

WELCOMING COMMISSION MINUTES

January 10, 2024

Present: Peg Brown, Brynn Lietuvnikas, Stephny Lietuvnikas, Bruce Massey, Deanna Soulis, Kim Halsey

Deanna shared commission information:

- **2/4 Chili Cookoff**
- **1/28 Annual Meeting**
- **Sweet of the Month begins in February. Tickets at \$20. Chaired by Bev Abeles**
- **Fabric and Grounds is looking at HVAC changes**
- **2/4 – 2/10 REACH WEEK**
- **Christian Formation had a bed building project – assembling 40 beds**
- **There is a need for nursery and Children’s Chapel volunteers**
- **Confirmation classes will begin in February**
- **94 Pledges; Pledged \$282,264. Pledges down but net increase 17 new pledges.**

WC passed motion recommending additional camera for streaming in the amount of \$4650 and a new speaker for the choir area in the amount of \$2675. Total \$6,825.00. Noted: If done separately, price increase.

Church Tour had 202 visitors; good volunteer participation. Thanks for the parish there were plenty of cookie donations.

Brynn Lietuvnikas described Instagram progress, indicating more popular with younger generation than Facebook. Stories are more popular than posts. Currently there are 133 accounts of which 84 are non-followers and 49 for followers.

The commission rated performance in 4 objectives. In general the rating for all 4 was ‘very well’, noting success in Facebook improvements and Facebook ads, cable advertising, movie theatre ads, Instagram, and the Welcoming Packet. All agreed our website needs more attention to be more user-friendly, appealing,

creative and up to date. It was agreed to judge ourselves. Feedback is important.

Volunteering – Encouraging folks to volunteer is a challenge, especially new parishioners. It was agreed that overwhelming is important. Not everyone can volunteer at the same level due to other commitments at home, careers, family. It was recommend creating a volunteer sheet that list volunteer opportunities with number of hours involved in each activity. This issue will remain on the ‘parking lot’ for future meetings.

New Leadership: Peg Brown and Bruce Massey will assume leadership. It was noted that it takes two to fill the “shoes” of Deanna Soulis.

Next Meeting: 2024 Planning Meeting, Bruce and Jerry’s house, 284 Meadow Ridge Drive, Shepherdstown, WV, Saturday February 3, 9:30 AM. New members will be encouraged to join.

Annual Report: Deanna asked for feedback by the end of week, January 13, 2024.

Peg to be in touch with Sunday’s visitors Esther and Derek Stanton of Little Elliot Drive

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Massey

Motion:

Welcoming Commission moves to purchase a second camera for streaming and a monitor speaker for the choir area to hear service for a total of \$6, 825.00.