

Parish Life Committee - 6 April 2016

Attendees: Deane Belcher, Sue Belcher, Janet Brimeyer, Cheryl Carlile, Steve Cochren, Jo Anne Dalhoff, Sue Scoles, and Rick Brimeyer

Our meeting convened at 7:01 pm with an opening prayer led by Janet Brimeyer.

Minutes of the March meeting were approved.

Old Business:

Parish Life Organizations

Several team members reported on their initial contacts with Parish Life organizational leaders:

- Sue Sprong shared via email that Jane Baty also no longer wants to co-chair Special Events after several years of service. They are currently working on the volunteer recognition reception. Rick relayed the name of another parishioner with food service experience after following up with former parishioner Mary Ellen Metzger. Tina Colburn was approached to identify parishioners with event planning experience.
- Sue Sprong also reported via email that the co-chair opening for Coffee & Donuts was posted in the bulletin. Three couples have been approached and asked to consider. The job description for the co-chairs was shared. **Action: Parish Life** members identify potential co-chairs.
- Steve reported that Howard Lemkuhl's phone number is not current on our team's table. He has been emailed.
- Steve talked to Angela Fisher regarding Widows, Widowers & Single Seniors. They usually have 8-10 members that go out to eat once a month. They are relatively happy with the current situation. Steve recommended that if more parishioners are interested, we start a twin group.
- Cheryl emailed Sarah Mansell (Meals with Families with New Babies) and has not heard back.
- Cheryl has started initial correspondence Jessica Loecke of Play Group. Jessica is hoping to expand Play Group and investigate meeting at a time that would be accessible to more parents. Cheryl may go to a Play Group to talk with them.
- Sue Scoles contacted Marge Sutter for Prayer Chain. The bulletin has contact information for Prayer Chain requests. Marge contacts 20 people and Peggy Murdock contacts 16 people via phone for each request. They picked up several new chain members at the Ministry Fair. There are no group meetings. They no longer use email for confidentiality concerns. Marge is happy to do this. All requests last for six weeks. There were 60 requests received January through March 2016. Steve asked if it made sense to post prayer requests in the Adoration chapel.
- Sue Scoles also talked to Marge regarding Home Visit Volunteers. Marge handles this by herself. This is very informal with no additional members. She receives referrals from the EM to the Homebound. We agreed this is not currently an active organization, but rather a wonderful

parishioner imitating Christ. JoAnne pointed out that this activity was originally part of the Pastoral Associate's job description.

- Janet reported on her conversation with Dixie Lickteig (Food for Funeral Luncheons). Dixie has roughly 100 volunteers which she uses. She enjoys this, although it is taxing for large funerals.
- Janet talked to Carolyn Konechne of St. Cecilia Council of Catholic Women (SCCCW). Currently all members are also members of circles, although this is not a pre-requisite. Carolyn is interested in stepping down from this role. We discussed whether SCCCW should fall under Parish Life since it is part of a national organization. **Action: JoAnne** investigate and provide a recommendation.
- Rick and Janet met with Emily Beaudry of Catholics of Ames Young Adult Community (CAYAC). They currently have 150 on their email list with 20-50 active members from both parishes. They try to do two social events, one spiritual event and one service event per month. We provided requested advice regarding officer positions. They receive financial support from St. Thomas. **Action: Rick** determine if CAYAC belongs under Faith Formation or Parish Life and whether/how it can be shared between both parishes.

A recurring issue among groups is leadership succession. We agreed that an ideal model is to have co-chairs with staggered two-year terms. **Action: Rick** develop an model for all organizations currently needing leaders that can be shared.

Fall Social

We like the idea of a picnic, coffee or ice cream social this fall with leaders of the various Parish Life organizations in the fall. This will allow us to further develop some relationships and share best practices across the organizations. **Action: Rick** develop a rough agenda for the fall social.

Parish Life Initiatives

No update. Sue Sprong is starting to read the book *A Seat at the Table: A Generation Reimagining its Place in the Church*.

Rick has not received a response to his email to a couple of Hispanic parishioners regarding interest in joining the Parish Life Committee. He emailed Carlota yesterday and she is contacting potential members.

Website

Janet is willing to learn about updating the Parish Life portion of the website.

Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, May 3 at 7:00 pm at the Brimeyer house (2615 Southridge Circle).

The meeting closed with a prayer led by Cheryl at 8:05 pm.