

MINUTES OF THE DIACONATE
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GLENS FALLS
AUGUST 9, 2009 7PM

In Attendance: Kathie McCoy, Marie Ross, Shirley Clark, Clara LeBarron, Julia Farenell, Peg Moody, Nancy Holmes, Tammy Jones and Caspar Green in his home with Brooke and Silas Green present.

I. Call to order:

- A. Caspar led the group in prayer.
- B. The minutes were accepted as written.

II. New Business:

A. National Observance of Children's Sabbaths/Freedom Schools – Caspar reported on this topic and stated that the 3rd Sunday of October is designated as "Children's Sabbath". There are four components to this: 1.) Worship – to celebrate children and pray for them 2.) Education – to set aside Sunday School time. Have resources for children in poverty. 3.) Action – letter writing to legislators re: children's needs such as health care, etc. In the fall, the "No Child Left Behind Bill" is up for renewal. 4.) Advocacy for the big picture -- Long term beyond the Sabbath. What can be done? Caspar asked for 2 people to help organize the "Children's Sabbath" and Kathie and Clara volunteered.

Questions/Ideas brought up by Caspar:

- 1.) How to go about this? Caspar suggested to start simple.
- 2.) Perhaps a city wide activity among other types of churches.
- 3.) Start a "Freedom School" – because our Preschool will most likely not be restarted because of other programs available to families for free now. The "Freedom School" is a free, high intensity, after school program for 5-15 yr. olds. Teachers get paid, but because it is a non-profit organization, we would have to get support from the community and get grants to make it possible. This school would be separate from the church and have their own Board although there would be one member of the church that would be on that Board.
- 4.) Summer place for kids with a free lunch, 6 hours a day and expand it to after school the rest of the year.

Caspar announced that Christ Church United Methodist is asking for kids citywide to attend events on October 10-12th for 6-12th graders. There will be "get to know you activities," a photo scavenger hunt, pizza, and a band. We could do the same types of things starting on just one Sunday with one other church, eventually heading towards larger events involving a fair or other citywide events, ending with a Sabbath Sunday for the kids.

B. Peace Events – Kathie talked about a peace initiative called "Mayors for Peace," founded by the Hiroshima Peace Foundation, that has approximately 3,000 signatures of city mayors from around the world in support of the United Nation's Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. There will be a letter and a petition on the church's web site for all to review. Kathie and Caspar have co-founded Greater Glens Falls Citizens for Peace to get local mayors on board and to prepare educational, worship, and arts events for our local communities:

- 1.) In honor of the International Day of Peace, First Baptist Church will host an interfaith peace service at 4:30 p.m. (time change) on September 20th.
- 2.) On the Monday, September 21st, local mayors, including Mayor Jack Diamond of Glens Falls will sign documents to join the Mayors for Peace program. The event will be held at the Crandall Park shell and Kathie thanked Caspar for organizing this event.
- 3.) At the Adirondack Quaker Friends meeting house there will be an exhibit of peace memorabilia and artifacts later this fall; dates to be announced.

4.) On Nov. 7th, Setsuko Thurlow , a survivor of the Holocaust, will speak at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation on Weeks Road in Queensbury.

5.) In Jan.-Apr. '10 in the lobby of Scoville Hall at ACC, will be videotape loop of survivor testimonies and an art exhibit by survivors of the nuclear attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki for the community and students to see.

C. Outreach for AAA/NAA - Caspar and Kathie had some ideas to present relating with our connection with these groups:

1.) Gift of coffee - As an outreach the some of the groups that meet in our church on a regular basis we could provide them with "Fair Exchange" coffee at their meetings. Brooke and Caspar presented information about the "Fair Exchange" products. They stated that we could be shopping for a good cause. These are equal exchange products such as coffee and hot chocolate powder that when purchased, help local individuals build communities and buy the land that they are growing the products on. Carol Cromwell previously purchased these products online for the church's use, but the supply has run out. Shirley and Peg had ordered more products but they never arrived. These products are now sold in Price Chopper but it is probably cheaper if bought in bulk online. Marie suggested that Brooke should give a presentation about the Free Exchange products to the congregation about purchasing more for future use. Other suggestions included being able to sell packages to individuals in the congregation.

2.) Play room - the smaller of the two preschool rooms is now being used as a play room for children of parents in these groups. Mike will clean the room once a week.

3.) Babysitting - It would be nice to provide free babysitting for the children in the playroom provided by volunteers of the church.

4.) Free Bibles - Caspar and Kathie cleaned out old books in the church's library and gave them to Crandall Library for their book sale. In the process, they found many old extra Bibles that could be given away to individuals in these groups. In addition, Kathie added that the library will be completely cleaned and organized eventually, and if anyone has any newer Christian books on hand that they feel other individuals might like to read, and are willing to donate to our library, to contact either her or Caspar about the donations.

D. Worship Leaders – Caspar recently talked to Kathie and Marie regarding worship leaders. Caspar proposed finding a couple of people who would enjoy acting as a worship leader on a regular basis as opposed to finding people on a weekly basis to fill the position. He would like to develop a "worship leader core" but plan to use other members of the congregation at other times of the year for other things. He also wants to get a couple of our youth members to act as a "Junior Worship Leaders" and be regular readers of the selected Psalms each week. This will start in September and he has been looking at Brooke, Kathie, and some of the other willing members of the Deacons to fill the worship leader positions. The group felt that it should be Caspar's decision as to whom he would like to ask, and he decided to start with Brooke and one other individual for now.

E. Brainstorming –

1.) Caspar has begun to put slogans on the marquee out front.

2.) Peg mentioned that she enjoys the pictures projected in the front of the church before the service and others agreed with her.

3.) Have all the churches to appoint a point person willing to meet with the Chamber of Commerce to create a guide containing information about different services and their locations for a walking tour of Glens Falls churches.

4.) We have some flyers right now that could be distributed to some of the area hotels regarding our own church services, as this project did not get off the ground as planned when suggested by Debbie Hill back in April. Kathie will call her and see if she is willing to take this project on.

III. Group Reports:

A. Care Team – There are four people at the Pines right now. Clara went to visit Fran Dean there, who said she is going home soon. Others still there include Ray Haverly, Jerri South and Pauline.

B. Christian Ed. – Kathie reported that we now have the ordered curriculum and all the teachers lined up to teach. A meeting will be held to get the teachers the information they need for this year. Sunday school will start the first Sunday in September. Caspar showed us a poster that he framed and told us that such poster artwork comes with the curriculum and for a small price we could have these posters framed to decorate the halls which might jog the student's memories about their past lessons. They would also be a nice gift for a graduating senior each year.

C. Mission Team - In September the mission moment will be Community Action, October will be World Mission, and November will be the American Bible Society. Caspar talked to Rick Barnes regarding organizing a trip to Mexico and Rick wanted to know how many people were interested and what the time frame the trip was going to be. He could find something to do for anyone interested in going to do no matter their age or abilities. There is a church in Connecticut that is interested in going and perhaps we could piggyback with that church to go. Caspar will find out what their plans are.

D. Worship Team – Shirley stated that the ushering teams are getting smaller and smaller for a variety of reasons. She will try to rearrange this and find enough people to build the teams back up.

E. Ancillary Reports –

- 1.) Fellowship Team – We are going to let Wanda know that she can start planning for Homecoming Sunday.
- 2.) Dinner for past ministers – Caspar has to make some calls about getting this organized.
- 3.) Pulpit exchange – We may do this in the spring.
- 4.) Harvest team – There is a meeting coming up in September. The festival will be on October 17th from 10:30am -2:00 pm.

F. Trustees Report – Caryl Eckler as been appointed as vice moderator. The yard work has been completed, the dead tree has been cut down and the vines have been removed. Money for the new sound system has been donated and Bill Jones is working on it. A new computer has been donated to the office. Kathie is the new representative of the Diaconate on the committee to draw up a new budget.

IV. Old Business:

A. Choir Music – Nancy will make the contacts to get the choir music cleaned out and organized.

B. Ice cream Social – Marie reported the three ice cream socials held during the band concerts in the park were fun for all who participated and that even some of the band members came to eat ice cream. Money donated for local charities equaled approximately \$107 the first time, approximately \$70 the second time, and approximately \$40 the third time. We hope to do it again next year.

The next meeting will be on September 8th at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted by Tammy Jones