

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
March 8, 2011

In Attendance: Ralph Daehn, Bob Kaska, Ann McLaughlin, Ron Purser, Suzanne Setlock, Wally Setlock, Kristen Thornton, Art Zwemke, Judy Hopkins

Absent: Gianna Marchese, Jim Winquist, Anne Bouchard, Susannah Lesswing, Jan Marchese

The meeting opened with a prayer led by Ron at 7:08 pm. Bob asked everyone to share their favorite Ash Wednesday or Lenten memory. He also read a note from Ron and Maggie Purser thanking everyone for the surprise reception on Sunday, honoring their 10 years here and for the silver frame which was given to them.

Approval of minutes: The minutes of the February meeting were reviewed and approved. Jan Marchese's name should be added to those who attended.

Pastor's report: Ron will be on vacation from March 17 until April 1. Substituting in the pulpit will be; Rev. Al Patten, March 20, and Nancy Schatzeder, March 27. He has been busy working with Larry on special music. The Bartlett High School quartet will perform next Sunday, March 13. On March 17, the Bartlett H.S. Chamber Orchestra presents a concert in the Sanctuary. On Good Friday, Bartlett UCC will be hosting a joint service at 1:00 with a light reception following. That evening, our church will host a special service at 7:30 featuring the The Spektral String Quartet and our choir.

Moderator's Report: Bob Kaska confirmed that the upcoming council meetings will be the second Tuesday of the month for the balance of the year. Bob also noted that we should be thinking ahead towards the June Annual Meeting when he would like to present to the congregation the new use of a "tag line" that would feature our history of being a Congregational Church. The date for the annual June (Junual) meeting will be June 26.

Special Guest – Carol Berger: Carol came to the meeting to seek approval for the establishment of a bell choir. Due to money made at the Spring concerts and from friends and members of the church, there are now sufficient funds to purchase a set of 37 hand bells (3 octave). The estimated cost of the bells is \$10,000 plus \$2500 for additional equipment and music. Larry Diffenbach has offered to donate his time to conduct the choir for the first year. The choir would be open to the community, not limited to just members. This will hopefully bring in new people into our church who could become members. Judy Hopkins moved to support and to approve the purchase of a new set of hand bells in order to establish a bell choir with the funding coming from members and friends of the church. Additionally, the bells will not be purchased until funds have been collected. Suzanne Setlock seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Purchase of the bells is planned to be done by the June 12th music Sunday service.

Treasurer's Report: Art Zwemke reviewed the Treasurer's Report for March. The church income is off to a slow start as the prepaid pledges of \$12,950 (received in 2010 and recognized in January 2011) are the lowest in four years. In addition to the pledges, the total operating receipts are lower than past years with only about 19% of the total budgeted receipts received

compared to the previous three year average of 25.07%. The 2011 pledges YTD also fall behind the previous three year average by nearly 6%.

The church did receive a letter of direction for the Brent Alex Fund which was reviewed. It allows the church to invest and appropriate the money according to the family's direction to be reviewed annually by a committee of four people, two active members from the church and two from the family, to oversee the use of the fund's interest.

Art is also searching for a new bank that will give us a good line of credit.

Moderator Elect: no report

Long Range Plan Report: Bob updated the Membership Focus Report to include Greg Hege to the Prospective Members List. Kristen will send an updated report to Bob.

Ministry Reports:

Christian Education: Ralph was very pleased with the turn out and the response to Richard Carhart from the University of Illinois on February 20. Because Dr. Carhart would not accept an honorarium, Ralph offered Dr. Carhart the \$350 fee that he would have given him to be sent to a charity of his choosing. Dr. Carhart chose the European Science Network so Ralph requested that a check be sent. Dr. Carhart would be pleased to return to provide more insight into his interpretation of the Christian faith as a scientist.

Ralph reminded everyone that he has plans for only one more speaker this year who will be Pastor Matt Johnson from the United Methodist in Geneva. He will probably come sometime in May and speak about his bicycle ministry for the homeless. No date has been set for the Vacation Bible School.

Congregational Life: Bob reported in Susannah's absence that the Chili Cookoff was once again a success and that plans are being made for the April 30th Candlelight dinner. The Cook-off raised nearly \$700 for our Outreach programs.

Evangelism: Kristen Thornton informed the council that plans are being made to have a rotating graphic sign in front of the church all year which would advertise what is going on. For the most part, the sign would advertise special events such as the Chili Cook-Off or the Christmas Pageant, but a sign about the Wednesday morning bible study would be put in the frame when other events are not happening. Kathleen Kaska is producing the signs.

Plans are also being made to have another membership directory. Lori and Kristen are looking into the different possibilities and hope to have some more definite information next month.

Facilities: Ron reported that Gary Estes is repairing the sound system. The clapper in the church bell will be repaired once the weather warms up.

Outreach: Marilyn Poole sent a report read by Bob. She reports that her committee will be making visits to each of the organizations that are supported by Outreach in order to increase awareness. The church member volunteering to make the personal visits will arrange to have a representative speak to the congregation during a "Mission Moment" time of a church service. In addition, the volunteers will write an article for BTW that highlights the organization. Finally, the volunteers will discuss within their committee if any adjustments are needed in our appropriations.

In addition to the visits, the committee hopes to update a bookmark that would be in the each of the pews that would highlight our Outreach program. They also wish to encourage and support the youth in Outreach activities.

Stewardship: Suzanne Setlock reported that the final number of pledges for 2011 will be 165 which is five pledges short of what we had hoped for. The One Great Hour of Sharing will be April 3.

Members-at-large: Judy Hopkins shared with the council information regarding an upcoming AAUW speaker, Jian Pin, Author of Mulberry Child. She would like to share the invitation and encourage the congregation to attend, Saturday, March 19, at the St. Charles County Club. Reservations are required. Judi moved that the program notice be posted in our church, Suzanne seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Worship and Spiritual Growth: Wally reminded everyone that the Potluck for Ash Wednesday was tomorrow at 6:00 p.m. Orders for Easter flowers will be soon.

New Business: None

Meeting adjourned. Ron closed with a prayer at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Thornton
Substituting for Jan Marchese
Church Clerk