

Parish Council Meeting: October 27, 2009

Attendees: Rev. Dennis Bailey; Chris Parker, Linda Ladd, Kathi Martin, Barbara Langill, MaryAnn Parker, Phil Johnson, Bruce Weaver, Jeff Law. The meeting opened at approximately 7:35 p.m. with a meditation by Barbara.

Minutes for the prior meeting were approved. Coincident with that was a discussion about more timely publication of the Parish Council meeting minutes.

Pastor's Report

Confirmation class is going well. Confirmation will be on Mother's Day. There is an on-going need to have people sponsor lunch for the confirmation class after church on Sundays.

Much of Dennis' time has been occupied with building maintenance issues – most recently with issues revolving around the pump in the basement. Currently we are using a spare pump, and we are gathering estimates for a new two-pump system.

The UCC Massachusetts Conference Annual Meeting was two weeks ago. The meeting was well attended (Dennis, Dotty Whittier, and Kathy Delaney attended from Centre Church). At the meeting it was voted to raise fellowship dues by 25 cents.

The MBA (Metropolitan Boston Association) meeting is this coming weekend at United Parish in Brookline. Dennis will be attending "Boundary Awareness" training – which is required by the MBA for pastors to remain in good standing. This training is somewhat similar to "safe church" training, but oriented toward pastors as they conduct their pastoral work.

The Ecumenical Thanksgiving service is Sunday 11/22 at 7:30 at Centre Church.

The Lynnfield Clergy Association continues to meet at the Lynnfield Senior Center once a month.

Dennis spoke about some Pastoral Care issues. On item to note is that we continue to need volunteers who can drive Betty and Spencer Campbell to/from church on Sunday.

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. Our fiscal year starts July 1, and we have results through September at this point. The summer months are a bit slow from a revenue/pledge perspective given that many people are on vacation. But the trends we are seeing this year are not out-of-the-ordinary. In the next few months we should get a better idea of how we are tracking.

Education Ministries

Rotation: We are doing the Zacchaeus module in Rotation. For the first Sunday of each month, the Children's message will center around the Church calendar. For a few of the Sundays in November, all of the children will be doing the same thing in their classes: Heifer, plan for the Pageant.

Youth Groups: The high school youth group made college care packages for Freshman from Centre Church. Five youth and 4 adults walked for My Brother's Table. The Yankee Candle fundraiser raised approximately \$800 toward the mission trip. The middle school youth group is having a Friday sleep-over and then going to Cradles to Crayons. The High School youth group is going to Boston to learn about homelessness on Saturday, and then coming back to the church and sleeping outside in boxes on Saturday night. Both youth groups will help with crafts and games at the Holiday Festival. At the Ecumenical Thanksgiving service our youth will help with refreshments.

Other: We are looking at the potential to use Facebook as an interactive tool to communicate with our youth. Further investigation will be done. Barbara is attending a “polity” class to learn how the UCC is organized, its functions, how they operate, what we believe, etc. This is a requirement to be a certified Christian Educator.

There was also a discussion about the publishing cycle for Tower Notes (now every 2 weeks) and that this sometimes requires us to publicize events without having times for the events finalized yet. The decision was to investigate having a separate “youth-group page” which could be updated more frequently.

Outreach

We are looking at potential dates of November 15th or 22nd to have a speaker from Bread & Roses. The next Outreach meeting is November 5. We are looking at our history of contributions to the Protestant Chaplaincy Council and if we can contribute this year.

Diaconate

The Deacon’s breakfast raised \$500 toward the organ maintenance fund. Another breakfast is scheduled for November 1 at 8:00. This time the featured menu item will be French Toast. (Or “Freedom Toast” if you prefer.)

The Diaconate has assumed responsibility to liaise with the Chaplaincy Council. Linda attended the last meeting. The Chaplaincy Council supports the chaplain at the Melrose-Wakefield Hospital. The chaplain spends approximately 60 hours per month at the hospital. The Council’s budget is approximately \$6000 for the year (down by \$1800). Centre Church has made donations in the past (2004, 2007, 2008) but not this year. With the Outreach team, we will investigate what we can give this year.

Stewardship

The committee met last night. They discussed what we raised for the current pledge year versus what we had planned to raise, and started thinking about the coming year’s Stewardship Campaign.

Finance Ministries

Clean-up Day is November 7 (9-12). The focus will be on yard clean-up (which we have elected to do ourselves as a congregation to save money in our budget). We purchased 20 new folding plastic tables at Costco. (Many of our old tables were in a very sorry state.) Donations are welcome to defray the cost: \$50 for a 6’ table and \$65 for an 8’ table. Those who donate will get their name on a table!!

Phil brought-up the topic of the H1N1 virus and what we are doing as a church to ensure that we don’t pass-along germs. It was decided that for Communion we would no longer pass pieces of the large loaf of bread because it requires each member to handle the loaf to break-off a piece.

The T-Mobile project is almost complete, and the company started paying rent (\$1500 per month) as of September 17 (13 days ahead of schedule!!).

Phil presented an analysis which shows that so far we have spent \$21,000 for a new oven, new carpet in the hallways, and parts of the HVAC system. However, because of generous donations and use of some memorial funds, we will only require \$1800 from the operational budget to cover these costs. Many thanks to everyone who have contributed to these projects!!

Phil also presented a summary of the cost to replace all of the heating systems (around \$58,000). We may be able to cover some portion of that from previous donations and Memorial funds, however.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Parish Council is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on November 24, in the Pastor’s outer office.

Respectfully submitted – Jeffrey Law, Treasurer (for Kim Morrissey, Recording Clerk).