

Parish Council Minutes

September 24, 2013

In Attendance: Bruce Weaver, Linda Ladd, Barbara Langill, Kathi Martin, Jeff Law, Jim Marshall, Dotty Whittier, Chuck Cotting, Debbie Cotting, Margaret Waugh, and Rev. Dennis Bailey.

Moderator, Bruce Weaver convened the meeting at 7:05 P.M., and Jim Marshall offered the meditation.

Council approved the minutes of the September 3, 2013 meeting.

Pastor Report: Rev. Bailey reviewed his activities over the past two months and noted some pastoral concerns. There are weddings planned for September 28, November 16, and December 31. The Ecumenical Thanksgiving service will be held at Centre Church on November 24 at 7:00 P.M. Rev. Joel Anderle, Pastor of Community Covenant Church in West Peabody will preach. Rev. Bailey plans to take his sabbatical from June 1, 2014 through August 2014. He may extend his time away into September, 2014 by using the balance of his vacation time. Rev. Bailey reported that he plans to set a time to meet with people who have expressed a desire to become members.

Financial Reports: Treasurer, Jeff Law reviewed the proposed FY 2014 budget. The budget contained \$15,000 to pay for coverage during Rev. Bailey's sabbatical. Since we now know that only one month of Rev. Bailey's sabbatical will fall in FY 2014, the amount was changed to \$5000. The proposed budget results in a deficit of \$23,671.12. Council voted unanimously to present the amended budget at Annual Meeting for approval by the congregation. Council then discussed capital maintenance issues, the most pressing of which is roof and gutter replacement. These projects cannot be paid for out of available funds. Council discussed ways to fund these projects. A motion was made and seconded to conduct a supplemental drive in the Fall of 2013 to raise \$60,000 for roof and gutter replacement and to recommend a major Capital Campaign in the Fall of 2014 to address the remainder of the capital projects (see attached list). The total cost of the roof and gutter project is estimated to be \$85,000, but thanks to some generous donations, the cost has been reduced to \$60,000. The motion passed unanimously.

Christian Education Report: Barbara Langill reported that children in grades 1 through 8 will remain in worship on the first Sunday of each month. The Christian Ed team will work with Rev. Bailey to plan a more "family friendly" service on those days. The Write On Secret Pen Pal program ended with an Ice Cream Social on Sept. 15. The Shareholder's Dinner was held on Sept. 22. Participants in this year's Mission Trips shared their experiences, and everyone enjoyed a delicious meal of pulled pork and

sweet corn. Kathi Martin noted that she, Barbara, and Rev. Bailey met with confirmands and their parents on Sept. 22 to discuss the Confirmation Program. The class will be offered to 8th and 9th graders, and it appears that 8 youth will participate. The first Confirmation Class will be held on Sept. 29 at 9:00 A.M. A Confirmation Retreat is being planned. Upcoming Christian Ed events include the Advent Workshop on 12/1, A Journey to Bethlehem on 12/7, the Heifer Market Place on 12/8, and the Christmas Pageant on 12/22. Barbara reported that the Certification Program for Christian Educators is once again being offered by the MACUCC. Centre Church will host 3 of the training sessions on 11/16, 2/1, and 4/5.

Membership: Dotty Whittier reported that nearly 30 people have signed up for the Pot Luck Luncheon and Bingo after Annual Meeting. She noted that the Membership group has cancelled plans for a day of apple picking on 10/6, but they are working to schedule an afternoon at the Peabody Essex Museum in November or early December. Membership will meet with the Night In Bethlehem group on 9/26. The annual Pie Sale is scheduled for Sun. November 24. Pie makers will gather in the kitchen on 11/21, 22, and 23 to make the pies.

Diaconate: Linda Ladd reported that the Diaconate is discussing coverage for preaching and care-giving while Rev. Bailey is on Sabbatical. She noted that there is one open spot on the Diaconate.

Finance: Chuck Cotting reported on vandalism to the Tower Day play structure. The video feeds from the surveillance cameras will be turned over to the Police Dept.

New Business: Barbara Langill will investigate the possibility of holding a Recycling Day this fall.

Council expressed appreciation to Linda Ladd for her 12 years of service on the Diaconate and thanked Ryan Batchelder for his audio/visual help.

Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 P.M., and Rev. Bailey led a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary