

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PLYMOUTH
CHURCH COUNCIL
Sunday, May 21, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President April Zdanis at 11:50 am. Lynn led devotions.

The minutes from the April 21 Council Meeting were accepted as distributed.

Correspondence:

No correspondence was received.

Committee Reports:

Congregational Care (Elaine Fiermonte; April Zdanis reporting)

Please keep our shut-ins in prayer. Elaine Fiermonte is out of the hospital and doing well. Aurelia Woodbeck's oxygen levels have been fluctuating. Betty Salerno is moving to another apartment in Suffield, which will give her one floor access. Joyce Drew is in Apple Rehab in Plainville. Nettie Fairchild is home with 24/7 care. The Mother's Day Breakfast put on by the men of the church was well received and greatly appreciated. Flowers donated on Mother's Day were brought to Aurelia. A breakfast was held at Plymouth Congregational Church for Robin Hawley prior to her leaving the State of CT; Rev. Bill Hawley will be retiring in June and following his wife to their new home in South Carolina.

Christian Education (Mary Rose)

The older children are almost done with Genesis despite the sporadic attendance. Children's Sunday is set with the children singing Shine Jesus Shine. Tahjana Wright will be graduating from high school and attending Naugatuck Valley Community College. Malachai Brown will be graduating from elementary school to attending junior high. The Easter Sunday craft and Mother's Day plantings were enjoyed by all children.

Finance/Treasurer (Cheryl Nottbohm/Tonya DiBella)

The April Treasurer's Report was distributed and reviewed. The FBC office received a new computer and now has Microsoft Office installed on it. Files from the former computer have been saved onto the new computer.

Scholarship Committee (Pastor Mike reporting)

A total of 11 applications were received. Despite the low return on funds this year, the committee awarded a scholarship to each applicant. From the First Baptist and Alma Eaton Funds, 5 scholarships of \$300 were awarded. From the Maud Arnold Fund, 6 scholarships were awarded for a total of \$7,500. Donations to the FBC Scholarship Fund in memory of Essie Petty are encouraged at any time.

Outreach (Ted Durley)

The Clothes Closet Giveaway helped 17 families who attended the event. Clothing was also donated to the 32 people in Waterbury who lost their homes due to fire; many thanks to Ted and Theresa for bringing the clothing to Waterbury. This event was well advertised this year and continues to grow each year; thank you to all who helped. Donations of clothing will be accepted all year for our biannual giveaway at the Gaines House. Our special mission offering for June will be for One Great Hour of Sharing.

Property (Ted Durley)

The parsonage has been mowed by Ted while Joel has continued to mow the lawn at the Church and Gaines House. Thanks to all who stayed for Clean Up Day to spruce up the flower beds. Drainage pipe and filtering grates have been purchased for the flow of the sump pump water. The rental agreement on the parsonage has been extended through June, although another extension may be needed. Ted has been in contact with a contractor for when the parsonage is vacated. A fire drill was performed on 5/21/17 during worship and evacuation took under 2 minutes. Ted will be completing the Church's application for a grant from the Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation Grant which is due June 30; he has multiple projects/ideas and will be making a decision soon.

Worship (April Zdanis)

Easter Flowers and Mother's Day Flowers were purchased through Buell's Florist; all were given with many blessings. It was wonderful to see the many mothers in church on Mother's Day. Father's Day gifts will be given on June 18.

Music Committee (Denise Gilbert; Ted Durley reporting)

We welcomed Dawn Marie Conroy who will be filling in for Julie's days off. The choir has begun to use some music previously sung in years past.

Pastor (Rev. Michael Wu)

- Pastor Mike gave an update on his recent meetings, visits and calls.
- Pastor Mike will be away on two Sundays leading a mission work team to Mexico when we have a combined service with Plymouth Congregational Church: July 16 and July 23; he will find someone for pulpit supply each of those Sundays.
- Pastor Mike gave some feedback to the Council on using our talents and gifts.
- We discussed the many changes taking place in the churches in our area. Not only are the Catholic churches combining into a single parish, but there have been a number of retirements of area clergy.
- As part of the above changes, Pastor Mike was asked to serve as co-chaplain of the Plymouth Police Department. The Rev. Ken Smith, pastor of the Shelton Baptist Church and Chaplain at Bristol Hospital, will serve as the other co-chaplain.
- Eric Kriebel, who attended worship recently with his wife Jenn, feels called to Ministry and would like to explore that possibility with Pastor Mike. Eric has done some preaching and the Council agreed that Eric could begin sharing some parts of the worship service in the future.
- As always, Pastor Mike welcomes your thoughts and feedback.

Unfinished Business

Children's Sunday and Scholarship Presentations will be a combined event during Sunday Worship on June 11 followed by a pot luck picnic with the church providing hotdogs and hamburgers. It was noted that all scholarship recipients should be notified in their letter of receipt of scholarship of the picnic following worship.

The role of Historian needs to be filled; April Zdanis will be in search of a replacement. A significant part of the job will be sort and file historical records from the past. Pastor Mike noted that our activities and ministry in the past few years has been sparsely recorded and we have accomplished and done more than is noted in the Council minutes. Hopefully our historian can also focus on ensuring that we record our current activities so that years from now people will have a good idea of what we did. Pictures of church events from any member would be greatly appreciated.

New Business:

Betty Salerno would like to pass on the information to someone who would coordinate a Butter Braid fundraiser which was put on hold; the fundraiser would benefit the FBC Scholarship Fund.

The Pastoral Search Committee has sent out a survey to members and received only a limited number of them back. If you did not receive a survey and would like to have your response count, please let April know. Pastor Mike gave some feedback on our strengths and weaknesses, priorities, preferences, etc., and how all of that should be considered as we search for a new pastor.

Ted Durley volunteered for devotions for the next Council Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Fairchild

Secretary

The next Council Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 25, 2017, following worship.

Present: Rev. Michael Wu, Ted Durley, Joel Fairchild, Lynn Fairchild, Mary Rose, April Zdanis;

Absent: Tonya DiBella, Elaine Fiermonte, Denise Gilbert, Chris McGavran, Cheryl Nottbohm, Betty Salerno.

These minutes will be approved at the next meeting.