

Church Council Minutes March 16, 2011

Present: Chuck Gentilin (Moderator), Rev. Emily Heath (Pastor), Richard Severance (Treasurer), Louise Severance (Vice-President LKG and Co-Chair of Deacons), Harriette Hamilton (Co-Chair of Deacons), Bill Hamilton (Chair of Trustees), Phil Bowen, Leni Brown, and Jill Gentilin (Secretary)

Opening: Emily opened the meeting with prayer. Bill moved to approve the minutes and Louise seconded the motion. They were accepted without change.

Treasurer: Richard presented the current figures for income and expenses. There was nothing exceptional noted. We discussed the cost of Propane. Phil said one church he knew of had automatic controls that switched thermostats back to a set number. Jill asked if the ski group charges should be increased because of the increase in cost of propane. There seemed to be no way to track this. Jill moved to accept the Treasurer's Report subject to audit, Louise seconded the motion and the report was accepted.

Deacons': Louise reported that there are plans in place for Easter. Mindy will place flowers on the windowsills. Maundy Thursday will be held at the Wilmington Church, Good Friday at the Episcopal Church and Easter Sunday here. It is positive that this represents more ecumenical activity within the community. A couple of the deacons will meet with Alan to discuss how hymns were chosen and try to have them represent a variety of old and new hymns. Bill said he would like to see AMEN sung at the end of hymn. The organist usually plays this if it is part of the music but anyone could add the AMEN if they wanted. They also plan a "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering that would be sent to Japan. Jill said that she hoped there would also be an offering for a local charity as suggested at one of the Congregational Meetings.

Trustees: Bill stated the Trustees plan to now meet on the second Thursday of the month and not on the first. The Investment Sub-committee will be restarted with Bill and Elinor Havness added to the committee. Jill added that they planned to stay with the same cleaning company with a request for some changes in the contract. Chuck plans to replace defective switches in the Narthex and Library today.

Pastor: Emily said she was pleased that the Ash Wednesday service was so well attended. Everyone agreed it was a great service. She said after the discontent that was expressed about the music that she hoped that people would come to her directly about problems. She is starting the study at the Last Chair today. Phil said he saw this church opening up to new ideas and being more attractive to the community especially to younger people. She said there had been some meetings to discuss the future of the Wilmington church and it might be time to have the Moderator of that church attend our meeting. Emily plans to restart the newsletter for both churches on a monthly basis. Minutes of meetings would be included in the newsletter.

Update on Steeple Fund: Checks are still trickling in and the fund has about \$20000. We will need that and all of the money in the Building Fund to do the repairs to the steeple. A contractor has not yet been chosen.

Snow Removal: Some will have to be hired to shovel the back porch and path to the propane tank next winter.

Bean Supper: Phil plans to do a Bean Supper but wanted to know if we wanted to do it at the church or the Town Hall. Because of the problems with parking everyone was okay with doing it at the Town Hall. He said he had to look at dates and coordinate with other things planned in the Valley. He would like us to consider adequate advertising. He would also like to do a Speed Ball game at the “Mudder Event” if he can get some young people to help. This would be a fundraiser for the church.

Other: We approved a birthday sleep over to be done in the Activity Center and a dinner Jill’s daughter would like to do for her Mudder team. Chuck wants to try and get the Men’s breakfast started and do a breakfast during the Blueberry Festival.

Emily closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Jill Gentilin

These minutes have not been approved.