

## Church Council April 2015 Minutes

Present: Leslie Murray, Beth White, Mark Emerson, Carolyn Goodin, John Slosser, Doug Cowden, Nancy Flood, Jan Davis, Pastor Marylee

Meeting called to order by Pastor Marylee followed by an opening prayer

March Council minutes read and acknowledged

Deepening Our Connection with God

- An Easter litany led by John Slosser
- An opportunity for each of us to share what “rock” might be in front of tomb that holds us back from experiencing fullness of life

### **Trustees Report: Leslie Murray, President**

Trustees is going well and lots is getting done. Many people enthusiastically helping with work around the church, including our newest Trustee, Chuck Murray. There was a very good turnout for the work day. Leslie encourages all of us to think about how to reduce water use by 25%. She and Judy Stillman are looking into a recycling education program that will include green bins for food waste. Rats in the play yard and the furnace room have been dealt with by a professional service. The heaters have all been serviced. Leslie handed out an inventory of (useful) items. [Lorri Sullivan has that list and can forward it to the Council.]

### **Worship Team: Jan Davis, Chair**

Worship works well together and Jan is happy to be part of this team. At the Worship Team meeting on Tuesday evening Ash Wednesday, Lent, Redemption at the Movies, and Palm Sunday were all discussed. The Easter brunch was discussed. A member of the Choir reported at Worship that there’s interest in bringing it back. (On Easter Sunday the Choir had a private brunch between worship hours.) Beth White has also gotten feedback about bringing back the Easter brunch. There is no coordinator (as in the past) which is why the Easter brunch was discontinued. Jan pointed out that the Seder dinner and the Easter brunch (and should Welcome and Evangelism want to again host a Palm Sunday Community Lunch) means a lot of coordinating, set-up, and food needed in a short amount of time. Marylee suggested that Jan and Janet Thompson (Welcome and Evangelism Chair) talk about this. The labyrinth was discussed. We now own one; it’s very labor-intensive to set up and take down so using it in Lent could be challenging. It takes up the entire Fellowship Hall. Beth said that the youth very much like walking the labyrinth. We also talked about the Church Retreat. Beth has gotten feedback about wanting the retreat. Marylee asked Beth to direct people interested in the retreat to her, because if there’s interest we can make the retreat happen.

Finance: John Slosser, Chair

No bad news. Utilities seem higher because we’re paying on a month-to-month basis. The rummage sale fundraiser is coming up. The Finance Team discussed copier use

and the possibility of codes given to groups to track use. Bookkeeping expenses are higher because of Intuit. The Easter offering was \$3,000.

### **Men's Ministries; Mark Emerson, Reporting**

Men meet each Saturday for breakfast and discussion with the "Wired Word" which is current news with a faith-response. Marylee asked the men to consider how to advertise and invite men who don't attend.

### **Women's Ministries: Nancy Flood, Chair**

The women filled over 100 Easter baskets. Special acknowledgement of the work done by Sue Renno and Fran Smith. (The thank you letter from the food bank is in this Sunday's bulletin.) Thank you cards have been received from families. The congregation's donations and the women's group funds paid for the baskets.

The Women Group voted to put their money into the church bank account rather than have a separate fund (as UMW does.) The new church account number is 2373. Their treasurer will continue to track their records.

Nancy Lennstrom gave a beautiful Lent and Easter devotion at their last meeting. The annual women's ministries picnic is May 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **Stitch-in-Time Ministries:**

Deadline for hats for Afghanistan is April 19<sup>th</sup>. Budd MacKenzie will take the hats in his luggage. The next project for Stitch-in-Time is "Dress a Girl Around the World." This group was applauded for their outreach projects.

### **Joyful Beginnings Preschool: Carolyn Goodin, Director**

Carolyn's joy is the children. This has been a good year and a year of learning for her. May 8<sup>th</sup> is Mother's Day and church members are needed to help serve. (More information coming from Carolyn for Marylee to invite the church to help. This is an opportunity for us to interact with the preschool as we continue to reach out to those families and include them in the life of the church.)

Game Night that includes the preschool, and Children's and Youth Ministries, was discussed as another possibility for us to create community. Perhaps 4 times a year to do a joint event? In the past Leslie Murray has organized a bingo night that was fun.

June 10<sup>th</sup> is the preschool graduation. There are 3 weeks of summer school following our VBS.

### **Children's Ministries: Mark Emerson, Coordinator**

There are 2-4 children in the preschool class every week. 0-1 kids in the upstairs class for the last three weeks. This is discouraging. We acknowledged that Spring break and Holy Week coincided this year and families were away.

The veggie garden will be planted at the end of the month. Carolyn asked if the preschool can be involved in this too.

Mary 3<sup>rd</sup> after worship is a Faith Formation barbeque and party for all kids, youth, teachers, and parents at Judy Garvens' home.

Children collected \$162 on Easter Sunday for Heifer Project bee kits.

**Youth Ministries: Beth White, Coordinator**

Beth shared that her son Jacob will be 15 at the end of this month and he is the joy of her life. Mother's Day is May 10<sup>th</sup> and we have two graduates giving the message that day, Marissa Monopoli and April Logan. (Marylee said that right after worship on that day we will have a Courtyard dedication.)

Sunday night attendance averages 5-10 youth; Sunday morning averages 3-5.

How does Lafayette advertise special events? Where in the community can we be involved and be a presence? The Art and Wine Festival (Nancy reported that most people who attend are from out of town.) What about summertime music in the Plaza? Could we attend wearing church tee-shirts? Serve popcorn there?

**Endowment: Doug Cowden, Chair**

Grant requests have been turned in; too many to give all the funds that have been requested. Endowment will meet soon to discuss the grant-giving. There is an endowment "expansion fund" that's been moved, with the permission of the person who began this fund (no longer part of the congregation) to the in-reach fund.

**Other Business:**

Scout Sundays were discussed as a good time to reach out to the groups who meet here and invite them to worship with us.

We closed with Marylee thanking everyone for their time and energy; some of those present at the end of a long work day, and for everyone's participation in the life of the church. We said the Lord's Prayer together.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm  
Minutes taken by Pastor Marylee