

Parish Council Minutes
October 27, 2010

In Attendance: Bruce Weaver, Mary Ann Parker, Linda Ladd, Chuck Cotting, Debbie Cotting, Dennis Bailey, and Kathi Martin. Jeff Law and Barbara Langill had other commitments and joined the meeting in progress.

Bruce called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and thanked new Council members for agreeing to serve. Linda Ladd gave the meditation.

The minutes of the 9/21/10 Council meeting were approved as amended.

Pastor Report: Dennis reported that Confirmation Classes will begin in November. There are five confirmands. Some folks have agreed to be mentors, and Dennis is working to recruit others to fill the remaining vacancies. Participants will be asked to pay \$25 to cover costs because the \$100 budgeted for the program doesn't cover all expenses.

Dennis reported on recent funerals, health concerns, and a parishioner who needs transportation to Sunday services.

He also reported that:

- He is holding monthly staff meetings.
- There are several new people in church on Sunday. He encouraged everyone to greet and get to know newcomers.
- He asked the Stewardship Commission to meet to discuss ways to raise the \$12,000 that was budgeted as income from fundraisers.
- Cory Johnson's Eagle Scout ceremony will be held on Nov. 21 at the Meeting House.
- The Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service will be held on Nov. 21, 7:30 PM at St. Paul's Church.
- He attended the MBA conference with Dotty Whittier, Kathy Delaney, and George Hayden.
- He will not be in church on Nov 14. Wendy Vanderhart, our Conference Minister, will preach that day.

Treasurer's Report: Jeff reviewed the income and expense year-to-date as compared to last year. He noted that pledge income is low during the summer months, but our expenses don't take a summer holiday so income trails expenses by \$20,829.40. That number is \$10,110.11 better than last year at this time thanks to more pledges coming in over the summer and a full first quarter of T-Mobile payments. Expenses were \$4,841.74 less than last year – mostly attributable to spending less on repair and maintenance. Jeff reviewed fund balances and noted that we have not received the final insurance payment for flood damage. He reported that the church has received a \$10,000 contribution to the Capital Maintenance Fund.

Nominating Report: Bruce reported that some vacancies exist. We need a Vice Moderator, a Diaconate member, and a Finance Ministry Chair. The Nominating Committee will meet soon to try to fill these vacancies. Bruce also reported that Edith Richard has agreed to be Historian, and Carrie Pericola has agreed to join the Tower Day Board. Council approved these appointments by unanimous consent.

Christian Education Report: Kathi informed Council that Barbara would like Council to consider revitalizing the Safe Church Committee by adding 4 members who would work with current member, Frank Scott, to update our Safe Church policy. Council agreed to appoint Heather Sievers, Denise Weaver, Carrie Pericola, Kathi Martin, and Barbara Langill to the Safe Church Commission.

Kathi also reported the following:

- The Rotation on Creation ends with the Creation Cantata on Nov. 7.
- The next Rotation topic will be Heifer.
- The first Sunday of every month features Faith in Action.
- 41 pairs of pajamas were collected during the Pajama Drive.
- The High School youth sent out 11 care packages to college freshmen.
- The Shareholders' dinner was well-attended. Both Young Adults and High School youth presented highlights of their mission trip experience in New Orleans.
- High School youth helped with the Deacons' breakfast.
- 19-21 students have been attending the Middle School Youth Group. 8 students have been attending the High School Youth Group.
- Middle School youth hosted a Halloween party at Bridge House in Lynn.
- Both Youth Groups will carve pumpkins on Oct. 30 and have them on display on Sunday, Oct. 31. The congregation will vote on their favorite pumpkins by making donations. The proceeds will be used to buy pants for Cradles to Crayons.
- The Middle School group is planning a trip to Overlook Farm for a day-long program.
- On Nov. 14, Sandi Watson will speak to both Youth Groups about her Heifer trip to Peru.
- The Advent Workshop on Nov. 28 will include a dinner with a free-will offering.
- The Heifer Marketplace will be held on December 5.

Kathi noted the following professional development opportunities:

- On Sept. 25, Kathi, Barbara, and Carrie Pericola attended a Pathways conference.
- On Oct. 18, Barbara attended a workshop on planning for Advent-Epiphany.
- On Oct. 22, Barbara attended a Boundaries Awareness program in North Andover.
- On Nov 4-6, Barbara will attend a Princeton Conference on Emerging Adulthood.

At the September Council meeting, Barbara proposed placing a dumpster used for recycling paper somewhere on the property. The church would receive a portion of the proceeds from recycling the paper. The dumpster company would like the dumpster located in a very visible spot. Council discussed some possible locations.

Outreach Ministries: Jeff, reporting for Peggy Batchelder, noted that our Outreach budget donates \$1500 per month to OCWM. The budget also provides support for Bread and Roses and Youth mission trips.

Membership Ministries: Chuck reported that Membership has 3 events planned:

- Saturday Nov. 13 - Potluck supper and Bingo
- Sunday Nov. 21 - Bring a friend to church Sunday
- Friday Feb. 11 - Trivia night

The Membership commission is working to plan a prospective members meeting.

Education Ministries: Tower Day and the Tower Day Parents' Forum are hosting a concert featuring Johnny the K. The community will be invited to attend at no charge. Classrooms will be open so it will be an opportunity to showcase the school and attract new families. The Tower Day Director, Sally MacDonald, suggested that the church might want to participate in some way. Education Ministries will discuss the possibility of using this opportunity to provide information about Rotation Sensation and our Youth programs to families attending the concert.

Diaconate: Linda reported that the organ repair process is taking longer than expected because a part needed to be ordered. That part has arrived. The tuning of the organ is planned for mid-November, and

the pianos have been tuned. The church has paid \$1200 to date; another bill for \$1450 is anticipated. The one-year service contract will cost \$1000. There will be a Deacons' breakfast on Oct. 31. Proceeds from the breakfasts are used to fund organ repair and maintenance.

Linda noted that Doug Hodgkins is having knee surgery after Christmas. Noel Smith will fill in during his absence.

Fifth through eighth graders will be Bearers of the Light, lighting the candles before church, and then leaving for their classes with the other children. Linda noted that Bearers of the Light are different from Acolytes who participate in the entire service.

On Oct. 14, Linda and Margaret Waugh attended the Protestant Chaplaincy meeting at Melrose Wakefield Hospital. Their donations are down, and they are thinking of hosting a night of entertainment to raise funds. They would need a venue for the event. Linda will e-mail them to say that our halls might be available depending on the date they choose.

Stewardship Ministries: Stewardship is having a meeting on Oct. 28 to discuss fundraising ideas. Mary Ann suggested that we increase financial awareness by including regular updates in Tower Notes to inform the congregation of our income versus expense status. Council agreed and thought a simple graph might convey the information in a concise way. Jeff Law will work on a graph that would include the most meaningful data. It was suggested that we research the possibility of offering automatic payment of pledges. Dennis will circulate information he has on this subject. Stewardship will discuss how best to raise funds using the Bruins tickets that were donated to the church.

Finance Ministries: Bruce noted that since we do not have a Finance Ministries chair, building maintenance issues should be referred to him. If he's not available, contact Jeff Law or Chuck Cotting. Dennis will do what he can during the week. Phil Johnson is still involved in finishing many projects, but shouldn't be called for new problems. Bruce noted that a work party is needed to reassemble the kitchen, clean up the stage area, and organize both Todd and Richards Hall.

Update on Possible new website: Council decided to table this project until we can devote the time needed to make this change. Linda is working on the Tower Day website and adding more Tower Day information to the Church website.

Dennis led us in prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary