St. Bridget Parish Council
Feb. 4, 2010

President Andrea McCormick called the meeting to order at 7:07.

An opening prayer was led by Mark Hampson.

Roll call: In Attendance: Fr. Francis Fador, Deacon Stephen Beecher, Marnell Stover, Gerry Cunningham, Andrea McCormick, Mark Hampson, Pat Beecher, Pat Conroy, Rick Stover, Rosemarie Frick, Audrey Cunningham, Louise Riley, Mary Ellen Harmon

Not in Attendance: Rose Frith, Doug Landy

A motion to accept the minutes from the January meeting was made by Rosemarie, seconded by Gerry. Motion passed unanimously.

Rick was on the agenda at this point to explain the purpose and responsibilities of a parish council but asked to be later in the agenda so that everyone would be present.

Goals Update: Andrea asked each council member present to briefly state how their goals were progressing. Andrea read the goals and the member commented for all. Gerry passed out a possible calendar for 2010 that he worked up, with two possible fund raisers included.
Mark said that he wants to visit every family on our list of parishioners, with one or two other church members. Rick made a motion for a vote of support for this project which the PC supported unanimously.

Rick gave a two topic report, starting with a focus page which included the role of a PC, a finance council, and appropriate pieces of the bylaws of the St. Bridget PC.
He also had a comprehensive and detailed report of the church finances, including a profit & loss budget vs actual, capital improvements & development projects, and transaction details by account. The finance committee is planning to meet tomorrow morning.

Committee Reports:
Religious Education – Marnell reported that on March 26th the students will be leading the Stations of the Cross. There are plans for students to again make pretzels and distribute them after mass on Palm Sunday.

Liturgy – Rosemarie will be preparing the church for Lent.

Planning & Development – Pat Conroy reported that 9 different stained glass window contractors were contacted and invited to submit bids. 4 contractors have done so, and the P&D committee will make their recommendation when all are in.
The Cornwall Historical Society will host a display of the history of St. Bridget Church beginning March 21st.
An inventory manual is in the works by Andrea McCormick, and the P&D committee is hoping that there may be items suitable for display at Cornwall Historical Society.

Pat is hoping to develop a short and long-term plan for continuing restoration and maintenance of the church.

Hospitality – Audrey stated that the French Toast breakfast last Sunday had about 30-35 attendees.

Spiritual Life – Fr. Fador had a DVD which he planned to show us if there was enough time at the end of the regular meeting.

Communications – no report

Social Action – Louise explained that the SAC met on Jan. 20th and discussed integrating our parish group's work with other organizations. Cornwall Consolidated School and Housatonic Youth Services Bureau are two possible groups with which we could become involved.
Valentine cards or other greetings through the year would be a nice way to keep contact with Sharon Health Care. Cheryl Arnold is going to set up Valentine making with the Religious Ed. students through Pat Beecher.
Perhaps we could have another cookie swap for people who are home bound.
The committee would like to do more than supply financial support to Haiti, and is exploring several links in this area.

Pastor's Report – Fr. Fador told us that the annual report on finances is due to Hartford soon and how Hartford always looks at the bottom line in being sure we are gaining and not losing when we look at expenses verses income. He reminded us to be diligent when using the building to turn off all lights and be sure settings for heat are correct. Father also commented on the fact that doors have been left closed but not locked in both the church and the rectory which is a major security problem seeing no one lives close by. A discussion followed about who has keys to the church and who knows the combination to the church hall and rectory. It was suggested that it may be time to both change the combinations and also to re-key the church with keys that cannot be duplicated.
A bell company contacted Fr. Fador about the bells at St. Bernard Church and Father spoke with the rep about a carillon, which is digitally recorded bell music. Would this be something that St. Bridget would like? One way to help with the cost would be to let parishioners choose a day for a fee and the bells would ring in memory of someone, or in honor of a special day.

Old Business: none

New Business:
Stations of the Cross – The Cunninghams will make soup for the first Friday of Lent get together and will have a sign up sheet for subsequent Fridays.
Reconciliation service will be set up soon to be held at St. Bridget Church.

Closing prayer was led by Fr. Fador.

The next PC meeting will be on Mar. 4th and Marnell will lead the opening prayer, Louise the closing.

A motion to adjourn at 8:57 was made by Mel, seconded by Andrea. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ellen Harmon