

Faith Formation – Minutes - March 11, 2019

Attending:

Nan Bush, Chairman, Father TJ, Geoff Gersen, Marian Stevens Debbie Evans, Bill Wheeler and Deborah Miller

Opening Prayer: John 2:3-6 – ³We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. ⁴Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. ⁵But if anyone obeys his word, love for God^[a] is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

REPORTS:

1. CHILDREN/YOUTH

- a. The Youth/Fellowship Strategy Team met with members of the Parish after the 10:30 Service on February 24. A questionnaire was distributed to those in attendance. Results of questionnaire are with Maitland Barnes and have not yet been tabulated. Consensus from meeting is that that we do not anticipate an increase in youth but all agreed it is important that we focus on the youth currently attending, which is around 12.

2. ADULT/EDUCATION

- a. The Lenten series kicked off on Sunday, the 10th with approximately 40 individuals participating in Week 1: Turn: Pause, Listen & Choose to Follow Jesus. Father TJ was not sure how the format would be received, i.e., breaking into small groups to share how they turned back to God but based on comments, the experience was a positive one for those attending.

3. CLASSES:

- a. Confirmation Classes: Father Eric will conduct Confirmation Classes to begin March 13. Focus will be not only on those wanting to be confirmed but those wanting to become closer to their understanding of where they are in their faith journey.
- b. Bible 101, Wednesday Bible, Seekers and Yoga continue to engage members of the Parish with an increase in Wednesday Bible for the study of Revelation.
- c. EFM –Bill Wheeler and Deacon Sally will go through Training the beginning of June. Bill indicated they have a list of names of individuals interested in entering the EFM program. Goal is to start classes in the Fall.
- d. In-Home Small Group Bible Study – currently in hiatus. There is interest in such study but currently do not have individuals to lead group discussions.

4. LABYRINTH
 - a. Debbie Evans to attend Labyrinth training in Charlotte. She had an interesting discussion with Father Eric who attended the same training.
5. LIBRARY
 - a. Cataloging of the collection is on hiatus due construction. Committee discussed getting collection moved out of the Church to the Parish Hall. Deborah Miller will pursue this with Facilities and the Junior Warden.
6. STEWARDSHIP – See Below at New Business

New Business:

1. Report from Board Chairs Meeting:

- a. Stewardship: Nan Bush reported that Stewardship was a major topic at the recent all Board Chair Meeting. Question raised was “why does it fall under Faith Formation.” Individuals are seeing Stewardship as only a Financial commitment and while “money” is important, equally important is the spirituality of stewardship which goes to one’s Faith and through the understanding of one’s Faith giving back in ways beyond “money.” Education in “spirituality of stewardship” is needed. Geoff Gerson will reach out to Frank Darzano to discuss developing such a program
 - b. Strategic Plan Status – there is confusion under the Program Church structure as to on how Strategic Plans are developed by Boards and the involvement of the Vestry.
 - c. Public Relations: Board Chairs agreed there is a need for Public Relations individual. This individual would coordinate with the Parish Administrator on press releases and internal communication.
 - d. Coffee Hour : The time has changed to after the 8:00 service and will be available in the Sanctuary until we gain access to the full Church. Having the Coffee as a bridge between the 8:00 Service/Adult Education/10:30 Service was seen as a better arrangement.
2. Lecture Series – Nan reported that we have around \$1200 in a special account for a speaker this year. Presently there is no one lined up. \$1200 is a limited amount as most speakers require at least \$5,000. Having the Lecture Series should continue as it sets St. Philip’s aside in the broader faith community of Southport. Recommendation made to investigate speakers for next year to gather data as to costs so that such a speaker could be accommodated.
 3. ECW – as the President of the ECW, Harriet Wheeler has asked for support from Faith Formation to develop a woman’s retreat this year. Marian Stevens will be coordinating with Harriett on this endeavor.