

Parish Council Minutes

January 30, 2013

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

Moderator Bruce Weaver convened the meeting at 7:08 P.M. and Linda Ladd offered the meditation.

Council approved the minutes of the January 8, 2013 meeting.

Pastor's Report: Dennis reviewed his worship-related activities for the month of January as well as upcoming events in February. There will be an Ash Wednesday service on Feb. 13 at 7 P.M. Feb. 24 is Boy Scout Sunday, and March 10 is Girl Scout Sunday. In January, he taught a confirmation class on Jesus, and in February, he will teach a class on the Holy Spirit. He reported on Pastoral Care concerns, funerals, and up-coming baptisms and weddings. Dennis attended a meeting of the Lynnfield Clergy and a meeting of the Mass. Corp. of Fire Chaplains. He also attended a double Eagle Scout Ceremony in the sanctuary on Jan. 13.

Financial Reports: Jeff Law circulated the Treasurer's Report which provided updated data as of Dec. 31, 2013. Jeff noted that our overall loss in the Operating Fund is \$1322.94 which is \$29,432.94 better than budget. It's important to keep in mind that the initial budget included acknowledgement of a large expected shortfall, and that we have been concerned about last year's dip into the church's savings. Income year-to-date is \$29,135.71 better than budget, meaning that we will avoid the large shortfall and that we have made up the deficit from last year. Expenses are \$297.22 better than budget. Pledge income is coming in better than budget, and the response to the Supplemental Pledge drive has been strong. Fundraisers are off to a good start, and Tower Day projections are looking solid. Jeff reviewed highlights from the fall Insurance Board Newsletter and outlined sub-committee suggestions based on the Insurance Board checklist of financial controls. Jim Marshall reported that 2013 MBA dues will be \$20.10/member. Jim ordered blank offering envelopes to be sent to people who pledge but don't use envelopes, as reminder to pay MBA dues. Jim also circulated a report on the Supplemental Pledge Drive, noting that a total of \$27,700 has been received.

Christian Education: Barbara Langill reported that 6 children are registered in the 3-5 year-old class, though not all attend every Sunday. The Rotation Workshop theme for Feb. 3 and 10 will be "Feeding the 5,000," and the focus will be Lent and Heifer muffins on Feb. 24, March 3, 10, and 17. On Jan. 21, nine youth joined others from Salem, Middleton, and Methuen to volunteer at Cradles to Crayons. They brought clothing, books, and toys donated by the congregation. The High School and Middle School Youth Groups went Snow Tubing at Nashoba on Jan. 27. The High School youth will participate in the 30 Hour Famine on Feb. 1-2. They will meet at church for breakfast before school on Feb. 1, and then meet back at church to spend the night. On Sat. morning they will engage in a service project, and they will

report to the congregation on Sun. Feb. 3. The Middle School youth will collect donations for the Super Bowl of Caring on Feb. 3. Proceeds will benefit Bread and Roses.

Education Ministries: Kathi Martin reported that so far, six people have signed up for the Lenten Book Group. Confirmation Sunday will be May 12. The Confirmands have visited different churches, and they will conduct Faith Interviews at the end of February. In March, they will attend various committee meetings, and they will attend the April Council meeting.

Outreach Ministries: Sandi Watson thanked the congregation for their generosity. Outreach is sending checks to Rauschenbusch Metro Ministries (to support victims of Hurricane Sandy), City Mission Society, and Heifer International. On a quarterly basis, Outreach sets aside money to assist in funding the summer mission trip. Each month, Outreach provides funds for Bread and Roses and Our Church's Wider Mission. Outreach is also sending donations to Haven from Hunger, My Brother's Table, the Joni and Friends International Disability Center, the Be Like Brit orphanage in Haiti, and the Jobs Training Program of the Pine Street Inn.

Membership: Dotty Whittier reported that Membership has orders for 56 lobster rolls, and Dotty anticipates that the lobster roll sale will net approximately \$500. Marty Hagerty generously donated 8 pounds of lobster meat. Trivia and Silent Auction night on Feb. 8 will have a Mardi Gras theme. So far, about 40 people have signed up and 23 Silent Auction items have been collected. Joan and Steve Press have solicited several items from area businesses. Dotty noted that David Bjorkman has donated a painting by Dr. Bednar either to be hung in the church or sold at the Silent Auction. Council felt that since Dr. Bednar was a pastor at Centre Church, it would be most appropriate to hang the painting in the church building. Sue Lambe has delivered cakes to several visitors to our church. Joan Press would like to explore the possibility of having the Longy School of Music of Bard College perform at church. Council gave its approval to explore the idea and suggested consulting Doug Hodgkins for his thoughts.

Diaconate: Linda Ladd informed Council that there is an organ key that sticks from time to time. Dave Wallace came to fix the problem and found 2 stuck keys which he adjusted. However, Dave and Doug Hodgkins discovered that those 2 stuck keys are not the only problem. They discussed how to identify and label problem keys so that they can be repaired on Dave's next visit. Dave will send a cost estimate to restore the well-used keyboard. Linda thanked Bruce Weaver for single-handedly packing away all the Christmas wreaths and lights. The Jan. 13th Deacons Breakfast made \$140 for the Organ Fund; the next breakfast is scheduled for Easter Sunday. The Ash Wednesday service will be held in the chapel on Feb. 13. Deacons will be helping with several Baptisms in March, Lenten Services, Palm Sunday, and Easter. Doug Hodgkins and the Youth Choir are preparing to perform "Life School Musical" for the stage dedication in March.

Stewardship: Carrie Pericola reported that some folks have left the Stewardship Committee and others have joined. The committee is as follows: Carrie Pericola (Chair), Jill DiGiorgio, Mary McCarthy, John Sievers, Annmarie Pendola, Katherine Decker, and Lauren and Dom Donadio. They are scheduled to meet on Jan. 31.

Finance: Chuck Cotting reported that Scott DeSantis repaired areas of the bamboo floor on the stage to correct places where heat and lack of moisture caused some shrinkage. The floor is in good shape now. Heater covers on the stage have been installed. Chuck and Scott will paint the covers and fabricate a cover for the remaining heater pipe section. The stage floor was cleaned and readied for the Rotation Sensation drama rotation. Chuck met with Barbara and Carrie to discuss set-up for the closet adjacent to the stage; work will commence soon. Scott Desantis has been working on various maintenance projects including securing the rubber treads on stairways and the loose tiles in the sanctuary. Chuck noted that Scott is very giving of his time and doing great work for the church. Chuck is in the process of obtaining estimates for roof and gutter replacement. Chuck met with Doug Hodgkins to find a suitable replacement for the church's ailing portable sound system. Council voted to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$1010.00 from the Walsh Stage Fund to purchase the new system.

Fundraiser Update: We are half way through the fiscal year, and we have achieved nearly 50% of our fundraising goal. Council discussed the possibility of holding a spring event. Dotty will contact Frances Fleming to determine if we should try to hold an event on the same day as Geraniumfest.

Old Business: Jim Johnson of Computer Care sent a memo to update Council on his preparation for installing the new computers and to make recommendations regarding computer security and backup.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 P.M. Rev. Bailey led a closing prayer.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, February 26. Meditation: Barbara Langill