

Parish Council Minutes - January 7, 2014

In Attendance: Dotty Whittier, Carrie Pericola, Margaret Waugh, Kathi Martin, Jeff Law, Bruce Weaver, Barbara Langill, Chuck Cotting, Debbie Cotting, and Rev. Dennis Bailey.

Moderator, Bruce Weaver convened the meeting at 7:05 P.M., and Carrie Pericola offered the meditation.

Council approved the minutes of the Dec. 4, 2013 meeting.

Pastor Report: Rev. Bailey reviewed pastoral concerns and his worship-related activities since the last Council meeting. He noted the success of the Night in Bethlehem. He played the role of a shepherd tending sheep loaned to us by Bob Wood of Peabody. The snow storm prevented some folks who intend to join the church from attending the Membership Induction on Dec. 15 so Rev. Bailey will set another time for them to be inducted. Rev. Bailey will be on vacation from March 7 to March 14. A preacher is needed for March 9. Bruce will set a time to meet with Rev. Bailey and Margaret to develop a job description for the supply pastor who will cover during Dennis' sabbatical.

Treasurer's Report: Jeff Law reviewed financial data as of 12/31/13. Our overall loss in the Operating Budget is \$25,528.64. This number is \$24,364.20 worse than last year, but \$14,385.28 better than budget. Income year-to-date is \$33,092.97 worse than last year, but \$6207.28 better than budget. Jeff noted that the main difference in income between this year and last is the lack of a supplemental pledge drive for this year's budget. Pledge income and Other Offerings are also lower than last year. Jeff informed Council that compared to budget; we are doing well because a large, undesignated contribution was received in December. Expenses are \$8728.77 better than last year and \$8178.00 better than budget. Jeff cautioned that we need to maintain good expense management and continue fundraisers; we are 50% through the fiscal year, yet only at 31% of our fundraising goal. Council voted to designate the \$70 in the Charlotte Kilgore Memorial Fund as Capital Maintenance.

Christian Education: Barbara Langill reported that the focus for Rotations in December was Advent and the Christmas Story. The Heifer Marketplace raised nearly \$3,000.00. The Christmas Pageant, under the direction of Linda Ladd, was presented on Dec. 22. The theme for Rotation workshops in January will be "Jesus as a Boy." The Youth Groups volunteered to help set up the City Mission Christmas Shop in Winchester on Dec. 8. They brought gifts collected by our congregation and Tower Day. Both Youth Groups celebrated Epiphany with a Yankee Swap, and they will volunteer with "Boston Cares" on Martin Luther King Day from 1-4 P.M. The Confirmation Class has been participating in worship. They helped pass out "Star Gifts" on Jan. 5. They've also been reading scripture and helping with children's time on the first Sunday of the month. The Confirmands and their mentors met with Rev. Bailey on Jan. 5.

Membership: Dotty Whittier reported that the Membership team helped with the Night in Bethlehem in several ways, and they all felt it was a great fellowship opportunity as well as a wonderful community outreach event. The Membership group is planning a Trivia/Silent Auction night on Feb. 28 and a Coffee House for mid-March. They will discuss ideas for spring events at their next meeting. Dotty informed Council that she would like to contact new

members to thank them for joining the church and explore ways that they might want to become active in the life of the church. Council agreed that this was a good idea and general discussion ensued.

Diaconate: Margaret Waugh reviewed Diaconate activity for the month of December. They participated in the reception of new members on Dec. 15 and ushered at the Christmas Concert on Dec. 22. They ushered and participated in both Christmas Eve services and conducted the worship service on Dec. 29 while Rev. Bailey was away. Cindy and Gary Bayer provided the message/sermon on that day. The Flower Committee decorated the Sanctuary with poinsettias and distributed them to those in need. Margaret suggested that at next year's Night in Bethlehem, we should advertise the Christmas Concert.

Stewardship: Carrie Pericola noted that the Raise the Roof campaign is going well. Nearly \$51,000 has been received. At the next Stewardship meeting on Jan. 23, the group will begin planning the annual Stewardship Campaign. They hope to conduct the campaign in March to avoid Easter and April school vacation.

Finance: Chuck Cotting updated Council on several property-related items. The light fixture in the Christian Education office needs replacement, and Chuck is reviewing the operation of walkway lights. The sink in the Pastor's bathroom needs to be repaired or replaced, and Chuck will speak to Jim Wersackas about the mixing valve in order to have hot water in the downstairs kitchen. Chuck reviewed expectations for snow removal with Mystic Landscaping, and he has scheduled service for the church snow blower. Chuck met with the Jones Boys to discuss insulating the basement space beneath the Ladies' Room. They suggested that their insulation would not work unless the piping was moved up closer to the floor and boxed in. Chuck will explore other options with Jim Wersackas. Chuck reported that he is developing a list of projects that need to be completed before the Tower Day licensing in the spring. Brassard Security installed 3 new security cameras on Jan. 4.

Fundraising: Council engaged in a general discussion of fundraising ideas. Chuck will conduct the Prince Pizza fundraiser from January through March.

Other Business: Jeff Law received a letter from the Pension Board asking the church to review eligibility qualifications for all employees. A sub-committee comprised of Jeff, Chuck, and Bruce will meet to complete the review.

There being no further business, Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 P.M. Rev. Bailey led a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 28. Meditation: Margaret Waugh