

STEWARDSHIP CORE COMMUNITY
MINUTES
10/30/11

Attendees: Tom and JoAnne McBrearty, Bill and Cookie Zimmer, Shawn and Cathy Sturmer, Pat and Bill Beckett

SCRIPTURE AND FAITH SHARING: 1 Thessalonians 2:7

MINISTRY FAIR EVALUATION

All agreed that the streamlining of snacks, balloons etc. worked very well. Attendance at Masses seemed lighter than usual – no explanation. It was a football weekend. We definitely need to monitor the food tables because kids were taking several cups of snacks without monitoring. Decided to eliminate handing out the raffle tickets at the door. Instead we will set up a table with a large sign and stack of tickets. This will allow the greeters to focus on welcoming instead of trying to do a long explanation very rapidly. There is still a problem with getting enough people for the procession although it was better this year since we asked the Welcoming Ministers to carry any “Left Behind” banners. In a previous e-mail (which I forgot to bring) Bill and Cookie mentioned that people asked about popcorn, cookies and hot dogs. They also suggested that we do a survey of the ministry heads after the Fair. They also mentioned the need for a clean up crew on Sunday night. (We could line up volunteers who would help, but it will probably be difficult since it is 8:30 pm on Sunday night.) I did ask Steve and Bill so maybe we can just ask them and a couple of others. Too many people creates chaos I have found and things don't get put back correctly. The announcement didn't indicate that snacks and drinks would be served and that there would be a drawing for the parking space. (There wasn't a choir announcement this time, just at the end of the witness talk so we could add it there.) JoAnne and Tom suggested in an e-mail that we provide cots for napping in the afternoon so we didn't have to drive home and back AND that maybe we can take Fr. Mike out for dinner!

REPORT ON STEWARDSHIP DAY AT ST. JOHN'S

Notes from Bill and Cookie

- Go back to our roots, who we were when we started. What was our leadership, focus, issues, problems and what has changed over the years.
- Take a field trip of own church - print advertising, website, phone message, signage, parking, facilities, service & social hour.
- Create an ongoing record of newcomers, pray for them, make them feel special.
- What if we ceased to exist tomorrow, what difference would it make?
- Before you can ask me to share my Time, Talent & Treasure, tell me why. Why are we contributing to a building fund - what's coming?
- Do we have a Horizon Commission - what are the needs for the future? Who can we apprentice?
- Create an endowment.
- Look over trends in giving - 5 to 7 years is best.
- Break predictable Time-Talent-Treasure timing patterns, one event or teaching each season.
- Stewardship Statement - "We are unanimously and enthusiastically committed to _____"
- Break members down into four categories - Active, Contributing, Seeking, Transitory
- Active - (truly on board - tithing, ministries, etc.) Thank them, let them know we appreciate them but don't parade them. Ask for their input, ideas.
- Contributing - (they understand that you support an organization by paying your dues) Send them a three paragraph letter. 1 - acknowledge their support. 2 - explain the system. 3 - invite them to join the Vestry & "step up".
- Seeking - (not yet "insiders", may be newer members) Educate them, empower them by inviting them to an "invitation-only evening" at which we explain how funds are used.
- Transitory - (these persons have been around 2 or more years but have never pledged or been truly involved) The question of this group is "why not". Send a letter, but consider the real issue to be a pastoral one (what is the parish worth to them?, what's going on that keeps them from being a part of the church?)

Tom and JoAnne's Notes

It started off - Barnabas - A model for holistic stewardship. Barnabas is all through Acts 4:32-37, 9:26-31, 11:19-30. 12:25-13:3, 13:4-14:28, 15:1-35, 15:36-41

Supposedly he is mentioned most after Peter, John and Paul in scripture. He starts by selling a field laying the money at the apostles feet (treasure). Next he takes Saul under his wing when the others are not quite sure of how they feel about him (time & talent). In the beginning it is Barnabas and Paul later it is Paul and Barnabas. He made the connection that without a mentor such as Barnabas, Paul might not have been. I have not confirmed

this yet. I am the type that has to look it up and see for myself. It sounds exciting though since I did not know about Barnabas.

He used the acronym -

- B-egin with the big picture - Heritage of our parish - create a time line to be wrapped around an area and added to by all parishoners who remember to find out what is essential to us. Who was in leadership? What was going on in the world at the time? Why do we exist? What is our DNA? Do a 3 month heritage search.
- A-rrange structures stategically - Programs, space, Vision & Identity, Finances, Staff. Does our vision match our use of our partish time, talent and treasure.
- R-etain & recruit newcomers.-Do our homework - print advertising, website, phone message, signs, parking, facilities and service and social hours. Think newcomers - Do we have a nursery - if so say it in our telephone message. Start with "We are so glad you called." Greeters, Wecoming committee - They are "Ambassadors" Ask from the pulpit "Are there ant visitors - We do this
- N-urture fellow leaders & stewards -Nurture fellow leaders as Barnabas trains Saul. - Before I forget - JoAnne Kraynack - Maybe she would like to join Core Stewardship committee. Do we have intentional leadership development. Who is our Paul and are we mentoring him.
- A-sk for direction and support- Exit interviews as people turn over leadership. Continue to seek counsel of the wise. Ask pas leaders for advice. Valure them.
- B-ecome a church for the commmunity (we are). What are the needs of the parish. Take a parish survey once a year. Can be done electronically on parish web site or survey monkey to determine areas of new needs and what is working. Parish report card once a year.
- A-nalyze budget and giving patterns over 5 to 7 years - His graph showed for 5 years. Attendance, Pledges, Weekly Giving, Expenses
- S-pecify a strategic pledging plan - Here is where the endowment piece came in. I know our diocese is already creating a foundation . Ask ther questions and look at trends.
- Divide the givers into 4 categories - he has letters in his book for each. Active - these people truly are on board so thank them, thank them, thank them. Contributing - these understand the need for support and give a little, Thank them. Seeking - These are newer members who are not yet "insiders". Empower them, invite them . Personalize and Transitory -These members have been around for 2 years or more but have never been involved. The question for this group is...Why not? and How?
- A few other points:
- First point - So much of what he was suggesting we are already doing.
- Second point - some of these things we could be doing.
- Third point - Not enough focus on time and talent.
- Fourth point - Treasures - big focus on endowments.

APPRECIATION DINNER – Saturday, February 4

Caterer – Bonefish

This is a change from our original January 13 in order to be farther from the Christmas holidays.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY – Thursdays, Jan 12, 19, 26, Feb 2, 9, 16, 23, Mar 1, 8, 15, 29, April 12, 19

Facilitators: Shawn and Cathy, may need some help on some weeks that they may be out of town in North Carolina. They will let us know the dates early enough to plan for one of us to facilitate.

We would like to try to target young married couples and yet still remain open to all. Several people mentioned that they wish they had gone earlier. We will do this by having a pulpit announcement by one of the young couples from the last sessions who can share what a difference it made for them. We also could send a specific e-mail to those married in the past 5 years using the database information. Child care was very important to attendance. The evaluations suggested that a starting time of 6:45 pm rather than 6:30 pm would work better for most people. We will schedule a preview session on Thursday, December 15 at 6:45 pm in Room 308. (Sandy has scheduled the room.)

GIFT DISCOVERY WORKSHOP – Ministry Leader's Gathering

This was originally scheduled on February 4 – the date we took for the Appreciation Dinner. We discussed dates in March and April. The March dates won't work since it is Spring Break. There are no available

Saturdays in May. There is a possibility for Friday, May 5 or Friday, May 11 (we would have to set up afterwards for the First Communion receptions.) Or we could look at a day during the week. Mondays and Thursdays are out. Tuesday is a heavy meeting night. Wednesday is RE. We need to discern what to do at our next meeting. Any Feedback?

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE – February 19 – Witness talk

Betty Serow was suggested last year. That choice was affirmed by the group and Pat will ask her.

NEED FOR NEW MEMBERS

Several people were nominated to be join the Stewardship Core Community. Pat will contact them. Cathy will also look up attendees at FPU and make suggestions for those who might join. Singles are welcome, but if a couple is married they both need to be committed to stewardship even if only one can attend the meetings because of child care etc.

Next meeting, Sunday, January 22 at 7 pm.