

Social Justice and Caring Committee
Minutes of the Meeting Held Thursday, January 6, 2022 (via Zoom)

Present: Martha Arko, Bill Dorgan, Mickie Hageman, May Huettl, Ann Karner, Julie Ludden, Julie Moore (minute writer), Ray and Eileen Muetzel, Kim Roering, and Mary Weyandt.

Prayer

The prayer was led by Julie Moore

Old Business

- **Angel Tree Report** - Mary Weyandt reported that Angel Tree provided St. Pascal's with names of 3 families dealing with incarceration. 2 families were successfully contacted that included 4 children. Mary Huettl and Martha Arko wrapped all the donated gifts and Kim collected them and the families picked them up at the parish. Thank you for all donations.
- **Giving Tree Report** - Ann Karner reported that the Giving Tree was a huge success and Catholic Charities seemed very pleased with all the donated gifts that were brought to their storage facility. Thank you to everyone who bought donations to church or had them shipped directly to Catholic Charities.

Beacon Update

Julie Moore reported that Beacon is organizing a Leadership Assembly, on January 13, from 6:30 - 8:30pm. This is open to everyone and you must register so you can be sent a link to Zoom. This is an important meeting where Beacon will discuss their Bring It Home Minnesota campaign and let us know how we can participate.

For those who are new to Beacon or just curious they have a Beacon Now series, where they give a quick overview with a new monthly topic. This takes place every Wednesday from 2:00 - 2:30. Great time to ask questions, etc. Registration is required to receive the Zoom link.

February 14, will be the next Rent is Due which will also coincide with the legislative Kick-off of Bring It Home Minnesota. This will be a week of action on behalf of all Beacon members meeting or engaging by Zoom with legislators.

Ann Karner reported that approximately \$450 of the We Care campaign will be allocated to Beacon.

Progressive Baptist Food Distribution

Ann Karner mentioned that the funeral service for Rev. Paul's brother John, was held Tuesday, January 5, at the church. Rev. Paul was very pleased to see those from St. Pascal's church who attended.

From January 21 through Feb 15 there will be a few volunteers from our church who will be out of town. If anyone would like to help out, bring a friend, or neighbor, that would be very helpful during this month.

Volunteer Hours at Progressive Baptist Church:

Every Friday morning 9:30 - 12:00pm

1st and 3rd Saturday mornings 9:00 - 12:00pm

Merrick Food Distribution

Josh from Merrick is willing to assist St. Pascal's in setting up a date for a once a month distribution, from St. Pascal's Church (Brioshi Entrance). Mary Weyandt, Kim and Father will set up another meeting, when Father gets back from vacation, to set dates and times and hopefully within the next couple of months this food distribution will kick off. Currently, they are looking at Mondays for distribution, since there are few things scheduled at the church. Mary will try to reach out to the entire parish to see if we can get some new volunteers to help out between the hours of 12:00 and 5:00pm.

Just Faith

Ann Karner is going to be offering a new Just Faith opportunity, which will start in March and go through the middle of May. The focus for the Just Faith discussion will be Poverty & Justice. This is an earlier offering in the series that has not been offered before. The hope is to get some new parishioners who have never participated in Just Faith and hoping this will jump-start additional opportunities for justice. They need at least 8 people to participate and this will be advertised in

the Bulletin and Pulse. If you are interested, Ann is still looking for a co-chair.

Mickie Hageman suggested a new topic for discussion that focuses on Mental Health: How we deal with it and talk about it and how it deals with the social issues of homelessness, etc. Kim suggested that she will bring it up at the next Adult Faith meeting as a new opportunity.

Other

Brittney House - Information went is in the Pulse and Bulletin of what donations Brittney House needs. Julie Ludden and Martha Arko will be in charge of delivering the donations to Brittney House.

Martin Luther King Day Zoom Event, at Pax Christi - Ann Karner received an invite from Pax Christi for everyone at St. Pascal's to attend. This idea developed when a group of parishioners from Pax Christi attended a Just Faith series and upon completion, Just Faith asks for action(s) from the group. This is their action item. This is a community event whereby they have asked several groups, parishes, and congregations to participate. This event will start with reading the letter that was written by Martin Luther King, while in the Birmingham jail. This will be followed by breaking into small groups for discussion. The goal of the Pax Christi social justice group is to build relationships and bring awareness to racial injustice. More information will be in the January 13 Pulse and the January 16 bulletin.

Closing Prayer

Mary Huettl led us in a closing prayer