

J&H Meeting 10-15-19

Present- Jeane Smits, Kay Schumacher, Mary Connors, Julie Jacobson, Heidi Schroeder, Erika Shefchik, Richard Erdman, Mark Schumacher, Mike Westenberg, Jackie Thiry, Father Bob Kabat

Welcome to new member, Erika.

We decided to omit reading and discussing the scripture readings from "At Home with the Word" to devote more time to Jack Jezreel's book "A New Way to be Church".

Book Discussion: A New Way to Be Church – Chapter 3: Gathered and Sent, A Way to Rethink Parish Structure.

Personal insights included:

- There is often too much emphasis on Sunday Eucharist. Need more emphasis on "washing feet".
- Church should not be just for gathering. It needs to inspire. However, we need to do gathering well before we are sent.
- It seemed radical to think of a parish dedicating half its money to gathering and half to sending, or half its staff to gathering and half to sending or even half its buildings to gathering and the half to sending. Several parishes were given as examples that did some of this. Bottom line is the bills still need to be paid.
- Young people want mission. YNIA has influenced many of our parish's young members. Wish there were more opportunities for families to do outreach.
- We are not here for just our own salvation. We are called to care for others. We cannot live in silos but need to be part of communities.
- Unfortunately, the church has historically perpetuated itself.
- Prayer needs to inspire action. We need to be transformed to lift others up.
- As a committee when we gather, let's look for opportunities of sending. Little steps count.

Parish Council report- Minutes are posted on the web-site at [stmattsgb.org](http://stmattsgb.org). Feed My Starving Children took the place of October meeting.

Haiti- Kay shared that Haiti is in turmoil There are demonstrations across the entire country, not just in Port-a Prince. Causes are government corruption and cost of living. Ex. Gas is \$10/gallon. The school in Noyau is ok. However, the high school in Mirebalais opened in September instead of obeying the government degree to wait until October and had their gate set on fire. Goldsmith had to cancel programs because it is not safe to travel. A tear gas bomb went off near her car.

Joshua-

- Electronic recycle event was held on 10/5 at West Side Moravian Church. They collected one truckload of recycled materials.
- Joshua banquet was held on Friday, 10/11, at the Swan Club. Turn out was excellent.
- Jackie shared that she attended a Public Hearing to give input to Green Bay's 2020-2024 consolidated plan for the Community Development Block Grant and Home Investment Partnership funds they receive. The city uses input from the Hearings and surveys to set priorities for expending an estimated \$1.5 million in federal funds each year. **Please fill out the survey's that you received and mail to the address on the back page.** Affordable housing is a problem throughout the community. There currently is only a 2% vacancy rate which leads to higher rents and fewer landlords renting to people with housing vouchers, evictions or poor credit.

St. Vincent de Paul- The Back2Work & Immersion programs continue to evolve. Twelve corporate partners have agreed to collaborate for Back2Work. Christopher Zahn has been hired to coordinate both programs in Green Bay and Milwaukee. His salary will be shared.

Feed My Starving Children- St. Matthew parish provided more than 300 volunteers for the Mobile Pack which ran 10/7 through 10/10. 754,272 meals were packed. This is an excellent opportunity for “mission” for the parish.

Justice Herald: The Justice Herald theme will be “Seeing Christ in everyone”. Targeted publishing date is weekend of 11/16-17. Articles should be sent to Rachel by 11/8. Focus is on personal stories from immigrants. Mike will write lead in paragraph. Articles will be:

- South American (Jeane has confirmed that Father De Groot from Casa Alba and someone he contacted will complete their articles within a couple of weeks.)
- Somali (Mike has permission to use stories from their published book.)
- Hmong (Kay & Mary are still searching for a Hmong contact. They have made several phone calls but do not have confirmation yet.)

St. John Homeless Shelter- The shelter opens up November 1. Promotion weekend was 10/19-20. Thanks to all who helped or stopped by to offer to help. “Do You See Me Signs” were awesome. Sign-ups were unbelievable. 51 of the 52 slots on 1<sup>st</sup> shift are filled. 12 out of 26 slots on 2<sup>nd</sup> shift are filled. The schedule will be posted on St. Matt’s web site and names of volunteers will be in bulletin each week.

The summer shelter program had many more homeless sleeping each night. Capacity during the summer is 60 based on staff. They often had to turn people away.

Homeless Vouchers- Father Bob shared a letter he received from the Crisis Intervention Coordinator of the Green Bay Police Department. The parish donated funds last year toward the purchase of motel voucher for vulnerable homeless individuals or families. Several homeless people died in 2017 on the streets and this seemed a way to intervene. The vouchers allow the Homeless Outreach Team a tool to help people transition from homelessness into shelters or their own apartments. They are running out of funds and expect the need to only increase. The collection next weekend will go to this program.

South American Christmas Craft Sales- Committee discussed Jeane’s idea of making gift bags that could be used as teacher gifts or similar needed gifts. The bag could include fair trade candy, coffee or tea and be priced in the \$10-\$15 range. Jackie showed two different small burlap bags that were available this year. Mike will investigate fair trade order availability. Jackie was able to order 50 small bags and 20 of the slightly larger ones.

#### Calendar Review

-Hour Adoration 10/27, 11/25

**-Next meeting 11/17, 6:30**

-Fair Trade Coffee served 11/14-15

-Justice Herald publication 11-16-17