

Parish Council Minutes

January 8, 2013

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

Moderator Bruce Weaver convened the meeting at 7:07 P.M., and Chuck Cotting offered the meditation.

Council approved the minutes of the Nov. 27, 2012 meeting.

Pastor's Report: Rev. Bailey reviewed his activities since the last Council meeting including pastoral care, worship planning and services, confirmations class, special events, and funerals. He informed Council that new computers have been purchased for the church office, Christian Education office, and the video/sound booth. Jim Johnson will install the computers and transfer files mid-January. Rev. Bailey reported that he is planning baptisms for 5 youth, including 2 members of the confirmation class, and he is working on 3 weddings. He shared two thank-you notes he received recently: one from a visitor at the Christmas Eve service and the second from Priscilla Hahn's niece.

Financial Reports: Jeff Law distributed the Treasurer's Report with data as of 12/31/12. Jeff noted that the operating fund is in good shape, though "other offerings" and "other local support" are down from prior years. Pledge income is coming in well, and the response to the Supplemental Pledge drive has been strong. Fundraisers are also off to a stronger start than last year. Our overall loss in the Operating Fund is \$17,041.40 which is \$13,714.48 better than budget. Jeff wants to investigate the decline in "other offerings" and "other local support." Income to date is \$20,135.43 better than last year and \$13,714.48 better than budget. Expenses are \$923.79 better than last year and \$337.92 better than budget. Council voted to transfer \$2326.00 of undesignated Memorials Fund money to Capital Maintenance. Jim Marshall reported that he has received \$1376.80 for MBA dues and \$3339.00 in Christmas offerings. He expects to receive more Christmas offerings during the month of January.

Christian Education: Barbara Langill reviewed December activities including the Heifer Marketplace, Journey to Bethlehem, and Christmas Pageant. The Rotation Sensation theme for January is Queen Esther. Barbara noted that having a Church School Superintendent for 5 hours per week is working well. Vacation Bible School will be offered this year with Mia Sievers as the volunteer coordinator. The dates have not been determined yet. Eleven members of the High School Youth Group and Confirmation Class, along with youth from other area churches, attended City Reach in Boston. They brought with them more than 20 bags of clothing donations. Six High School youth volunteered at the City Mission Christmas Shop. The High School group raised just over \$300 at the annual Cookie Swap. On January 21, the High School Group will volunteer at Cradles to Crayons. They will hold a clothing drive to benefit Cradles to Crayons prior to their visit. Both Youth Groups will go snow-tubing at Nashoba on Jan. 27. The High School group will participate in the 30 Hour Famine on Feb. 1-2, and on Feb. 3 the Middle School group will collect donations for the Super Bowl of Caring.

Education Ministries: Kathi Martin reported that 50 people participated in A Journey to Bethlehem either as visitors or volunteers. Her committee is discussing ways to improve the event for next year. Confirmation class is going well. Each of the confirmands has been assigned a different church to visit, and the group has developed questions for the Faith Interviews they will conduct. There is a confirmation retreat scheduled for the first weekend in March at Grotonwood. Education Ministries will lead a book group during Lent based on Dinner with a Perfect Stranger. Cost of the book is \$5.00.

Outreach: Sandi Watson submitted a written report thanking the congregation for generous donations to City Mission Society and Heifer International. She also thanked Barbara Langill, Rotation Sensation teachers and shepherds, and the young people of the church for making this year's Heifer Market successful.

Membership: Dotty Whittier reported on upcoming events. Super Lobster Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 3. The Trivia/Silent Auction will be held on Friday, Feb. 8. The Membership group is looking for auction donations. Membership will deliver cakes to visitors during December and January. Membership will meet to review the list of active members.

Diaconate: Linda Ladd reported that organ maintenance and tuning was done on 12/18 at a cost of \$350, paid from the organ fund. The Dec. Deacons' Breakfast earned \$228 for the organ fund; the next breakfast will be held on Jan. 13. All Christmas services went well. Attendance at the Christmas Eve services was as follows: 5 Pm service=220, 11 PM service=96. Jeff Langill preached and led the service on 12/30; attendance at that service was 46.

Stewardship: Carrie Pericola reported that response to the Supplemental Pledge drive has been very strong. Several people who haven't yet donated have told Carrie that they intend to make their contribution by the time the drive ends on Jan. 15. The Stewardship Committee will meet soon to start planning for the 2013 Stewardship Campaign.

Finance: Chuck Cotting noted that one of the parking lot lights has been replaced and that heater covers still need to be installed on the stage. Chuck sent a letter to all building users regarding recent vandalism. Chuck is planning to schedule a kitchen clean-up day in the near future. T-Mobile is planning to schedule a date to replace equipment; Chuck will make sure they set a date when Tower Day is not in session. Chuck initiated a general discussion regarding building security. The Moderator will form a sub-committee to review the issue.

Fundraiser Update: Chuck will start the Prince Pizza Fundraiser in mid-January.

Old Business: The Moderator will set a date for a sub-committee to review the financial controls check-list we received from the UCC Insurance Board.

New Business: Carrie Pericola will head up Journey to Bethlehem in 2013. She will devise a budget for Council's review to determine which line items in the budget should support the effort.

There being no further business, Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 P.M. Rev. Bailey led a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 30. Meditation by Linda Ladd