

Parish Council Meeting - June 18, 2013

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

Moderator, Bruce Weaver, convened the meeting at 7:05, and Kathi Martin offered the meditation.

Council approved the minutes of the May 28, 2013 meeting.

Pastor's Report: Rev. Bailey reviewed pastoral concerns as well as recent and up-coming worship activities. He noted that Elizabeth Walsh will preach on August 11 while he leads the Joplin, MO Mission trip. Dennis will be away on two other Sundays during the summer. Elizabeth will preach on one of those Sundays; coverage is needed for the other. In addition to two weeks' vacation in August (8/19-9/3), Dennis will take some vacation days in July. Dennis reported that the Lynnfield Rotary plans to honor Robert MacKendrick's years of service to the town as a firefighter and selectman on June 26 at Spinelli's.

Financial Reports: Jeff Law circulated the Treasurer's Report with data through May 31, 2013. He noted that income year-to-date is \$26,156.84 better than last year and \$25,146.87 better than budget-all a result of the successful Supplemental Pledge Drive. Expenses are \$11,188.96 better than last year and \$12,016.29 better than budget. If pledges hold strong through June and there are no surprise expenses, we should end the year with a surplus of about \$23,000. Through the Supplemental Pledge Drive, we were able to cover the anticipated deficit in this year's budget and the deficit from last year. Council voted to reserve any surplus above \$15,000 from FY 2013 to cover a portion of the Pastor's sabbatical in FY 2014. Jeff informed Council that he will send a check for \$523.25 to the MBA for dues. This check will bring our year-to-date total dues paid to \$2365.20, leaving about \$2000 in the MBA dues line item to help catch up from past years when the church paid more in dues than we collected from parishioners. In future years, we will pay the MBA the amount we collect each year.

Christian Education: Barbara Langill reported that the Youth Groups plan to meet for a beach day during the summer, and six adults and six youth have signed up for the Write On Pen Pal Program. To date, there are eight children enrolled in Vacation Bible School to be held July 15-19. Barbara noted that nine youth and six adults will participate in the Joplin, MO Mission Trip from August 11-17. Seven Youth and three adults will participate in the New Jersey Mission Trip from July 21-26. Fundraising goals were met. Outreach Ministries will contribute to the cost of the trips, and 1/3 of the cost will be paid by participants. Education Ministries has met to begin planning for 2013-2014. Church School will begin on Sept. 8. The Rotation format will continue for grades 1-8, but due to lower enrollment, all classes will move together to each of the rotations. Lisa Gerbick will continue as the Nursery Caregiver. The Shareholders' Dinner is scheduled for Sept. 15, and a white water rafting trip for grades 5-12 is planned for Sept. 20-21. Education Ministries is exploring the possibility of combining the 8th and 9th grades for Confirmation Class next year with the goal of moving to an 8th grade Confirmation the following year. The team thinks that the more rigorous demands of High School may prevent the 9th graders from becoming fully engaged in the confirmation process. They will seek parental input before making a decision. Education Ministries would like to offer the Our Whole Lives program for the 10th grade. Letters will be sent to parents to gauge interest. Once again, our church will provide space for the Mass.

Conference to hold 3 Saturday sessions of Christian Education Certification classes. On June 14, Barbara attended the MACUCC Annual Meeting and presented Certification awards to 10 new Christian Educators.

Education Ministries: Kathi Martin thanked Barbara and Carrie for another great year!

Membership: Dotty Whittier reported that 17 people attended the afternoon at the Peabody Essex Museum followed by dinner at Rockafellas. She thanked Ann Decker for coordinating and guiding the tour. Joan and Steve Press hosted the June Membership meeting at their house providing an opportunity for dinner, fellowship, and brain-storming ideas for next year. The Fuddruckers Fundraiser is scheduled for June 20 with 20% of the proceeds going to Centre Church. Lobster Roll Sunday is June 23; 28 orders have been received so far. Dotty provided a list of the many activities spear-headed by Membership Ministries this year.

Diaconate: Linda Ladd reported that the summer ushering schedule is complete, and a baptism is planned for July 14. Rev. Bailey is starting to meet with a pastoral care group made up of Mary McCarthy, Debby Triffletti, and Elizabeth Walsh. Margaret Waugh and Mary McCarthy plan to attend an Ecclesiastic Council meeting on June 25.

Stewardship: Carrie Pericola noted that there are still 17 outstanding pledges; the Stewardship group will follow up with reminder phone calls.

Finance: Chuck Cotting informed Council that, over the summer, Room 14 will be painted and the floor in Room 13 will be stripped and refinished. Chuck is working with Verizon to coordinate installation of Verizon Fios internet and phone service to the church and Tower Day offices.

Capital Campaign: Debbie Cotting reviewed details of the last Capital Campaign which was held roughly 20 years ago. Council agreed that we need to launch a new campaign to address several capital items including a new roof, remodeling the downstairs kitchen, and painting the outside of the church. Bruce Weaver will call the Mass. Conference to obtain names of consultants who could lead us through the process of a Capital Campaign.

Old Business: Carrie Pericola invited Council members to the next meeting of The Night in Bethlehem Committee on June 27th at 6:30 P.M.

New Business: Bruce reminded Council that there are several vacancies that need to be filled before Annual Meeting in September. He asked Council for suggestions of people who might fill these slots.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 P.M. Rev. Bailey led a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary

Next Meeting: August 27, 2013 at 7 P.M. Meditation by Bruce Weaver