

Parish Council Minutes - September 3, 2013

In Attendance: Bruce Weaver, Linda Ladd, Barbara Langill, Kathi Martin, Jeff Law, Jim Marshall, Dotty Whittier, Chuck Cotting, Debbie Cotting.

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

Council approved the minutes of the June 18, 2013 meeting.

Financial Reports: Jeff Law circulated the Treasurer's report which contained FY 2013 year-end data. As a result of the successful Supplemental Pledge Drive, we ended the year with an overall surplus in the Operating Fund of \$18,145.17. Income at year-end was \$23,083.18 better than last year and \$18,978.33 better than budget-again due to supplemental pledges. Expenses were \$9529.81 better than last year and \$9314.94 better than budget. The Supplemental Pledge Drive allowed us to cover the deficits in both the FY 2013 and FY 2012 budgets. Jeff then reviewed the Preliminary Budget for FY 2014. He noted that pledges are slightly lower than last year. It was hoped that people would include their supplemental pledges when considering their pledges for FY 2014. However, it appears that most folks did not do that. Financial Secretary, Jim Marshall noted that there are some people who pledged last year who have not yet done so for this year. Without a supplemental pledge drive, Jeff projects that income in FY 2014 will be down \$32, 415.97-leaving us in a deficit situation once again. The Preliminary FY 2014 Budget contains 2% salary increases and modest increases in utility and insurance expenses. Some savings is anticipated in the health insurance line item.

Christian Education: Barbara Langill reported that Church School will kick off on Sept. 8 with carnival games on the front lawn. This is the tenth year of Rotation Sensation so the ten most popular rotations from the past will be chosen as themes for this year. Lisa Gerbick will staff the nursery again this year, and the 3-5 year-old class will be offered as well. Grades 1-8 will meet as one group. Youth Groups will begin on Oct. 6. The Secret Pen Pal program will culminate with an ice cream social on Sept. 15. Thirteen children participated in Vacation Bible School, led by Mia Sievers and a host of volunteers. Denise Weaver, Gage Whittier, and Lynne Forgione chaperoned the 7 youth who traveled to Atlantic City to help with the rebuilding efforts after Super Storm Sandy. Rev. Bailey and Jeff Langill led 15 volunteers to Joplin, MO to help with rebuilding efforts there. Both groups will share their stories at the Shareholders Dinner on Sept. 22. Rev. Bailey, Kathi Martin, and Barbara Langill will lead the confirmation program. This year, the 8th and 9th graders will be combined for confirmation class with the intent of moving confirmation to 8th grade in the future. Upcoming events include: Pumpkin Patch on 10/19, Advent Workshop on 12/1, Journey to Bethlehem on 12/7, Heifer Marketplace on 12/8, and the Christmas Pageant on 12/22. A one-night book group to discuss Mary's Little Donkey is being considered for one night during Advent.

Membership: Dotty Whittier reported that the Membership Ministries team reviewed past activities to determine what worked best and what people enjoyed. They agreed that it's important to have some fellowship activities that don't focus on fundraising. So far, they are planning a Pot Luck Bingo luncheon on 9/29, Apple Picking and Hayride in Oct., a visit to the Peabody Essex Museum in Nov., Apple Pie sale in Nov., refreshments for A Night in Bethlehem on 12/7, Trivia and Silent Auction in Jan. or Feb., and a coffee house coordinated with Doug Hodgkins featuring Centre Church talent on a date to be determined. Several other activity ideas are under discussion.

Diaconate: Linda Ladd noted that summer services in the chapel ran smoothly. Elizabeth Walsh preached on the 3 Sundays that Rev. Bailey was away. Margaret Waugh has agreed to become the new chair of Diaconate.

Finance: Chuck Cotting outlined several completed maintenance projects. Scott DeSantis painted a Tower Day classroom wall, replaced some tiles in the center stairway, and changed the exhaust fan in the first floor men's room. The shed window pane was replaced, and the shed window box was replaced. Patrick Davis filled in for Tony's vacation. Chuck is working to set an installation date for the two-way intercom system for the Tower Day office and classrooms, church office, and Pastor's office. The telephone and internet service has been switched to Verizon at a significant cost savings. Council expressed appreciation to Jim Johnson for his invaluable assistance with the conversion as well as his help with repairing the Christian Education computer when it was attacked by a virus.

Capital Campaign Update: Bruce Weaver reported on Capital Campaign information he gathered over the summer. A general discussion ensued concerning the best way to raise funds for the many capital projects that need to be addressed. Bruce distributed [A Guide to Capital Campaigns](#) he received from Mass. Conference. Council members will review the document to prepare for further discussion at the next meeting.

New Business: Council agreed to schedule the Annual Meeting after worship on Sept. 29. Council members need to get their Ministry Team reports to Susan for publication in the Annual Report.

There being no further business, Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary

Next Meeting: September 24. Meditation by Jim Marshall