

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PLYMOUTH  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

Sunday, November 5, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President April Zdanis at 12:22 pm. Ted Durley led devotions.

The Secretary read the minutes of the October 1 Council Meeting Minutes and were accepted as read.

Correspondence

A thank you note was received from America for Christ for our recent donation.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Congregational Care

Continue to pray for those on our prayer list: Our Harvest Dinner is a wonderful time of fellowship following worship on November 12; all are welcome to bring a dish to share.

Christian Education

Steady attendance has been difficult but the children are eager to learn. The older children have been taking the Children's Message and using it as a basis for lessons, looking up scriptures in the bible. Christmas is coming fast and it's been decided to put off the tone chimes until after the New Year. Faith would like to put on a Christmas pageant and sing. Faith is volunteering to be a part of the clothing drive and enjoys being a worship reader. The Pre-K class has been using short bible stories and crafts to help the children learn about God and His Kingdom.

Finance/Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report for the first quarter was reviewed. A new signature card is required for the Alma Eaton Fund to have April and Cheryl be the signers on this account; once signed and certified by the Secretary it will be returned to US Trust.

Outreach

The Mission giving is detailed in the Treasurers report. November is the month we support three children this year with Christmas blessings. On September 8-9 four folks attended a workshop on Reaching New Members presented by Rev. Paul Nickerson from MA. While extremely informative, the consensus was that we weren't prepared to participate at this time. We still can glean the things that we felt we could implement, however. A summary is attached for your viewing. November 10 and 11, the Biannual Clothing Giveaway will take place at the Gaines House. Scott and Tammy Johnson are working together with whoever can lend some time, but this year is becoming overwhelming with all the clothes donated from prior church tag sales and really needs the help. Because I am internet connected, I've volunteered to be the e-mail person for the prayer chain that is still in a state of flux till we get the order worked out.

Property

The first floor boiler wouldn't keep firing, so Thomaston Comfort Control was called in a third time this year for heating attention - once to remove a flying squirrel from the Sanctuary building and then to bring the first floor boiler up to snuff to pass the state safety examination. These unforeseen expenses have pushed the line item 5314 (Repair and Maintenance) over the budgeted dollars. Joel Fairchild has continued to keep the lawns in beautiful shape all season and I'm sure will be glad for the winter break. The Parsonage continues to be a work in progress. I hope to get a professional restoration painting service into the mix. Once painted, the carpeting and bathroom tile work can be completed. We're keeping the temperature comfortable to help the paint dry quicker. We have been

in contact with our insurance carriers who have been satisfied that we are taking the necessary precautions while in between occupants. A display of pictures for your perusal is downstairs should you have any questions. We instituted a Fire Evacuation Protocol; we had one dry run and one impromptu drill. We thank the Terryville Volunteer Fire Department for their input. The protocol is printed up and available as you come into the sanctuary, ask an usher for a copy if you'd like.

### Worship

A combined Thanksgiving Eve Worship will be held at 7:30 pm at the First Congregational Church of Plymouth. Christmas Eve services will be held at First Baptist Church of Plymouth at 10 am and at First Congregational Church of Plymouth at 7:30 pm. Hanging of the Greens, decorating the sanctuary, will begin after fellowship time on November 26; all hands are welcome to help. Remember to reach out to those visiting our church.

### Music

Ted Durely indicated that the Community Christmas Carol Sing will be held at FBC on Friday, December 8, at 6 pm. It will be announced on the Chamber of Commerce sign in Terryville. Bring your singing voices, friends and relatives, and then enjoy refreshments following. An in-home Carol Sing will be held with a few of the shut-ins this season. If you plan to join the singing, we'll begin on December 17 at 12:45 pm.

### Pastor

- Pastor Mike has completed his one year anniversary. We are making progress and moving forward to finding a new pastor. Pastor Mike will be working with us and challenging us in the months ahead.
- The Plymouth clergy has set the Ecumenical Christmas Walk for Sunday, December 3, beginning at 3 pm.
- The Thomaston clergy is planning an Ecumenical Advent event at the Thomaston Opera House on Sunday, December 10, with a service of Lessons and Carols.
- Pastor Mike attended a seminar for local clergy on aging at Bristol Hospital on October 4; this was a very informative program.
- Pastor Mike will be meeting with Rev. Dr. Harry Riggs II, our ABCCONN Executive Minister.
- Pastor Mike has had several meetings with Rev. Denise Clapsaddle, Interim Minister of the First Congregational Church of Plymouth.
- The infant dedication of Autumn Dawn Jackson on Sunday, October 22, was a highlight and special event. It was wonderful to have her family with us and the reception was fabulous.
- Thanks to everyone for the Pastor's Appreciation gifts during service on November 5; the gesture was sincerely appreciated.
- David Bennett will give a short talk about the Gideons on November 12 during service; donations will be accepted to help purchase bibles for the Gideons to distribute.
- Pastor Mike will be leading the service at Calvary Baptist Church in New Haven on November 26; Rev. Jonathan Gauthie will be asked to lead our worship that day.
- Stewardship Sunday will be on December 3.
- Eric and Jenn Kriebel and infant Jacob have been a joy to have in our church.
- Theresa Soucy has not only bounced back from surgery but is back to her full activities in the church office; she does so much more than being an Administrative Assistant.
- As always, feel free to contact Pastor Mike with any pastoral needs or concerns.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Thank you to all who participated in our Braided Bread Fund Raiser for the FBC Scholarship Fund. While it was a quick turnaround time, we have raised \$162. Pick up will be on Sunday, Nov. 12. Lynn will check to see if there is a write up for the FBC Scholarship Fund.

After Advent season, Lynn and Ted will work on the By-Laws and assist in brainstorming best practices that meet our church needs.

While the Task Force suggested an updated website; it was felt this would be better addressed after the Advent season.

Our Christmas Child Sponsorship will focus on 3 children in Plymouth. Theresa has volunteered to set up a tree with tags; members will take tags from the tree and purchase the gift and return unwrapped gifts for our Plymouth families in need.

NEW BUSINESS:

It's been a joy to have our visitors joining us for fellowship time after worship. Please take time to sit and visit with them.

It would be helpful to have a script for running the meetings; Lynn and April will work on this.

Pastoral Search Committee

The search committee has circulated at least two surveys to get peoples thoughts about the person for our next settled Pastor. These have been collated and made part of our work. Using the last profile as a guide, we've been updating the data and pictures for inclusion in the current profile. Thank you to the members who helped with the history portion. We welcome pictures or help in moving further along. The profile in its present form is available to examine in the Fellowship Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lynn Fairchild*  
Secretary

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

*These minutes will be approved at the next meeting.*