discussing ways to recognize and remember the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11 on Sunday, September 11, 2011. The Fire and Police Departments are considering a morning event, and the clergy are thinking of a late afternoon service.

Douglas Hodgkins is home recuperating from knee surgery. Dennis expressed his appreciation for everyone's help and support throughout Advent and Christmas. Both Christmas Eve services went smoothly.

Dennis and Sally MacDonald will meet with Dr. Dayl Hufford to discuss possible ways to provide support to families, especially Tower Day parents, who are grieving the loss of friends or family members.

Financial Secretary: Jim Marshall reported that the Christmas offering totaled \$3740. City Mission Society will receive \$483.50 from donations in lieu of Christmas cards. \$309 was received from the Christmas Concert offering. Jim will send out year-end statements within the next 2 weeks.

Treasurer: Jeff Law reported that, although pledges are on track, income continues to be down primarily due to fewer unpledged/other offerings and fewer building use donations. Expenses are \$12,356.72 better than last year at this time, mainly because of spending less on repair and maintenance. Our overall loss in the Operating Fund year-to-date is \$27,963.40 which is \$6855.67 better than last year at this time when we had a loss of \$34,819.07. Jeff noted that fundraisers need to be planned if we are to meet the \$12,000 amount budgeted.

Christian Education: Barbara Langill reported on the Heifer Marketplace where the church school children helped to sell the ornaments they made. She thanked Linda Ladd for producing the Christmas pageant. On Jan. 2, the children brought gifts in honor of Jesus' birthday. The gifts were donated to Birthday Wishes. The next Rotation, the story of the Widow's Mite, begins Jan. 9 with cooking and story-telling workshops. The Bearer's of the Light program is up and running thanks to the leadership of Kathy Delaney.

Youth Ministry: On Dec. 5, 3 members of the High School Youth group and 2 adult volunteers helped set up for the City Mission's Christmas Shop in Winchester. Proceeds from the Dec. 19 cookie swap will support this year's mission trip. The High School youth will participate in City Mission's "Dr. Martin Luther King Day of Service" on Jan. 15. Both youth groups will go snow tubing at Nashoba Valley on Jan. 23, and the high school group will sell refreshments at the Quannapowitt Players performance of "Lend Me a Tenor" on Jan. 30. Proceeds will support this year's mission trip.

Barbara spent 5 of her vacation days on a trip to England. On Jan. 4, she met with nine young adults to discuss plans for a mission trip in May. The young adults are planning a fund-raising event for Saturday, April 23 to support their mission trip.

Membership: Chuck Cotting informed Council that Membership is asking that people do not bring "goodies" when they volunteer to provide coffee on Sunday morning. He noted that some folks seem reluctant to volunteer to do coffee because providing food means extra time and expense for them. Chuck reported that Trivia Night is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 11 at 6:30 PM. Membership is discussing several other fellowship and fund-raising events. Their next meeting will be held on Jan. 11.

Diaconate: Linda Ladd distributed a letter from David Wallace regarding the November organ tuning and other organ-related issues. The next Deacon's breakfast will be held on Jan. 9, and the next Deacon's meeting is scheduled for Jan. 11 at 7:30 PM. Linda reported that 280 people attended the 5 PM service on Christmas Eve, and 113 attended the 11 PM service.

Linda also reported on a non-Deacon related event-the Quannapowitt Players performance of "Lend Me a Tenor" on Sunday, Jan. 30 at 2 PM. Council discussed ways to advertise the event.

Stewardship: Mary Ann Parker presented an idea for a fund-raising event to kick-off this year's stewardship campaign. Council was amenable to the suggestion so more information will be gathered before finalizing plans.

Finance: Bruce Weaver and roofing contractor, Mike Robbins, inspected the roof and discussed a plan to address problems they found. Mike made temporary repairs to get through the winter. More extensive work needs to be done in the spring. Bruce reported that repairs were made to the outside spotlights and display sign light. He also noted that a light pole in the parking lot was damaged. The light fixture was removed and will require a service call. Bruce has been told of sporadic problems lighting the left oven. Chuck will call the distributor who sold us the range.

Other business: Bruce spoke of the significant roof problems and the need for a capital campaign to address the roof issues and other capital items.

Dennis provided Council with information about the Mass. Conference Pastoral Excellence Program. The program began with grant funding from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., and its purpose is to develop, promote, and sustain pastoral excellence for the churches in the Mass. Conference. Mass. Conference has a goal to create a \$3.5 million dollar endowment fund to support the Pastoral Excellence Program, and they are seeking gifts from congregations and individuals.

Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM. Dennis led a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary

**Next Council meeting scheduled for February 2, 2011**