

Parish Council Minutes
March 23, 2011

In attendance: Dennis Bailey, Bruce Weaver, Barbara Langill, Kathi Martin, Linda Ladd, Jeff Law, Jim Marshall, Mary Ann Parker, Dotty Whittier and Chuck Cotting.

Bruce called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M., and Jim provided the meditation.

The minutes of the February 10th meeting were approved.

Pastor's Report: A funeral was held on March 21st for John Chase. A wedding is planned for Saturday, August 6, 2011. Confirmation class will soon be winding down, ending with confirmation Sunday on May 8. Wednesday evening prayer services at 6:30 PM in the chapel will continue at least through Wednesday, April 20. Rev. Bailey will take a class on suicide prevention at the Massachusetts Fire Academy.

Dennis noted the following upcoming events:

- Saturday, April 2: Pictures with the Easter Bunny
- Thursday, April 7, 7PM: OVERBOARD concert, a fundraiser for Heifer International
- Sunday, April 10: Noel Smith's Musical Hysterics concert at 2 PM
- Sunday, April 24, Easter Sunday: 5:30 AM sunrise service at Newhall Park. Deacon's Breakfast from 7 to 9:30. Easter service at 10 AM.
- 30 Hour Famine: begins Friday, April 29th, at 7 AM breakfast at the start of the 30 hour famine and ends Saturday April 30 at noon with Communion in the Chapel.
- Saturday, May 7: confirmation rehearsal at 10:30 AM
- May 22 through May 27 young adult mission trip to Habitat for Humanity in Portland, Maine;
- Sunday, June 19: begin summer worship in the chapel.

Plans are being made for the 10th anniversary of September 11th. Plans include a time of remembrance at 8:30 AM at the fire and police stations; reading of the 3000+ names at 9 AM on Town Common ; and at 6 PM on the Town Common, a service of remembrance and hope with an ecumenical choir and a candlelight vigil following the service.

Financial Reports: Jeff circulated the Treasurer's Report which included income and expenses through February, 2011. Pledges continue to be on-track, and expenses are better than this time last year, \$4322 better than budget. We need to continue fundraising activities to reach the \$12,000 budget figure, and we have yet to submit the final claim for the Flood Fund. Jim Marshall will be sending out Pledge reminders in early May.

Christian Education: Barbara Langill

Church School: March 6 Faith in Action: "Pennies for Peace" continues. Children heard the story "Listen to the Wind" by Greg Mortenson about his mission to build schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The children made banks to collect their pennies. Current Rotation is learning about Lent, with a focus on Palm Sunday. Children are learning the Bible story through movies, storytelling and cooking. During Lent, each class will be making and selling muffins to sell after worship to benefit Heifer. April 3rd Faith in Action: The children will participate in a whole church "Service Saturday."

Youth Ministry: Three members of the Middle School Youth Group and two High School youth volunteered at My Brother's Table in Lynn on Thursday, Feb 24. They brought donations of soup, tuna, and assorted dry goods. 27 Middle School and High School youth, along with their leaders,

enjoyed Laser Quest on Sunday, March 20. Middle School youth are planning an overnight for April 1-2 at the church and will plan a service project for Saturday morning. The High School Group will be volunteering at Cradles to Crayons on Saturday April 2 from 1-3 PM. The young adult group will be holding a town wide Tea on Saturday, April 24 from 2-4 pm at the Meeting House. Tickets will be \$10.00 in advance and \$12.00 at the door.

Safe Church Commission: Members continue to meet monthly to work on updating our Safe Church policy. Diana Gerbick and Barbara Langill met with John Walsh to help with our Emergency Exit planning.

Educational Ministries: Approximately 40 people attended the Pancake Supper and Wii Game night held on March 8. The Women's Bible Study is using the book "Women of the Bible" and will be meeting Monday nights during Lent. 22 women are participating. We hope to end with a Women's Retreat in May or June.

Children's Day will be Sunday, June 12. Samantha White will be the high school leader of Vacation Bible School this year. Dates for VBS have yet to be determined.

Super Saturday at Mass Conference of UCC hosted a conference on Face Book page development for churches. Barbara will work with Linda to develop Face Book pages for Centre Church.

Outreach: Jeff Law reported that Mission Outreach will meet soon. Balances are building, and the next Heifer donation is ready to go. Carol MacKendrick and Allie Parker will design a new Ark, since Centre Church has exhausted all ten available Ark designs.

Membership: Dotty reported that approximately 20 people made 46 pies for the Sunday Pie Sale fundraiser. Membership will be helping out with the Pictures with the Easter Bunny on Saturday April 2. The Priestly family will take the pictures and will donate their time, talents, and any income above expenses to Centre Church. JuneFest: Saturday June 11th: We will rent tables and space to crafters, serve a light breakfast; sell lobster rolls, hot dogs, chips, and beverages for lunch; have a Bake Sale and a Plant Sale, and plan events for children. Advertising will begin shortly. This will be a fun event for all and is a major fund raiser for Centre Church.

Education: Kathi discussed the possibility of making the Director of Christian's Education and Youth Ministry a salaried position. Kathy presented a draft job description for the position and a draft offer letter. Council discussed the job description and letter and made the following motions:

Motion: Approve the position of Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry and make it a salaried, full-time position based on the Job Description "Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry" Revised March 23, 2011 as presented at Centre Congregational Church Parish Council on March 23, 2011. Seconded. Passed unanimously.

Motion: To offer the position of Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry to Barbara Langill as presented in the offer letter approved by Centre Congregational Church Parish Council on March 23, 2011. Seconded. Passed unanimously.

Diaconate: Linda noted that Girl Scout Sunday was held on March 6. Troop 60087 helped with bulletins, readings and candlelighting. The troops help with the service was beneficial to the troop and stimulated their efforts on additional outreach activities. The Ash Wednesday service of baptism renewal went well. Doug's job description and survey review process is underway. Linda

will speak to the Confirmation class about communion on Sunday, March 27. Plans are in place for Palm Sunday, Maunday Thursday, the Easter sunrise service at Newhall Park, and the 10AM Easter service. The Palm Sunday cantata will be performed on April 10 to ensure full choir and congregation since April 17 is the first Sunday of school vacation. The Deacon's breakfast will be held on Easter morning from 7 to 9:30 AM

The St. Patrick's Family Players are currently performing Resurrection. The closest location is Medford on April 1, but there are many other local options. Linda discussed the MACUCC Webfest planned for Saturday May 21st at 9 AM in Framingham. This is a chance for folks involved in church communications to come together, share ideas and learn from one another about ways to strengthen the effectiveness of communications.

Stewardship: Mary Ann Parker announced that all stewardship packets were distributed on March 20 and all those not picked up were mailed by the church office.

Reminders will be printed in Tower Notes for: lobster roll sale on Sunday morning April 10, Musical Hysterics at 2 PM [all proceeds to Centre Church]. Stewardship will provide coffee on Sunday, April 10.

Finance/Building Maintenance: Bruce submitted a number of building maintenance items, including:

- **Chapel Heating and AC:** Sue Tomich has received some of the requested quotes to replace the TDS / Chapel systems. There are a few quotes outstanding, and they are expected shortly.
- The parking lot is almost back to full size. Fortunately, plow damage seems minimal, but there are a few items that will require repair. First, the handicapped rail was bent by the removal of a large amount of ice from the roof and a Richards Hall window well will require a small amount of masonry work to reset the border stone.
- Edith Wendt graciously donated a Ping Pong table to the church.
- The tree inside the TDS play area was trimmed to remove dead and broken branches that could present a hazard.
- Scott DeSantis made a few small wallboard repairs in Richards Hall and the Kitchen areas. Scott matched the paint in Todd Hall so that we now can do some touch ups. Scott and Tony painted the areas repaired. Most of the paints that match the downstairs colors are available on the rolling shelf unit in Todd Hall. Tony will try to keep up with scratches and such.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25, and Dennis led a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Cotting, Acting Recording Secretary.

Next Council Meeting: April 27th @ 7 PM.

Meditation: Mary Ann Parker