

Minutes from Care of Creation Meeting

January 19, 2010

Present - Meg, Wes, Connie, Rick, Crystal and Dawn

Regrets - Ginny and Jane

Devotion - by Dawn

Correspondence - Thank you letter from McFarland Food Pantry. Letter was distributed for all to see.

Compost Bin Issues

- Emptying inside bin. Dawn has been emptying inside compost bin weekly and making sure outside bin is accessible.
- Sharp area on top. Dawn and Todd attached a 2x2 on both sides of the top of bin to cover the sharp areas where chicken wire protruded.
- Chain doesn't hold top up- It was decided to devise a wooded prop to help hold the top up. Wes and Rick will look at this in spring.
- A sign to remind people what can be composted. - The sign should include materials composted from inside the church and materials from the garden or outside property. It should include a specific length that all material put in the bin should be no longer than. It may also need directions how to use the prop that will hold the top open. We should be able to use the sign Jane made for the inside compost bin as a resource. The group thought Ginny was working on this but she was not present so will find out.

Prayer Labyrinth

Dawn measured the area that the labyrinth would take up and the only area in the church it would fit is the Family Life Center. It was decided that Ash Wednesday would not work due to the luncheon/dinner that take place. The group thought a Saturday may be the best day. Meg stated that Pastor Jerry was going to do a prayer vigil during Lent and we could have the labyrinth available the same day. We would need to do some education about the labyrinth before hand in the newsletter and "news you can use". (Meg would put articles in these.) The cost of the labyrinth for 1 day is \$125 plus mileage. The group did not have our budget /expenses for the year available. Dawn will ask Jane to send her the COC team's expenses for this year.

Dawn brought up the concern that if we spend too much of our budget now we would not have monies available in spring when we start up the garden. Meg thought all of the cost to rent the labyrinth did not need to come from the COC budget. The Madison Christian community would come the day before and help set it up and the day after to take it down. Help will be needed for set up and take down. Along with the labyrinth the Center brings literature, music, books and candles. The date of Saturday, March 20, was set with March 13th as the alternative. Dawn will contact the Madison Christian Community to check the availability of the labyrinth.

CROP Walk

It was decided that we do not have enough time with the other commitments we have to have the walk in April. The group thought summer or early fall would be better options. We still should contact the other teams in the church to see if there is interest. Will ask Ginny to contact the Health and Wellness, Stewardship and educational teams. (will attached the article Jane had forwarded several months ago about CROP walks)

Lessons for Sunday School Rotation (Creation based)

Meg requested help/suggestions for the Sunday School rotation in April. The team had helped develop the curriculum for April (Earth Day) last year and Meg would like help again. Meg had curriculum already available for each of the rotations (games, café, drama, cinema, story station, computers, creation station and revelation station) and the team looked at the curriculum and most was ready to use as is without changes. Connie was editing the Story station rotation and Dawn was looking at the Sunday Cinema rotation.

Earth Day 2010

A separate discussion was started about Earth Day. In the past the COC team has had an Earth Day event, though last year we did not. Last year we decided not to have an event due to the McFarland Village having an Earth Day Volunteer Day. It was decided to not have an event but on the Sunday of the weekend that the Village has their Volunteer Day we would have a Rogation Service at all 3 Sunday services. We have had a Rogation Service in the past and it was well received. Dawn will contact the Village and see if a date has been set for an Earth Day event/activity. Meg has a copy of a rogation service we can use. (Dawn did contact the village and no date has been set yet.)

Brainstorming Ideas

Blessing of the Animals Service - It was decided we would like to have a service. There was discussion about when to have it. The usual date is near St. Frances birth date which is Oct. 3. But others thought the summer would be better if it were an outside service. No date set.

Utilizing plants instead of cut flowers for the alter - There was a lot of discussion on this topic including if cut flowers were that much worse than plants and how would we change it mid year when people have already signed up for flowers. It was decided that Meg would look into putting something on or near the sign up sheet giving people the option to “buy” plants instead of cut flowers for their donation.

Use of local wine - There was a concern that local wine would be more costly than what is being used now. Dawn will contact Wollershine and Botham wineries and check costs.

Incorporate COC into Vacation Bible School - Meg will suggest this to the VBS group.

Light sensors in areas of church - due to budget restraints not able to do at present.

Sponsor walk/ride bike to church day - Decided to do this during the “Earth Day” weekend and again if/when we do the CROP walk.

Vegetarian/local potluck - Will do in conjunction with the CROP walk.

Canoe trip/overnight - Everyone thought this was a good idea. We will look at the possibilities and report back. The thought was to have an event in August.

Puerto Rico trip - Meg thought the group that goes to visit the Puerto Rico congregation could teach/encourage recycling practices to that congregation. Meg will bring this to the group that goes to Puerto Rico.

Full moon Walks - Meg distributed “Nature Notes”, a publication by Janet Moore of the McFarland School district. One of the articles was about full moons. A discussion started about doing monthly “Full Moon Walks” with members of the congregation. Walks could be in the school forest, different parks or at a congregation member’s property. The walks could have different emphasis depending on the season. Will continue to look at this next meeting.

A suggestion was brought up to try and have the meetings within an hour time frame. Next meeting the agenda items will be prioritized and if we go over an hour it is with team agreement.

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 16 at 7 p.m.