

Parish Council Minutes
October 26, 2011

In attendance: Bruce Weaver, Dennis Bailey, Linda Ladd, Chuck Cotting, Dotty Whittier, Barbara Langill, Debbie Cotting. Guest: Jill DiGiorgio.

Bruce called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M. Linda Ladd offered the meditation. The minutes of the September 22, 2011 meeting were approved.

Jill DiGiorgio, speaking on behalf of herself and Carrie Pericola, spoke about the importance of having a consistent caregiver in the Nursery on Sunday mornings. A fundraiser is planned to help cover the cost of paying someone to staff the Nursery every Sunday that Rotation Sensation is in session.

Pastor's Report: Dennis is speaking with some of the newer families to gauge their interest in becoming members. He reported that Rev. Joel Anderle of Community Covenant Church is joining the Clergy Group. Dennis reviewed some pastoral concerns and noted that the memorial service for Elouise Bjorkman will be held on Nov. 5. The Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service is scheduled for Nov. 20, 7 P.M. at Our Lady of Assumption. Dennis is meeting monthly with the confirmands and arranging a time for them to go to McDonald Funeral Home for a session on grief. Dennis and Bob Priestley met with a representative of Olan Mills to discuss the possibility of having a new pictorial directory. Council agreed that it was time to create a new directory. Dennis informed Council that he is in need of a new computer. He presented a proposal for a MacBook Air. Total cost, including the laptop, Intel processor, case, instore support and tutoring, external DVD, Ethernet adapter, and iwork family pack, is \$2,005.95. Dennis will talk with Jeff Law to determine line items in the budget that would be available to fund this purchase.

Financial Reports: Jim Marshall submitted a written report highlighting recent income, including memorial gifts of \$525, \$362 from sale of Bruins raffle tickets, and \$405 from pie sales. Gross income from the Pumpkin Patch is \$1,363.

Christian Education Report: Barbara reported that there has been a good response from parents to having a consistent caregiver in the Nursery. There have been 2-4 children there each week. The Lost Coin rotation will end on Oct. 30. The focus for November will be Heifer, ending with the Heifer Marketplace on Dec. 4. The Advent Workshop is scheduled for Nov. 27 at 5:30 P.M. There will be crafts and activities for people of all ages, and a spaghetti dinner will be served. Both Youth Groups enjoyed a trip to Connor's Corn Maze on Oct. 23. Nineteen youth and five adults attended. The youth groups will carve pumpkins on Oct. 29. The pumpkins will be on display in the narthex on Oct. 30, and the congregation will vote with their dollars to choose the best pumpkin. Proceeds will be used to buy supplies to make boxes for Birthday Wishes, an organization that provides birthday parties to children in shelters. The Middle School group will participate in Mission:1, the UCC program running from Nov. 1-11 to raise awareness of hunger-related issues. There are 7 youth in the confirmation class. They have been meeting with Kathi Martin on Sunday mornings and attending youth group. The confirmands and their mentors will meet with Rev. Bailey on Oct. 30, and on Nov. 6 the class will take part in the UCC Heritage Tour in Boston. Bibles were given to the confirmands on Oct. 2. Barbara reported that the Pumpkin Patch fundraiser was successful, and she thanked all who helped, especially Kathi Martin and Margaret Waugh who took charge on Sat. After all expenses are in, Barbara estimated that nearly a \$1000 was raised. She noted that the folks at the Lynnfield Library were

pleased that the Pumpkin Patch was held on the same day as their used book sale. They had their best year ever and would like to coordinate the events again next year. Barbara reported that two new families with children are coming to church. A “Car Smash” will be held on Nov. 12 to raise money for Heifer International.

Outreach: Bruce informed Council that Sandi Watson has agreed to chair Outreach Ministries. Council enthusiastically approved her nomination. The bylaws require a special meeting of the congregation to appoint Ministry Chairs. Since there are other vacancies, Bruce suggested waiting until those vacancies are filled and then holding one special meeting to approve all nominations. Council concurred, and all agreed that Sandi could begin the outreach work immediately.

Membership: Dotty reported that the Welcome Back Pot Luck Lunch was successful, though holding it on the day of Annual Meeting did not attract as many people as anticipated. The pie and carrot cake sale is going well. Eighteen people have volunteered to help make pies on Nov. 4 and 5. A Picture with Santa Day is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 12 or Nov. 13, and Trivia Night is tentatively scheduled for Feb. 3, 2012. Other Membership events are in the discussion stages.

Diaconate: Linda reported that the organ, with some of its sticky keys, should be serviced in approximately one month. Bruce is looking into buying a ladder to be used for servicing the organ pipe area. The Deacon’s Halloween-themed breakfast will be held on Oct. 30. Deacons will decorate for Advent and Christmas on Nov. 26 at 10:00 A.M. Linda contacted the folks who perform the Resurrection, and they have put us on the list of churches to be considered for performances in 2012.

Finance: Dennis, Bruce, and Chuck reported on various building maintenance issues. The new gas boilers are installed and being “tweaked” to balance the system. The old equipment will be removed on Nov. 11. Thermostats will be replaced and additional baseboard will be installed in the Kindergarten classroom if deemed necessary. Some roof repairs have been made to get through the winter. The rubber roof over Tower Day and the Sanctuary roof are not in good shape. The chapel steps need repair. The batteries for the stove top burner igniters have been replaced, but they are still not working properly. The right oven was cleaned, and the oven igniter has been repaired. There was a general discussion of parking lot lights and how best to provide better light at the entrance to the parking lot.

Fundraiser Update: Linda estimates that the Recycling Day generated about \$2000. A discussion of other fundraisers ensued. Possibilities include: A May Day event, Prince Pizza fundraiser, and an Appraisal Day.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary

Next Meeting: Nov. 30, 2011. Meditation by Jeff Law