

**Minutes of the Council, South Church in Andover
October 22, 2007**

Present:

Bill Schroeder	Moderator
Lisa Stedman	Staff
Kate Kallis	Staff
Terry Ebner	Staff
Linda Hacker	Staff
Morgan Kiker	Treasurer
Tom Larson	Deacons
Laura Rex	Christian Education
Fran Fink	Stewardship
Ron Dann	Music
Janice Holden	Fellowship
Vicki Hoyt	Board of World Service
Sharon Coon	Board of Women's Ministries
Eric Stubenhaus	Nominating
Laurie Sorota	Youth
Steve Fink	Member at Large
Anne Clough	Clerk

Devotions

Morgan Kiker read two pieces written by Frederick Buechner from Jan Karon's book, "Father Tim's Journal." The first piece elaborated on St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians where Paul says, "the foolishness of God is wiser than men." The second piece was a meditation on the phrase, "Thy will be done" in the Lord's Prayer.

Approval and Review of Minutes

The September 24, 2007 Council Meeting minutes were sent to members before the meeting for review and were approved by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report

Morgan Kiker passed out a collection analysis sheet showing a 7% shortfall as of the end of September. Quarterly statements showing money received relative to pledges through the end of September will be sent out to church members before the end of October. Next week is the target. People need reminders about where they stand relative to their pledges. We are now over \$40,000 behind in pledges.

Discussion followed noting that we need to get the word out that good things are happening at South Church. We should call folks who are missing and send postcards and cards. For church events noted in Five Minutes, we should also add the reminder to "include your friends" in these events.

Staff Reports

Terry reported that nobody attended the parent forum with Jim Vanderpol last Tuesday night. Council members noted that the announcement was rather general without a good sense of who was targeted or why we should be there. The timing also might have been difficult. Having signups may help.

On the subject of future topics for forums, Kate described a program of church-based mentors for marriage that may be of interest. For the Day of Service, Kate suggested that committee chairs

check that there is sufficient support for their projects. For the upcoming trip to New Orleans, six folks have signed up – the Brinks, the Kikers, Kate Kallis and Susan Sleight. Three others are interested. Other church members are helping financially. Kate recently attended a lecture by Barbara Brown Taylor whose recent book is entitled, “Leaving the Church.” She spoke about the concept of Sabbath and noted that the punishment for not keeping the Sabbath is often a toll in stress.

Lisa said that she gives thanks for the staff and lay leadership of South Church each and every day. There was discussion about worship content and the length of worship. Noting that Sunday School ends at 11:45, the consensus was that church should aim to end between 11:30 and 11:45. Lisa is working on a proposal for a worship-planning forum, which would include deacons, music, CE and the Board of World Service as representatives. This forum would address planning for worship in the coming months. The first collaborative planning meeting is planned for Tuesday, November 27th at 7:30. The Interim Ministry Team discussed at the last Council Meeting has three members so far – Jane Ingram, Gary VanDoren and Anne Clough with others to be announced later. Lisa also reminded folks to please sign up the upcoming 4th Century dinners.

Worship Notes: Lisa reported that there were not enough signups to hold an inquirer’s class on November 3. Therefore, on November 4th, we will not be having new members join the church. There are a lot of people who are interested in joining, but finding a time to get together is the problem. November 11th is Stewardship Sunday and the third graders will get their Bibles on that day. Kate Kallis will preach on November 18th for a Thanksgiving themed service. Lisa will preach at Temple Emanuel on Thanksgiving eve, November 21st. Jonathan Drury will preach on November 25th. On December 2nd, the first Sunday in Advent, there will be an “exciting” service – an “experimental but contained” inter-generational service.

Christian Education Committee

Christian Education reported that Sunday classes are full and very busy. Laura emphasized how strong the CE program is and how seriously those working in CE take baptismal vows. Each Sunday morning, Sunday School teachers have a Drop Everything And Reflect (DEAR) time before meeting with their classes.

This year, the Sunday School will be supporting World Vision by sponsoring four children. A Sunday School worship service will be held in Fellowship Hall this Sunday with Annelise Mesler preaching. Collecting for UNICEF at Thanksgiving will again be encouraged; around \$500 is usually gathered through this effort. A family movie night is being planned. A Bible breakfast is scheduled for November 11th.

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee has just sent out a very colorful stewardship package, which includes a brochure, pledge card, automatic payments information and planned giving material. Fran expressed thanks to Linda Hacker for all her help on this task. The committee will do some after-church presentations on this coming Sunday and on November 4th and Sunday services will include more stories about “Who Taught You To Give”. Sunday School children will use a book, Stu Bear, to talk about stewardship.

Youth

Laurie Sorota reported that there are approximately 25 middle schoolers involved in the middle school programs. Some high schoolers are helping out. Approximately 15-20 high school students are in the high school program. There are 35 8th and 9th graders in the confirmation class.

\$250 was raised on the recent car wash. There have already been a number of fund-raisers this year - most recently apple pie baking and sales.

Board of Women's Ministries

The concept of a babysitting club involving older teens and children was discussed.

The board will be involved in cooking at Esperanza for the Day of Service and also doing some painting there.

Boxes in the hall are being used to collect items for the Violence Intervention Program in Haverhill. Contributions of healthy foods and activities for the program are desired. There is more information about this program in Five Minutes.

The board will again support the women's retreat in a financial way this year.

Fellowship

There has been discussion about ceramic cups vs. Styrofoam cups for Fellowship events. The decision has been made to use both ceramic and paper rather than Styrofoam. Styrofoam is no longer recycled in Andover.

Fellowship will host a ham and bean supper after the Day of Service. A group will be going to hear the Capital Steps on Saturday night. On November 10th, there will be an English Country Dance in the music room with live music. Fellowship and the Music Committee will host refreshments after caroling on December 9th.

Music

Tamara will be in Australia from November 20th – December 11th. Carol Georgine West will play the organ during this time and Linda O'Donnell will lead the choir.

There is a plan to permanently move bell tables into the choir room for bell choir practice.

The music committee will be caroling at Edgewood and other nursing homes on the Day of Service.

The South Church Musical Program, sponsored by the music committee, will be held on November 4th at 2:30.

Deacons

Tom Larson reported that the Deacons are in caretaker mode at this time with no major initiatives to report. Tom Jones led a Deacon's retreat in the chapel on October 3rd. Holly Redford has organized a dedication service for the Day of Service. The Deacons are currently looking for a Lenten Book theme. Easter comes early this year so we need to begin thinking about this now.

Trustees

Morgan Kiker reported for the Trustees. There is a lot of work going on in the parsonage; the moldy dry wall is being removed and the Trustees are also looking into controlling the water problems at the parsonage and improving drainage. A new replacement oil furnace will be installed. An informal testing indicates that lead paint does not appear to be a problem. If this is the case, we may be able to rent the parsonage sooner than we had thought.

The Trustees are planning to provide newsy articles to Five Minutes about our budget and how the church operates financially and wanted to present this idea to council for agreement on this course of action. The articles will focus on what it takes to make the church run.

The Trustees will be reactivating a personnel committee to deal with staff issues in the near future.

Board of World Service

Day of Service is the most pressing challenge at this point.

In the upcoming months, the board will be reviewing all our missions and setting policy for accepting new missions.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee will hold their first meeting on November 5th. They have a couple of Youth positions and one Board of World Service position to fill.

Member at Large

Steve Fink reported that the annual Men's Breakfast will be held this year at the Wyndham Hotel in Andover and will once again collect food and diapers for Neighbors in Need.

The Men's Retreat this year will be held the first weekend in May.

Seeds of Faith Fund

The draft of a policy for a Seeds of Faith fund was distributed to board members at the last meeting. At this meeting a resolution establishing this fund was presented to the council for a vote.

In order to clarify what Seeds of Faith funds can be used for, council members sought to define what kinds of projects would be eligible for funding from this fund and which would not. Any request for funding will require some kind of documentation.

The question was raised as to whether these funds should be used within the parish or for us to bring our faith to other people. The answer was that, while the funds will be used for a lot of outreach, they could also be used for our growth.

The policy speaks of "ecumenical outreach." There was a consensus that the wording should be changed to "ecumenical and interfaith outreach."

Someone asked, "Where is the accountability piece? How will we know when funds have been disbursed?" Answer: This should be covered in the Treasurer's Report, just like other expenditures.

The motion was made to accept the Policy for Seeds of Faith Fund with the one change noted above and the addition of Cal's last name in the opening paragraph. The motion passed unanimously.

Closing

Tom Larson led the group in a closing prayer.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, November 26, 2007, 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Anne Clough, Clerk