

EPF of Ithaca Area Minutes January 7, 2019

Attendees: Joey Cardamone, Linda Gaither, Ed and Nancy Siemon, Cathy Lewis, Blythe and Frank Baldwin

Opening Prayer: Blythe Psalm 33,8-12.

Social Justice Minute:

- Blythe pointed out that a lot of passing the buck is happening: children getting sick in migrant shelters, Pacific Power and Gas not wanting to take responsibility for igniting California fires. On the plus side Blythe said Congress has committed to funding SNAP.
- Linda brought news that big box stores are wanting property tax reductions because online competition is reducing the desirability of their facilities.

Treasury:

- Nancy reported a balance of \$159.54 but some outstanding cash and checks are needing to be deposited. (After deposit, we have a balance of \$257.54 checking, \$58.00 savings.
- It was decided Nancy will order 100 more prayer cards.
- EPF will send a \$50 donation to Good Samaritan Episcopal Church in San Diego to help them with aiding migrants. We will also send ten prayer cards with the check.

Nuclear Disarmament:

- Frank reported that Nancy, Ed and Frank met with Mother Megan in early December to ask for support for the resolution in favor of nuclear disarmament. Mother Megan will take the resolution to St. John's Vestry.
- Frank also reported on developments in the court case against Clare Grady and the Plowshares Seven. The judge has ruled that the defendants will be allowed to explain why they took the actions they did against nuclear weapons. Frank read a letter that Ira Helfand wrote to the court in support of the Plowshares Seven. Linda suggested that Frank ask Ira for permission to have the letter printed locally.

CJP/JVP:

- Saturday, December 8, there was a Chanukah event on the commons at the band shell. Mother Megan and Rabbi Brian were at the event.
- Mother Megan and Rabbi Brian met. Linda will try to find out what they agreed as to a panel discussion about Israel/Palestine.
- An event in February is in the planning: No Way To Treat a Child. A person from Ramallah, Palestine, will be reporting. Quaker Meeting House on Third Street. Date TBA
- Linda reported that the Congress will be taking up anti-BDS bill, S1, first thing upon start of new session. She encouraged us to call Schumer and Gillibrand.

Amnesty International: EPF had a table at the Human Rights day event on December 1, 2018. They handed out free copies of Steadfast Hope book. A person from Channel 13, local access channel, said she was interested in showing parts of the DVD on Channel 13.

St. Bart's Chapter of EPF, NYC: Cathy reported that they are struggling but still going and have a project where they volunteer at poor schools to help teachers and students. Linda suggested that we give them prayer cards from our chapter as a show of support.

Prayers of the People: Going well so far.

- January: child abuse
- February: hunger
- March: gun control
- April: prisoners. Prayer: BCP #37, page 826
- May: Social Justice. Prayer: BCP #27, page 823
- June: addiction. Prayer: BCP #56, page 831

Letter Writing: Joey brought a plethora of materials for letter writing. We decided to write letters next meeting. Foul weather was pressuring us to end meeting. She reported a new group, Challenging Incarceration in NYS, has formed.

Focus for 2019: Nuclear disarmament; Prayers of the People;
Israel/Palestine

Closing Prayer: from BCP.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 28, 2019, 5 PM. at. St. John's; in the
Chapman room.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Siemon