

Church Council Meeting

June 19, 2012

In attendance Pastor Bob, Jill Wilson, Jeff Paulette, Terry Parker, Bill Katt, Joyce Rioux, John Rioux, Jeanette Baker, Susan Powers, Tim Krauss, Heidi Flower, Matti Verzino, Vivian Brackett, Carol Rivard.

Heidi Flower provided the opening devotion and prayer.

May minutes were approved and accepted.

Faith in action- Read to Feed packets have been handed out to Sunday school children. There will be a field trip to Overlook Farm in Rutland Mass. on Saturday September 29th. The Faith in action group and Education Committee along with the Sunday school children will attend. This will provide the children with a sense of what the Heifer project is all about. Our insurance will cover any problems but the drivers should have adequate car insurance also.

Lunch packs have been started. The goal is to provide at least 20 lunches a month for school children that usually have free lunch during the school year. This will take place for the months of June July and August. We participated in Food Shares walk against hunger. We raised \$700.

We will also be asking the congregation members that garden to think about sharing their bounty with the soup kitchen so that people can have a chance to receive fresh vegetables.

Music- Heidi reported that the tag sale held on June 2nd made a profit of \$500. VBS has a lot of participation both young and adult. It should be a great week.

Trustees- Ray Barker will be in contact with Pascom and have them come out and inspect the sound system in Sessions Hall. John Hickman will contact the representative from the solar panel company and set up a meeting with the trustees. Tim Hickman has just about finished the retaining wall outside the office.

Staff Parish – Joyce Rioux reported that anywhere from 2-9 children are using the nursery. The attendance is consistent and involves different families. The committee agreed to staff the nursery for the summer. The money was already allocated in the budget. They will be interviewing a new person for the sub position. The person they had could no longer fulfill the job. They have not actively pursued the opening of assistant music director. The thought was to look into a seminary student. Maybe someone from Yale. Pastor has been reappointed to our church.

Finance - Tim Kraus reported that as of the end of May our budget is about even after all income is accounted for. That does not include the \$40,000 budget gap. There is no set plan to address that issue. On the expense side, oil was about the same amount as last year. There is \$2300 left in the unrestricted account. The audit guide was submitted. The audit should be done by the end of the summer. Naomi McConnell is stepping down as financial Secretary at the end of the summer.

Annual Conference – Matti Verzino was a new member to conference this year. She reported that it was very inspiring. She said she learned more about our church in four days than she has in all the years she has been a member. There was a lot of singing and praying all weekend but the best part was the youth service on Saturday. It was discussed having some of our children go next year if there is any interest. Matti has expressed interest in going again next year.

Other issues- Bill Katt asked if anything was done with the space study task force. There is a need for a trustee to help with the study. Carol Rivard agreed to join him and Pastor Bob. Pastor stated that we are becoming very successful in our ministries. The question is where will we have programs? We need to focus on the space we have. Assuming WE ARE GROWING.

Action items - Pastor Bob has contacted Rev. George Enghart about coming to train us in how to prepare a narrative budget. George has agreed to come but there is no set date. Bob will set that up.

Laura Taylor has given one disc of pictures to Jeanette Baker to upload into power church. The goal is to have an updated church directory by the fall.

Jill Wilson commented that we need to be more proactive on communicating with the new people that are attending service each Sunday.

Long Range Worship plan – Need to schedule a worship meeting and discuss the ideas that came out of district day.

Small Groups - Jill Wilson has prepared a survey to see what activities/ groups the congregation would like to see held. Most of the surveys will be electronic. Some paper surveys will be available to those who do not have electronic means. It will take 3 months to collect the data. The results should be available in October.

Jeanette has started the process of videotaping the sermon. She will continue to try and get the best angle to post on the web site.

Pastor's report- The city of Bristol's emergency preparedness department met with Pastor Bob on Monday. They were very pleased with our facility. The idea was to use our building as a warming center. The city was most pleased with the building being handicap accessible. Discussion is ongoing. We will update our call list of shut-ins and those on the Friends of Prospect group.

Pastor will be taking vacation from July 10th through the 23rd. In the fall he will be attending a leadership conference in Kansas City Missouri. This is part of his ongoing education.

There have been a lot of baptisms recently and there will be 2 more in the next few weeks. Heidi Flower volunteered to take over the cradle roll. This should be a commitment of the church to follow those who are baptized. Joyce Rioux has a full program already in place for use by Heidi.

Next meeting August 21, 2012

Pastor Bob closed with a prayer.

Terry Parker will do devotions in August.