

## Parish Council Minutes - November 27, 2012

In Attendance: Rev. Dennis Bailey, Bruce Weaver, Linda Ladd, Carrie Pericola, Kathi Martin, Dotty Whittier, Sandi Watson, Jeff Law, Barbara Langill, and Debbie Cotting. Moderator, Bruce Weaver convened the meeting at 7:08 P.M. and offered the meditation. Council approved the minutes of the October 30, 2012 meeting.

Pastor's Report: Rev. Bailey reviewed his November activities which, in addition to his usual pastoral duties, included making carrot cakes and leading the wreath-making workshop. He informed Council of some parishioners who are recovering from surgery and others who experienced a death in the family. Rev. Bailey met with the Lynnfield Clergy to plan the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, offered a prayer at the Veterans' Day Ceremony, and participated in the Thanksgiving Service at St. Maria Goretti's Church.

Financial Report: Jeff Law distributed the Treasurer's Report with data as of Oct. 31, 2012. Jeff reviewed the income and expenses to date, noting that our overall loss is \$28,849.95 which is a bit better than last year at this time and \$1683.09 better than budget. Income is \$1165.96 worse than last year, but \$1032.62 better than budget. Pledges seem to be coming in better, and some have begun making their supplemental pledges. Fundraisers are off to a strong start, but "Other Offerings" and "Prior Year Pledges" are down compared to last year. Expenses are \$1928.79 better than last year and \$650.47 better than budget. We expect expenses to be higher this year due to increases in insurance and health insurance costs. Jeff met with the Tower Day Director and the Tower Day Board. Tower Day budget projections are looking good.

Christian Education: Barbara Langill reported that the Heifer Marketplace will be held on Dec. 2, and the Christmas Pageant, under the direction of Linda Ladd, will take place on Dec. 16. We are now offering nursery care for infants and children up to age 5 beginning at 9:00 A.M. on Sunday mornings. The Nursery is staffed on Holiday and long weekends. Attendance in the 3-5 year old class is generally 2-4 children each week. "A Journey to Bethlehem" will be offered on Dec. 2 from 3-6 P.M. Breakfast with Santa, originally scheduled for Dec. 15, has been cancelled in order to allow the C.E. folks to focus on "A Journey to Bethlehem." Seven of the eight Confirmands attended the UCC Heritage Tour. The Confirmation Class will meet with their mentors and Rev. Bailey on Dec. 2. In Youth Group news, 19 turkeys were collected for Haven From Hunger. Three youths volunteered at Life Bridge in Salem, and two attended U2Charist on Nov. 3. The High School group and the Confirmation Class, along with youth from 3 other churches, will attend City Reach in Boston on Dec. 7 and 8. The High School group will volunteer at the City Mission Society Christmas Shop on Dec. 15, and they will hold their Cookie Swap after worship on Dec. 16.

Outreach: Sandi Watson will work with Barbara Langill and the children in Rotation Sensation classes at the annual Heifer Market. She reported that, again this year, Outreach will support the City Mission Society in two ways. They will collect holiday gifts for families under the tree in the Narthex through Dec. 9, and they will invite people to make cash donations in lieu of Christmas cards.

Membership: Dotty Whittier announced that the pie and carrot cake sale was a big success. About 85 pies and 60-70 carrot cakes were sold, raising approximately \$1300. Dotty is looking for volunteers to fill the coffee schedule.

Education: Kathi Martin reported that the collaboration between Barbara Langill and Carrie Pericola is working well.

Diaconate: Linda Ladd reported that the final meeting of the Protestant Chaplaincy Council will be held on Nov. 28-all are invited. The group is disbanding due to lack of funding. Also, the constraints of privacy laws prevent the chaplain from dropping in to visit patients; the patient has to request a visit. The Diaconate has decorated the church for Christmas. Linda's experience at the wreath-making workshop prompted her to suggest that next year we might consider making our Advent Wreath and the wreaths for the outside doors. Advent begins on Dec. 2, and the first candle (Hope) will be lit by the Joplin Mission Trip volunteers. There will be a Deacons' Breakfast on Dec. 9 to raise funds for organ maintenance. The Christmas Pageant will be part of the Dec. 16 service. Deacons are preparing for the Christmas Eve candlelight services to be held at 5:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary and 11:00 P.M. in the Chapel.

Stewardship: Carrie Pericola reported that the supplemental pledge drive, "Going the Extra Mile for Centre Church," is off to a good start. As of Nov. 23, the campaign has raised \$11,425.00.

Finance: Chuck Cotting submitted a written report which was presented by Bruce Weaver. In his report, Chuck provided an update on the stage project. The stage and the closet are built, and the new sump pump is installed. The heater cover installation is pending. The new curtain and valance have arrived and will be installed. The electrical work is done, and sheer curtains have been placed on the Todd Hall windows. A dehumidifier is in place-not part of the stage cost. Chuck noted that there has been some vandalism in the bathrooms. Twice this fall, inappropriate materials have been flushed down the toilets. The most recent event caused Pump #2 to fail. The cost to purchase and install a new pump was about \$700. Signs reading "Please, Nothing but toilet paper in the toilets" have been placed in the bathrooms. Chuck is drafting a letter to all groups who use the building to ask for their cooperation in preventing this vandalism. Chuck would like to schedule a Kitchen Clean-Up day for early in 2013. T-Mobile plans to replace some of their equipment in the near future. They will do a walk-through on Nov. 28 and work with Chuck to set an appropriate date for the work.

Fundraiser Update: Council engaged in a general discussion about possible fundraisers. Suggestions included a Trivia Night and Silent Auction for Feb. and sale of Prince Pizza coupons during the weeks leading up to the Super Bowl.

New Business: Rev. Bailey circulated a proposal to purchase a new computer for the video booth and new computers and software for the Church Secretary and Christian Education Director. He estimates the total cost for all equipment and software to be \$1969.95. Rev. Bailey noted that he received a \$1500 donation which he placed in the Pastor's Discretionary Fund and that \$403.64 in the Craig Newell Memorial account could be used for the video booth equipment. He offered that the balance could be taken from the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Council members felt that there could be some additional costs if new cables or routers were needed. Rev. Bailey suggested, and Council agreed, that the "Church Windows" software should be updated at an additional cost of \$250. Rev. Bailey has been working with Jim Johnson of Computer Care to determine our needs and estimate costs. Mr. Johnson will donate his time to install the equipment and software. Council voted unanimously to purchase the equipment and software at a cost not to exceed \$2500.

There being no further business, Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 P.M. Rev. Bailey led a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary

**Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, January 8, 2013. Meditation by Chuck Cotting**