

Parish Council Minutes -November 30, 2010

In attendance: Bruce Weaver, Chuck Cotting, Barbara Langill, Dennis Bailey, Mary Ann Parker, Jeff Law, Linda Ladd, Debbie Cotting, and guests: Jack Marino, Mike Welter, Ken Welter, and Sally MacDonald.

Bruce called the meeting to order at 7:03, and Barbara Langill provided the meditation. The minutes of the October 27, 2010 meeting were approved.

Rebuilding the stage: Mike Welter came before Council to seek preliminary approval to rebuild the stage in Todd Hall for his Eagle Scout project. Mike has been working with Jack Marino who presented preliminary plans for the new stage. Mike intends to seek donations of materials and to do some fundraising to cover the cost of materials if necessary. The labor would be provided by the scouts with adult supervision. He would like final approval of the plans by mid-January. Construction would take place on weekends during March and April based on the church's building use schedule. After discussing the details of the preliminary plans, Council voted unanimously to give Mike permission to move forward to write his proposal and submit it to the Scouts for their approval. Mike will return to Council in mid-January with final plans. Final approval by Council will be contingent on Mike's ability to cover the cost of materials through donations and fund-raising. Council thanked Mike for his efforts. Linda, Bruce, and Barbara volunteered to form the Stage Sub-committee to work with Jack and Mike on the stage project.

Tower Day School: Sally MacDonald spoke to Council about enrollment trends. She noted that over the past 25 years, enrollment has ranged from 85 students to 165 students. Current enrollment is 104. Sally reported that the pre-school population is down in suburban areas. In order to attract new students for September 2011, Tower Day has been advertising in local newspapers, and they have placed a sign at the corner of Main and Summer streets. Word of mouth continues to be one of the best ways that new families learn about the school. Also, the Tower Day website is now operational. Sally thanked Linda Ladd for her work on the website. On January 8, Johnny the K will perform at Tower Day. The concert will be open to the public free of charge, and classrooms will be open to showcase the school. Sally hopes that new families will attend the concert, take the opportunity to view the school, and enroll their children for the 2011/2012 school year.

Pastor's Report: Confirmation classes have begun with 5 confirmands and 5 mentors. The budget of \$100 does not cover the \$320.79 cost of the books used in class. Families of confirmands have been asked to contribute \$25 toward the cost of the book each confirmand needs.

Dennis is busy preparing for Advent and Christmas services, helping Cub Scout Pack #48 reorganize, and working with Mike Welter on his Eagle Scout project. He recently helped prepare and lead the Eagle Scout ceremony for Cory Johnson.

The Lynnfield Clergy Association held the annual ecumenical Thanksgiving service at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Three Centre Church members joined the Ecumenical Choir.

Dennis led the wreath-making project at the Advent workshop.

Dennis noted that he is participating in 3 continuing education opportunities: Group Crisis Intervention (11/18 and 19), Assisting Individuals in Crisis (12/10 and 11), and Advanced Group Crisis Intervention (1/8 and 9).

Dennis reported on pastoral concerns, noting that: Barbara Langill's father had surgery, Douglas Hodgkins will have knee surgery on 12/29, Phil Johnson's father died, and long-time church member Helen Miller died.

Dennis has planned vacation for Dec. 26 through Jan. 2. A preacher and a worship leader will be needed for Jan. 2 (vacation) and Jan. 9 (continuing education class).

Financial Reports: Jeff Law reviewed the Treasurer's Report as of 10/31/10. He noted that: building use donations are lagging far behind budget and have not caught up to pre-flood levels; we need to map out fundraising activities to close the \$12,000 budget gap; and we need to submit the final flood insurance claim.

Jeff presented a simple graph to be published in Tower Notes to update the congregation on our financial status. He will provide explanatory text to supplement the graph.

Jeff reported that, for IRS purposes, the allocation of Dennis' monthly compensation between salary and housing needs to be amended. Annual meeting voted salary as \$4400.40 per month and housing as \$4486.72 per month. Dennis consulted with his accountant who suggested that the following allocation would more closely represent the IRS guidelines: Salary-\$4970.45/month (\$59,645.40 annualized) and Housing-\$3916.67/month (\$47,000.00 annualized). There is no change to the total compensation of \$8887.12 voted by the congregation at Annual Meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to maintain compensation for Rev. Dennis C. Bailey at \$8887.12/month as presented in the budget at the Annual Meeting in September, 2010, but change the designation of the Housing Allowance to \$3916.67/month (from \$4486.72/month previously) with the balance of \$4970.45/month going to Salary (from \$4400.40/month previously). The motion passed unanimously.

Christian Education: Barbara reported that 60-70 people attended the Advent Workshop, and she thanked Kathi Martin and crew for cooking dinner.

Barbara noted the following:

- Rotation Sensation focus has been on Heifer International. The Heifer Marketplace will be held on Dec. 5.
- December focus will be Advent and preparing for Christmas Pageant. She thanked Linda Ladd for directing again this year.
- Youth groups raised \$161 at the Pumpkin Carving contest with proceeds used to provide items for Cradles to Crayons.
- Middle School group traveled to Heifer's Overlook Farm on 11/7 to participate in Global Solutions, an educational program about the work of Heifer International.
- On 11/14, Sandi Watson spoke to both youth groups about her Heifer trip to Peru and her experience witnessing "passing the gift".
- On 11/20, the Middle School group volunteered at Cradles to Crayons. They brought 71 pairs of pants and 12 bags of other donated items.
- The High School group will volunteer to help set up the City Mission's Christmas Shop on 12/5.
- The High School group will hold its annual cookie swap on 12/19 after worship. All funds raised will support this year's mission trip.

Barbara attended the MACUCC Commission for Education Ministries meeting on 11/3. On the agenda were budget discussions and how best to serve church school educators. They discussed how to provide certification for church school educators since there is no longer a nationwide UCC certification program.

On 11/4-6, Barbara attended the Conference on Emerging Adulthood at Princeton Seminary. She gained insight into just who this group is and why it's important to learn more about what that age group is looking for in a church. Barbara will give a workshop on emerging Adults at the next Mass. Conference Super Saturday on 3/5. The Centre Church Young Adult group will meet during Christmas break to discuss plans for a mission trip in the spring.

Finally, Barbara reported that the Recycling Bin is in place in the parking lot.

Ministry Team Reports

Membership: Chuck reported that approximately 70 people attended the Pot Luck Supper and Bingo night. The event raised over \$400. A few people brought friends to church on Bring a Friend Sunday. The Membership Commission helped with the Stewardship Commission's lobster roll sale. All 72 rolls were sold, and over \$400 was raised. Friday, Feb. 11 will be Trivia and Pizza night at Centre Church. Membership is discussing other fellowship and fund-raising events. Their next meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 7.

Diaconate: Linda reported that the 10/31 Deacons' breakfast made \$200 for the organ fund. Dave Wallace has completed the organ repairs and tuning. He will provide a list of other possible repairs for the future. The carillon is back to normal after a period of silence. The church was decorated for Christmas on 11/26, and the Advent Wreath was donated by the Whittiers in memory of Gage's mother. Dec. 5 will be the first Sunday for the Bearers of the Light. Linda contacted the St. Patrick's players about performing the Resurrection again at Centre Church. Their 2011 dates are full so Linda will talk to them in the summer about a date in 2012. Linda noted the following dates: Dec. 14-next Deacons meeting, Dec. 19 @6:30-Christmas Concert, Jan. 9 @ 8:30 am-Deacons Breakfast.

Stewardship: Mary Ann reported that Stewardship will sell lobster rolls on 12/19 and 1/16. They are selling raffle tickets for 4 Bruins tickets; the drawing will be 12/19. Stewardship would like to hold an event to kick off the spring Stewardship Campaign. Discussion of possible kick-off events and other general fund-raising possibilities ensued. Mary Ann will talk further with her committee and report back to Council with their recommendations for the Stewardship Campaign kick-off event.

Maintenance: Bruce reported that the fall clean-up was performed by the landscaper over the Thanksgiving weekend. Limited roof repairs will be done soon, and Bruce will contact Mike Robbins to identify the more serious problems. The stage area is being cleaned up. Paints have been moved to a secure location. Ross Batchelder volunteered to some outside work and organize the Richards Hall closet. The kitchen is back in working order. No Trespassing signs have been placed on the playground fence. The new heating system for Richards Hall and the kitchen is scheduled to be installed the first weekend in Dec.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm, and Dennis led a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary

**** Next Council Meeting: Wednesday, January 5, 2011**