

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

Sunday, January 7, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President April Zdanis at 12:14 pm. Lynn Fairchild led devotions.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the minutes of the December Council Meeting.

Correspondence

Acts4 Ministry, SAT-7 North America, and Voice of the Martyrs were requesting donations. The Council chose not to act on any of these requests at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Congregational Care

Continue to pray for those on our prayer list and shut-ins. Our shut-ins received a wood cut out and poinsettias during the Advent season.

Christian Education

The Children's Christmas pageant was well received; the children had fun and it was nice to see so many participating. The older children will go back to working on Genesis after the Lenten season. The Pre-K class continues to had a short lesson with a craft. The children would like to use the tone chimes but they need to be tuned; it was suggested to ask Eunice and Julie for suggestions on getting the chimes tuned.

Finance/Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was understandably unavailable for the meeting. A new signature card is required for the Alma Eaton Fund; this has been put on hold as Cheryl and April have not been available at the same time to sign once signed and certified by the Secretary it will be returned to US Trust. April will be sending out the year-end statements.

Outreach

The Mission giving for this month is for the Retired Ministers and Missionaries. There has been a bible study request. It was suggested something such as Doctrines of Demons; perhaps an evening might be better as previous turnout was low on Sunday afternoons.

Property

Ted will be receiving the new chairs for Fellowship Hall tomorrow. The parsonage has had painting and bath tile completed with rugs to be installed. After the work is complete a clean up will be done. Outdoor trim needs to be painted. Ted will be contacting a local realtor, so a more informed decision can be made on whether or not to sell the parsonage. Ted has contacted Wollenberg's regarding the plowing of 2" or more with FBC doing sanding. There was a recent storm of a dusting and Wollenberg's had plowed.

Worship

The combined Christmas Eve services was well received despite the delay in getting the candles distributed. It was suggested candles be given out as people came in the door rather than during the service and have more bulletins printed. Decorations will be taken down during the week. February 11 during Coffee Hour we will celebrate Valentine's Day with festive goodies.

Music

The Community Christmas Carol Sing will be held at FBC on Friday, December 8, at 6 pm was attended by mostly our church members. We had a great time of singing and fellowship following. The choir is going along. Julie is always looking for additional members, even if you can only participate for a limited amount of time.

Pastor

- The Plymouth Ecumenical Christmas Walk held on December 3, began at 3 pm at the Immaculate Conceptual Roman Catholic Church and ended at the Terryville Congregational Church. Rev. Zac Maby invited Pastor Mike to take part in reading the scripture at the Terryville Congregational Church.
- The Thomaston Ecumenical Advent event at the Thomaston Opera House on, December 10, began at 7 pm with a service of Lessons and Carols with Pastor Mike and other clergy participating in the service.
- On Christmas Eve Day we hosted members of the Frist Congregational Church of Plymouth at our 10 am worship service. There was a good turnout and candles were distributed to the congregation for singing Silent Night by candlelight.
- The First Congregational Church of Plymouth held a 10:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service and invited our members to attend. Rev. Clapsaddle asked Pastor Mike to light the candles on the Advent Wreath. The service was similar in format to our 10 am worship service.
- This year our church will host the Ash Wednesday, February 14, 7 pm evening worship service. The Terryville Congregational Church and First Congregational Church of Plymouth clergy will be participating, and their congregations will be joining us.
- The Terryville and Plymouth clergy met on January 2 at the Eagle's Nest Restaurant. The Lenten Luncheons were discussed and will take place as in years' past. A contribution of \$5 for lunch a donation of non-perishable food for the local food banks will be suggested.
- Pastor Mike led the English language worship service at Calvary Baptist Church in New Haven on November 26 and December 31. The leadership of Calvary Baptist Church asked that our church consider the possibility of an ongoing shared arrangement where Pastor Mike would preach one Sunday a month in New Haven and the balance of Sundays in Plymouth.
- Rosalie Beals has asked to join our church. A request for letter of transfer from the Bridge Community Church in Bristol will be needed. We plan to extend her the Right Hand of Fellowship on Sunday, February 4.
- Thanks to Ted for helping me visit the shut-ins during the holiday season. Each received a plaque made by Joel Fairchild and a poinsettia from Pastor Mike.
- Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 4 after worship. Notices will need to be posted and reports submitted to Theresa by the end of the month for Theresa to compile the booklets.
- Our By-Laws and Constitution are due to be looked at and a draft made of amended potential changes so it is more in line with our current membership and church organization.
- Our thoughts and prayers to Tonya on the loss of her mother. Theresa has not been feeling well and should also be kept in our prayers.
- As always, feel free to contact Pastor Mike with any pastoral needs or concerns.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Lynn and Ted will work on the By-Laws and Constitution and provide amended potential changes to meet our church needs at this time.

The Task Force suggested an updated website and Ted has been in touch with Rev. Geckler about updates. The Council has reviewed Rev. Geckler's website changes and made further suggestions. At this time website changes are \$35/hr.

Pastoral Search Committee

The search committee is still working on the profile and at this point there are no potential candidates from ABCCONN.

NEW BUSINESS:

Although the Annual Meeting was set to take place on February 4, it has been changed to Sunday, February 18, following worship to allow financial reports to be completed and added to the booklet.

Recommended pros and cons of keeping the parsonage will be brought up at the Annual Meeting. Please contact Ted with any thoughts or concerns.

Faith Mbabali has asked to be baptized. Baptism books currently used are "*We are Baptists*" and "*The Bridges*", which may be too advanced. Pastor Mike would like to meet with her a few times in the process. It is anticipated her baptism will be held on April 1.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:38 pm. The next meeting will be held on February 4 following worship and fellowship time.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Fairchild
Secretary

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

These minutes will be approved at the next meeting.