

## **Parish Council Meeting: November 24, 2009**

**Attendees:** Rev. Dennis Bailey; Chris Parker, Linda Ladd, Kathi Martin, Barbara Langill, Bruce Weaver, Jim Marshall, Al Johnson, and Chuck Cotting. The meeting opened at approximately 7:35 p.m. with a meditation by Chris Parker. Minutes for the prior meeting were approved unanimously.

### **Pastor's Report**

**Baptisms:** This Past Sunday, Emma Grace Connors and Claire MacKenzie Connors. December 27, 2009, Rowan Bayer, son of Reilly and Jennifer Bayer. January 10, 2010, Michael and Kristen Goodwin's baby and 10 year old son;

**Confirmation:** all is going well. A homeless man requesting services on Sunday, November 7th. Some members of the Confirmation group arranged for housing and transportation for this man. Kathi Martin handling the scheduling of lunches – volunteers please contact Kathi.

**Clergy Association Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service.** Great choir, via Douglas Hodgkins. Offering totaling \$684 plus \$10 check to "Haven from Hunger." \$200 will be paid to guest musicians and the balance of \$484 and the \$10 check will be sent to "Haven from Hunger". Estimated attendance: 160 people

**Vacation:** May take a week January 11-18, 2010

**Funerals:** Friday, November 13, 7 am, Memorial service for Eric Fraser, UPS driver. Friday, November 13, 11 am, Funeral for Natalie Shove. Friday, November 20, 11 am, Funeral for Walter Johnson, Phil Johnson's uncle, Easton, MA. Sunday, November 29th, 3 pm, Funeral for Ken Klopfer, Barbara Langill's brother-in-law, First Congregational Church, Chicopee, MA.

**Pastoral:** George Hayden's Chemo treatments have started. Betty Campbell – We continue to need volunteers who can drive Betty and Spencer Campbell to and from church on Sundays.

### **Moderator**

**State Statute:** Adopt measures to protect the confidentiality of the institution's financial data. A sub-committee of Chris Parker, Phil Johnson, Jeff Law, and Jim Marshall with the Senior Pastor included will develop a policy and present it to Council.

### **Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee has essentially wrapped-up its work for the year. There is one open position to be filled (Church Historian) which is to be filled by appointment from Parish Council.

### **Treasurer's Report**

There is nothing of great concern in the financial results at this point.

### **Financial Update**

There was a discussion about the loose cash offering and its accounting. Jim and Jeff will discuss the accounting, review the budget, and determine if any changes in accounting are warranted and bring this back to Council.

There was a discussion of the Organ Maintenance Fund and its uses.

There was a discussion concerning the Ernest Backer Fund. This Fund is designated for Audio-Visual expenses. Bruce Gist will prepare a proposal on planned purchases to be presented to Council.

The first two furnace replacements have been completed. These two units provide heat for the Sanctuary. Phil will put together a plan for the remaining replacements with priority for the second floor office spaces.

### **Christian Education**

**Youth Groups:** The Middle School Youth Group went to Cradles to Crayons and volunteered for the Children's Room during the Festival.

The High School Youth Group went to Boston for a Homelessness Immersion Experience to learn about homelessness on Saturday, November 7th. Ten youth, The Langills and Dennis slept outside in cardboard boxes and the youth returned Sunday morning to Church to conduct the Worship service on Sunday.

#### Service Projects and Upcoming events:

Grades 5 to 8 made scarves for City Mission Society. Turkey Drive: 24 turkeys, a chicken, and lots of canned goods. Provided refreshments for the Ecumenical Thanksgiving service.

The Advent Worship and the Heifer Marketplace are scheduled for December 6<sup>th</sup>. The Middle School and High School Groups will combine for a Concert in Natick on December 13<sup>th</sup>. High School Cookie Swap cookie swap will be December 20<sup>th</sup>. The Church Pageant will be December 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **Ministry Team Reports**

### **Outreach Ministries – Al Johnson**

The committee is reviewing the Budget, the incoming pledges, and the commitments. We are currently able to commit only \$1,500/month to Our Church's Wider mission [OCWM].

Bread and Roses: Our commitment for a meal per month continues. Ted Hubbard from Bread & Roses spoke at Worship on Sunday November 22.

The Outreach portion of the Christmas offering will be divided equally between Bread and Roses, the Youth Group Mission Trip, and OCWM. Donations in Lieu of Christmas Cards will go to City Mission Society. Christmas decorations will be going up Thanksgiving week-end. Presents under our Christmas tree will be donated to the Crombie Street Mission. Donations should be clothing not toys, please].

Protestant Chaplaincy – donation history was discussed – can we donate this year?

The Mission Trip donation will be \$5,000

The Food of the Month is Ham and Pineapple

### **Membership Ministries – Chuck Cotting**

Discussion of the Festival Lunch: The Pre-ordering of the Shorey's Lobster Roll was very successful. All of the lobster rolls and all of the chowder and soup were sold out. All of the chowder and soup was donated helping the overall contribution to the success of this year's Festival.

Two new members were nominated and approved for Membership – Laurel Caputo and Debbie Newman.

A Trivia Dinner is in planning for early February.

### **Education Ministries – Kathi Martin**

The Festival: A very BIG thanks to all who donated, worked, and bought at the Festival. It brought in a net of \$4,400. Crafters brought in \$500. The planning group will get together in January to discuss lessons learned and will develop a proposal to create an Ad Hoc or standing committee for Fund Raising to handle all of the Church's fund raising efforts will be made to Council at an upcoming meeting.

A Tower Day Board meeting is upcoming.

### **Diaconate - Linda Ladd**

The Second Deacon's breakfast raised another \$500 for the organ maintenance fund. There was also a \$500 donation from a choir member to bring the fund total to \$1,500. Doug will come to the next Diaconate meeting to discuss use of the fund.

Diaconate continues to coordinate rides to and from church for Betty and Spencer Campbell.

The Diaconate has assumed responsibility to liaise with the Chaplaincy Council with Linda attending the last meeting. The Protestant Chaplaincy Council will have a meeting at Centre Church on April 29<sup>th</sup>. This Council, supported by Betty and Clayton Conn for years, is made up of people from a number of area churches and provides funding for a Chaplain at Melrose-Wakefield Hospital. Centre Church has made donations in the past (2004, 2007, and 2008). With the Outreach team, we will investigate what we can give this year.

The Advent season starts Sunday. Decorations will be up this week-end. The Advent Candle wreath will be created by the Martin family. Laurel Caputo will handle the Christmas Poinsettias: forms are available in Tower Notes and at church on Sundays until December 7<sup>th</sup> - the deadline for ordering.

### **Finance Ministries**

Phil installed Hand Sanitizers throughout the Church.

The meeting ended at 8:58 with a Closing Prayer by our Senior Pastor

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Parish Council is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday January 20, in the Pastor's outer office.

Respectfully submitted –

Charles Cotting, Membership Ministries (for Kim Morrissey, Recording Clerk).