

November 2018 Pastoral Council Meeting

Financial Report: September collections were strong. At this point, the church is on pace to meet or exceed its annual budget. Received \$400,000 from two donors towards construction of new parking lot.

Liturgy and Worship Commission: It met and made the decision to again hire Justin Hoadley and his team to decorate the church for Christmas. The Commission is still looking for a sacristan coordinator and someone to help with the audio-visual booth. The goal is to have two persons in it at each Mass, one to run audio and the other to operate video.

Education and Formation: It was reported there are 13 Adult Faith groups meeting with 275 persons participating. One of these is "That Man is You" men's group which meets Monday mornings with 35-40 men attending regularly. About 300 women came to the Magnificat meeting in September and October's Woman to Woman Retreat attracted more than 40 participants. Internationally known speaker and author Chris Stefanick will be appearing here February 13 about applying the Gospel to every aspect of our lives. The Youth Ministry has begun a new program called "Express" on Wednesday evenings for 6th-12th graders. It's been involved in such service projects as helping the Faulkner County Library and raising funds for CAPCA. The Youth are also partnering with the Missions Committee to assemble Blessing Bags.

Social Justice and Charitable Outreach: The Missions Committee has several events coming up which include CAPCA Holiday Drive December 14, Project Homeless Connect on January 22 at the Spiritan Center, Empty Bowls Benefit on February 6 at the Spiritan Center, and a Spring Break Family Mission Trip that will be based at the St. Joseph Center in North Little Rock. The Last Chance Ministries closed its doors recently which left a big void for a short-term homeless shelter in Conway. The Committee is working with the Conway Homeless Task Force on this issue. Contingency plans are being discussed to replace the Honduras Mission. The Commission's Community Assistance Program is merging with the Missions Committee. Starting in December, the monthly purple collection envelope is being changed to support "Mission Outreach."

Stewardship Commission: The October Stewardship Month got a positive reception from its emphasis on time and talent. The Commission will soon begin planning for next year

Hispanic Commission: It has begun preparation for Our Lady of Guadalupe feast day. The downtown procession will take place on December 9. After Mass, there will be festive celebration with food and music. A Happy Birthday to Our Lady will follow on December 12 and 6:00 pm in the church. Commission is meeting with Youth Minister Morgan Evans about three or four events that will be conducted jointly with the Hispanic and Youth Ministries. There will be a series of nine Posadas leading up to Christmas between December 15-23. A couple of them will be on church grounds.

Old business: At the time of the meeting, the new parking lot wasn't completed due to a number of wet days. Even with that, it was still expected to be finished before Christmas.

New business: After much discussion, including conversations with Bishop Taylor, the establishment of a mission in Greenbrier seems closer to reality. Some building sites have been looked at. If this gets finalized, there would be one bilingual Mass held there on Saturday evenings at 7:00 pm. There are nearly 200 families in the area. Collections would initially come back here. If things go well, those parishioners would eventually make their own budget and build their own finances. A successful effort there could ultimately lead to similar missions in other surrounding communities. Terms are expiring for two members of the Pastoral Council, John Abbott and Lori Ross. Decisions about their successors will be made in January. Deacon Jerry Joe Harrison is retiring at the end of the year. His last official function will be at the 4:15 pm Mass on Christmas Eve.