

**OLN PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING – 01/11/10**

Members in Attendance: Betsy Baker, Patsy Ford, Tony Lefkowicz, Pat Marlowe, Theresa Mercier, Sandy O’Shaughnessy, Patti Peters, Matt Schallon, Clauden Shelton, Fr. Joe Lehman

Members Absent: Siobhan Rea, Joe Rosenberg, Diane Shelton, Veronica Wright

A. Prayer and Question of the Week

B. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the December 14, 2009 meeting had been generated and sent out by e-mail to council members for corrections and then for final approval. Minutes were approved on-line and again at the meeting.

C. Newcomer’s Reception

Betsy sent out personal invitations to 19 families (registered September-December 2009) and five individuals were present for the event. Light refreshments were served while the council members and newcomers introduced themselves and engaged in some dialogue and a period of questions and answers. The session was concluded with the newcomers encouraged to attend the Epiphany Party which had just begun in the Fellowship Hall. Fr. Joe commented that those who spoke to him about the reception at the Epiphany Party had positive feedback.

D. Town Hall Meeting

The format for the town hall meeting was reviewed by Matt (please see attached revision) regarding how the meeting would proceed and who would do what. Council members were asked to be there early (by 6:30 PM) the night of the meeting. Matt will collect all the questions prior to the meeting and e-mail them out to the council at large so we will be familiar with what the parish is asking. We will begin with the question of the week (Betsy), prayer; Fr. Joe will do an overview of Nazareth and her ministries; an introduction of the council and the pastoral staff (see format for order). Light refreshments will be served and nursery provided upon request.

Publicity for the town hall was discussed. The weekend of 01/24/10 members of council will speak about the town hall – 5:30 PM & 7:30 AM Liturgies – Patti; 9:30 AM – Matt and 11:30 AM – Betsy. Talking points to be used will be generated and council members will go to the fellowship hall after Liturgy to answer any questions. Flyers soliciting input to the town hall will be in the bulletin the weekend of 01/31/10. Patti will generate and forward to Rita for copying (900) and insertion. An ambo announcement will be made the weekend of 02/07/10. An e-mail will be sent out the week prior reminding people of the town hall (currently about 300 e-mails for the parish).

E. E-mail Initiative for Parish E-mails – Joe was not here to address this so Fr. Joe discussed it in his absence. Various technologies involving the Internet and the phone were discussed. We currently have 300 parish e-mail addresses. We discussed the need to push for more addresses so we can reach more households on a consistent basis. It was decided that at each parish event an effort will be made to solicit e-mail addresses (such as Mardi Gras, Town Hall, Picnic, etc.)

F. Parish Council Website – the minutes and agenda for the December meeting were posted on the website. Parish council members need to get their pictures and biographical information to Joe for him to complete the website for the council (he is working with Dan); the parish council e-mail should be up and running soon. Fr. Joe suggested asking Dan about it as Joe is out-of-town currently and it needs to be up and running for input from the parish for the town hall meeting.

G. Liaison Reports – Betsy – Christian Formation – no report; **Patsy – Finance** – bids are being considered for remodeling of the bathrooms and work will begin shortly; **Tony – Pastoral Care** – no additional report was made beyond last month – Tony made a brief report concerning the various aspects of OLN’s pastoral care ministry; there is an effort being made to commission new pastoral care ministers; **Pat – Justice & Peace** – J&P will be doing Operation Rice Bowl for Lent; book club continues every other month; Creation Care group headed by Susan Hedge (sp?) with individuals outside OLN joining; are suggesting a community garden here; **Theresa – Youth** – Winter party canceled has been rescheduled for Jan. 23rd; encouraged participation of youth in Discovery and Christian Awakening retreats; **Sandy – RCIA/RCIC** – Sandy reported 22 adults and 18 children in formation currently; Breaking Open the Word and Inquiry continue in addition to Thursday night formation sessions; **Patti – Stewardship** – awaiting results of town hall meeting before proceeding with stewardship initiative; **Joe – Long Range Planning** – no report – see E & F above; Fr. discussed need to revisit We Walk By Faith at the March 8th Council meeting; **Matt – Fellowship** – Mardi Gras is 2/16/10 and the calendar for the Fellowship Committee is essentially the same as last year; **Claudeen – Health Ministry** – no report beyond what was stated last month; **Diane – Disabilities** – absent – no report – see Finance report regarding bathroom remodel; **Veronica – Word & Worship** – absent – Fr. Joe reported meeting tomorrow night to discuss a formation session for lectors and cantors; the group is discussing evaluations of Advent and Christmas and planning for Lent.

Fr. Joe discussed M.A.T.E Date occurring on 02/14/10 and a comment from Single Now group that they feel excluded from event. So they will now serve the widow and widowers group. The event historically has focused on engaged, married and widows and widowers.

Fr. Joe brought up the Valley-wide retreat involving a Dominican team that has previously conducted retreats at this time of year at Resurrection in Moneta. The dates include March 21-25th, with preaching the weekend of the 21st, and sessions in the AM at OLPH and in the evening at OLN with Reconciliation at OLN the 25th (7PM).

A question was asked regarding the ecumenical group at OLN – Brigitta Mahanna is the contact person for that group. Church Women United will meet at Cave Spring United Methodist Church on 01/22/10.

H. What are you seeing/hearing or not seeing/hearing – initial discussion began with Fr. Joe asking if there were other areas of the parish that the council would like to know about similar to what Tony did at this meeting regarding pastoral care. Christian Formation was brought up as an area the council would like to know more about in terms of programs, ages, days/times these groups meet, etc. This progressed to a discussion about Just Walking, a program for teens to learn about justice work in the community.

A council member brought up a concern a parishioner expressed regarding the disinfection schedule for play items in the nursery – Sandy (a daycare operator) will discuss that and any other concerns with Helen Bernier our nursery coordinator.

**I. Next Meeting: March 8, 2010 - Question of the Week – Patti; Minutes – Diane Shelton
Agenda Items: Town Hall Meeting; We Walk By Faith (Fr. Joe/Joe)**

Respectfully submitted by Patti Peters
February 21, 2010

Approved by Council 03/08/10