

Parish Council Minutes

June 5, 2012

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

Moderator Bruce Weaver opened the meeting at 7:08 P.M., and Sandi Watson offered the meditation.

The minutes from the April 24, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved.

Pastor's Report: Dennis Bailey reported on the recent passing of Richard Cole, father-in-law of our Custodian, Tony Ramirez. Dennis discussed other pastoral concerns and provided information regarding recent committal services and upcoming Worship services including baptisms, weddings and a surprise renewal of wedding vows.

On April 29, Dennis and Dotty Whittier attended the Metropolitan Boston Association Spring Meeting, at the Allston-Brighton Congregational Church. On June 15-16, Dennis and Dotty will attend the Mass. Conference of the United Church of Christ Annual Meeting in Sturbridge, MA. On Tuesday, June 5, The Lynnfield Clergy Association will host Dr. Thomas Jefferson, Lynnfield Public School Superintendent and welcome the new Pastor at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, The Reverend Nicholas Morris-Kliment. Dennis submitted his membership application to the Lynnfield Rotary. On Sunday, May 20, Dennis attended the Boy Scouts' Eagle Scout Ceremony, held in the Centre Church Sanctuary, for four Troop 48 Eagle Scouts.

Dennis, as Lynnfield Fire Chaplain, attended the Annual Conference of Mass Corp of Fire Chaplains Meeting in Duxbury on May 15-16.

Financial Reports: Treasurer, Jeff Law circulated the Treasurer's Report with data as of April 30, 2012. Income continues to be worse than budget, and expenses are still better than budget. Pledge income remains substantially lower than what we had last year and what we budgeted. Jeff noted that transfers from the Flood Fund and Memorials to Capital Maintenance were finalized. Jeff provided updates on fund balances, fund-raisers, Tower Day School balances, Memorials, the Capital Maintenance Fund balances, Repair and Maintenance detail, and Missions balances.

Jeff also reviewed the Preliminary FY 2013 Budget based on historical information, year to date April actual expenses and projections for May and June. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Preliminary FY 2013 Budget as presented. After discussion, the motion was approved unanimously. This Preliminary FY 2013 Budget will be presented to the Congregation at the Special Congregational Meeting on June 17, 2012.

Christian Education: Kathi Martin reported for Barbara Langill that Children's Sunday is planned for Sunday, June 10. The children will present an overview of the Bible Stories covered during the year. Rotation and Nursery volunteers will be recognized, and Bibles will be given out to our 3rd and 4th grade class. There will be an ice cream social on the front lawn after worship. CE is working on their plans for next year's program. **Youth Groups:** On June 8 and 9 fifteen Middle School youth will have an Overnight and Alpine Adventure, staying overnight at the church and then most will be heading up to Lincoln, NH on Saturday for Zip-lining. **Secret Pen Pals:** The Secret Pen Pal Program will be offered again this summer. Youth and Adults will be matched and asked to send at least 4 letters or post cards from June- September. Secret pen pals will meet at an ice cream social in the fall. **Vacation Bible School:** Our VBS coordinator this year will be Emily Couillard, a rising senior at Saugus High School. "Sky - Everything is Possible with God" will be offered June 25-29 from 9:30-12. **All Church Mission trip:** We have 20 participants signed up for this year's Mission Trip to Joplin, Missouri August 12-18. There are 8 youth and 12 adults going on the trip. Many thanks to Outreach Ministry for their generous support in funding 1/3 of the cost for each participant. We plan to raise another 1/3 through fundraising which has been ongoing throughout the church year. Our latest endeavors are the M & M Mini tubes and selling shares in the trip.

Each mission trip volunteer will pay the remainder 1/3 of the trip. **Other:** Barbara attended the New England Association of Christian Educators in Craigville May 8-10th. She had the opportunity to participate in workshops, network with other Christian Educators and attend Worship. She came back with ideas and resources for enriching the CE program here at Centre Church. Barbara will be recognized as a Certified Educator at the UCC Massachusetts Conference on Friday, June 15 during the annual meeting in Sturbridge.

Outreach: Sandi Watson reported that, on May 12, a group from Centre Church volunteered at Haven from Hunger, sorting food items collected during the postal service's "Stamp out Hunger" drive. Outreach presented a check to Alyse Barbash, director of Haven from Hunger. They sent a donation to Journeys of Hope, an organization in Salem that helps young adults at risk of homelessness. Outreach donated money to help offset the costs of the mission trip to Joplin, Missouri. On May 21, the team met to discuss what they're doing well and what they could do better. They will continue to educate the congregation about the organizations the Outreach budget supports and to publicize Outreach activities. They will also continue to support the Bread & Roses team. Going forward, the Outreach team wants to improve its impact in the following ways:

- Offer more hands-on, local outreach opportunities.
- Focus attention on a smaller set of outreach organizations.
- Explore alternative giving opportunities.

In late summer, after the pledges are known and the congregation votes on the budget, the Outreach Team will meet to talk through the Outreach budget and start planning 2012/2013 Outreach activities.

Membership: Dotty Whittier reviewed the Geranium Fest fund raiser which brought in \$1,285. Membership will serve the dinner following the Church Golf Event on Friday, June 8, 2012. Donation Dining at Applebees, Saugus, MA is scheduled for Tuesday, June 19, 2012. Membership is working on plans for an Essex River Cruise and dinner at Woodman's, a matinee at Stoneham Theatre in October, and Trivia Night and dinner.

Diaconate: Linda Ladd reviewed the worship services and events that have taken place since the May Council meeting. Dennis was on vacation 5/27, and Jeff Langill preached. Three Baptisms are scheduled for the month of June. June 24th will be our first 9am Chapel service. Linda has also been working on Website updates and what to include as part of a "Building Use" page.

Stewardship: Carrie Pericola reported that Stewardship Sunday, April 29, 2012, was well received, and over 60 people attended the luncheon following the service. Fifty-six pledge cards, totaling \$108,366, were turned in on 4/29. On April 30, pledge cards were mailed to the people who had not received one in church on the 29th. As of May 23, we have received 98 pledges totaling \$188,792 and 6 prepaid pledges totaling \$3,250. Calls were made to those with outstanding pledges.

Finance: Chuck Cotting reported that the Tower Day Inspection on April 26 went very well. H.T. Berry Co. of Canton has been chosen to provide supplies for Centre Church. And Super Soccer Stars has booked Richards Hall for their fall classes. Walsh Memorial Platform: Four contractors met with Jack Marino and Chuck to discuss the Walsh Memorial Performance Platform project. Two contractors submitted proposals; Chuck and Jack chose one to submit to Council for approval. A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposal of James Mealey Construction. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously. Work will start June 25th.

Fundraiser Update: Centre Church Golf Outing and Dinner will take place on June 8th.

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 PM, and Dennis led a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Cotting, substitute Recording Secretary

Next Council Meeting: August 22nd. Meditation by Dotty Whittier