

Parish Council Minutes - March 25, 2014

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

Moderator, Bruce Weaver convened the meeting at 7:05 P.M., and Dotty Whittier offered the meditation.

Council approved the minutes of the Feb. 25, 2014 meeting.

Pastor Report: Rev. Bailey reviewed pastoral concerns and his worship-related activities since the last Council meeting. He noted that the Town's Tricentennial Committee would like to schedule an ecumenical worship service to celebrate the history of the Town of Lynnfield. Rev. Bailey is asking for church volunteers to help with planning the service since Lynnfield members of the Clergy Association aren't able to participate in developing the program. Baptisms are scheduled for April 27 and May 11. Rev. Bailey taught a confirmation class on the Holy Spirit, attended the Feb. 12th meeting of the Lynnfield Clergy Association, and participated in the Youth Group Laser Quest event.

Financial Reports: Treasurer, Jeff Law reviewed financial data as of 2/28/14. The overall loss in the Operating Fund year-to-date is \$54,255.12. This loss is \$32,094.98 worse than last year, but \$13,324.34 better than budget. Income year-to-date is \$35,631.56 worse than last year, but \$5142.49 better than budget. Expenses are \$3536.58 better than last year and \$8181.94 better than budget. Pledge income and Other Offerings are lower than last year at this time, but compared to budget, we are doing fairly well because we received a large contribution in December. Proceeds from Trivia night will appear in next month's report, but estimates indicate that we will be near our year-to-date fundraising goal. Council approved the transfer of \$58.81 (remaining balance) from the Stage line item to the Raise the Roof line item. Financial Secretary, Jim Marshall will review pledge status to see if there are people who need reminders to bring their pledges up to date. Jim noted that the Raise the Roof Campaign is doing very well. Jim has received 36 pledge cards so far; pledge cards are due April 6th.

Christian Education: Barbara Langill reported that the Rotation Sensation focus for March is Lent and Holy Week. The last Sunday for Heifer Muffins is March 30. On April 6, Spark Story Bibles will be given to children in Pre-K through Grade One. Grades one through eight will remain in worship that day. Eight youth and three adults participated in City Reach on March 7 and 8 to learn more about the issues of homelessness in Boston. The group brought clothing and 160 pairs of socks donated by the congregation. Seventeen youth attended Laser Quest on March 23, and the Middle School Lock In will be held at church on April 4-5. The Confirmands attended the Ash Wednesday Service. Several of them participated in the service, including Caitlin Timmons who played the organ, Matthew Seelig and Maggie Weaver who read scripture, and Andrew Seelig who helped with the offering. Six youth and two adults attended the Confirmation Retreat on March 7-8. The Confirmands will meet with Rev. Bailey and their mentors on April 6. The Christian Ed group will interview a candidate for the Nursery Care provider soon. Seven women from Centre Church will attend the UCC Women's' Conference in Portland, ME on March 28-30. On April 5, the Christian Education Certification program will hold a class at Centre Church. Barbara reported that she is working on two mission opportunities for the summer. One would be July 13-19 in Orland, ME working on a re-building project. The second would be a more local project scheduled for Aug. 18-22. Participants would meet at church each morning, travel to the work site, and return in the evening.

Education: Kathi Martin noted that several parishioners have complimented the Confirmands who delivered the sermon on March 2. The Confirmands should be contacting Ministry Chairs to learn about their responsibilities; the Confirmands will attend the April Council meeting. Kathi informed Council that she will not be leading the Confirmation Class next year. Council thanked her for her hard work and dedication to the Confirmation program.

Outreach: At the April meeting, Council will review the Outreach budget and make recommendations for dispersing available funds.

Membership: Dotty Whittier reported that 72 people attended Trivia Night, and she estimated that proceeds totaled approximately \$3900. The new member "Cousins" program will begin soon. An article describing the program will be submitted for Tower Notes, and members of the congregation will be invited to participate in this program which is designed to make new members feel welcome and included. Pictures with the Easter Bunny will take place on March 29. The church will participate in Town Day on May 17 by hosting a Flea Market. Tables are available to rent (\$40 for a table and 2 chairs or bring your own table and chairs and rent space for \$30.) Centre Church will have its own table, and the proceeds will be split between the operating budget and the mission trip. Carrie Pericola is heading up the Painting Party on May 6. Membership is exploring other fellowship events as well as a spring Lobster Roll sale.

Diaconate: Margaret Waugh submitted a written report informing Council that an organ repair bill for \$500 was received and paid. Margaret assisted Linda Ladd with the Confirmation Class instruction on preparing and serving Communion. Three Confirmands assisted Margaret at the Ash Wednesday service. Margaret thanked the Confirmands for helping the Deacons this month. She noted that they were very helpful and took their duties seriously. She also thanked Bruce and the Deacons for filling in during her absence.

Stewardship: Carrie Pericola reported on the stewardship campaign which kicked off on March 2. Each Sunday, members of the congregation are sharing their stories in keeping with the theme of Uniting Generations Through Love. The campaign will culminate on April 6 when pledge cards will be collected during the service. The Stewardship committee will provide lunch following the service. Carrie noted that the Raise the Roof campaign continues to do well. She remarked that she received a lovely note with a \$10,000 donation toward the roof project. We have reached our Raise the Roof pledge goal, but since not all pledged contributions have been received, we continue to encourage people to donate to the roof project. Carrie is looking for photos to include in the narrative budget.

Finance: Chuck Cotting reported that he fixed the post for the truck gate, and it is now working properly. He plans to meet with a contractor to determine if power washing the building would improve the look of the building until such time as we can afford to paint it. Chuck has now received updated bids from all four roofing contractors. He plans to review the bids, share them with Council, and make recommendations at the April Council meeting. Council agreed to close the bidding process. Chuck noted that the fence around the play yard was damaged from snowplowing. Dennis will contact the DPW to see if they will assist in repairing the fence. Chuck will explore adding more boulders in that area. Chuck will order more funeral/wedding signs for the curb along the Summer St. side of the building.

Tower Day Director Search: Bruce Weaver updated Council on the search for a new Tower Day School director. The Search Committee has met and developed the job posting which is posted on the website Indeed.com. Resumes have started to come in, and the Search Committee will meet on March 25 to review the applications received to date. Plans are taking shape to recognize Sally MacDonald during the May 18 service with a reception to follow.

Fundraising: Carrie Pericola booked North Shore Paint Party for May 6, 7 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. at the Border Café in Saugus. The event will be held in a private room; cost is \$45 per person (\$20 will go to the church.)

There being no further business, Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 P.M. Rev. Bailey led a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 22. Meditation: Chuck Cotting