

St. Therese

Social Outreach Fellowship Committee

Minutes of August 11, 2011 Meeting

Members present: Beverly Christopherson, Louise Johnson, Joan Lund, Jean Rasmussen, Kristi Smith, Sue Williams.

Members absent: Shirley Donnelly, Dave Husby, Jane Moore, Rick Collins

Members retired: Chuck Edwards, Sue Williams

Opening prayer: written by Louise Johnson

Mission/Vision statement: Louise Johnson

1. Jean Rasmussen read the minutes of the **July gathering at the rectory**. SOFC invited the sub committees under Social Outreach Fellowship to attend as guests. The purpose was to thank them, to assure them of the support that is available and to hear from them about their successes and their needs. Each subcommittee reported about their activities.
2. A discussion centered on the **Welcome Committee**. Suggestions were offered:
 - Join with Social Ministry Committee
 - Invite the newcomers to meet for the first time at church, rather than in their home
 - Send out a monthly newsletter to the newcomers
 - Contact the newcomer by e-mail (*E-mail addresses could be obtained at the time of registration.*)
 - Post photos of newcomers in Sunday bulletin
 - Welcome from Father to newcomers verbally at weekend Masses
 - Recruit new mentors to assist Julie Derner, Chair of Welcome Committee

3. A reminder was given about the **Standing Committee meeting** on August 25 at 6:00. Louise invited the Social Outreach Fellowship Committee to attend. The purpose of the meeting is to clarify the roles of each committee including the sub committees that fall under each of the three standing committees. The three standing committees are: Liturgy, Faith Formation, and Social Outreach. It is hoped that improved communication would result. A question of how best to contact people was voiced: by e-mail, by phone, or face-to-face. In addition, what is the best time of day to reach a party.
4. Sue Williams reported on **Social Ministry**. *St. Francis House Children Tennis Shoes and T-Shirt Drive* yielded 8 t-shirts, 11 packages of socks, \$100 toward back packs and \$217 towards tennis shoes.
The *Alternative Market* project chose three causes for the fall event. The global cause is the Somalia Children. The Sioux Falls community cause is Children's Inn. The St. Therese/local cause is a Family in Need. Social Ministry will tour the Children's Inn on September 20.
A representative from Social Ministry will attend each of the Social Outreach Fellowship meetings to enhance communication and coordination of activities.
5. Beverly Christopherson, **Parish Nurse**, presented a written report. The report included the date for the *End of Life Seminar* to be held at St. Therese on October 22. Joan Lund and Kristi Smith agreed to assist Beverly with advertising the event.
Five nurses have signed up to help with Parish Nurse duties, perhaps to re-start blood pressure screenings after weekend Masses again.
B. Christopherson is adding books on grief to the library at church. Also a listing of books on grief that are available at the SF public library and at Avera McKennan library will be provided.
B. Christopherson will attend a program, SAD ISN'T BAD, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church on Sept. 20. The program focuses on support for children experiencing grief. She hopes to gather more information on other ways to support the grief stricken.

B. Christopherson will setting up a system of comfort cards to be sent out to parishioners who have lost a loved one, including one at the time of death, one at six months, another at Christmas time and again at the one year anniversary.

There will be a healing and anointing service at St. Therese four times a year. An invitation will go out to the families who have lost a member.

More Comfort Care pamphlets have been ordered for St. Therese.

6. Louise presented the SOFC **Calendar of Events for 2011-2012**. It will be an excellent organizational tool.
7. The **Prayer Shawl ministry** visited Father Hal in Parker on July 19. His parish, St. Christina, is preparing to celebrate an anniversary.
8. No news from **Eucharistic Outreach** this month.
9. The meeting closed with a Hail Mary.