

J&H Meeting 3-20-18

Present- Jeane Smits, Kay Schumacher, Father Bob Kabat, Rachael Westenberg, Mary Vanden Boomen  
Mike Westenberg, Jackie Thiry

It was good to be together again. The J&HC February meeting was canceled due to bad weather.

Meeting started with scripture readings from "At Home with the Word" for March 25. Discussion question was "In the second reading, Paul tells his readers that they should have the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus. What does this mean to you?" Discussion included:

- That you can take the heat.
- We need to practice servant leadership.
- We should strive to be okay with who we are. Jesus was okay at being human. There is no need to "grasp" to be like God.
- We admire super heroes but do not need to be a super hero.

Catholic Social Teaching – Jackie skipped the Catholic Social teaching topic. The schedule for rest of year is: Mike, April 17, Father, May 15, and Mary V., June 19. If this does not work for you, please let Jackie know.

Parish Council report- Minutes are posted on the web-site at [stmatthsgb.org](http://stmatthsgb.org). Please read. Highlights include:

- The collection to provide housing for those who do not choose to stay at St. John's, but are on the "streets" during the winter months was very successful. The loose collection provided \$2,874.66, which was mailed to Green Bay Police Department. Officers will use it for vouchers for a motel room for homeless people on the streets this winter.
- We are in the process of getting estimates for replacing the roof of the Multipurpose Center (the old church)
- Anissa Lodzinski and Sara Reichert reported on the work of the Worship Committee. Worship Committee coordinates what is happening, and then the liturgy is the work of the people. Particular attention is on getting youth involved. Currently the use of the Gathering Space is a primary focus.
- Father shared that Parish Council will be working on setting 3 - 5 goals as part of Parish mission planning. This is a Diocesan requirement.

Haiti- Through many fundraising efforts in Wisconsin and Ohio, Hands and Hearts with Haiti raised the funds to build the elementary school in Noyau. Groundbreaking has occurred and the school is well on the way to being built. Kay reported the sad news that Father Leveque has been reassigned to the Cathedral in ? just as the school he envisioned 5 years ago is being built. Father Ramel is the new pastor and is very supportive of the school and projects Hands and Hearts with Haiti are leading.

Kay invited all of us to the Taste of Haiti dinner being held on April 21 here at St. Matthews. Doors open at 5:30 with dinner at 7:00. Menu will feature Haitian food topped off with Haitian rum cake. There will be a live auction. Committee is hoping to have Bill Jarvis as auctioneer. You can purchase an advanced ticket by mailing a \$30 check to: Hands and Hearts with Haiti, C/O St. Matthew Parish, 130 St. Matthew St, 54301. For more info contact Carla Linssen at [carla.latour@gmail.com](mailto:carla.latour@gmail.com). All proceeds from the event will be used to sustain and maintain Hands and Hearts with Haiti mission and facilities.

Joshua- Rachel reported on the following:

- The Environmental Justice Task Force is focusing on the establishment of a City of Green Bay sustainability commission. Initial contact with a board member and the mayor are very favorable.
- Prison Reform continues to focus on jail issues. Several educational forums have been held. Attendance has been in the 70+ range with many new faces.
- Mental Health committee current goal is to bring a respite center to Brown County. A respite center is a safe place to check into for someone diagnosed with a mental illness who needs to get away from a

current situation. However, people using the respite center will need to have a place to go back to. It will have resources available.

St. Vincent de Paul- Jackie shared some of the learning's from the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering held in Washington DC that she attended in early February. It is organized by the US Catholic Bishop's Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development. 500 attendees from all over the US participated. There were five people from Wisconsin. The conference centers on Catholic Social Teaching. Topics included:

-The message repeated most often was the present lack of empathy for others and the indifference or lack of solidarity with our neighbor. There is an invisible thread of exclusion in the pursuit of money and profit.

- The church has a poor record on confronting racism and the Catholic Bishops conference has formed a commission to change that.

-We have to stop being complacent and address justice issues.

-We have to see God in one another, cease to be tribal and move out of our silos.

On the last day of the conference we met with congressional leaders or their aides. Everyone advocated the same message of: Provide protection to dreamers and Preserve funding for safety net programs as well as foreign humanitarian programs.

St. John Homeless Shelter- All shifts are covered through end of year. Kay and Mark are covering 1st shift and Father Bob, 2nd shift, on Easter.

As we know St. John's Homeless Shelter closes for the season on May 1. Efforts are being made to help those who do not have a place to shelter during the summer months. Churches were asked to be a resource. Fr. Bob presented to the Parish Council the possibility of opening the basement of the MPC for 10 – 12 guests, along with 2 staff people, for a week during July. Residents of Nazareth House were consulted and had no concerns. St. John's would provide mattresses for the guests. More information forthcoming.

Outreach endowment- There were eleven requests for funds from St. Matthew Endowment fund. \$6644 is available for distribution. After discussion, Feed My Starving Children was eliminated because the parish raised funds this Lent in support of them and there are more requests than funds available. We allotted money based on need and other resources available to the organization. Father Bob will present the following recommendations to the Parish Council.

Friends of Haiti	\$1000	Purchase Vita-Mamba & vitamins to help undernourished children.
Hands and Hearts With Haiti	\$1000	Support goat programs as well as micro-loan program for women.
Joshua	\$850	Help fund the criminal justice system educational events planned for the Greater Green Bay Community.
St. Anthony Parish Neopit	\$850	Help the purchase of computer equipment and to help start a religious education program in Neopit.

Inter-ACT	\$650	Fund the cost of one "investigator" (individual who is making positive changes in his/her life through this systemic change program).
East High School running shoes	\$500	Purchase appropriate running shoes for students who want to participate in track but cannot afford shoes.
Encompass Early Education	\$500	Purchase a glider rocker to help breastfeeding moms and provide educational materials to support nursing moms.
Ecumenical Partnership for Housing	\$500	Help support St. Matthew's partnership with EHP.
Love Life Ministry	\$500	Funds for diapers and other baby needs for low income families.
Unity	\$250	Funds will go to offset training, meals and literature associated with a Generations grief support group.

Earth Week- Group discussed several possibilities to promote Caring for God's Creation. There has been lots of information and focus on reducing plastic pollution coming from Catholic Climate Covenant and Earth Day Network. Decision was made to do the following:

- Mike will check the cost of switching from Styrofoam cups to biodegradable coffee cups used in the Gathering space for socials. J&HC will then look into funding.
- Rachel will research locations that take plastic bags for recycling. Info will be posted on web and in the Justice Herald.
- Justice Herald will focus on plastic pollution. Jackie will pull articles from web-sites.
- Justice Herald will also include schedule of various events going on in the area to celebrate Earth Week. Jackie will research.
- Articles for Justice Herald need to be submitted to Rachel by April 4 and will be published either the 1st or 2nd weekend in April. Committee member will be asked to hand out after masses

Immigration- St. Matthew, Resurrection and the Abby asked people to sign postcards to their Senators and House Representative advocating protection for Dreamers on the 3-17/18 weekend. St. Matthew's had 100 postcards signed to each of our representatives. Brother Steve Herro led the effort and will deliver to Senator Johnson, Senator Baldwin and Representative Gallagher. As follow-up, Mike will put a thank you to parishioners in the bulletin and include Bishop Ricken's letter on Dacca as a flyer in the bulletin.

Calendar Review

-Fair Trade Coffee served 4-21/22 and 5-16/17.

**-Next meeting 4/17, Parish Center upper at 6:30.**