

St. Therese Parish  
Social Outreach Fellowship Committee  
Minutes from Meeting held on Thursday, January 13, 2011  
At 6:15 pm at St. Therese Parish

Members present: Father David Stevens, Shirley Donnelly, Louise Johnson,  
Bev Christopherson, Chuck Edwards

Guest: Julie Derner – Committee Chair for the Welcome Committee

Not Present: Jean Rasmussen, Sue Williams, Rick Collins

Father David opened the meeting with a prayer.

Louise shared with the committee that Haley Samuelson and her husband purchased a home in the Renner area and have joined St. Michael's parish. Thus, Haley is no longer a member at St. Therese and has thus resigned from our committee. Several mentioned with great thanks all she has done for the committee and especially for her work with the Welcome Committee. Haley will be missed.

Louise also shared that Rick Collins was not able to attend because of work obligations on Thursday evenings. Thus, Rick may have to step away from the committee for the time being.

Julie Derner of the Welcome Committee came and shared how it was going with the Welcome Committee. Julie did a great job, had a good in-depth discussion. She shared with us an actual Welcome Bag that is taken out and given personally to new members. Also shared, was the meaning of the bag and pictures, as well as the contents given inside. There are now six active mentors in place. Last year 29 families registered with the parish and most of the registrations came in the fall. Mentors are encouraged to follow-up after the initial visit to again invite the new members to join them at Mass or Parish functions. Julie said mentors seem to prefer to do so via a written mailed note rather than via the phone. Most all comments from mentors and new members have been good with the exception of one situation that needed some special attention. It was suggested that Julie get all of the mentors together for a meeting to share their stories and ideas to help new mentors. That might be done thru an invitation through the bulletin. Julie would like to do some training with new mentors. It was mentioned what a natural Jean Rasmussen is with the Welcome Committee and how comfortable Jean is at meeting and inviting new people. Thanks Julie, for all your work with the Welcome Committee.

Chuck reported he had visited with Lew Mavity with regard to the Respect Life Committee. October is their most active month. They only meet a couple times a year or as the need arises. Thus, no new info at this point. Teri – Teresa Geiver a member of St. Therese is now working in the Respect Life Office at the Catholic Chancery. It was mentioned she might be invited to be part of the Respect Life Committee for St. Therese and would be able to keep us better informed on what was happening in that area.

Bev Christopherson, Parish Nurse, reported that she will be attending and helping with the Cultural Diversity event that is being held at St. Lambert's School on Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>. Bev was instrumental in working with the principal and getting this going. She plans to put together a gift or two that can be awarded by a drawing to help get the kids involved.

Bev is working with "Care Notes" of which there are all kinds available for any situation a person might be in. They are six page small booklets with numerous prayers for the situation titled on the cover. While they have been out and available the plan is to make them more visible especially during Lent this year. These are put out free of charge.

Bev has another End of Life Seminar set up to be held at the Parish on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011. Speakers at this point are: Fr. David – The Catholic Perspective of Suffering, Dying and Death. Travis or Kelly Benson-What the Church Teaches About Life, The End of Life and Medical Treatments and Decision Making. Doug Houseman from Chapel Hill Funeral Home – Planning a Funeral, Cremation and More. Cathy Kellogg or someone from Dougherty Hospice House – On Hospice.

Louise reported that Sean from Community Outreach made contact that he has had money donated from someone at St. Therese to help 2 families. He was calling to get a team or two together to be trained and to identify a couple families that would be in need of budgeting help. A team would be at least 3 people and they would have 12 sessions with each couple. Shirley reported on Elizabeth Ministry items. Shawl ministry is taking on the making of Baptism Blankets to be given to newly Baptized. They now have 11 blankets made and will start giving them out with the 1<sup>st</sup> Baptism of the year on Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>. There are around 36 Baptisms per year. A total of 94 Prayer Shawls were given out last year.

Eucharistic Outreach now has 2 people at Washington Crossing that has been added to our territory. More ministers would be helpful to have fewer stops to cover and would allow more time to be spent with the shut-ins.

The Social Outreach Committee has volunteered to help the Youth Committee with a Cookie Dough Fundraiser. February 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> and March 5 and 6<sup>th</sup> will be the dates of this fundraiser. The money raised will help with expenses for our youth attending retreats and camps.

Louise shared that a new St. Therese Pictorial is in the works for 2011. Ted and Pat Feller were asked to lead and organize this project. They have accepted. They have been given the opportunity to ask another couple to work with them. We hope to have that announcement at our next meeting.

Chuck closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectively submitted,  
Chuck Edwards