St. Bridget Parish Council
March 5, 2009

President Andrea McCormick called the meeting to order at 7:10.

Opening prayer was offered by Mel Harmon.

Roll call taken by Secretary Mel Harmon.

In Attendance: Fr. Francis Fador, Marnell Stover, Andrea McCormick, Rick Stover, Mel Harmon, Rosemarie Frick, Louise Riley, Rose Frith.
Not Present: Deacon Stephen Beecher, Pat Beecher, Peg Kearns, Walt Kearns, Audrey Cunningham, Gerry Cunningham, Doug Landy

Approval of Feb. minutes: A motion was made by Louise to accept the minutes with one spelling change, seconded by Rose.

Committee Reports:

a. Religious Ed. – Marnell - no report
b. Liturgy – Rosemarie – The church was prepared for Lent including a new cross which was made by Rosemarie's husband, Paul. The greeter protocol was worked up and readied and passed around for us to see.
c. Social Action – Louise – no formal report, but Louise thanked Rick for compiling parish census information in an orderly Excel spreadsheet. She had obtained a folded simple pamphlet for senior citizens put out by United Church of Christ that she had picked up from the Cornwall Library with service phone numbers in it. Could St. Bridget do something similar?
d. Development – Rick – Information was received from Pat Conroy regarding the CT Trust. The grant which we need to finish is a technical assistance one. Rick spoke with Greg Farmer, and found out that it would be appropriate to our needs to apply for a capital improvement grant. That kind of grant would help us with funds to have the outside of the church painted. The capital improvement grant does not hinge upon the technical grant in any way. However, under Governor Rell's new budget, the availability of funds from the CT Trust for such capital improvements is uncertain at best.
e. Hospitality – Audrey – A report was emailed to Andrea along with an update. The hospitality committee held a meeting after the 8:30 mass on Feb. 15th to acquaint new volunteers with a possible schedule and to solicit comments and ideas from them. The schedule at that point included "Coffee and…" after the 8:30 mass on Feb. 22nd, soup and bread on Fridays at 6:00 before the Stations

every Friday during Lent, a future potluck supper, pancake breakfast, wine and cheese tasting, and a summer picnic. An additional update email report told of a small turnout for the "Coffee and…" but a good turn out for the soup and bread meal before Stations. They need volunteers for Friday Mar. 27th and April 3rd.

f. Communications – Mel – Mel worked out a simple form for collecting email addresses from more parishioners. If the form meets approval she will pass them out at the 4:00 mass.
g. Special Events – Rose – The second Youth Group event was held on Sat. Feb. 28th in the church hall after the 4:00 mass. The Saccardi family served homemade pizza and ice cream/brownie sundaes after a Veggie Tales movie was shown. 15 children from ages 3 – 14 attended and having other events was discussed. Beth Saccardi is thinking about leading an egg decorating event followed by an Easter egg hunt. Outdoor events such as one with games for the children might be good for the warmer months.
   On Mother's Day weekend Michael Poirier will sing at all four masses at both churches. On Monday, May 11th the Poirier family will be at St. Bridget at 7:00 to present songs, stories, prayers, followed by adoration of the Eucharist. A pot luck supper with the Poirier family after the 5:30 mass at St. Bernard's is a possibility.
h. Spiritual Life – Fr. Fador – Fr. gave Stations of the Cross booklets to anyone who wished to have one so that the stations could be prayed at home. A couple of suggestions to enrich our parishioners' lives were bible study, and a bus trip to visit veterans or possibly for a retreat.

Finance Report: Rick gave everyone at the meeting a copy of the 2008 financial statements. He and Fr. Fador are finishing up the final report. A short discussion about the large expense of mowing and spring and fall clean up followed. Rick will follow up to assess the feasibility of a volunteer clean-up day this spring as a fellowship event.

Pastor's Report: Fr. Fador spoke about a letter he received. We discussed how criticism can lead to change if done with thought and prayer.
Fr. Fador needs someone to take total charge and coordinate the Archbishop's Annual Appeal.
He passed out an article entitled "Dare to Be One in a Thousand", which we read in part and discussed.
Steve and Joan Bowen's home burned to the ground and Fr. asked the PC to think about the possibility of letting them use the rectory while they rebuild.

Old Business: Instead of doing a survey we might think of gathering information as eliciting from the parishioners what they actually want from their church, what they want us to do. We need to reach out, really listen, and ask for suggestions. Better communication may enable us all to have some in depth discussions. The website updated, accomplishments recognized, and more input may lead to new involvement. Everyone on the PC needs to think about this and come up with possible proposals. Starting with the parents of children who attended the Veggie Tales movie may help as there is a finished activity to speak about.
The Memorial plaque is still in the works. Fr. Fador may take photos of ones at St. Bernard so we can see some.

The next meeting is Thursday, April 2, 2009.

Closing prayer was lead by Rose Frith.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mel, seconded by Andrea at 9:22. Motion passed.

Mary Ellen Harmon