

Centre Congregational Church - Parish Council Minutes - September 23, 2009

In Attendance: Linda Ladd, Mary Ann Parker, Chuck Cotting, Jeff Law, Perry Hayden, Dennis Bailey, Chris Parker, Barbara Langill, Dwight Decker, Phil Johnson and guest Debbie Cotting

Meditation: Linda led us in a meditation walking us through the church's web site focusing on our core values and bedrock beliefs.

Pastor Report: Dennis reported the following:

- He hopes to have a true Easter sunrise service at Pillings Pond next year and is looking for a team to help him organize it
- Confirmation will start in October and he is looking for a female mentor
- He will be assembling a committee to revise the music director job description
- The Lynnfield Clergy Association is planning the Thanksgiving service on November 22nd to be held at Centre Church
- He will be attending the Mass Conference meetings on 10/15, 16 and 17
- The Deacons are working on a program to make sure that people who need rides to church on a Sunday morning can get them

Shopping Card Program: Debbie updated Council on the shopping card program.

- Phil Triffletti has joined the team.
- Last year the program raised \$2,500 and they have a goal this year of \$5,000.
- The goal is also to get people who have not used the program before to try it.
- Lastly they will be trialing how people can order the cards on their own at home on-line.

Annual Meeting: Chris noted that the annual meeting of the congregation will be on 9/27 following the church service.

Nominating Committee: Jeff reported that:

- Bruce Weaver has agreed to be Vice Moderator.
- Jeff Law will be Treasurer and also serve on the Diaconate. As Treasurer he will also serve on the Tower Day Board.
- Parish Council needs to appoint an Historian.
- The motion was made, seconded and approved to appoint Ann and Katherine Decker as co-Librarians.

Treasurer Report: Dwight reported:

- A review of the 2008 to 2009 final figures. We were left with a deficit of \$17,000 which is much better than we had been assuming mid-year.
- Parish Council then thanked Dwight for a job well done for his many years of service as Treasurer.

Christian Education: Barbara reported:

- The New Orleans mission trip was a huge success with 19 youth and 4 adults. A Partners Dinner was held on 9/13.
- The youth groups kicked off the year with a grill party on 9/20.
- The youth groups will also take on a Yankee Candle fundraising program this year.

- The youth will participate in the Walk for My Brothers Table on 10/25.
- The first Rotation Sensation program is about Daniel and the Lion's Den and that is going quite well thus far.
- On 9/27 Bibles will be presented to pre-kindergarten, 4th graders and 9th graders.
- The first Sunday of every month this year there will be emphasis on the various aspects and seasons of the church year.
- They are looking at various aspects of social networking for the youth through the church by developing a face book page for the church youth. This will be explored further before implementation.

Outreach Ministries: Jeff reported on behalf of Peggy Batchelder that the team is just getting started up now that the summer is over and will have more to report at the next meeting.

Membership Ministries: Chuck reported that the Lobster-fest netted \$550 in income. The next meeting is on 9/25 to work on the program for this year.

Education Ministries: Perry reported that the classes at Tower Day School are full and that there is a licensing inspection this fall. Parish Council thanked Perry for her service as chair for the past several years.

Diaconate: Linda reported they are planning a breakfast on 10/4 to raise funds for the organ repair.

Stewardship Ministries: Mary Ann reported that the Committee will be meeting over the coming months to plan its activities for the year.

Finance Ministries: Phil reported:

- The hall carpets were installed in early September and they are a great improvement. The price was \$3,400 which will be funded in part by the T-Mobile signing bonus received in July and a donation appeal to the congregation.
- The golf tournament this year had 24 players (the most ever) and it raised over \$1,200 for Outreach Ministries.
- The T-Mobile project is underway and major work on this is expected throughout the month of October.
- The HVAC system components that need urgent repair will cost in the vicinity of \$16,000. Phil presented one set of bids and possible funding sources which include private donations, memorial funds and the current year budget. Parish Council approved a motion that was seconded to allow Phil to enter into an agreement not exceeding \$16,000 to replace the 2 gas fired units that heat the sanctuary and the unit that heats the 2nd floor offices. Phil also reported that to convert the oil fired units to gas at this time (these heat Tower Day School and the Chapel) would cost \$25,000 and as such we will put that project on hold. The meeting adjourned with Dennis leading us in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Phil Johnson