

Parish Council Minutes

December 17, 2009

Members present: Joe Faust, Patrick Nolan, Mark Forsythe, Kerri Weber, Holly Nicholson, Fr. Weighner and Mark Grunwald.

Missing: Keith Neisius, Jim McGrath, Pat Mercaitis, Fr. Amal and Steve Schwager

Opened with prayer and roll call.

Minutes read and approved.

*Review of Parish Norms: Discussed pgs 7-10 (section on Parish Pastoral Council). There are two methods for representation: parish election and pastor appointment. We will continue with six from each parish for now. By spring, a decision will be made for each council member's term; when it expires. Father Weighner would eventually like to have a Finance Council member attend Parish Council meetings and vice versa. He would also like to see Parish Council members on sub committees such as Religion and Family Life.

*Mission Statement: A handout was given as an example. Mark Forsythe and Kerri Weber volunteered to head a sub-committee to compile information and draft a parish mission statement.

*Financial Update of Parishes: St. John's is slightly above in income but higher in expenses as well. Both parishes are close to breaking even or losing money. A finance person from the Diocese will be here in January to look at parishes and school to come up with a plan to operate without borrowing from the Diocese. Both parishes are within 10-12% for Bishop's Annual Appeal. Only 20-25% have responded.

-Will have a second collection for the school at the Christmas and New Year's masses.

-School registration will possibly be during Catholic Schools Week for 2010-2011.

***Old Business

*A survey will go out with year-end statements.

*Sound System: Have received two proposals. One from Tri-State Sound & Light out of Onalaska for \$23k and one from Audio Architect out of Eau Claire for \$45k (this includes more equipment). Once decided, a fundraiser will be organized. Starter money from the Capital Campaign may be used if needed. Father Weighner will present this to the Finance Council in January and bring back recommendations to the next Parish Council meeting.

*Endowment: Mark Grunwald volunteered to head an Endowment sub-committee.

*Assignment of Board Members: Tabled until we have a full council present at a meeting.

*Building Plan: Discussion will be reintroduced with a full council.

*Maintenance: Mick Rooney held a meeting with the maintenance committee. He put together a priority list and will hold a work day in the spring. It was decided not to hire a new maintenance person.

*Strategic Plan: Goes along with the building plan.

*Replacing Members: Two members are needed from St. John's. Discussed possible new members.

*Board March Retreat: Father Weighner is waiting for more info. on possible speakers.

*Parent Survey: Will be sent out with year-end statements to parents of Prairie Catholic and CCD students.

*Youth Program: To date, no one has volunteered. May have a meeting in January for anyone interested in youth program. Will add question to survey.

*Discussed technology upgrade.

*Building Rental: Discussed policy for renting parish halls. Will review Sacred Heart's policy.

*Confession: Priests will be available on Dec. 23 for extra hours.

*New Year's Masses: Regular Sunday schedule.

Next meeting January 21, 2010.

Submitted by Holly Nicholson

Parish Council Minutes

November 19, 2009

Present: Holly Nicholson, Steve Schwager, Father Weighner, Joe Faust, Pat Mercaitis, Mark Grunwald, Kerri Weber and Jim McGrath

Missing: Keith Neisius, Mark Forsythe, Patrick Nolan, Andy Banasik and Mike Mezera

Opened with prayer and roll call.

Minutes read, corrected and approved.

*Diocese Norms for Parish Council review: Will review at next meeting.

*Mission Statement: Joe will get information for Holly to send out to Parish Council members for review before the next meeting. Father Weighner may bring someone in to help develop a Mission Statement.

*Financial Statement: Approximately \$30k plus profit for Fall Fest. St. Gabriel's has approximately 50% and St. John's has approximately 60% of pledges in for Bishop's Annual Appeal.

- Cost reduction ideas: non-teaching staff to 38 hours. Will put on agenda for next meeting.

- Discussed having a February school "registration" (intent forms) instead of August. This intent would be for staffing and budgeting purposes.

- Home and School has a plan to host a golf outing with food and music by "The Back Home Boys". The idea was brought up to have a big fund-raiser versus many small ones.

**OLD BUSINESS

*A survey for parish volunteers will be sent out with year-end statements.

*Censor stands are finished and in use.

*Sound system: Father will have both bids for the December meeting. It was decided that it will go to the parish for a decision. Possibly use funds from the "We Belong to Christ" campaign.

*Computer Purchases: Computers were purchased from the public school and are in use. Middle school computers will be upgraded to "Office Pro". We will upgrade to public school's old computers as they upgrade.

*Endowment: May try to find a person willing to help build and promote the endowment fund. It was suggested to have a gathering and hand out "intent" cards for parishioners to fill out.

If any council members have suggestions of a person that may be good for this (volunteer) position, please email Joe Faust and/or Father Weighner. Dan Kussmaul is currently managing the funds, but no one is promoting it.

*Assignment of Board Members to Other Committees: Will discuss at the next meeting along with the Diocese Norms handout.

*Building Plan: Must have 80% of the money pledged before we can go ahead with anything. (Some may be "in-kind" such as donation of labor or materials). Currently \$250k in the fund with more pledged if something actually happens. A committee will be put together to explore ideas and feasibility.

Please email Joe Faust and/or Father Weighner if you have suggestions of anyone you feel would be a "good fit" for this committee.

*Maintenance Update: A committee is in place to interview a part-time maintenance person.

*Strategic Plan: It was discussed that the Marketing Committee and Building Committee should NOT be one in the same. A suggestion was made to have a staff member to be involved and oversee making phone calls, face-to-face and alumni relations (possibly a quarterly newsletter). Joe Faust will contact the school he attended and gather information on how they run their newsletter.

**NEW BUSINESS

*Replacing Board Members: *Please email Joe Faust and/or Father Weighner with any names of persons that would work well on the Finance Council.*

-Joe talked with Mike Mezera and Andy Banasik. They are no longer able to serve on Parish Council and would like to be replaced.

-It was brought up to have a special election. Possibly bring people in to interview and give them a chance to observe several meetings to see if they are interested in serving on the Parish Council until the election.

*Board Member Retreat: Discussed the idea of having a retreat for Parish, Finance and Education Councils. It would be an all-day event (maybe overnight) to discuss in-depth the goals for the school and parishes. Identify strengths and weaknesses and how to remedy. Someone would come in to run it. The theme would be "Stewardship". It was brought up that the beginning of March would be the best time. Will discuss further whether to have it locally or out of town.

*Mass Schedule: Christmas Eve masses will be held as follows: 4:30pm at St. John's, 6:00pm at St. Gabriel's and 8:00pm at St. John's. Wauzeka will be held at 7:00pm. Christmas Day will be the regular mass schedule of 8:00am at St. Gabriel's, 10:00am at St. John's and Wauzeka will be at 9:00am.

*Bishop Update: Bishop Listeki is in transition to becoming the Archbishop in Milwaukee.

*Parent Survey: It was questioned why we lost 20 students. The Diocese will send a sample survey, we can "tweak" it and mail it to parents of current and former students to fill out and return directly to the Diocese for tabulation. It will be noted that no one in our schools or parishes will see their surveys; only the results of the total survey.

-Discussed getting the Marketing Committee back on track.

*Stewardship: Father Weighner went to a meeting on stewardship and feels what he got out of it will work well with the retreat in the spring.

*Youth Program: Stewardship falls to the youth as well. Discussed how to keep the middle and high school students involved and interested in the parishes. Would like to get a program going strong in our parishes and eventually invite surrounding parishes; Eastman, Wauzeka, Seneca, etc. *If anyone knows of anyone that may be good at this, please email Joe Faust and/or Father Weighner.*

*Other Items: Mick Rooney, Ed Steger and others will be having a "work day" and will be inviting high school students to join.

Next Meeting December 17, 2009.

Submitted by Holly Nicholson

Parish Council Minutes

October 15, 2009

The following members were present: Pat Mercaitis, Holly Nicholson, Keith Neisius, Steve Schwager, Fr. Amal, Fr. Weighner, Jim McGrath, Patrick Nolan and Mark Grunwald

Missing: Kerri Weber, Andy Banasik, Mike Mezera, Joe Faust and Mark Forsythe.

Opened with prayer and roll call. Minutes from September 15, 2009 read and approved.

**Mission Statement: Father Weighner will bring materials to the next meeting to go over. A committee may be formed to oversee the progress.

**Financial Statement: A report for school and parish budgets was to go to the diocese, but a budget was not done for last year. Father Weighner and Mrs. Schwarz are trying to put a projected budget in place. One needs to be submitted to the diocese in April. May have approval/request forms put in place for staff members to track spending. Tom Farrell will be helping with the budget.

**Mass to be changed November 1, 2009 to make it convenient for parishioners to attend the Fall Fest. 8:00 will be at St. John's and 10:00 will be at St. Gabe's. Wauzeka's Sunday mass has been changed to 9:00.

**A survey will be put out in church for people to volunteer throughout the parishes; ushers, lectors, \$ counters, Eucharistic ministers, decorating, committees, councils, etc.

**Censor Stand: They are built and will soon be plated.

**Sound System: A quote should be here within two weeks. Adjustments were made for the time being. May have one fundraiser to cover whatever work may need to be done at either parish. Will discuss further at the next meeting.

**Computers: Purchased 20 from Fennimore for \$20 each. These didn't include monitors (we have enough monitors for these). 20 were purchased from PdC Public for \$100 each including flat screens. All are loaded with basic "Office" package. Discussed upgrading to "Office Pro" for the middle school.

**St. John's Fall Bazaar: Estimated \$30k profit.

**Intinction or Cup: If a parishioner is gluten intolerant, they can talk with Father and he'll save the cup for the end of communion. St. Gabe's has two intinction cups. We would need to purchase six more so both parishes would have four. Will put a note in the bulletin to request donations. These are about \$250 each.

**Endowment: Approximately \$300k in each parish. School has approx. \$200k. The interest is used for expenses. In August, the school's percentage will go to 10%. We currently get 4.5-5% in the parishes which is paid quarterly.

**Assignment of board members to other committees: Will wait for survey results.

**Building plan: Will continue to discuss among other councils.

**Maintenance update: Mick Rooney is doing a good job. Will advertise a part-time position for cleaning and taking lunch to the middle school.

**Strategic plan: Discussed getting the marketing committee back on track.

**Pick-up truck: We have \$10 in it. It's worth about \$1800. Needs \$500 work. Has 235k miles. Discussed whether or not we could get by with one truck or contract snow plowing. Finance council will decide.

**Deanery Council Meeting: Was held Tuesday, October 13, 2009 in Seneca. Jim McGrath and Steve Schwager attended. A representative from the diocese was there to discuss the priest shortage and the pastoral plan. Talked about the parish configurations; St. Gabe's would be the parish center, St. John's a liturgical site and Wauzeka an oratory (no mass but would hold weddings and funerals there). It could be decided by the Pastor to hold mass at an oratory.

They also discussed consolidating financials in each parish group.

**Read pgs. 2-13 on Consultation Norms handout for next meeting.

Next meeting November 19, 2009.

Submitted by Holly Nicholson

Parish Council Minutes

September 10, 2009

The following members were present: Father Weighner, Father Amal, Steve Schwager, Patrick Nolan, Pat Mercaitis, Keith Neisius, Holly Nicholson, Mark Forsythe, Joe Faust and Jim McGrath

Missing: Kerri Weber, Andy Banasik, Mike Mezera, and Mark Grunwald.

Opened with prayer and roll call. Minutes from August 13, 2009 read and approved.

**A hand-out was given on CONSULTATION IN THE PARISH AND DEANERY; Pastoral Letter Decrees Diocesan Norms from the Diocese of LaCrosse. We went over pages 18-22. Discussed membership terms, officers, duties & responsibilities and relationship to finance council.

-The pastor makes all final decisions for Pastoral, Finance and Education Councils as well as all committees and school decisions. Councils and committees are for discussion and advisory.

-We will discuss pages 2-13 in the handout at the next meeting (please read ahead).

**ELECTIONS

Joe Faust was elected as Pastoral Council President, Steve Schwager (Assistant Pres.) and Holly Nicholson (Secretary)

-Meetings will be as follows:

-Education Committee will be held the 1st Thursday of the month

-Finance Council will be held the 2nd Thursday of the month

-Parish/Pastoral Council will be held 3rd Thursday of the month

----all will be at 7:00pm in the basement of St. John's Church

**OLD BUSINESS

-Mick Rooney was hired as the head of maintenance for the school and parishes.

-Share & Care Fund brought in \$8,000 with requests and a note in the bulletin.

-Mass Schedule- Wauzeka will not have a Saturday evening mass.

-Volunteers, Sacristans & Money Counters- Father Weighner is looking for volunteers to keep vestments in order, wash chalices, someone to set up for each mass and keep general order in the church. May hand out sign-up forms with job descriptions.

-Two censor stands were donated by Wolf Machine

**NEW BUSINESS

-Sound System- Father Weighner has a call in to do a walk-through with a consultant at the end of September. We will get two bids.

-Computers- We have the opportunity to purchase up to 60 computers with flat screen monitors for \$100 each from the public school. Computers are updated every four years at the public schools. Would look at installation over Thanksgiving.

-May get cards printed with a map of PdC with our parish locations and mass schedules to leave at hotels and the tourist center. Mass schedules may be changed for the summer months next year; possibly switch 8:00am to St. John's and 10:00 to St. Gabriel's because it is air conditioned.

-Father Weighner will see about a mission statement for our parishes

-In the next six to eight months, we will look into organizing new parish directories.

Submitted by Holly Nicholson

Next Meeting October 15, 2009

Parish Council Minutes

August 13, 2009

The following members were present: Fr. Amal, Fr. Weighner, Pat Mercaitis, Joe Faust, Mark Grunwald, Mark Forsythe, and Holly Nicholson

Missing: Patrick Nolan, Kerri Weber, Steve Schwager, Jim McGrath, Andy Banasik, Keith Neisius, Mike Mezera

Opened with prayer and roll call. Introductions were made. We let Father know what parish each member belonged to and whether we were elected or appointed to Parish Council.

June minutes read and approved.

Discussed purpose of Parish Council. Father Weighner will print copies of Consultation of Council & Deanery from the diocese website. It was mentioned that council members (Parish, Finance and Education) should also be on other active committees

Correction to May minutes: Corpus Christi broke even financially.

Youth Director: Priests will hold this position for now.

Mark Forsythe and Andy Banasik will look into purchase of computers. Discussed whether to get laptops or desktops and whether to stay wireless or not.

Old Business:

Finance and Parish Council will meet twice a year. Both councils feel not enough gets accomplished in the joint meetings.

Maintenance position was down to a selection of two applicants. Will decide and make offer soon.

A reminder will be put in the bulletin to remind people to donate to the Care & Share fund.

New Business:

Mass Schedule will be changed. A Saturday evening mass will be added to Wauzeka. May switch mass times at St. Gabe's and St. John's.

Sacristy work. Would like to put a group together to organize and maintain. A note will be put in the bulletin.

Sacred vessels are to be silver or gold (precious metals); not ceramic or crystal. They will be replaced.

Father Weighner will speak with Ed Steger about making a stand for the censor.

Sound system. Looking to improve at both parishes. For the hearing impaired as well. Father Weighner will talk with a "sound guy" he worked with from Chippewa Falls.

Money counters: Father Weighner is trying to come up with a new system for mass and SCRIP dollars on weekends. Considering "teams" of three people to rotate counting on Monday mornings. Once a month or each Monday for a full month every four months. An announcement will be put in the bulletin.

Hand shaking. With the talk of "swine flu", it is at the Pastor's discretion whether to cut out the sign of peace hand shaking or not. It will be cut at school. A note will be put in the bulletin for parishioners to nod if they are ill or uncomfortable with shaking hands.

Eucharistic ministers. May look at intinction and not have the cup. May also change the communion line to have everyone go up the middle and dispersing to the sides. Will discuss further with a full council.

St. John's Fall Bazaar September 20, 2009.

Closed with prayer

Next Meeting September 10, 2009. 7:00pm at St. John's

Submitted by Holly Nicholson

Parish Council Minutes

May 18, 2009

(Joint meeting with Finance Council)

The following members were present: Father Jerome, Keith Neisius, Kerri Weber, Steve Schwager, Jim McGrath, Mark Forsythe, Andy Banasik, Pat Mercaitis, Patrick Nolan, Mark Grunwald, Holly Nicholson
Missing: Joe Faust, Mike Mezera

The meeting began with prayer and roll call.

Tom Farrell chaired the meeting.

Finance Reports- Discussed Churches and schools.

Budget- Tom handed out assets sheets. Discussed categories for accounts. They are looking to get more efficient and utilize computer program more effectively.

Hot Lunch- will be raised from \$1.85 to \$2.00 for grades K-8. Adults will be \$3.00. Recommended by Elaine Moris (lunch program director). Talked about computerized lunch accounts. Jerry Wacouta made motion to approve. Keith seconded.

Church roof- Replaced roof on both church sacristies.

Scrip- The person running the program is now being paid \$320 per month. Much controversy because there are many others who volunteer many hours and are NOT paid and do not expect to be. This position will be on a six-month trial and if it is decided that it will continue to be a paid position, the job will be posted.

Corpus Christi- Expect 1000 for mass, 750 for food. Jobs appointed and everything expected to run smoothly.

Next meeting May 29 (Corpus Christi). Next Parish Council Meeting June 22, 2009 at 7:00 with Finance Council.

Submitted by Holly Nicholson

Parish Council Minutes April 16, 2009 meeting.

The following members were present: Father Jerome, Kerri Weber, Keith Neisius, Steve Schwager, Jim McGrath, Pat Mercaitis, Patrick Nolan, Mark Grunwald, Holly Nicholson, Andy Banasik
Finance Council Member: Tom Farrell
Missing: Joe Faust, Mike Mezera, Mark Forsythe

The meeting began with prayer and roll call.
Jim McGrath chaired meeting.
Minutes read, corrected and approved.

Steve Schwager gave Deanery Council Meeting report. Any parish doing any building projects must have 85% of the cash in hand and the other 15% in pledges. They were shown a video sample of High School CCD Education. They saw module #7 (mostly on vocations). Corpus Christi was discussed and handouts were given to other parishes.

Tom Farrell gave a report on the Finance Council. They went over the Annual Appeal goals and pledges. It was suggested that Father Jerome send a letter and mention the Appeal at church. "We Belong To Christ" campaign- the parishes get 80% back from the Diocese on a quarterly basis. Discussed payment of the organist and choir director. Will pay \$25 for a second mass to Shirley Cipra (organist). They'll discuss wage increases for non-teaching staff. Talked about a "Pocket Lunch" program (electronic account). Scrip coordinator will be paid \$320 per month for a six-month trial. If it works out and revenue is increased, it may become a posted job since it is a paid position.

Education Committee report: Teachers contracts are coming in. Guest servers at Pizza Hut. May Crowning. Corpus Christi (decorate route, get servers, help serve meal). Prayer books for First Communicates. Father Jerome to go to Washington D.C. with 8th Graders. Father Hunt will be here to help out. Talked about dress code (a letter will go out). It was suggested that ALL students be offered extra credit. Will look into online grade books. Was brought up that staff have better communication so students aren't overwhelmed with several tests in one day (especially at the middle school where the kids have several teachers for main subjects).

Report on Maintenance Committee: Cleaned statues of Mary, painted the back of both churches. They will meet weekly with Rob. Tom Farrell has NOT noticed a lot of improvement with his job performance. The maintenance committee has been doing most of the work (volunteer) while Rob is getting paid.

School comments: Some students were asked questions and some said more reading and writing in middle school is necessary. Kerri Weber has an English major and would be very willing to teach this. Some resistance from staff; "if we're paying full-time staff, they should be the ones to teach it". Andy suggested waiting on the results from ACT EXPLORE- then there would be more factual information. Jim asked if the principal evaluates where academic needs are; the decisions should be made with the support of the teachers. Father Jerome would like to see more communication.

*Next meeting May 18, 2009 with Finance Council

**Meeting for Corpus Christi May 29, 2009. This will include Parish Council, Finance Council, Education Committee and Maintenance Committee.

Submitted by: Holly Nicholson

Parish Council Minutes March 12, 2009 meeting

The following members were present: Pat Mercaitis, Keith Neisius, Kerri Weber, Holly Nicholson, Mike Mezera, Jim McGrath, Patrick Nolan, Father Jerome, Mark Grunwald, Joe Faust and Mark Forsythe.

Missing: Steve Schwager, Andy Banasik

Guest: Maury Oehler

The meeting began with prayer and roll call.

Mark Forsythe was nominated to chair the meeting.

Minutes read and approved.

Ideas from Maury Oehler: He responded to the form in the church pews that he'd like to teach High School CCD and adults born 1955-1995. He is a trained Marion Catechist. He feels there are no catechus after eighth grade (confirmation). This would be formal instruction. After Vatican II. Maury is also interested in developing a program to teach awe & respect for the Blessed Sacrament; the tabernacle, how to genuflect, etc. Maury will come the the next meeting with more concrete information.

Sandy Halverson is catching on and doing well in the ~~parish administrator~~ St. Gabriel's Secretary position.

There have been complaints about Rob Dowd (maintenance) again. Maintenance committee is taking care of things that Rob should be doing. Tom Farrell and Father Jerome met with Rob and went over his duties again.

Corpus Christi: June 14, 2009. Parish Council and Maintenance Committee are to be in charge of seating, tents, big screen in basement of St. John's to view mass. Expect ~~750-2000~~ 750-1500 people. Finance Council will be in charge of food. CCD and Prairie Catholic students in charge of decorating the route. Eucharistic ministers to decorate both churches and two of the altars. Youth group are to decorate the other two altars. Jim McGrath will make some phone calls about tents and chairs.

Tom Farrell came toward the end of the meeting to talk with us about the budget and Rob Dowd.

Budget. Tom Farrell met with Kathleen Schwarz and discussed. They will try to use last year's as a guide to move forward. Parish subsidy and tuition are the biggest factors. Tom asked for ideas and suggestions. He'll keep Parish Council informed.

Rob Dowd: Tom went over a list of duties with him and they will try to come up with a plan that works. Ie; where/who he is to report to, accountability, priorities, etc.

Closed with prayer.

Next meeting April 16, 2009

Submitted by: Holly Nicholson

Joint Parish & Finance Council Minutes from the February 9, 2009 meeting.

The following members were present: Father Jerome Parish Council: Holly Nicholson, Jim McGrath, Patrick Nolan, Mike Mezera, Joe Faust, Steve Schwager, Kerri Weber. Missing: Keith Neisius, Mark Forsythe, Pat Mercaitis, Mark Grunwald and Andy Banasik. Finance Council: Mary Jaynes, Lucy Cornford, Jim Welsh, Phil Mezera, Jerry Wachuta, Mike Garrity, Mark DuCharme, Tom Stram, Mark Mara and Brad Linder. Missing: Tom Farrell.

Guest: Debbie Mara

The meeting began with prayer and roll call.

Paula Check resigned from positions of Office Manager, Parish Administrator and Finance Council.

Debbie Mara (an applicant for Paula's position) answered questions about her qualifications. She expressed concerns about the cost of the health insurance plan. She mentioned that she does not have school-age children and would not utilize the tuition break given to staff members. A small group broke off to discuss and come up with a wage/salary, hours expected to be worked and what benefits would be offered. Kerri Weber, Brad Linder, Tom Stram, Jim McGrath and Lucy Cornford. Tom Stram said he would not be part of the interviews as his sister Sandy Halverson is one of the applicants. Phil Mezera said he would help in the interview process.

Rose Ziel may help train new person for a month. It was suggested to ask Bev Shedivy.

Approval of Finance Council minutes. Mark Mara questioned the Spahn & Rose bill. There should be a \$210 credit. This will be needed for shingles in the spring for a garage.

Next school year the 3rd grade will be divided if there are 31 or more students in that class.

Mrs. Jo is paid a full wage for half time as a teacher and youth administrator position. This will be renegotiated for the next school year.

Statements: Envelopes are down \$2000 per month at St. Gabriel's and \$1000 per month at St. John's compared to last year.

Holly read an email from Julie Moret concerning the SCRIP program. Julie and Chris Panka will no longer be helping with the program as of April 1, 2009. It was suggested to Julie that there is too much local SCRIP (Piggly Wiggly and Kwik Trip) in inventory. These two particular stores are what usually run out first and is not readily available. Tom Stram suggested that Laurie Pedretti give a report on the SCRIP program at the next Finance Council meeting.

There is a kneeler that is broke in back of the church and one in the choir loft at St. John's. St. Gabriel's has one in the back of the church that is broke as well. Maintenance committee can address.

Corpus Christi: Will have the Honor Guard in the procession. Father Jerome gave the song list to Terri Connell. Kerri Weber mentioned that she and Laurie Doll (Sacred Heart/Wauzeka) don't know these songs and the congregation probably won't either. 1200+ people are expected.

Thank you for the efforts in the Pro-Life post card campaign.

Phil Mezera will look into policy on the tuition break. Will put on the next agenda for the Finance Council meeting. Julie Schwager works 35+ hours between the daycare and aiding for teachers at school.

Ended with prayer.

Next Finance Council Meeting: Monday, March 9, 2009

Next Parish Council Meeting: Thursday, March 12, 2009

Submitted by: Holly Nicholson

Parish Council Minutes from the January 15, 2009 meeting

The following members were present: Father Jerome, Jim McGrath, Holly Nicholson, Joe Faust, Mark Forsythe, Keith Neisius, Patrick Nolan and Steve Schwager.

Missing: Pat Mercaitis and Mike Mezera

The meeting began with prayer and roll call. Patrick Nolan was nominated to chair meeting.

Minutes from December 11, 2008 meeting were read and approved.

Father Jerome noted that Steve Schwager, Terri Connell, Jim McGrath and Cathy Bierman were appointed to the Deanery Pastoral Council. They meet every three months. Joe Faust suggested that Steve Schwager or Jim McGrath contact Father Wulf about other parishes in our deanery subsidizing their school-age parishioners going to Prairie Catholic. This could be put on their next agenda.

It was mentioned in the Deanery Pastoral Council meeting that there will be a postcard campaign sent to Washington, D.C. for Pro-Life.

Father Jerome suggested adding two teachers- to add a 9th grade next school year, 10th grade the following year, and so on. It was decided that this is something the Education Committee should handle.

Corpus Christi: June 14, 2009. Mass will be done by the Bishop at 10:00 at St. John's. 11:00 procession to St. Gabriel's. There will be four stops with altars outside former St. Mary's (Wyalusing Academy), The Tourist Information Center, possibly at the Crawford County Courthouse, and at St. Gabriel's Rectory. 12:00 noon closing prayer and benediction then a free-will donation lunch; served at St. Gabriel's. Bussing back to St. John's for people to pick up their vehicles.

The Maintenance Committee will be in charge of getting the altars built. Parish Council will take care of publicity and road arrangements. Mark Forsythe will work on an insert/invitation and get in touch with Father Wulf about distribution to other Deans for parish bulletins. Will have Howe Printing and Shopping News bid cost of printing 3000 copies. Joe Faust will make calls to see what needs to be done about road arrangements. Mark Forsythe will call Carl Steiner (mayor) and Dave Hemmer (city council) to get their input. Finance Council will be responsible for taking care of the meal. Will discuss further at the January 22 Joint Council Meeting.

Kay & Doug Tesar renting kitchen: Diocese sent a letter saying no because of liability. Finance Council had discussed and decided against it. Mark Forsythe and Holly Nicholson went to speak with Kay and gather information about what they wanted to use. Doug and Kay would only use the ovens, the counter space and possibly the cooler. Doug owns SIMPLY and is doing catering and on occasion would need more room to prepare food. Kay is licensed in food service as well and has run the school food service program for 25 years. It was suggested that SIMPLY would have to get an umbrella insurance policy in case of injury, fire, food poisoning, etc. and a stipulation could be put on that only persons with food service licensing could rent the kitchen given that there are no school or parish events going on. Parish Council discussed and is in favor of it. Will discuss further with finance council after January 22, 2009 joint meeting.

At the Staff Christmas party, it was discussed to hire a part-time teacher for 1st grade (Mrs. Hemmer). There are 24 students in her class. Finance Council voted no. Mrs. Schwarz will help out in the classroom and there will still be continued support of an aide.

Approval of new council members: The following people were suggested for the Parish Council: Mark Grunwald, Kerri Weber, Andy Banasik, Mike Faas, Mary Kay Lange, Bill Huser, and Mark Gilberts. The following were suggested for Finance Council: Tom Farrell, JJ Jackson, Marty MacEachern, and Mary Jaynes. Father Jerome will contact and appoint/approve.

Jim Hutchinson bought Advance Transformer in Boscobel and is willing to donate the kitchen equipment that was in the building to St. John's and St. Gabriel's. Ed Steger will decide what equipment will go to which parish according to need.

Scrip: Is not always readily available at masses (Piggly Wiggly, Wal-Mart, and Kwik Trip). Patrick Nolan will talk with Chris Panka or Julie Moret to see how much money is needed for a base and will let Father Jerome know so he can contact the Diocese to get a check from our savings account.

Current Status of Maintenance Committee: First meeting went well. Rob is doing better with his duties. Lights at St. John's have been changed. Microphones fixed. Father Jerome will have this committee take care of the building evaluation.

School Board: with four teachers being appointed to Education Committee, they will be asked to leave if there are teacher/staff issues or when they are discussing contracts.

Joint Council (Parish, Finance & Education) meeting January 22, 2009 at 6:00pm at St. John's. All are to dress up for pictures that will be on the website.

Next Parish Council Meeting will be February 12, 2009 at 7:00pm.

Submitted by: Holly Nicholson