

Parish Council Minutes - March 26, 2013

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

Moderator Bruce Weaver convened the meeting at 7:10 P.M. Jeff Law offered the meditation.

Council approved the minutes of the March 5, 2013 meeting.

Pastor's Report: Rev. Bailey reviewed his worship and confirmation class schedule for the month of March. He related several pastoral concerns and reported on recent baptisms. He anticipates two more baptisms in May. Rev. Bailey will be on vacation from April 25-28. Elizabeth Walsh will preach on April 28. Preachers will be needed on August 11 and 18 since Rev. Bailey will be leading the Mission Trip to Joplin, Missouri.

Financial Reports: Jeff Law circulated the Treasurer's Report with data as of Feb. 28, 2013. Our overall loss in the Operating Fund is \$22,335.64 which is better than projected. Income year-to-date is \$32,061.31 better than budget due to the strong response to the Supplemental Pledge drive and pledges coming in better than budget. Expenses are \$9922.72 better than budget, but Jeff noted we haven't received all the snow removal bills. Jeff cautioned that we need to continue the successful fundraiser trend and maintain good expense management. Jeff suggested that we establish an Investment Committee to review our current investments.

Christian Education: Carrie reported that Church School classes continue to focus on Holy Week. The Nursery will be open for children 5 and under from 9-11 A.M. on Easter Sunday and April 14 (school vacation week.) On April 7, the lesson will focus on Stewardship. At the end of April, the lesson will focus on The Good Samaritan. Christian Education will host a movie night on April 26. They will show the movie "Pay it Forward" and lead a discussion on how the movie relates to The Good Samaritan.

Education Ministries: Kathi Martin noted that volunteers are in place to cover Youth Groups in Barbara's absence. The Confirmation Class is beginning their final project which they will present on May 5. The Confirmands will meet with Linda Ladd to learn about serving communion, and they will attend the April Council meeting. The Lenten Book Group was successful; all enjoyed the book and ensuing discussion.

Outreach: Sandi Watson reported that, like last year, she will organize a group of volunteers to go to Haven From Hunger to sort food items received from the U.S. Post Office's Stamp Out Hunger Drive. She is working on two other hands-on outreach opportunities.

Membership: Dotty Whittier reported that 22 families came for pictures with the Easter Bunny which earned \$330 for the church. She thanked the Priestleys and all volunteers involved. Membership has completed its annual review of the membership rolls. Dotty submitted the Member Review Form and accompanying letter for final Council review. She expects the letter and form to be mailed to inactive members in about two weeks. Dotty has been in contact with Geraniumfest organizers. This year,

Townscape will sell the geraniums, and the other activities will be run by the Recreation Committee. We would like to participate in the day with a Centre Church fundraiser. The Recreation Committee gave Dotty the names of antiques dealers who might want to rent space from us. The possibility of a Flea Market was also discussed. Dotty will explore these options. Membership is in the process of organizing an afternoon at the Peabody Essex Museum in early June. Ann Decker would lead a group tour to be followed by an early dinner in Salem.

Diaconate: Linda Ladd reported that the Deacons are preparing for Maundy Thursday, the Easter Sunrise Service, the Easter Breakfast, the 10 A.M. Easter Service, and serving communion with the Confirmands on April 7. Linda and Judie Potter will teach the Confirmation Class about communion and have a small Good Friday service with the class at 7 P.M. The Diaconate is also preparing for two baptisms in May. The lunch on the day of the Walsh Stage dedication netted \$175 for the Organ Fund. \$250 was paid out of the Organ Fund when Dave Wallace came to repair the "sticky key" last month.

Stewardship: Carrie Pericola reviewed plans for the Stewardship Campaign which will begin on April 7. The theme of the campaign is "Joining HIM in Giving." Stewardship will use children's messages and weekly presentations to inspire the congregation. Each week, they will print a question in the bulletin and ask people to place responses in the offering plate or a box in the narthex. They will share the responses on the following Sunday as a way to communicate the importance of Centre Church in the lives of the parishioners. Like last year, pledge cards will be distributed and collected on the last day of the campaign, April 28. There will be a Stewardship luncheon following the April 28 service. Council voted to have Stewardship send Stewardship letters to all confirmed church members.

Finance: Chuck Cotting had a conversation with the snow removal contractor to clarify the areas that need his attention during snow storms. Before next winter, Chuck will walk the property with him to be sure he understands our expectations. Chuck is gathering estimates for roof and gutter replacement and painting the exterior of the building. He reviewed the information he has received to date. Chuck will also explore other telephone and internet service options to see if we can get a better price.

Fundraiser Update: Council agreed that we should hold the Yankee Candle Fundraiser again in the fall. Debbie Cotting will contact Yankee Candle.

Other Business: Carrie Pericola reported that the Night in Bethlehem committee has decided to hold the event on December 7 during the Tree Lighting on the Common. They will likely have stations to tell the story of Christmas and a marketplace.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M. Rev. Bailey let a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary

Next Council Meeting: April 23 at 7:00 P.M. Meditation: Jim Marshall