

## Parish Council Minutes

September 25, 2012

In attendance: Bruce Weaver, Barbara Langill, Kathi Martin, Jim Marshall, Jeff Law, Carrie Pericola, Dotty Whittier, Linda Ladd, Debbie Cotting, Chuck Cotting, and Sandi Watson.

Moderator, Bruce Weaver convened the meeting at 7:05 P.M., and Dotty Whittier offered the mediation.

Council approved the minutes of the August 22, 2012 meeting.

Pastor's report: Rev. Bailey was on vacation and not able to attend. He met with the Moderator on Friday, September 21 to review the agenda.

Christian Education: Barbara Langill reported that the church school theme for the year is "Faith Heroes." The first rotation focuses on David. There is a new 3-5 year old class in Room 14; three children are currently enrolled. Children in grades 1-8 are in one class, going to a different workshop each week. The Nursery is staffed by Lisa Gerbick with assistance from high school volunteers. The Write On Secret Pen Pal program ended with an Ice Cream Social on 9/23. Five youth and five adults participated. The Shareholders Dinner was held on 9/16. Joplin Mission Trip participants provided dinner and shared the highlights of their trip. Both youth groups and their parents met on 9/23 to review the schedule for the year. The groups will meet from 6-7:30 on Sunday nights. The High School group will participate in a multi-church youth program, joining youth from Salem Tabernacle Church, First Church Congregational, and A Different Christian Voice to focus on learning and service. Upcoming events include a service project in Salem, attending U2Charist at Salem Tabernacle Church, an overnight with City Reach in Boston, an overnight at Centre Church, a retreat at Camp Calumet, and planning and leading a worship service on Good Friday. Confirmation candidates and their parents met on 9/18 for an overview of the confirmation program. Seven youth have registered to participate. The class and their mentors will meet monthly with Rev. Bailey. Kathi Martin will lead additional classes on Sunday mornings. A confirmation retreat is planned for March. Barbara noted several upcoming events: The Pumpkin Patch on 10/20, Stage dedication on 11/4, CRT Recycling Drive on 11/10, Town Tree Lighting with Gingerbread Man Decorating and possible craft tables on 12/1, Advent Workshop on 12/2, and Breakfast with Santa on 12/15. MACUCC is offering the Certification for Christian Educators; Centre Church will host training sessions on 10/13, 2/9, and 4/27.

Outreach: Sandi Watson reported that the Outreach Team remains committed to fighting hunger and poverty through monthly donations to Bread and Roses and Our Church's Wider Mission. They plan to provide an alternative giving opportunity to benefit Bread and Roses so that people who want to donate in honor of a friend or loved one will have an easy way to do so. In FY 2013, The Outreach Team will provide a significant donation to support the annual mission trip. In addition, they will donate collected non-perishable food to Haven From Hunger and continue to support the animal rescue/care work at Nevins Farm. They will hold a gift card drive for Journeys of Hope, an organization in Salem that supports young adults who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Throughout the year, the Outreach team will share more information about these organizations as well as provide updates on the work of Heifer International.

Membership: Dotty Whittier reported that 31 people attended the Essex River Cruise and dinner at Woodman's to hear Peking and the Mystics. Upcoming Membership events include: Trivia Night on 10/12, a matinee performance of Double Indemnity at Stoneham Theatre on 10/21, and Pie Making on 11/17. The Membership Team has begun its annual review of the membership rolls.

Diaconate: Linda Ladd reported that there are Deacons' Breakfasts planned for 10/28, early December, and late January. Proceeds benefit the organ fund. Dave Wallace will be contracted for annual organ service in mid-November. There will be a musical production by the Youth Choir as part of the stage dedication on 11/4. Deacons will serve lunch on that day. The Deacons have been brainstorming about several fundraisers to benefit the church.

Stewardship: Carrie Pericola contacted people who have pledged in the past but have not yet submitted this year's pledge.

Finance: Chuck Cotting noted that Super Soccer Stars has dropped classes for Sept. and Oct. for lack of enrollment. They're working on better advertising for their programs and hope to hold classes at Centre Church later in the year. Chuck reviewed the status of several projects related to the new stage, including closet construction, sump pump replacement, new stage curtain, electrical work, and painting. As a donation, Robbins Roofing corrected the gutter problems on the rear portico roof. The rotted trim still needs to be replaced. Chuck is working on a list of major capital projects including water infiltration in the basement, roof and gutter replacement, Sanctuary window restoration, kitchen remodeling, and preparing and painting of exterior of church. Jeff Langill suggested to Chuck that we explore the possibility of solar units for the south-facing roof. Chuck will research possible grant funding for this type of project which, he noted, could not be completed without a new roof.

Financial Reports and Review of 2012-2013 Budget: Jeff Law reviewed the FY 2013 budget, noting that it reflected changes discussed at the last Council meeting (moving the ramp donation to the operating budget and restoring the Youth Ministries line item to \$1500.) After general budget discussion, Council voted to make the following budget changes: On the income side, amend the Current Year Pledge amount to more accurately reflect pledges received and add \$2000 to the MBA dues line item. On the expense side of the budget, Council reduced the MBA Dues Received from Members line item by \$3882.30. Council agreed that we can no longer afford to fund the deficit between MBA dues received from members and MBA dues paid. Council voted to send a letter to members who did not pay their MBA dues this year asking them to please submit payment for their dues. The anticipated response from this letter prompted Council to increase the income in the MBA line item by \$2000. Council then voted to pay MBA dues equal to the amount received from Members thereby reducing the expense line item by \$3882.30. These actions will eliminate future deficits for MBA dues and align MBA dues and expenses. The FY 2013 budget includes a projected deficit of \$10, 148.10. As a result of that deficit and last year's deficit of \$14, 467.82, Council voted to approve the FY 2013 as amended and, in a separate vote, to hold a supplemental pledge drive to raise an additional \$25,000.

Fundraiser Update: Barbara Langill contacted Honey Baked Ham to schedule their fundraiser on two Sundays before Thanksgiving and two Sundays before Christmas. Carrie Pericola has 9 crafters lined up for the Pumpkin Patch and Craft Fair on Oct. 20. Carrie also suggested the possibility of selling Richardson's ice cream on the day of Geraniumfest. There was general discussion of other fundraising ideas for the day of the town tree lighting, and Debbie noted that the Yankee Candle fundraiser is underway.

New Business: Bruce circulated a letter to Parish Council from Ken Kramer whose daughter Valerie passed away on August 14. Mr. Kramer expressed his gratitude for the support, understanding, and compassion that Rev. Bailey provided to him and his family and noted that "you are blessed to have Reverend Dennis Bailey as the pastor of your church."

There being no further business, Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary

**Next Council Meeting: October 30. Meditation by Chuck Cotting**