

## Parish Council Minutes - March 27, 2012

In Attendance: Jeff Law, Dotty Whittier, Kathi Martin, Barbara Langill, Linda Ladd, Bruce Weaver, Jim Marshall, Carrie Pericola, Sandi Watson, Debbie Cotting, Chuck Cotting, Rev. Dennis Bailey. Joining Council for the first part of the meeting were the following confirmands: Michael Look, Cory Johnson, Eric Carey, Claire Planton, Jake Forgione, and Patrick Davis.

Moderator, Bruce Weaver, convened the meeting at 7:08 P.M. Council members and confirmands introduced themselves, and council members described their responsibilities. Carrie Pericola offered the meditation. Council approved the minutes of the Feb. 28, 2012 meeting.

Pastor's Report: Dennis reviewed his worship-related activities from Sunday, March 4 through Easter Sunday. He informed Council of parishioners in need of pastoral care. Dennis taught two confirmation classes in March and plans to teach one more in April. Confirmation Sunday is May 13. The confirmands will help prepare and serve communion on April 1 under the direction of Deacon Linda Ladd. Dennis plans to extend an invitation to potential new members to attend a class and join the church. He noted that there was a wedding on Feb.2, a committal service on March 23, and there is a baptism scheduled for June 17. Dennis anticipates being away for a few days over Memorial Day Weekend to attend his Godson's college graduation. We will need someone to lead worship and preach on May 27. During the month of March, Dennis visited Lynn Shelter with Sandi Watson and Donna Marino to deliver the Share the Love donations. He participated in the Pictures with the Easter Bunny fundraiser, and led communion for the end of the 30 Hour Famine. He attended and supported the performance of the Resurrection and plans to tour the Shriner's Hospital with the Mass. Corp. of Fire Chaplains on March 28.

Outreach: Sandi Watson noted that, in addition to the Share the Love donations, Outreach Ministry also gave gift cards to the Lynn Shelter Association. She commented that the March 4 outreach-focused service led by Rev. Marie Lucca and Jeff Langill was inspiring and thought-provoking. Outreach Ministries is writing a short monthly newsletter. Sandi circulated the April edition and thanked Linda Ladd for adding the newsletters to the church website. In April, Outreach Ministries will coordinate with the youth group to focus attention on Nevins Farm. The Outreach Team will donate a small lawnmower and two wheelbarrows-both items on the Nevins Farm wish list.

Membership: Dotty Whittier reported that the Progressive Dinner has been postponed. Pictures with the Easter Bunny raised \$300, and Dotty thanked the Priestleys for donating their talent and time, Ryan Batchelder and Nancy Lauzon for "playing" the Easter Bunny, and Barbara Langill and the youth participating in the 30 Hour Famine for helping with children's activities. Dotty reported on her conversation with Frances Fleming of Geraniumfest to coordinate the activities Centre Church will offer on that day, May 19. Council decided that we should have a Bouncy House for children, sell tables for a Flea Market, and sell drinks. Additional children's activities will be explored. Membership is investigating the possibility of holding the Essex River Cruise again this summer. Dotty would try to schedule the cruise on a day when Chris Parker's group, Peking and the Mystics, is performing at Woodman's.

Education: Kathi Martin has reminded the confirmands of various deadlines for assignments they need to complete before Confirmation Sunday.

Diaconate: Linda noted the worship services and events held since the last Council Meeting. She thanked Mary McCarthy for suggesting and planning the Remembrance Service and Laurie, Hayley, and Caitlin Timmons for providing beautiful piano music throughout the service. On March 7, when Dennis was away and the delegates were unavailable; Linda and Gage Whittier attended an Ecclesiastical Council meeting and approved a candidate for ordination. Linda reviewed upcoming Lenten events, including Confirmation class on Communion, Palm Sunday Cantata, Maundy Thursday service, Easter Fun Day, Spring Tea at the Meeting House-hosted by Young Adult group, Easter Sunrise Service, Easter Breakfast, and Easter Sunday service.

Stewardship: Carrie Pericola reported on the progress of the Stewardship campaign. Stories that are shared during worship will be posted on the church website; other stories will be included in Tower Notes. April 29 will be Stewardship

Sunday. Pledge cards will be distributed and collected during the church service. The sermon for that day will be delivered by David Bjorkman, Jill DiGiorgio, and Mary McCarthy who will all share their stories. Lunch after the service will be prepared by Kathi Martin and crew. Jill DiGiorgio and her mother-in-law will provide a cake with the Stewardship logo. The raffle for Bruins tickets raised \$420 for the church operating budget. Carrie provided Council with more information regarding on-line donations and automatic deductions for pledge payments. Jill DiGiorgio contacted Vanco, a company that provides these services to many churches. Council reviewed and discussed the information Carrie distributed. Council expressed interest in the program, but raised additional questions which Carrie will investigate. It was suggested that we contact other churches who use this service to learn about their experience.

Finance: Chuck Cotting reviewed several maintenance items including sections of gutters that have been replaced, rubber roof replacement-planned for the week of April 16, and repair of the handicapped ramp posts and railing. He noted that the state inspection for Tower Day is scheduled for April 26, 2012. Chuck is in the process of comparing prices for maintenance supplies. Super Soccer Stars is planning to hold a demonstration of their program for a number of Wakefield groups on Wednesday, April 25. Both instructors will receive Safe Church training prior to the class.

Christian Education: Barbara Langill reported on Lenten and Easter events. The Church School children presented a "Walk through Holy week" on March 25. They raised \$371 for Heifer by baking muffins and selling them after worship. Children will remain in the sanctuary for the Palm Sunday Cantata and the Easter Sunday service. Nursery care will be provided on Easter Sunday. Easter Fun Day will be held on April 7 with games, crafts, and an Easter Egg Hunt. The next Rotation, the Journey of Paul, begins on April 22. The Youth Groups volunteered at Cradles to Crayons on March 10. Twenty Middle School youth went to Laser Quest on March 18, and 8 High School students participated in the 30 Hour Famine, raising \$1141.00. They also completed service projects at church and helped with crafts for Pictures with the Easter Bunny. The Middle School overnight, originally planned for March 30-31, will be re-scheduled. On Wed., April 18, the Middle School Youth will tour Nevins Farm and bring donations collected from the congregation and the community. The whole church mission trip to Joplin, Missouri will be more expensive than anticipated because the cost of airfare has risen. Barbara is exploring ways to help defray the expense. The high school youth will not be going to the UCC Youth Event this summer. Barbara will be away on May 20; Kathi Martin will substitute for her and lead rotations.

Financial Reports: Jeff Law circulated the Treasurer's Report with data as of 2/29/12. He noted that income continues to be lower than last year, and we need to urge everyone to be sure their pledges are up-to-date. Expenses are better than last year and better than budget. In order to balance the budget in June, we need to have a strong emphasis on fundraisers. Jim Marshall, Financial Secretary reported that he has mailed out statements to show people whether or not their pledges are current.

Fundraiser Update: Bruce reported that the Golf Tournament Group is hoping to hold a golf outing on a Friday afternoon in June. There was general discussion regarding an Appraisal Day with appraisers from Skinner, Inc. The cost for two appraisers is \$1500. Council felt that the event would raise more than the fee and approved the expense. Debbie is waiting to hear back from Skinner regarding possible dates to hold the event. The Prince Pizza fundraiser has earned \$232 so far.

Web Page Layout: Linda Ladd asked Council to review the layout of the webpage and let her know of any suggested changes. She asked for help with the text on the Stewardship page.

Old/New Business: Bruce distributed copies of the bylaws to Council members.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05, and Dennis led a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary

**Next Council Meeting: April 24. Meditation by Bruce Weaver**