

**MINUTES OF THE DIACONATE**  
**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GLENS FALLS**  
**OCTOBER 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2009**

**In Attendance:** Marie Ross, Julia Farenell, Nancy Holmes, Shirley Clark, Clara LeBarron, Kathie McCoy, Debbie Hill, Peg Moody, Tegan Whiting, Tammy Jones, and Brooke Green for Caspar Green

**I. Call to Order:**

**A. Opening Prayer:** Brooke led us in prayer.

**B. Approval of the Minutes:** The minutes were approved as corrected. A note was made that Debbie's name had been accidentally omitted from the list of attendees at last month's meeting.

**II. Reports:**

**A. Care Team:** Clara reported that communion has been completed for the shut-ins until the Christmas season begins. Emily Towne was added to the list of shut-ins and Erica Kilmartin was visited at home. They also visited Joan Ross, John Potter, Lila Morse, Arlene Davies' father, and Marian Fuller.

**B. Christian Education Team:** Brooke reported that plans for the Children's Sabbath Sunday this coming Sunday have been put in place. Many different people will be contributing to the service. The overarching theme will be the fact that an adult can make a difference in a child's life. During the fellowship time after the service, there will be forms offered for individuals to sign pertaining to the issue of health care for children, which can be sent to representatives in government (i.e. Gillibrand, Schumer, and Murphy).

Brooke also reported that Caspar has called the principal of the Big Cross St. School to inform him that if he or his staff is ever aware of a child in his school with a particular need to call him at our church, so that we may try to help in whatever way possible. Debbie referred Brooke to Lisa Catalfamo, the school social worker, who would perhaps be a better contact in these matters.

**C. Missions Team:**

Mexico Missions Trip – Julia reported on the responses she received to invitations to the mission trip and has only received interest from a few individuals. Not knowing the time of the year that the trip is going to happen makes it difficult for people to know how to respond. Vacation days don't correspond for the high school and the college students and a trip in the summer would be difficult for students with summer jobs lined up. The expense of airfare was discussed, and if a bus was chartered, the sheer distance to Mexicali by land is a huge deterrent for others. Brooke reported that Caspar had received interest from the Hoosick Falls Baptist Church Youth Group saying that they would like to team up with our church to go.

Mission Moments – Julia reported that she is set with a presenter for November but needs a volunteer for the mission moment in December. Recent focus for this month and last has been on personal care products. Donations

coming in for November and December will go back to food items. In the past years, food donated for these two months were given to the Salvation Army to fill their holiday baskets. Currently the Community Action seems to give more food that lasts a number of days instead of one holiday meal. A discussion took place as to where our donations should go, and it was decided that food donations in November would go to the Salvation Army and the food coming in during December would go to the Community Action Agency.

**D. Worship Team:** Caspar has signed up a few people that have offered to clean up the fellowship hall after coffee hour to take some of the pressure off of Shirley who has been doing it by herself. With Mike home sick, Jeff has been at church early to start the coffee but has to leave soon after to go home and take care of Mike.

Shirley reported that the ushers are not doing their jobs on Sunday mornings. They are supposed to greet at the doors both before and after the worship service. They are also supposed to take care of the candles, water, offering plates, etc. It was suggested to Shirley that the teams be rearranged and that she assigns a responsible team leader for each team to discuss the jobs within each team. It was also suggested that she send out the “ushers’ rules” again to each usher to remind them of the duties that they signed up to complete each Sunday that their group is in charge. Kathie offered to make up a flyer for the ushers when we have our quarterly congregational meeting on the 25th.

**F. Fellowship Team:** Shirley reported that everything is underway for the Harvest Festival this Saturday from 10:30 – 2:00. The baked goods are supposed to be there from 3-5:00pm on Friday or early on Saturday. Crafts are needed to be there early to be marked.

### **G. Ancillary Reports:**

Music Committee – Nancy stated that nothing has been done to sort out the music files as yet.

Trustees – Clara said that the following was discussed: 1) the leak in the roof in the front entrance way is going to be looked at; 2) Bill is working on the sound system and the electrical problems with two different agencies, 3) the congregational quarterly meeting will be on Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, 4) Ken had stated that there are very few changes in the budget and if anything needs to be added it can be done later.

Visitors to our church – Nancy mentioned that she has noticed some individuals that have returned to visit our church lately. It was discussed that we need a committee to do outreach for visitors. Ideas were thrown around as to the possibility of giving free trade coffee, small plants, small gifts, etc. to visitors to show them that we are glad that they came to worship with us. There are cards in the back of the church that are supposed to be handed out to visitors when they enter the church. Kathie wondered if we have a list of individuals that came to visit and where it is. It was suggested that someone check the current guest book, the old guest books, and the books that used to be passed through the pews on Sunday mornings during the service. Kathie will ask Caspar what he does with the cards that come back. Nancy also offered to be the one to follow

up on this procedure and contact old visitors and invite them back for future visits.

### **III. Old Business:**

**A. Peace Events:** The International Day of Peace Interfaith Service was held and approximately 30 people attended the ceremony in our church on 9/20. The Mayors for Peace event held in Crandall Park on 9/21 took place and Mayor Blais from Lake George showed up to sign. On 11/6, a Hiroshima survivor named Setsuko Thurlow will appear on the ACC campus, and later in the day at 7:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation on 21 Weeks Rd. in Queensbury to speak.

**B. Outreach to NA/AA:** Kathie does not know if the outreach groups have been given the Fair Trade Coffee yet. The Bibles that were placed out on the tables were all taken and more need to be put out for individuals to take. The playroom was cleaned out and opened up for the use of these groups as well as for our own children.

**C. Outreach to Local Hotels:** Debbie has visited a number of hotels to pass out flyers about our church services to the following hotels: the Super 8 and the Best Inn off of Exit 18, and the Ramada, the Quality Inn and the Econo Lodge off of Exit 19.

### **IV. New Business:**

**A. Budget:** Ken did the budget but there was no meeting. Kathie did tell Caspar that the Deacons would like the option to have VBS next year and wonder about the availability of money to fund that. She will give Ken a call and discuss that as well as the Mission trip which is going to be expensive. Perhaps Rick Barnes can suggest inexpensive lodging. Has Caspar talked about fundraisers? The reintroduction of the luncheons on Sundays was mentioned as a possibility to raise money.

**B. Weekly Bulletin Checklist:** Kathie has created a bulletin checklist to aid in the process of editing the bulletin each week before that week's service to avoid mistakes. Someone will go over the bulletin with Caspar using the checklist so nothing gets left out. Debbie asked if we are ever going to get a secretary, but there was no answer for this right now.

#### **C. Brainstorming/Misc.:**

Debbie wondered what happened with the ideas collected by the group that went to visit other churches in the past. It was their job to experience other services and gather ideas as to how we can change or add to our service to bring more people in. The possibility of an evening service as before mentioned was also brought up and the pros and cons discussed. Also mentioned were other ideas to make our church look attractive such as the reintroduction of activities such as game night, the Meetin' Eatin' Greetin' Society, etc. Debbie agreed to meet with Caspar to hash out some ideas.

Brooke was asked what other products the Fair Trade group has and she mentioned that they also offer tea, coffee, candy, olive oil, and palm leaves at Easter.

**D. One-Minute Manager:** As a recap, the agreement for active participation in this week's topics included the following:

- 1) Kathie is going to talk to Ken about the budget to see if there is money to support VBS and the mission trip, ask Caspar what he does with visitor cards, and type up a flyer for the congregational meeting regarding ushers;
- 2) Nancy is going to meet with Caspar to produce a list of past visitors that we should contact to welcome them back to our church and send them a welcome card; and
- 3) Debbie is going to meet with Caspar to develop some ideas to introduce or reintroduce some activities into our church and to see what ideas were collected by the past group that went to other churches to examine their programs.

**V. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:40. The next meeting will be on November 10<sup>th</sup> at 7PM.

**Respectfully submitted by: Tammy Jones**