

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PLYMOUTH
CHURCH COUNCIL**

Sunday, June 25, 2017

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

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the minutes from the May Council Meeting.

Correspondence:

A thank you note was received from Voice of the Martyrs.

Committee Reports:

Congregational Care (Elaine Fiermonte; April Zdanis reporting)

Please keep our shut-ins in prayer. The Father's Day Breakfast put on by the women of the church was well received and greatly appreciated. Sunday School & Scholarship picnic was well received; thanks to all who helped out. Cards and notes to shut-ins is being handled by Theresa. With the shut-ins spread out in various towns, additional cards from members would be welcome. A few FBC members were in attendance at the celebration at Plymouth Congregational Church for Rev. Bill Hawley on Saturday. The month of July fellowship time will require additional refreshments with First Congregational Church joining us for the month.

Christian Education (Mary Rose)

Children's Sunday & Scholarship Recognition was celebrated with special music by the children. Thank you to Mary for providing t-shirts for the children. The older children will be finishing Genesis, focusing on the highlights and providing a good foundation. The preschool class worked on the seven days of creation and kids were given puzzles for the end of year celebration. Classes will resume in the fall. Mary would like to see the children do some outreach next year. Rally Day will be held on September 17 with outdoor activities and a picnic.

Finance/Treasurer (Cheryl Nottbohm/Tonya DiBella)

The May Treasurer's Report was distributed and reviewed. Scholarship Committee would like to keep track of memorials that are given toward scholarships; Tonya indicated that Cheryl handles the scholarship funds.

Scholarship Committee (Pastor Mike reporting)

Donations to the FBC Scholarship are accepted throughout the year; make a note on the memo line of your check if it's for FBC Scholarship. Discussed a need to build this fund for future members and have additional fundraising.

Outreach (Ted Durley)

One Great Hour of Sharing offering totals \$170 to date; a final accounting will be given after today's collection. The Back to School lunch box will be put up for the monetary collection of funds for Plymouth Social Services, who will purchase supplies for local children going back to school.

Property (Ted Durley)

The parsonage has been mowed by Ted while Joel has continued to mow the lawn at the Church and Gaines House. Once all items are removed by the Drews at the parsonage, any items left in the parsonage will be donated or taken to recycling. Dan Stevenson will be available to help Ted prepare a list of tasks that need to be done at the parsonage before the next person inhabits it. April will check on cleaning needs. The current agreement for cleaning the Church and Parsonage has remained the same.

Worship (April Zdanis)

Father's Day gifts of keychains were given to the men on June 18. Chris' last day was special in recognizing his many years of service to the church and community. Brief discussion of communion elements. It was noted that a note in the bulletin on Communion Sundays would be helpful to let congregants know to serve the person to their right, wait until the element has been served to all, and then partake of the element together. It was commented that fresh flowers in the sanctuary are appreciated and welcomed; Communion Sunday flowers for July will be provided by Pastor Mike.

Music Committee (Denise Gilbert; Ted Durley reporting)

Choir rehearsal will continue through the summer with Julie. Julie is also working in lining up different musical talents for summertime. Discussed whether Julie would have time to write notes out for tone chimes in the future.

Pastor (Rev. Michael Wu)

- Pastor Mike gave an update on his recent meetings, visits and calls.
- On Memorial Day Sunday we had a joint service with the First Congregational Church of Plymouth. After the service, Pastor Bill and Pastor Mike marched in the Plymouth Memorial Day parade and then participated in the short Memorial Day service on the Green.
- The children did a wonderful job on Children's Sunday, June 11. It was very special to have so many of the children attend and take part in the worship service.
- Pastor Mike was interviewed by ABCCONN's Director of Media for a Facebook live interview that will also be posted on ABCCONN's website.
- During the month of July, Pastor Mike will provide pastoral care coverage for the members of the First Congregational Church of Plymouth. On July 1, Pastor Mike will be leading a memorial service for one of their members. In August, Pastor Mike will be officiating at the consecration of marriage vows for a couple from that congregation.
- A farewell dinner and event for Pastor Bill on June 24 was attended by Pastor Mike and five others from FBC.
- A group of members of the congregation helped Betty Salerno unpack things the day after her move to a new, one-floor apartment. It was an excellent demonstration of Christian love and care.
- On July 16 and 23, Pastor Mike will be away leading a mission team that will be working at a school for children with multiple disabilities. The Rev. Jonathan Gouthier, who was recently ordained at the Bakersville United Methodist Church, will be preaching on July 16; Ted Durley will preach on July 23.
- Pastor Mike's new legal position is a more structured legal position, which curtails the time allowed for pastoral visiting with shut-ins living throughout Connecticut.
- Discussed the greatest strengths of members of the congregation to help us understand who we are and what God may be calling us to do in our ministry.
- An invitation was received from First Baptist of West Hartford for us to join in an event seeking ways to bolster church membership. The event will be held on Friday, September 8, 6-9 pm and Saturday, September 9, from 9 am to 6 pm. Ted, Lynn, April and Pastor Mike will attend.
- Aurelia has expressed a desire to help outreach to others. Pastor Mike will bring supplies to her so she can help in the greeting card ministry to other shut-ins.
- A picnic for the community was presented to Pastor Mike as another outreach. No details have been made at this time.
- As always, Pastor Mike welcomes your thoughts and feedback.

Unfinished Business

Lynn has volunteered to coordinate the Butter Braid fundraiser for the FBC Scholarship Fund in the fall with delivery before Thanksgiving.

The role of Historian needs to be filled; April Zdanis is working on confirming a replacement.

New Business:

The Pastoral Search Committee needs copies of your pictures of events and people of the church to help develop our church profile; please get them to Ted as soon as possible.

April volunteered for devotions for the next Council Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Fairchild
Secretary

The next Council Meeting will be held on Sunday, July 30, 2017, following worship to help work on the church profile. Council will also meet on Sunday, August 27, following worship for a regular meeting.

Present: Rev. Michael Wu, Tonya DiBella, Ted Durley, Joel Fairchild, Lynn Fairchild, Mary Rose, April Zdanis; Absent: Elaine Fiermonte, Denise Gilbert, Chris McGavran, Cheryl Nottbohm, Betty Salerno.

These minutes will be approved at the next meeting.