

Church Council Meeting November 17, 2010

Present: Chuck Gentilin, (Moderator), Rev. Emily Heath (Pastor), Louise Severance (Vice-President), Leni Brown (Deacon), Richard Severance (Assist. Treasurer), Jill Gentilin (Secretary)

Opening: Emily opened the meeting with prayer. The minutes were approved without correction.

Treasurer: No report

Deacons: Reporting for the Deacons' Leni said they were working on more consistently calling persons who had not been to church for several Sundays. They also planned to use the Prayer Chain for reminders as well as prayer concerns. They appreciated the people who volunteered to help them, such as Dave Bolton who has been putting the numbers of the hymns on the board each Sunday. They planned to encourage more members to do this.

LKG: Louise reporting for the LKG also said they would use the prayer chain to remind people to come to the Thanksgiving Eve service and remind them of the pie sale. Apples have been donated for the pie sale. Joan Judd, Barbara Willenbrock, and Janet Kierys and Marge Thurber planned to meet at Louise's house to bake pies. Jill and Elinor will bake them at home. Pies will be available from 1-5 PM on Tuesday before Thanksgiving. The Christmas Party will be held on Dec. 14 at 6PM at Louise's home. The Christmas tree will be decorated on Dec. 12th. The LKG will provide presents for a needy family. Jill will contact Mary Jane Finnegan for details. Elinor will advise the LKG members on the amount of money we can spend on charities this year. The LKG treasury is smaller than in other years.

Trustees: Reporting for the Trustees Jill asked if the library phone was working and found it was not. the Trustees will try to take care of this. The Memorial plaque that has been proposed will be postponed until spring. The current arrangement for snow/mowing is the most economical arrangement and will not be changed. Phil Bowen will do a bean supper in the coming months and the Trustees voted to support this effort with money for the food There was a discussion about where the funding should come from. If it is fund raising it should come from the Trustee budget, if it is outreach it should come under the Deacons. Traditionally this funding has come from the LKG but because of their limited funds it was shifted to the church. We decided this dinner was fund raising; as such the Trustees will fund it. Richard has investigated a possible historic grant to restore the steeple for \$15,000. These are matching funds at a 50/50 rate. We cannot apply until next year and the decision will be made in November of 2011. We need to decide if there is work that needs to be done to prevent further deterioration but can wait or those that must be done as soon as possible. The grant will not be given for work that is already done. If we ask for the grant to apply to the roof repair our argument would be less strong. The grant does require more than one bid and John is working on acquiring two more bids. The Trustees plan to start work on the budget this week.

Pastor's report: Emily said the "Power of Forgiveness" book study had 11 attendees this Tuesday and a few more people plan to attend the next session. A study on different faiths will begin in the spring. This Sunday is Stewardship Sunday. Pledges should be dropped in the offertory baskets and others may come in by mail. We will look at the approach this year to see if there are ways to improve it. There will be an advertisement for the Thanksgiving service and it will be posted in the community activity calendar. Leni interjected that she feels it is critical to get people there. Richard

said that he and John are working on the sign for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve services. There is a pizza and football night this Sunday. A membership class is starting and several people are interested. There will be a Christmas Eve service ad in the Deerfield Valley News. Emily had questions about the possibility of dual membership and revamping the "Village Steeple".

Fund Raising: We have received about \$4000 and hope to get to \$10000 by the end of the year.

Openings on Boards for the upcoming year: There is a need for three more Deacons and two new Trustees. Jill asked the Deacons to consider whom they would like to nominate and Jill will work with the Trustees to fill their vacancies. Richard moved to warn a meeting before the end of the year to amend the by-laws to allow "faithful attendees" that are not members to be allowed to serve on the boards. Louise seconded the motion. The motion passed. Louise moved to appoint Bob Rubin as treasurer and Leni seconded the motion. The motion passed.

There being no further business the meeting was closed with a prayer by Emily.

Respectfully submitted

Jill Gentilin

The minutes have not been approved.