St. Bridget Parish Council
Thurs. Oct. 1, 2009

Call to Order at 7:10 was made by President Andrea McCormick.

A letter written by Mark Hampson to Fr. Fador was read by Andrea. Mark stated his interest in being a member of the Parish Council at St. Bridget.

Everyone introduced themselves around the tables.

Fr. Fador then blessed all the members of the Parish Council and asked God to help us through this upcoming year.

Roll Call: Attending: Fr. Francis Fador, Deacon Stephen Beecher, Gerry Cunningham, Marnell Stover, Rick Stover, Pat Beecher, Andrea McCormick, Mary Ellen Harmon, Audrey Cunningham, Louise Riley, Rosemarie Frick, Pat Conroy, Mark Hampson
Not in Attendance: Rose Frith, Doug Landy

Election of Officers: Marnell stated that Andrea agreed to stay on as President, and Mel as Secretary, but the position as Vice-President was open. Andrea nominated Mark for Vice-President, Mel seconded, the vote for Mark was unanimous. The officers for the 2009-2010 year are in place.

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

The parish council described each position on the council for Mark, with everyone providing information.

Committee Reports:
Religious Education: Marnell explained that 21 students began our religious education program on Sept. 20th. There are 10 in the confirmation class from the surrounding area. Marnell stated that program has a goal to have the students become more aware of the need for social action and justice. The students will be making and sending cards and notes to send to people in the community who may be identified as in need of a greeting. The students will be directly involved with the Giving Tree project. They will make the ornaments which hang on the tree, and will help with the gathering and dispersing of gifts. A book club for adults is forming. Members will gather together to learn about the bible, the church, and/or our own spirituality.

Liturgy: Rosemarie passed a large photo of the finished manger/stable which her husband has completed. The nativity figures should be arriving next week. When Advent arrives more information on the project will be available for all church goers.

Planning & Development: Rick reported that the painting of the church is almost completed. They may be finished with all the painting next week. The painted brick is proving difficult to remove in places. Bob Simoncelli, a stone mason, is bricking up the windows on the hall entry side, filling in the areas to blend together. He recommended a light, gentle sandblasting of the painted bricks that has not responded to the chemicals. Rick has been overseeing this committee until a new chair could be found and Pat Conroy has volunteered to chair this committee.

Hospitality: Audrey reminded us that Coffee and… will be held on Sunday, Oct. 4th after the 8:30 Mass. A pancake breakfast is in the planning stages.

Spiritual Life: Fr. Fador wants us to think how we can best honor the season of Advent, and even Lent.

Communication: Mel stated that we need a new chair for this committee as she is involved with the Social Action and would like to focus on that. Photos of the WCAAA meeting held at church in Sept. will be sent to our webmaster. A new list of emails and phone numbers will be provided for the PC members at the next meeting in Nov.

Social Action: Louise's report included a summation of the WCAAA meeting on Sept. 23rd which had an attendance of 17 and had delicious food and an interesting presentation. The feasibility of hosting a Thanksgiving dinner was researched and was found to be discontinued from the Congregational church for various reasons. Louise thought we should focus on Thanksgiving baskets and grocery gift cards as we did last year. The rest of the PC agreed. Paley's Farm in Sharon has about 5 bushels of potatoes in the ground and his market is closed for the season. He will turn over the ground if we will pick the potatoes. One thought is to have the religious education students dig and bag these potatoes and disperse to local food banks, food pantries, or other churches. Cheryl Arnold, one of the SAC members, is planning to get her Girl Scout troop involved in the potato project.
Louise informed the PC about the winter Coat event that FISH in Torrington will be holding in Oct. She also questioned us about our opinion of having the older Religious Education students selling wreaths after Mass in November. It was suggested that we find out if Nora Hulton might be selling wreaths even though the nursery is closed. We can decide after getting that information because we would not want to interfere with her business.

Sharon Health Care has a Secret Santa program and they would like to know if we want to be involved in getting presents for the residents.
Richard DiDominico would like to know if St. Bridget Church plans to continue to support the parish and school in Kentucky. The PC discussed, then voted on this topic and it was decided to continue. The donations may end up being down, but any will be appreciated.

Pastor's Report: Fr. Fador requested that all PC members choose1-2 goals that we would like to accomplish during the 2009-2010 year. The goals should be for the betterment of the parish and can be wrapped around a committee. All goals need to be measurable. He reminded all that the PC is to be a visionary group for St. Bridget. Where do we see St. Bridget in 5 years?

Old business:
Andrea has made up envelopes for obtaining donations for the painting of the church. Each envelope has 2 pictures of the church on the front with a space for a name and email address. All donations will be acknowledged. This project will be an ongoing one.

New Business:
Cornwall holds an elaborate Halloween get-together at the town hall so we are not going to hold a haunted house.

Andrea had the information for St. Bridget to receive 3oo 2010 calendars featuring the saints. If she can get enough sponsors, who will be advertized on the calendar, we will have 150 for St. Bridget and 150 for St. Bernard. She already has several sponsors.

The PC had thought to have an open parish meeting in Oct. but it now will be held on Friday, Nov.13, 2009.

Spring clean-up was an enormous success and helped the budget greatly. We will hold a Fall Clean-up on Sat. Oct. 17, 2009, with a second one on Sat. Nov.7th.

Next meeting will be held on Thurs. Nov. 5, 2009. Marnell will lead the opening prayer, and Gerry the closing prayer.

Closing prayer today was lead by Deacon Stephen Beecher.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mel, seconded by Andrea. Motion passed at 8:52.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Ellen Harmon